



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

1 December 2022

Council

A meeting of the Council will be held on **Friday, 9 December 2022 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 'Debbie Barnes'.

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Council
(70 Members of the Council, 1 vacancy)

Councillors Mrs A M Austin (Chairman), R P H Reid (Vice-Chairman), 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, M Brookes, 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 M J Overton MBE, R B Parker, S R Parkin, N H Pepper, Clio Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, S P Roe, N Sear, P A Skinner, T J N Smith, E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, E W Strengiel, G J Taylor, Dr M E Thompson, J Tyrrell, Mrs C L E Vernon, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, R A Wright, T V Young and 1 Vacancy

**COUNCIL AGENDA
FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2022**

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10	Members Allowances Scheme 2023/24	93 - 108
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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

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, 9th December, 2022, 10.30 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

All papers for council meetings are available on:

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



COUNCIL
27 SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR MRS A M AUSTIN (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors M G Allan, P Ashleigh-Morris, T R Ashton, A J Baxter, M D Boles, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, M Brookes, S Bunney, T A Carter, L A Cawrey, K J Clarke, M R Clarke, R J Cleaver, K H Cooke, P E Coupland, A Dani, C J Davie, P M Dilks, T J G Dyer, I G Fleetwood, R A Gibson, W H Gray, M A Griggs, A G Hagues, 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, R B Parker, N H Pepper, N Sear, P A Skinner, T J N Smith, E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, E W Strengiel, G J Taylor, Dr M E Thompson, J Tyrrell, Mrs C L E Vernon, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, R A Wright and T V Young

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs J Brockway, R D Butroid, I D Carrington, Mrs N F Clarke, R G Davies, A M Hall, Mrs J E Killey, Mrs M J Overton MBE, S R Parkin, C L Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, R P H Reid and S P Roe.

19 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

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

20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20 MAY 2022

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 20 May 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

21 TRIBUTES TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Chairman invited the Council to stand and observe a two-minute silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Chairman then invited members to pay tribute to the Queen.

22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting of the Full Council, there had been momentous changes in our Country. It was with immense sadness that the Country mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The historic proclamation of the new Monarch, King Charles III was also witnessed. Following the County proclamation read by

the High Sheriff of Lincolnshire at Lincoln Cathedral, districts, towns and parishes brought communities together to witness proclamations being read at local sites across Lincolnshire. The outpouring of grief was immeasurable and throughout this difficult time, services were maintained which was a credit to local government staff.

It was with great sadness that the Chairman also reported the death of Councillor Angela Newton MBE. Angela served Lincolnshire from 1981 through to 1993, returning in 2013 for a further nine years. She was an active Member on the current Planning and Regulatory Committee, Pensions Committee and Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub-Committee. A keen scrutineer, Cllr Newton was a former Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, and chaired various scrutiny reviews in the late 2010's. She was also a long serving Member for South Holland District Council. The Chairman advised that the funeral for Councillor Mrs Newton would be held on Tuesday, 18 October 2022 at 10.30am at St John's Church, Hawthorn Bank, Spalding. The Chairman invited members to stand for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

Members were given an opportunity to pay tribute to Councillor Angela Newton MBE.

The Chairman informed members that the Customer Digital Delivery project was hosting a pop-up stall outside the Chamber following this meeting. The aim of the pop up was to showcase the work of the Customer Digital Delivery project to members. The work includes improvements to some of the services supported by the Customer Service Centre such as Highways Fault reporting via Fix My Street, how customers can book appointments in registration services and the Waste service looking at the Household Waste Recycling Centres and how they get information to customers. Members were encouraged to take the time to visit the stall when they left the Chamber.

A complete itinerary of civic engagements, since the last meeting of this Council, were available from the Civic Officer on request.

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

Statements by the Executive had been circulated with the agenda.

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

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

<u>Question by:</u>	<u>Question to:</u>	<u>Subject:</u>
a) C Matthews	Mrs S Woolley	- Update on the move online for the Registration Service

b) A J Baxter	M J Hill OBE	Update on the lease for The Deepings School and leisure centre
c) K E Lee	L A Cawrey	Ermine Library Hub
d) T A Carter	LA Cawrey	Pop-Up Historic Centre in Holbeach
e) K J Clarke	M J Hill OBE	Impacts of inflation on highways budgets
f) P A Skinner	C J Davie	Maintenance of waterways in Lincolnshire
g) S Bunney	L A Cawrey	Emergency response to flooding in Market Rasen in August 2022
h) A M Key	C J Davie	South Lincolnshire Reservoir
i) R B Parker	C J Davie	Impacts of Chancellor's mini-budget for the environment
j) C E H Marfleet	M J Hill OBE	Active travel scheme in Louth
k) N H Pepper	M J Hill OBE	Damage to Fens roads due to the dry conditions during the summer

25 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2021/22

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

An amendment had been submitted by the Shadow Executive.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That Council Procedure Rules 13.6 (b), 13.6 (c), 13.6 (d), 13.6 (e) and 13.10(b), be temporarily suspended for the duration of the debate to allow one debate on the motion and Shadow Executive amendment.

It was moved and seconded that the Council:

1. Note the carry forward of underspends set out in paragraphs 1.16 and 1.17 of the report, which are made in line with Financial Regulations.
2. Note the transfer to reserves of underspends described in paragraphs 1.18 to 1.20 which are made in line with Financial Regulations.
3. Approve the use of underspend in excess of 1% referred to in paragraph 1.22 as follows:
 - a. The transfer of £5.000m to the Development Fund earmarked reserve for local Highways works.
 - b. The carry forward of £2.392m of the underspend to be allocated to the Council's corporate revenue contingency budget 2022/23, to help deal with inflationary pressures.
4. Note the performance against the Prudential Indicators as shown in Table D
5. Note the transfers to and from reserves carried out in 2021/22 and note the position of Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March 2022 as shown in Table F of this report.
6. Note the position of the General Reserves as set out in paragraph 1.26 and Table G.
7. Note the key financial performance measures in 2021/22 as set out in Table H.

An amendment was moved and seconded on behalf of the Shadow Executive as follows:

Amend the existing Recommendation 3 to read:

Approve the use of underspend in excess of 1% referred to in paragraph 1.22 as follows:

- a. The transfer of ~~£5.000m~~ **£4.000m** to the Development Fund earmarked reserve for local Highways works
- b. The carry forward of ~~£2.392m~~ **£1.892m** of the underspend to be allocated to the Council's corporate revenue contingency budget 2022/23, to help deal with inflationary pressures
- c. The transfer of £1.5m to create an immediate 'Cost of Living Emergency Fund' for the purpose of co-ordinating urgently with the County's seven district councils and other relevant public sector bodies and organisations within the voluntary and charitable sectors to organise and:**
 - **Promote a programme to serve local communities so vulnerable residents' needs for social contact, warmth, and nourishment are met**
 - **Promote an online and telephone information resource offering financial advice and money saving tips to help our residents access this easily**
 - **Create an immediate 'Cost of Living Emergency Fund' to support these initiatives using up to £1.5 million from the Council's Budget underspends from the last financial year**

Executive Director – Resources/s.151 Officer Commentary

The amendment put forward is viable and presents three items of expenditure that are all one-off in nature.

Two items are adjustments to the Executive's proposals.

The adjustment to the Highways item will result in £1m less investment in local highways projects than the Executive's proposal.

The adjustment to the Inflation contingency item will result in £500k less than the Executive's proposal. Members should note there is already £6.5m contingency allocated in the 2022/23 budget and any item agreed by this Council meeting would be in addition to this. The council reported a modest projected overspend of c.£700k at Q1 (6th September 2022 Executive), however Members at that meeting were also advised of the highly volatile inflationary factors that had started to materialise over the summer, which were not included in that report, relating to national pay bargaining, rising energy costs and contract inflation with more accurate forecasts expected at Q2 (6th December 2022 Executive). There is an increased risk therefore that in reducing the Executive's contingency proposal, there may be insufficient funding in the budget to meet costs that are not yet known.

Andrew Crookham

Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources (s151 Officer)

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. Note the carry forward of underspends set out in paragraphs 1.16 and 1.17 of the report, which are made in line with Financial Regulations.
2. Note the transfer to reserves of underspends described in paragraphs 1.18 to 1.20 which are made in line with Financial Regulations.
3. That the use of underspend in excess of 1% referred to in paragraph 1.22 be approved as follows:
 - a. The transfer of £5.000m to the Development Fund earmarked reserve for local Highways works.
 - b. The carry forward of £2.392m of the underspend to be allocated to the Council's corporate revenue contingency budget 2022/23, to help deal with inflationary pressures.
4. Note the performance against the Prudential Indicators as shown in Table D

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COUNCIL
27 SEPTEMBER 2022

5. Note the transfers to and from reserves carried out in 2021/22 and note the position of Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March 2022 as shown in Table F of this report.
6. Note the position of the General Reserves as set out in paragraph 1.26 and Table G.
7. Note the key financial performance measures in 2021/22 as set out in Table H.

26 COUNCIL CONSTITUTION - CHANGES TO THE LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

A report by the Monitoring Officer had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

1. that the proposal put forward by the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board to change the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board be approved as follows:
 - a. to remove reference to the functions of the Integrated Care System Partnership
 - b. to remove reference to the Lincolnshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, replacing it with reference to the Integrated Care Board
 - c. to take account of the Board's role as a consultee in a number of the statutory processes associated with the operations of the Lincolnshire NHS Integrated Care Board
2. that the amendments to the Constitution set out in Appendix B to the report be approved.

27 HUMBER AND LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

- (1) that the establishment of and the participation of the County Council in a Humber and Lincolnshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, established for the purposes of responding to joint consultation on any proposed substantial reconfiguration of NHS services in the Humber area arising out of the Humber Acute Services Programme to be constituted pursuant to Regulation 30(5) of the

Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013, be approved.

- (2) that the appointment of Councillors S Bunney, C S Macey and T J N Smith to such Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with [section 15](#) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (duty to allocate seats to political groups) be approved.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire, to approve the detailed terms of reference for the joint health overview and scrutiny committee.

The meeting closed at 12.29 pm

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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	9 December 2022
Subject:	Result of By-Election for Spalding West Electoral Division

Summary:

The purpose of this item is to formally report to the County Council the outcome of the Lincolnshire County Council By-Election for Spalding West Electoral Division which is due to take place on 8th December 2022.

Recommendation(s):

That the Electoral Return as set out in Appendix A be noted.

1. Background

- 1.1 A By-Election for the Spalding West Electoral Division is due to take place on 8th December 2022 following the sad passing of Councillor Angela Newton MBE in August 2022. The County Council paid tribute to Cllr Newton at its previous meeting in September 2022.
- 1.2 At the time of writing this report the outcome of the By-Election is unknown, and this will be reported at the meeting.
- 1.3 Appendix A to this report will set out the formal notice of Return of Persons Elected for that division, and will be included in the order of proceedings published on 9th December 2022.

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 no direct implications in relation the noting the result of the By-Election.

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 and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

There are no direct implications for the JSNA or 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.

There are no direct implications in relation to crime and disorder.

3. Conclusion

The County Council is requested to note the outcome for the Lincolnshire County Council By-Election due to be held on 8th December 2022 as set out in Appendix A to this report (circulated in the Order of Proceedings).

4. Legal Comments:

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. Resource Comments:

There are no material financial consequences arising from accepting the recommendation in this report.

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. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Electoral Return for Spalding West Electoral Division (to be circulated with the Order of Proceedings)

8. 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 Nicola Calver, Member Services Manager, who can be contacted on 07387 133755 or nicola.calver@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 6

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 09 December 2022

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

COMMERCIAL

Infrastructure Services

The Commercial Team (Infrastructure) continues to deliver on a wide variety of key projects that will realise significant benefit into 2023 and beyond.

The team has been supporting the re-procurement of the Customer Services Centre contract. The procurement is being conducted as a competitive procedure with negotiation via the open market to allow further exploration of best value solutions with potential contractors. The evaluation of submitted Selection Questionnaires has been concluded and Invitations to submit initial tenders have been issued to 3 candidates.

The team is also in the process of establishing a category management approach to ICT procurements and is helping to support the development of a range of ICT 'towers' that will help classify spend and activity to facilitate a more strategic approach to procurement going forward. Some significant procurement projects related to this are in development already in areas related to managed cloud and security services, LAN support, strategic software, hardware requirements and the re-procurement of the Council's social care case management system.

Additionally, the team are working with colleagues in Corporate Property to help re-procure the corporate property contract, which is currently one large all-encompassing contract. The team are supporting a range of commissioning activities including consultations with service users, to understand their experience with the contract, as well as with other local authorities and framework providers, to understand how the market has evolved since the last procurement was undertaken in 2014. This activity will help underpin service redesign decisions and the resulting procurement(s).

The procurement approach is expected to be finalised during Q2 of 2023, to allow sufficient time for the utilisation of a more complex procedure such as a competitive procedure with negotiation, if such an approach is ultimately determined to be of benefit.

People Services

Work has recently concluded on the re-procurement of the Lincolnshire Community Equipment Service (LCES) with a new contract being effective from 1 April 2023. The LCES Service is an equipment loan service which is required to help meet the Health and Social Care needs of people of all ages, including children, who have long term conditions and disabilities, offering a critical support function which is at the forefront of maintaining the independence of Lincolnshire's residents. It is a jointly commissioned service between the Council and Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), with a Section 75 agreement and Partnership Board underpinning the joint work. Collaborative working has been strengthened with the inclusion of the Wheelchair Services under the umbrella of the new LCES service, currently commissioned by the ICB, which alongside the updated specification and associated processes, will enable the Council to maximise the service impact and benefit to end users, as well as improving the ability to evidence value for money.

The remodelled Carers Support Service successfully mobilised on 1 October 2022 with carers able to self-refer online for support and access strength-based interventions earlier in their caring journey. The team are supporting the embedding of the new arrangements with partners to maximise the service reach and progress the development of a revised reporting suite to enhance service and commissioning intelligence.

The Domestic Abuse Support Service is currently being re-procured through a co-funded partnership between the Council, Lincolnshire's ICB and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The redesigned service model has drawn on the successes of current arrangements, local needs assessments, emerging legislation and stakeholder engagement to provide an integrated service to enable victims of domestic abuse to be safer and improve their wellbeing and resilience. The new service is due to be in place from 1 April 2023.

The team has also recently initiated a procurement to re-establish a framework for works associated with Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG). The Council is the accountable body for the DFG funding and allocates the Better Care Fund (BCF) monies to each of the seven district councils in Lincolnshire. The district authorities require a compliant mechanism that allows them to allocate work and directly award contracts without going out to tender each time. The framework will enable this, supporting collaboration and consistency across the county. The benchmarking and subsequent adjustment of the schedule of rates has resulted in a payment mechanism that is both attractive in terms of increasing market competition and one that is also affordable and sustainable to the district authorities.

FINANCE

Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2022/23 – Monitoring Reports

With rising costs and increasing financial challenges, we continue to keep a vigilant eye on our finances. Our second budget monitoring reports for the current financial year were based on the position as at 30 September 2022. The reports were presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 24 November, with the comments of the Board presented to the Executive on 6 December 2022. In spite of the inflationary cost pressures, we are forecasting a satisfactory position, with a forecast underspend of just under 1% of the revenue service budgets and our capital programme for the current year.

Setting a Budget for 2023/24

We expect to receive our financial settlement from government shortly, following the Autumn Budget announcements in November. The council continues to face significant cost pressures relating to inflation and growth in demand for services, and in this challenging environment the Executive are planning to propose a one-year revenue budget for 2023/24 with limited changes to the capital programme to meet the commitments of our on-going capital schemes. We continue to lobby through the CCN and other bodies for a fairer deal for Lincolnshire.

TRANSFORMATION, PROGRAMMES & PERFORMANCE

Performance

We are continuing our Business Intelligence (BI) transformation work where we are looking to utilise our Microsoft license by moving our corporate reporting to Power BI in line with our BI Strategy. As a result, we have built on our Corporate Plan reporting and from Q2 we will now deliver service level performance to Scrutiny Committees using Power BI and displayed on the council website. This replaces the Lincolnshire Research Observatory (LRO) and displays the data in an interactive tool which is more visual and easier to navigate. We are also continuing to develop our operational reporting into service areas using the same tool for a consistent approach to reporting business intelligence.

Full service level reporting to all scrutiny committees can be found here [Service Level Performance Indicators](#).

CORPORATE SERVICES, DEVOLUTION AND BOUNDARY REVIEW

Devolution

Proposals for devolution continue to advance in collaboration with colleagues at North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, and the seven district councils. The proposals for devolution in Greater Lincolnshire seek to attract investment into the area to unlock growth and boost living standards.

The devolution proposals place a focus on the creation of high skill, high wage jobs, spreading opportunity for our residents. They target growth and productivity across our key sectors of food, ports and logistics, and green energy; and build on the findings of business engagement activities which took place earlier this year.

Lincolnshire has recently been mentioned in media outlets as a 'front runner' for devolution, which is a positive indication which we intend to build upon. The report being considered by Council today presents the latest draft documents and seeks to ensure that we are in a strong position to enter negotiations with government for a devolution deal at the earliest opportunity.

Boundary Review

The Boundary Commission are consulting on changes which will see 10 new constituencies created across England. The number of constituencies in the East Midlands will subsequently increase from 46 to 47. The final consultation of revised constituencies will close on 5 December with final recommendations being submitted to parliament by 1 July 2023.

If the latest proposals are agreed, from the next general election parts of Lincolnshire will be represented by an additional constituency. The proposed new Stamford and Rutland constituency will now include the Harborough villages of Billesdon & Tilton, Nevill & Thurnby and Houghton on top of the planned 11 South Kesteven District Council wards.

The proposals would see an MP operating across three different counties and raises questions about the synergy between the outskirts of Leicester, Grantham and Bourne. Following debate at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 24 November I have written to The Commission

about our concerns regarding the proposals and suggest they revert to the previous recommendations.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 09 December 2022

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Social work workforce

The first social work apprentices have successfully completed their degrees following three years of hard work, with all 10 securing permanent positions across our frontline teams. 14 new social work apprentices started on 19 September, and recruitment for 2023 will begin early in the new year. The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that another round of Step Up to Social Work, for people who already have a degree at 2:2 or above, will open for applications in January, and we have committed to taking 15 people. In September, 15 social workers successfully completed their Assessed and Supported Year in Employment, and we have 20 new social workers joining this year's programme.

Children's homes expansion

The relocation of Strut House's short-breaks provision to the St Francis Special School site is now complete, and we have received fantastic feedback from parents and children about the new facilities. Work on Robin House, the new children's home in Lincoln, is ongoing, and we are progressing with plans for a second new children's home in Louth. This has been made possible thanks DfE match-funding. We look forward to the opening of Robin House in early 2023, with the Louth home expected to open in autumn 2023.

Family Hubs and Start for Life programme

Our involvement in this programme will bring additional investment, helping us, and our partners, to build on the strong provision of children's centres and early help for families, especially in (but not limited to) the crucial first 1,001 days of a child's life.

Governed by a new board, a core transformation team will deliver the programme, set the vision around our existing priorities, and ensure integration with other programmes and initiatives.

Our next steps are:

- Wide communication and engagement.
- Local community needs assessments across 48 children's centre areas.
- Development of data strategy and success measures.
- Establishment of parent/carer panels to inform the programme.

Children's centres

Families continue to visit our children's centres for a variety of learning activities, as well as antenatal and health visiting appointments. This includes a universal baby massage offer for new parents, which is extremely popular with families. The centres are somewhere warm where families can drop in, and they have a range of beautiful, pre-loved donated baby and

children's clothing that families can access for free. There are lots of exciting activities planned for the Christmas period, including Christmas parties and theatre productions.

Children's health

The children's health 0-19 team continue to focus on the restoration and recovery of the Healthy Child Programme. Additional family health workers have been recruited to support the health visiting team, who are now offering all routine (mandated) contacts to families. The service has also recruited seven student health visitors, who will join the service as qualified health visitors in September 2023.

Review of mental health services for children and young people

Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust are reviewing local emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people. Families and professionals can take a survey at www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk before Sunday 18 December. Their views will be used to transform and improve services, helping children and young people to live more independent, safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.

Schools

The majority of maintained schools continue to work collaboratively to support each other, and the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership remains a key part of the sector-led approach to improving education in the county. Through a willingness to work in close partnership with the Teaching School Hub and the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) education team, all schools have access to the best professional support and development possible.

Schools are accessing a range of nationally funded programmes for tutoring and intervention, as well as targeted support from DfE school improvement packages. Early examination results show that Lincolnshire's primary pupils are performing well, compared to the national landscape. The performance of secondary schools appears variable, but, overall, it is broadly in line with the national picture. Our maintained schools are performing well in Ofsted inspections, but there is some turbulence in inspection outcomes in the academy sector.

Improving school attendance strategy

Following the DfE's new guidance on Working Together to Improve Attendance, we are engaging with all schools termly to discuss attendance from September 2023. This work will be completed by the new school attendance team. There are also plans to inform and engage with all children's services teams on the importance of school attendance and addressing barriers through early intervention.

School admissions

Despite an increase in demand, on national offer day 88% of secondary-age children received a place at their first-choice school, with a further 1% allocated their first preference following revised applications and appeals. For primary admissions, 96% received a place at their first-choice school.

Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

There are now 96 HAF clubs across Lincolnshire (up from 53 in the year before) with 3,752 children and young people accessing the programme. The Lincolnshire programme has been

recognised by the DfE for its partnership work and presented to other local authorities on 'value for money' showcasing how donations have enhanced our clubs. A Lincolnshire provider has also been recognised for engaging with secondary-aged girls to improve fitness, make new friendship groups and access a variety of fun activities.

Lincolnshire Music Service (LMS)

LMS performed at the Royal Albert Hall on 16 November, as part of the Music for Youth Prom 2022, which represents the very best music making from across the UK. 475 young people from across Lincolnshire, aged 8-21, performed a medley of Beyonce hits, singing and playing from memory. Many of the young performers have English as their second or even third language, but all are united in their music. During the last academic year, LMS has engaged with 91% of schools, resulting in over 15,500 pupils learning a musical instrument.

ADULT SKILLS & FAMILY LEARNING

The Adult Skills & Family Learning Service continues to deliver very good outcomes for its learners.

Since the beginning of August we have delivered 219 courses to 1,447 learners; of these 62.5% are unemployed and looking for work, 33% live in areas of deprivation and 24% have low or no qualifications. There has been, and continues to be, a great deal of interest in our qualification programmes which support Lincolnshire's priority employment sectors and provide the skills and learning to equip our learners for work. These include English, maths, bookkeeping, customer service, hospitality and leadership, working in mental health, payroll, food production and food preparation.

Extensive partnership working by our 21 Learning Providers ensures we reach those adults who experienced little success at school and lack confidence and self-esteem in their own ability and potential. Our curriculum and the support from our experienced tutors mean that we have a substantial impact on our learners' lives.

Multiply

The Multiply programme is now underway. 18 Providers have been procured who will deliver innovative and fun engagement maths provision to increase skills in Lincolnshire to over 2,000 adults, who do not already have a GCSE at grade 4 or above, by the end of March 2023. Early programmes are centred around money management and budgeting which are providing support for those residents struggling with issues relating to the cost of living challenges they are facing.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Stay Safe Partnership

The Stay Safe Partnership comprises of staff within Lincolnshire County Council's Community Safety 'Stay Safe' team, Lincolnshire Police Crime Prevention Team, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, We Are with You (provider of the county's Substance Misuse services) and South of Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Service. Collectively, these partners offer schools 'Stay Safe' Days; multi

agency workshops delivered on the same day in five key safety areas. Each Secondary School is offered two free Stay Safe Days in the academic year.

During these Stay Safe Days, the Partnership had 117 disclosures, 101% more than the 3 previous years combined. These disclosures related to domestic abuse, abusive peer relationships and stalking, alcohol and drug misuse, knife crime, county lines, online exploitation, and road and fire safety concerns. It is possible that without this intervention having taken place, these children and young people may have remained hidden victims and never accessed any form of support.

To impact on future generations, the Stay Safe Partnership is aware of the need to offer preventative messaging at an earlier age. Alongside Secondary prevention work, LCC's Community Safety 'Stay Safe' team deliver Online Safety Sessions to Year 6 students and from January 2022 began offering a Friendship and Emotions workshop to Year 2. Expanding the curriculum to primary schools ensures there is a programme of prevention intervention that follows students from Year 2 through to college.

By the end of the 2021/22 academic year, the Stay Safe Partnership had delivered sessions (either face-to-face or virtual) to 19,141 secondary and 10,265 primary school pupils across the breadth of the county.

The Stay Safe Partnership has established itself as a primary deliverer of safety messages to children and young people, and a trusted source of preventative education for schools and academies in the county. The Partnership's work was recently heard at Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee and its paper circulated for information to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee. Following this, the team received press and media attention from the Lincolnite, BBC Radio Lincolnshire and Lincs FM.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

The DA partnership is now in its second year of operation and is working effectively to push the agenda forward. In that time a great deal of work has been undertaken to develop the response to DA in Lincolnshire in line with the DA Act statutory duties. These include implementation of the partnership strategy and delivery plan as well as the commissioning plans for the outreach and community-based service and safe accommodation provision.

Since December 2021 one of the main focuses has been the recommissioning of the DA outreach and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) service and commissioning new arrangements in relation to safe accommodation, extending and improving the provision we have in Lincolnshire.

The new outreach and IDVA service will be commissioned from April 2023 and the additional safe accommodation support started being introduced in May 2022.

The DA partnership team is now fully operational with only one more position to recruit to by the end of the year, which is in relation to the development of a countywide sanctuary scheme. The partnership team has been doing some innovative work with local and regional Businesses and are holding a Business Conference on the 29 November 2022, bringing

businesses together to improve the response to DA victims and perpetrators within the private sector. This is a huge piece of work and forms part of the wider community engagement and communications strategy.

As we approach the national 16 days of action campaign the partnership has been working closely with all partners to produce an inclusive campaign that will start on the 25 November and includes a number of key messages about Domestic Abuse and how people can seek support. In addition, the team has been working with Lincoln City Football club to produce videos that support international men's days and promote positive images of males.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

The Homes for Ukraine scheme, launched on 14 March 2022 allows individuals resident in the UK to sponsor named Ukrainian guests. So far Lincolnshire has welcomed over 1100 Ukrainian guests to join their hosts across the County, with another 200+ expected to arrive. Some guests, having been in the Country for several months now are starting to move on into independent accommodation but the majority (just over 900 individuals) are continuing to reside in their hosting arrangements. Lincolnshire has received the 17th highest number of visa applications nationally and 2nd highest in the region.

We are pleased to have published a wealth of information and advice for Ukrainian arrivals on the Connect to Support directory of services. New resources include information on moving to and living in Lincolnshire for Ukrainian guests and their hosts. We have enabled on-site translation in an effort to make the relevant webpages as accessible as possible.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - 9 DECEMBER 2022

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

Lincolnshire Ageing Better Rural Strategic Partnership with the Centre for Ageing Better

The Lincolnshire Ageing Better Rural Strategic Partnership held its first stakeholder conference on 30 of September, bringing together over 80 representatives from various sectors to consider opportunities for ageing better in Lincolnshire. Delegates received information about areas of work taking place on housing and the national Good Home Inquiry recommendations, how organisations (particularly Lincolnshire small and medium sized businesses) can become age-friendly employers and how stakeholders can work together to create an age friendly county. Planning has commenced regarding solutions and actions that can be achieved to support the residents of Lincolnshire to prepare and enjoy life as they age. The date for next years' conference has been agreed to ensure that all actions are carried forward and showcased as they progress.

Housing Health and Care Delivery Group

The Housing Health and Care Delivery Group continues to go from strength to strength with Councillor Gray as its chairman and strong attendance from a wide range of partner agencies. As a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Group has an ambitious Delivery Plan to achieve the objectives set out in the Lincolnshire Homes for Independence blueprint. Our focus is on ensuring that people with care and support needs can have a home for life.

Over half of the 50 plus actions are now in train, led by working groups that have been reconstituted over the past twelve months. The Public Health Intelligence Team have increased capacity to provide a housing intelligence function, funded by the district councils, linking data and intelligence on housing standards to personal health data. This means that, in future, the County Council and partners can target initiatives and external funding towards people who will see the greatest health and wellbeing benefits.

Good Home Alliance

The Housing Health and Care Delivery Group is currently overseeing a major project in partnership with the national Centre for Ageing Better. The aim of this project is to develop and pilot a model to achieve a good home alliance in Lincolnshire. This aligns with our own Corporate Plan activity to create a one stop shop for equipment, aids, and adaptations. It is an exciting opportunity to improve access to services for people in need of support to maintain, improve or adapt their home. This project also provides us with an opportunity to share a model which could be rolled out nationally.

Ageing Better has funded a service design consultant to support the project. The consultant will work with our Public Health team, the Ageing Better Partnership Manager and partner organisations, including District Councils and voluntary organisations. There has been an extensive public and stakeholder engagement exercise, including surveys, interviews, talks

and workshops. The first two project phases to 'discover' and 'define' what is needed are complete and we will share this information once collated.

Lincolnshire Carers Service

Over the past 6 months, our Carers Support Service has been recommissioned and is now "Lincolnshire Carers Service". The previous provider, Carers First, was successful in securing the new contract. To avoid confusion and duplication, the service has been remodelled. This means that Serco Customer Service Centre (CSC) is now the only front door, with onward referral to Carers First for all assessments. The updated service began on 1 of October 2022 and will run for three years, with the option to extend for a further two years.

The number of carers supported has increased to 11,844 carers of adults supported over the previous 12 months including 2234 young carers. This is a rise of 432 more Carers overall, an 3.8% increase and a 10.98% increase of young carers. This appears to confirm national data which shows more carers supporting their loved ones following Covid.

Connect to Support Lincolnshire Long Covid Information Hub

According to data from the Office for National Statistics, overall prevalence of long COVID remains high. In England, 1.6 million people are estimated to have self-reported symptoms lasting longer than 4 weeks and 1.2 million have experienced symptoms lasting longer than 12 weeks. The most common symptoms of long COVID are extreme tiredness, shortness of breath, loss of smell and muscle aches.

To support people suffering the effects of long COVID, a new digital resource has been developed. Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) worked with local agencies, including Lincolnshire charity Every-One, to identify the needs of local people with long COVID and their families to develop an information hub. This hub provides guidance and information on long COVID, with links, documents and videos to help people to manage their symptoms and find additional help and support.

Vicky Thomson, Chief Executive Officer at Every-One said: "It became apparent whilst working alongside people with long COVID that it wasn't just themselves who needed access to support and resources. It was important to develop a digital hub that people's families, carers, employers and schools could access too, so the person was fully supported in all aspects of their lives. Long COVID affects people in many different ways, so we needed a multifaceted resource."

The long COVID information hub includes videos from people who have experienced long COVID, as well as pages on financial support and help at work. There are sections for children and young people, activities to help with symptoms and contacts for further support and advice. The hub, funded through an NHS Charities Together grant is hosted on a Connect to Support Lincolnshire webpage.

Care Charges Calculator

People who need adult social care services can now find out if they are likely to have to pay for care, with an estimate of how much this might be, before they have a conversation with

the council about their needs. The new care charges calculator takes around 5 minutes to complete and does not require any personal details to be submitted.

Substance Misuse

In September, we launched the Lincolnshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership, a multi-agency combatting drugs partnership to deliver the national drug strategy 'From Harm to Hope'. The Partnership is focused on the prevention (stopping people from using illegal drugs or developing harmful or dependent drinking) and treatment (supporting those people who have already developed harmful or dependent drinking or drug use to stop) of drug and alcohol related harm, supporting people of all ages. The three priorities of the Partnership will be to break drug supply chains, deliver world-class treatment and recovery services and to achieve a shift in the demand for recreational drugs.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

November was Men's Health Month, also known as Movember – and an important focus of this awareness event is men's mental health wellbeing and suicide prevention. In September, we launched our 5 Ways to Wellbeing Campaign to support people across Lincolnshire to find ways to feel less stressed, anxious or low. Techniques included getting active, connecting with others, taking notice of the world around you, keeping learning and being generous.

We are also encouraging people across Lincolnshire to complete brief, free suicide awareness training from the Zero Suicide Alliance. The Alliance provides free training that teaches people how to identify, understand and help someone who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts, supporting the principle that suicide is preventable. To find out more, please search for "Zero Suicide Alliance" online.

Oral Health

This school year, we will be supporting the Community Dental Service to complete a survey of dental health in children in Year 6. This follows on from the survey of 5-year-olds completed last school year. The survey is a really important tool for us to understand oral health needs of our children in Lincolnshire, and how those needs vary from place to place. The findings will be released later next year and will help us to plan oral health promotion activities across Lincolnshire.

ADULT CARE

Exploring Occupational Therapy Integration in the Community

We are exploring the opportunities presented by closer collaboration between Community Occupational Therapy services in Lincolnshire Community Health Services (LCHS) and LCC. Working closely with colleagues in the Primary Care Networks and our Neighbourhood Teams in the south of the county we are working together to prevent unnecessary duplication by ensuring people see the right therapist at the right time, the first time. We are exploring joint decision making at triage, joint training, shared documentation as well as myth busting that challenges custom and practice.

It is expected that these changes will also help speed up service response time and address the backlog of assessments that exist in both health and care organisations.

A final evaluation of the pilot is scheduled for February 2023, however the initial review doesn't show progression in reducing of the waiting list for LCC OT statutory assessment; but improvement has been made in length of time people are waiting for LCHS therapy services.

Active Recovery Beds and Wrap around initiatives

Adult Care continue to work with system partners to support the people of Lincolnshire to be discharged from hospital when they are ready to leave. With additional funding provided by NHSE/1 2 new services are being developed led by adult care.

Active Recovery beds – The plan is that 60 beds in residential care home across the County are commissioned to support people who will be returning to their own home but need a short period of reablement in a care home setting prior to this, so customers can be fully recovered from their hospital stay and achieve their maximum level of independence prior to returning home. The tender is currently out to the residential care market and evaluations will take place in early December with a plan for the beds to become available also early in December. Customers will spend time with occupational therapy and social work staff to agree what goals they would like to achieve to support a successful return home, and the care home will work with individuals to achieve their goals. This service will also support the wider home care service as the plan is that following a short period in an active recovery bed, customers will be discharged with a smaller or with no package of care.

Wrap around care – The aim of this service will be to reduce customers length of stay in emergency departments (ED's) across the county. The excellent work that our reablement provider currently does in acute hospitals on the wards will be refocused to the ED, so people who do not need an admission are supported to return to their home as quickly as possible with reablement support for a short period to enable a supported recovery following their visit to ED. This will be supported by Social Workers and Occupational therapists, which will ensure that customers have the wrap around support they need to support them.

Strengths Based Approaches

Maximising independence and improving outcomes for individuals remains a key priority and will help sustain support with the right people getting the right support at the right time. We have focused on supporting people to achieve the highest possible level of independence, supporting people in the context of their families and support networks. Momentum continues as we proceed in working with teams across Learning Disability and Adult Frailty and Long-Term Conditions, Acute Hospital, Community Hospital and Transition of Care, Safeguarding and Carers teams. This approach means that people experience a Strengths Based Approach right from their first contact and throughout their contact with Adult Care.

The Strengths Based Approach and MINDSPACE Behavioural Science framework initial roll out is entering its final phases. We have now worked with 45 teams across adult care who are using the approach to enable the people they are working with to achieve better outcomes. As a result we have seen that while there has been a significant increase in requests at the front door, this approach has limited the volume of cases progressing to area teams. We have

also seen fewer people in Q2 entering residential or nursing care when compared to the same time last year. We continue to strengthen working practices and practitioners report the work is having a positive impact in over 85% of cases. A further 5 teams across Carers Services are in progress.

We have worked with 37 teams to ensure we maximise the opportunity to use technology to improve quality of life. We have seen increased confidence and more conversations with people about how technology can help people maximise their independence and meet their outcomes. The next phase of the work is to sustain and build on the progress that has already been made.

Local Supported Employment

We have been successful in our application for the Local Supported Employment (LSE) funding from the Department for Work and Pensions. £210,000 of DWP funding will be secured over this period and Lincolnshire County Council will be contributing £90,000. The LSE initiative will provide dedicated employment support to people across Lincolnshire who have a learning disability and/or autism and want to get into paid employment. The LSE coincides with LCC's commitment to improving the life chances of and achieving equality for disabled people, which includes the opportunity to be able to work. This will help to tackle inequalities by providing more support for people with a learning disability and/or autism to have an opportunity to be able to get a job ensuring there is choice about the type of work people do just as for the rest of the working population.

The LSE initiative will run from November 2022 to March 2025, and it will primarily be targeting and supporting 60 people who are school and college leavers aged between 18-24 who want to move into paid employment. This initiative will be delivered by our established Maximising Independence Team, which will be enhanced with the recruitment of 3 new dedicated Job Coaches. The Job Coaches will be tasked with creating and developing existing relationships with local organisations and employers and focusing on providing direct support to young people who are leaving school and college into employment.

A Practitioners Guide to Supporting People with Communication Needs

A comprehensive guide that has been developed to help Practitioners to navigate the range of tools, resources, and techniques currently available to support them when working with individuals with communication needs. Practitioners need and want to involve people, when working with individuals to complete assessments, support plans and conduct reviews.

Communicating with the individual is fundamental to involving the person with care and support needs. The new guide supports practitioners' by giving them access to comprehensive information, tools, and resources to equip them when working with people who use alternative forms of communication. Work is underway to ensure this guide is also available to LPFT Adult Care Practitioners.

In House Day Services

During September, the Day Services staff who work in Boston and Horncastle supported 30 service users to enjoy a long weekend away in the Lake District. This allowed the people we support the opportunity to experience time in the mountains, whilst taking part in a variety

of challenging outdoor pursuits including rock climbing canoeing and abseiling. This allowed family carers a well-deserved weekend break.

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)

The LSAB has a statutory responsibility to have a 3 year strategy that reflects identified areas of concern in Lincolnshire and to report back on its work each year in an annual report. In 2021 a large piece of work was undertaken to assess the needs of the adult population across Lincolnshire. The findings from the needs assessment created a picture of the predominant types of abuse and highlighted areas across Lincolnshire where disproportionate levels of abuse take place. This information and the input from all our partners at several assurance events was invaluable in shaping a new three-year strategy and deliver plan, which support our vision of ensuring that Lincolnshire is a place where adults feel safe, secure and free from abuse and harm.

The Board's overarching priority for the next three years is prevention and early intervention. Our ambition is to build on our strategies that reduce the risk of people with care and support needs, experiencing or being at risk of harm or abuse. The areas of work we intend to focus on can be defined in three key areas, making safeguarding personal, learning and shaping future practice and safeguarding effectiveness. Our key areas for work are:

- Continuing to develop the Team Around the Adult (TAA) to increase our capacity to support more adults with complex needs.
- Co-ordinate activities to prevent adults at risk from exploitation in particular financial exploitation and cuckooing.
- Develop strategies to prevent older adults at risk of domestic abuse.

Our expected outcomes are:

- Greater number and cross section of complex cases.
- Individuals supported through TAA and proactive prevention targeted at top 10 individuals.
- Reduced number of safeguarding referrals and greater awareness around financial exploitation and cuckooing
- Greater awareness of domestic abuse in older adults and more accurate reporting.

'Made with Care' The new national Adult Social Care recruitment campaign

The latest phase of the Department of Health and Social Care's national adult social care recruitment campaign launched on 2nd November to support the adult social care sector's winter recruitment activity and will run until March 2023. With advertising planned across England, the 'Made with Care' campaign will reach millions of people via video on demand, radio, and digital channels, raising awareness of the rewarding nature of care work and increasing the number of quality candidates that apply to roles.

The 'Made with Care' campaign shows the amazing work that staff across the adult social care sector do. It celebrates the way they empower the people they support and shines a light on the emotional rewards of the role to inspire more people to consider a job in adult social care. Campaign advertising will direct job seekers to www.adultsocialcare.co.uk. Here, they will be

able to find everything they need to research a career in adult social care and, crucially, search and apply for adult social care jobs near them through DWP 'Find a Job'.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 09 December 2022

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

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

HR Management Information

There has been further improvement in the workforce metrics in the last three quarters:

In quarter 2 the days lost to sickness absence figure has continued to reduce from Q4 2021 (8.74), Q1 2022 (8.69) and Q2 2022 (8.47) however it is still above the 7.5 target. Covid-19 continues to impact on these figures. The number of days lost discounting Covid-19 absence would be 7.29, which is below the target. The 12-month voluntary turnover percentage further reduced slightly in quarter 2 to 10.05%. 10% voluntary turnover is not considered a concern.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Under the public sector equality duty, each year public bodies must meet the public sector equality duty by publishing relevant, proportionate information to demonstrate how they meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

The Councils annual ED&I report will shortly be published, and several actions and equality objectives will be implemented because of findings of the report. The report will be available to view on our website in December.

Culture and Leadership

The Council's programme of a culture and leadership diagnostic has now concluded, and the findings are currently being analysed. A report will be shared with CLT. The diagnostic work was facilitated by over 70 volunteers and around 750 employees have taken part in the various activities.

LEGAL

Alternative Business Structure

A licence has now been granted to Legal Services Lincolnshire (Trading) Limited to operate as a legal practice. The final steps are in train to fulfil the practical requirements to enable the company to comply with its regulatory obligations before trading commences. In accordance with the original proposal, the initial focus will be to support our existing partners where they are fulfilling their functions through separate entities such as companies.

Case Management

On 10 November 2022 LSL went live with an updated version of its Norwel case management system. This has been a significant project and not only improves the software itself but moves the service onto a supported version of the software and onto a new server platform. This removes a significant risk not just to the operations of LSL but also the wider Lincolnshire County Council IMT

environment and will give staff in LSL much more stable access to a critical system. This is an important step in the longer-term process of moving to a new case management system.

CORPORATE PROPERTY

Assistant Director Corporate Property

A recruitment exercise has taken place and Jayne Sowerby-Warrington has been successfully appointed as the Assistant Director of Corporate property and will take up the position on 20 December 2022. The interim Assistant Director Paul Smith shall be leaving on the 14 December 2022, having carried out a full handover.

Judges Lodgings

The long lease disposal has been completed.

Fire & Rescue Training Centre Waddington

LCC have agreed to acquire the site for the continued use for F&R. Terms are agreed and the key decision for purchase of the site is approved and is with legal colleagues for exchange and completion. As a result, an Options Appraisal with GL OPE SDIP funding for a Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) training facility on site in the future has been approved by the Blue Light Steering Group and is in train.

Capital Receipts

Successfully reached the £25 million Capital receipts six-year target as a result of disposals including property, land, and mineral lease income.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 09 December 2022

Statement from: Councillor L A Cawrey, Executive Councillor for Fire & Rescue, Emergency Planning and Culture Services

LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE (LFR)

Operational Response

Following the extreme temperatures that the county encountered in July and August, the Service has returned to similar incident numbers compared with last year for September and October.

Our response to medical only emergencies through our co-responder response remains stable and we continue to support East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) in this provision whilst completing our review of future co-responder model with the outstanding objective of securing future funding.

His Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) for Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services

LFR continues to make good progress against the cause of concern and action plan from the 2021 full inspection. All areas within the cause of concern recommendations are now signed off and (at the time of writing) are awaiting HMI to re-visit LFR in November to evaluate progress against the areas relating to Protection.

Confirmation of the next full inspection is planned for early 2023 and, therefore, planning is well underway in preparing LFR for this next round of inspection.

Integrated Risk Management, Operational Support & Service Support

The Integrated risk management team continue to develop current systems to enhance data provision and support our resource to risk approach. Work on the implementation of the National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) fire standards continues with a gap analysis now complete across the 15 current fire standards. Work to improve the mobile data terminals continues and training is being delivered across the organisation to ensure crews are fully conversant with the system and its capability to deliver essential operational information.

The operational support team are providing innovative solutions to the procurement of fleet and equipment in line with the latest technologies, but also in line with the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and our commitment to having the right resources in the right place at the right time. The fleet strategy has been published and demonstrates LFR's commitment to the Green Master Plan, and work is currently underway to review Officer Response provision and the use of hybrid technology.

The refurbishment of Grantham fire station is now underway and the options appraisal for the Waddington Training Centre site is also being developed in conjunction with the fire service, Kier, Lincolnshire County Council and in liaison with Lincolnshire Police.

Fire Protection

Focused work has been carried out in preparation to support the enactment of the new Fire Safety Act and Fire Safety Regulations. The new regulations will give Fire and Rescue Services additional legislative powers to support fire safety compliance in high and medium rise premises. More responsibility will also be placed on building custodians to ensure they keep services updated with on-going issues and compliance with testing and maintenance.

The team have ensured the three areas highlighted in the HMI cause for concern are completed and ready for when the Inspectorate re-visit. The delivery of the risk-based inspection programme remains ahead of schedule, and recruitment into all vacant posts will see the team with a full complement of inspectors, trained and supporting delivery in the early New Year.

Investment utilising the Home Office (HO) grant fund has seen FloSuite (our management information system) progress with the new version loaded on to the test server with user acceptance testing scheduled for early November. We have also been using the funding to support the development of our inspectors, ensuring they are trained on the latest updates to legislation and processes.

Fire Prevention

In-line with the NFCC direction we have transitioned across from our Safe & Well visits to the recognised Home Fire Safety Visits, (HFSVs). The visits remain broadly the same, but they have a clear focus on eight core components: Home Fire Detection and Assistive Technology, General Fire Safety (Candles, Cooking and Escape Planning), Electrical Safety, Fire and Heaters (Safer Heating), Clutter and Hoarding, Deliberate Fires, Smoking-Related Fires, Medicines and Medical Devices. A standard approach to visits across the country will allow a dataset to be developed to ensure we remain evidence-focused to improve the safety of our most vulnerable.

We have been promoting the on-line self-assessment tool that will allow individuals to carry out their own assessment of their homes whilst being given generic safety advice. Where a significant risk is identified a referral is automatically generated, allowing us to support those identified as most in need of help and guidance.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Emergency Planning & Business Continuity team are moving into an extremely busy period.

The passing of Her Majesty the Queen in September necessitated the implementation of the county's Operation London Bridge plans. This operation required a consistent and coordinated approach to the notification, activation and escalation of individual local resilience partnership plans to ensure the delivery of a safe and befitting response to a period of national mourning. The whole operation was coordinated from the County Emergency Centre (CEC) and the team played an active role from both a county council and Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) secretariat perspective. Planning for this event had been taking place

for several years and had been exercised during previous royal events. A full debrief has now taken place and learning is being incorporated into future Operation Bridges planning and will be used during next year's coronation planning which has been named Golden Orb.

Operation London Bridge resulted in the cancellation and postponement of many events including the national weeklong flooding exercise - Exercise FloodEx 2022. This exercise was rescheduled and took place in November and lasted for a full week, some of you may have taken part on the Friday recovery day or attended as an observer. Again, this exercise was coordinated from the CEC and there was full participation from all LRF partners. During the exercise there were a couple of film crews attending as part of the team's new LRF engagement project, a full report will be written following the debrief of the exercise.

As we move into the autumn/winter period, we also move into the main flooding and NHS winter pressures season. The team have been busy ensuring that policies, plans and procedures have all been reviewed in readiness. This year has seen the added pressures of soaring fuel and energy costs along with heightened inflation, interest rates and cost of living rises. The team are leading on two pieces of work looking into this area in more detail, they are project managing a piece of work entitled the Cost-of-Living Challenge and are also chairing the LRF's Winter Pressures Group. These pieces of work aim to bring all responsible organisations together to discuss and risk assess this situation, and to ensure that information is shared and a coordinated approach is taken to the challenges that may arise as a result.

The team are also committed to planning for any possible gas and electricity outages or issues that may occur because of the ongoing situation between the Ukraine and Russia and the resulting shortages and distribution issues. Whilst national planning assumptions state that, at the time of writing, gas and electricity availability should be okay, concerns remain. The media have been reporting that there may be rolling power cuts over the winter, and this is one of the areas where the team have been planning, liaising with the utility companies and LRF partners and trying to understand those areas that may need priority and looking into preparing plans once this information has been collated and understood. There are two distinct areas of planning; one is winter resilience planning, which relates to this piece of work, and the other is planning for a national power outage.

The Cabinet Office have been planning a national exercise to test the response to a national power outage for a number of years. It should be noted that this is not due to any heightened threat but something that needs to be exercised at a national level (similar to the recent FloodEx event). To this end, a national exercise has been planned to take place next year. This exercise will be played out over twenty-four hours and will involve all LRF partner organisations.

This exercise will, again, be coordinated from the CEC and it will include both tactical and strategic command groups. For realism, the CEC will also operate on its backup generator for the duration of the exercise. This exercise will have huge implications for the county council especially from a business continuity perspective as we would have to plan for prioritising our critical functions, loss of premises, loss of staff, loss of IT and utilities. The team already support our organisation's critical functions to ensure that they have business impact documents, risk assessments, plans and that there is a strategic corporate plan but in

preparation for the exercise the team will be contacting individual directorates and services over the coming weeks to facilitate small scale exercises and training events in preparation.

Finally, the Lincoln Christmas Market returns from 1 – 4 December. This is the county's largest major event and is attended by over two hundred thousand people. Planning for the event takes place all year round and the team support this by chairing the Safety Advisory Group and facilitating the exercise which took place at the beginning of this month. They will also be on shift at the multi-agency event control room for the duration of the event, to ensure that any incident can be swiftly responded to with appropriate coordination and plans implemented.

CULTURE

£205,000 Arts Council Funding

We have been successful in attracting £205,000 a year from the Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation programme for activity at The Collection and the Usher Gallery from 2023 to 2026. This is an increase from the £72,000 we have previously received on an annual basis.

The funding will allow us to work with schools and the community in both formal and informal settings, increasing schools' engagement with the arts through the curriculum, taking art out to schools and bringing schools into the gallery.

It will also allow us to uplift and add greater value to the exhibitions programme working with partners to maximise engagement with our temporary programme and to develop and deliver a rehang of the Usher Gallery.

Visit England Welcome Accolade

Lincoln Castle, The Collection and Usher Art Gallery have been successful in winning Visit England's Welcome Accolade 2021/22.

Visit England's Accolades are designed to celebrate excellence within the visitor attraction sector and showcase those businesses that go the extra mile to provide a high-quality day out. This could be through a warm welcome, an engaging story, a delicious lunch, or the overall visitor experience.

Only 22 Welcome Accolades were awarded in the country. To achieve this accolade attractions are required to score 100% in the staffing section and at least 90 per cent overall score from the assessment.

Libraries

We had an amazing Summer Reading Challenge this year which had over 3,000 children participate, giving an increase of 57 per cent compared to 2021 and 6 per cent in 2019. Given 2019 was our highest participation figure since the core libraries model was introduced, this 6 per cent increase is not insignificant. The Little Library Star Challenge launched in June,

where pre-schoolers got a little star on every visit (some weeks it was a double star week), was also well welcomed and enjoyed.

The Business Bubbles at Lincoln and Spalding libraries are progressing well, with approvals granted and physical works anticipated to start over the winter. This will see two sites adapted to provide space for start-ups to meet with clients and benefit from the services within the sites, such as free WiFi, printing from devices and access to COBRA – a software programme that is ideal for anyone looking to start a business, write a business plan or marketing plan or conduct research into a new market.

Lincoln Castle

Lincoln Castle welcomed back the popular Steampunk weekend and Sausage Festival for the first time in three years with both events proving just as popular with the public.

The Steampunk festival saw the return of a mix of amazing costumes and steam-powered gadgetry to create an alternate reality centred in the grounds of Lincoln Castle and including a costume contest, wacky races, and creative installations.

The Sausage Festival showcased Lincolnshire produce from award-winning producers and entertainment by The Cosmic Sausages & Juggling Jim, cookery demonstrations with renowned Lincolnshire chef, Rachel Green, circus skills workshops, as well as, of course, the return of Mr and Mrs Sausage!

Sandford Award for Education

The Culture Service's Learning Team has received the Sandford Award from the Heritage Education Trust for the outstanding quality of their learning offer at Lincoln Castle. The Sandford Award affords prestigious national recognition and independent endorsement of the high quality of the heritage learning offer and follows a rigorous and detailed assessment.

In particular, the report notes that: "Lincoln Castle offers students a truly unique educational opportunity to participate in historically authentic, intelligently designed and memorable learning activities in the atmospheric surroundings of a nationally significant heritage attraction. The enthusiasm its staff exude for the castle as a learning resource is palpable and there is a clear commitment to making a complex and multi-faceted site accessible to as wide an audience as possible."

Memory Lane, Pop-up Museum in Holbeach

During the summer the Culture Service and the Historic Places Team worked in partnership with the local community in Holbeach, South Holland District Council and EnergyCell to create a pop-up museum in an empty shop on the High Street, called Memory Lane.

The exhibition has lots of information, artefacts, images and films from the past which tell some of the fascinating and unique stories of Holbeach and the surrounding area. It is proving to be popular not just with local residents, but also with visitors from further afield, and is helping to support local businesses.

The pop-up museum is going to feature as December's Attraction of the Month in the 'Best of British' magazine, with a national circulation of 100,000.

A British Museum Spotlight Loan *Gathering light: A Bronze golden sun*

Fresh from being a key component of the British Museum's summer exhibition, World of Stonehenge, the British Museum has loaned The Collection a stunning gold sun pendant which will be on display at The Collection until 20 February 2023.

This treasure is over 4,000 years old and reveals the importance of the sun to the lives of our Bronze Age ancestors, including the use of precious gold to depict the golden star and its centrality to their beliefs in this period.

It is one of the most significant pieces of Bronze Age metalwork ever discovered in Britain and will only be displayed in three other venues across the country.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 09 December 2022

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

GROWTH SERVICES

Economic Infrastructure

We continue to enjoy interest and investment at the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) near Holbeach in South Holland, which being at the centre of the UK Food Valley is creating an impact over a much wider area. As Members will recall, 5 of the 12 plots on the 15-acre phase I have already been sold, and now host two University of Lincoln buildings, with a local business also currently building its own facility on a separate plot. In addition, the Council's new, three-storey innovation centre, 'The Hub', on a sixth plot opened in September.

As the name suggests, The Hub is intended to be the focal point of the development, and our first two tenants have already moved in, taking in total 5 offices. These are Station One Accountants, a local company specialising in the food sector, and Catapult Print and Packaging Ltd., an innovative Florida-based business, originally from Boston, UK.

Following on from the critical mass developing around phase 1, interest in the 27-acre phase 2 is also building, and we are currently in discussion with 3 businesses based in Buckinghamshire, India, and the UAE, and an Australian investor.

At Kirton Distribution Park in Boston Borough, 2 separate investor / developers with significant job creation plans continue to undertake their due diligence with a view to completing the purchase of phases 2 and 3.

At the Eventus business centre in Market Deeping, South Kesteven, the spatial reconfiguration scheme, which started in November 2021 to provide grow-on space for expanding businesses, and to respond to small businesses' new hybrid accommodation requirements is complete, with the new facilities proving popular.

Across the county, we continue to support our small business tenants in our 5 business centres, new innovation centre, and over 80 industrial and commercial units, which total 242 individual leasehold properties across 25 separate estates/locations in 18 towns. Occupancy levels remain buoyant with a health mix of lease renewals and new tenants.

The Council's leadership role in the countywide energy for growth agenda continues with developing relationships with Electricity Distribution Network Operators to understand their plans across Lincolnshire to assist growth, especially where supply is volatile. This is complemented by the Council working with all authorities in Greater Lincolnshire in the commissioning of an 'Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire' study, being undertaken through to summer 2023 to identify energy constraints and promote local innovative solutions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I am delighted to let you know that we have won the Federation for Small Business (FSB) regional award for the best Programme of Business Support during Covid-19. Through our lifeline of grants and business support programmes, we really hit the mark and supported the private sector to navigate through the pandemic and helped their longer-term sustainability. We were recognised at the National FSB Awards and were able to showcase our best practice amongst our peers.

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Team continue to be busy providing much needed support to local businesses. In between January and end September, 616 businesses have been supported.

I am very pleased to highlight that our ongoing evaluation activities continue to confirm that our business support services are well received with 92% of respondents either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the service; and 90% of respondents either very or somewhat likely to recommend the service they received / event they attended to a friend or colleague.

We have recently launched our Digital Lincolnshire online brochure for Expressions of interest and there have been 29 responses within the first couple of weeks. The brochure will be developed in a similar format to the very popular Made In Lincolnshire brochure which now features 115 of Greater Lincolnshire's fantastic Manufacturing businesses. The brochures are a useful tool to promote these sectors in Greater Lincolnshire and to encourage inter-trading between local businesses.

We have also launched our new digital skills programme called Mosaic Connects, this aims to bring digital sector businesses together to support traditional industry challenges and collaborate on solutions to help traditional businesses embrace technology.

The Greater Lincolnshire International Strategy has also been launched during the national International Trade week on 31 October and also features in the latest edition of County News. We have recently found out that our Internationalisation Fund grant for businesses who want to export has been topped up by £177,000, so our businesses can apply for grants up to £9,000 for projects which assist them to export, such as Legal Advice, PR support, website updates or participation in Trade Fairs (50% match funding required).

Activities from the Action Plan linked to the International Strategy are in progress including enhancing awareness of the International Trade support for businesses with the wider Adviser Team and improving International Trade related content on the Business Lincolnshire website. A dedicated call to action campaign will commence towards the end of the year and new Peer Networks for Exporters will also be launched.

The eighth Greater Lincolnshire Engineering and Manufacturing Network (GLEAM) event was held on 5 October 2022, which included a factory Tour at Micronclean in Skegness.

Plans for the Agricultural and Horticultural 'Meet the Grower' event in January at the new FEZ Hub, which formally opened on the 22 September, are being finalised with good interest from

approximately 29 buying businesses and some 23 selling businesses. This pilot event will be invitation only and will take the form of facilitated meetings held between buyers and sellers. The aim to of event is to support our local producers to establish local markets, to help to reduce costs, food miles and increase sustainability

The next #GoDigital23 Conference will be held on 8th March 2023, with a focus on the customer of the future and ideas for an Export Conference in May/June 2023 are developing. As a result of the support provided, between January and end September 2022, 74 jobs were safeguarded. Through the support provided by the Growth Hub Advisers, and even against such a difficult economic backdrop, there continues to be growth in new jobs created with 28 new jobs evidenced in the same period.

In terms of future provision, we have received news of 2 significant bids for new funded programmes for Greater Lincolnshire Businesses.

Following a successful proposition to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), LCC have helped to secure £3m over the next 3 years for the East Midlands region to roll out a “Made Smarter Adoption Programme”, a formal government announcement is due shortly. In essence this programme will boost the implementation of Industrial Digital Technology adoption, focusing on helping businesses to adopt Additive Manufacturing: 3D printing, augmented and virtual reality software, machine learning, sensors and understand industrial cyber security. It will engage with 403 Small and Mid-size Enterprise (SME) Manufacturers, undertake 133 business assessments, provide intensive support to 70 businesses and boost the leadership and management skills of 36 senior manufacturing leaders. This intervention will increase the productivity, competitiveness, and workforce capabilities of the manufacturing sector across the East Midlands region.

Furthermore, in partnership with Leicestershire, Derbyshire and the University of Lincoln we have been successful in securing The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) funding to deliver the Create Growth Programme. The 3-year programme will access £1.275m of grant funding to deliver business support for Creative Businesses, with a strong focus on high growth and investment readiness, with the opportunity to benefit from up to a £7m fund for investor finance.

There has been an extension to our European funded business support programme until June 2023, which means that we can continue to provide generalist and specialist advisory support, business development programmes and implementation grants to businesses. However, there continues to be some uncertainty beyond June 2023 as European Funding becomes superseded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which has been allocated to Lower Tier authorities. We continue to work closely with District Council Colleagues to develop a forward plan for ongoing Growth Hub support and we await the outcome of these discussions.

PLACE AND INVESTMENT

Team Lincolnshire Activity

The 2020-2022 Team Lincolnshire Business Plan activity ended in October 2022 and a new 2023-2025 Plan has been devised. Areas of focus include supporting investment into the UK Food Valley, Humber Freeport, Decarbonisation, Defence and Security, and promoting our “Place” as an investment tool.

The Team Lincolnshire Ambassador programme continues to go from strength to strength with 145 members. During July Team Lincolnshire supported the opening of the South Lincolnshire FEZ’s Hub innovation centre to potential end users. We supported one of our ambassador’s, Stokes 120th anniversary event, jointly delivered a “Getting your business to Net Zero” at the Bacchus Hotel with Business Lincolnshire and we hosted a webinar with ambassador’s VPI Immingham and Phillips 66 on Humber Zero.

Team Lincolnshire partnered with Marketing Humber in September to further cement the ties with the north of our region and to amplify the messages regarding UK Food Valley and the strengths of the agrifood sector in our region. We were involved in the “Leading a Food Revolution” hosted in Scunthorpe which saw 120 delegates come to hear from industry leaders on the future of our food sector. Team Lincolnshire also helped launch the Greater Lincolnshire Defence & Security Network at the Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln attracting significant sign up and attendance on the day supported by the launch of the most recent inward investment proposition on the opportunities within the Defence & Security sector.

Inward Investment and Foreign Direct Investment Key Account Management update

In October Investment Zone proposals were submitted for three sites in Lincolnshire– South Lincolnshire FEZ in Holbeach, Clay Lake in Spalding and Spitalgate Level, Grantham, they focused in the significant opportunities related to commercial and residential development.

Since April, 33 inward investment enquiries have been received and serviced by the Place & Investment Team. Currently 39 enquiries (across all financial years) are at an active status, with intensive support being given to support the companies’ investment ambitions into the region. These are from a variety of sectors including 16 from agrifood, 6 from construction and 4 from the energy sector.

The team have been proving a ‘soft landing’ support offer with businesses ranging from a biofuels inward investor looking to use food, garden and verge waste, through to a pioneering data centre business looking to revolutionise the way IT servers are cooled and the opportunities for the residual heat usage. Ongoing support is being provided to manufacturers of temperature-controlled storage facilities and a multitude new salad production plants which seek to create up to 500 new jobs.

Relationships continue to be built with 34 foreign owned businesses who are located in Greater Lincolnshire, of which there are 14 expansion and investment projects underway.

Visitor Economy: The recommendations of the Tourism Commission are continuing to be delivered and are having a great impact.

The www.visitlincolnshire.com website goes from strength to strength and much work has been done on its search engine optimisation to ensure that it comes top in most searches.

- The website received 34,454 visits in month – an increase of 30% over 2021 and increase of 301% on 2020.
- Average conversion rate is 15.3% across all content (at least 1 in 6 people are continuing on to make a booking for accommodation or an attraction).
- Through the October location trends show 15% traffic is from Lincolnshire, 13% from Near Lincolnshire, 50% from Further Afield (UK), 2% international, 20% unknown -not set on their device.
- In the year to date, Jan – Oct 2022 there have been 308,398 visits, which is a 110% increase on 2021, and an increase of 520% on 2020.
- Pageviews in the year to date are up to 1,150,000 views - up 81% on 2021 and up 1156% on 2020.

Businesses continue to learn from their peers, our masterclass videos have been well received and more have been placed on www.business.visitlincolnshire.com, including Media Training, How To Write A Good Press Release and Using Zoom. These will shortly be followed by What is Business Tourism, Sustainability and Business Tourism, Websites and Branding for Business Tourism. Video Case Studies have also been completed for Stokes Coffee (Sustainability) and Ancaster Leisure (Diversification) and will be seen for the first time during the Hospitable Boost 2 programme; before being uploaded to the website as programme legacy content.

The Green Tourism Toolkit has been very well received since its launch in March and continues to be downloaded and viewed by local, regional and national audiences. A pilot green tourism ambassador programme has recently completed on the coast using Coastal Communities Fund money, this has now led to a countywide role out of a 'Hospitable Green' programme. This programme will support and enable businesses to become more sustainable. Recruitment is underway and the first session is due to start in January 2023, attendees will gain an IEMA certificate in Environmental Sustainability Skills and become a recognised 'Green Ambassador'.

Building on the success and momentum of the first round of Hospitable Boost, a second round has now launched. Again, the programme is fully subscribed, and this cohort comprises of 22 businesses undertaking this business development programme.

Additional product development support has been progressed with the commission of a Creating Bookable Visitor Experiences Toolkit, especially tailored for the Lincolnshire tourism market. The Toolkit guides businesses through the elements required to create an engaging and marketable experience and includes content covering costing, distribution, and regulation. The toolkit is supported by on the ground delivery with workshop/ presentations planned for upcoming B2B events in the county; in addition to being available on the Business.

VisitLincolnshire platform as a downloadable resource. This will launch in the Winter 2022.

Further product development will focus on maximising the potential in Lincolnshire's great outdoors. Our green and blue spaces. Previously rather undersold, this market is year-round, has the propensity to be less price sensitive, and is an excellent fit with some of our recent developments such as North Sea Observatory, Huttoft Boatshed and the coastal birdwatching trail. Nature Tourism presents considerable new and exciting opportunities for the sector; and we are well placed to take advantage of this growth area. The long-awaited England Coastal Path work across the Greater Lincolnshire coast will come to fruition over the next 2 years. To engage businesses and amplify outcomes from this development we are working to create an 'England Coast Path – Lincolnshire Toolkit' - which will encourage businesses to take advantage of the potential benefits such as increased footfall and opportunities for events and promotion. It is anticipated that The Coastal Path will lead to an increase in active tourism and walking and cycling visitors. These visitors will require different packages, services and experiences; and we recognise the need to support, encourage and guide our businesses to develop appropriate product offers.

The sector continues to struggle to recruit and retain skilled staff, manage the increasing cost of energy and associated knock on costs such as food supplies and logistics, and the ability of effectively promote their services to the UK and international markets. Work on the Tourism Commission actions will continue to support the development and growth of the sector until March 2023.

We continue to hear very positive reports from first time visitors to Lincolnshire who are very favourably impressed with the county. There is no doubt that spend is down with visitors being very cautious. There is some forward booking with visitors assuming future price rises.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUE)

Significant work continues to take place regarding the SUE's around the county.

The North East Quadrant (1400 dwellings – plan period) has been granted outline planning for the first phase of 500 dwellings, which secured S106 contributions towards the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and sustainable travel improvements. Construction has now commenced on site and LCC is monitoring build out of the development to ensure that we receive the requested S106 contributions as and when triggers are met.

The South-East Quadrant, Bracebridge Heath (3500 dwellings – plan period) was subject to 2 separate planning applications which have both been granted planning approval. S106 contributions have been requested by LCC for a number of sustainable transport improvements. The S106 agreement is currently being drafted by Legal Services, the developer, and the planning authority.

Western Growth Corridor (3200 dwellings – plan period) has been granted outline planning approval with the initial phase proposing 300 dwellings accessed only from Skellingthorpe

Road; the second phase providing a bridge link to Tritton Road for the next 2,500 houses, and phase 3 proposing 400 houses and commercial development which will occur following completion of the Beevor Street link. LCC are in discussions with the developer regarding S38 and S278 technical checks required for Phase 1. City of Lincoln Council has submitted a Levelling Up Fund bid for the construction of the bridge link to Tritton Road, the decision for which is expected end of 2022.

South-West Quadrant, North Hykeham (1,600 dwellings – plan period) discussions continue to take place pre-planning application submission. The Local Plan policy requires the South West Quadrant to provide the first section of the North Hykeham Relief Road (NHRR) from the A46 to the site, if the development site is brought forward prior to the delivery of the NHRR. The Spending Review in November 2020 awarded funding to the NHRR which provides more certainty on the delivery of this infrastructure. In response to enquiries to bring forward parts of the SUE early, LCC has referred developers to Local Plan Policy 28 which requires concept plans for the SUE to be developed to ensure timely delivery of key infrastructure and mitigation. The Local Plan is currently being reviewed and the draft wording of the relevant policies continue to ensure that the SUE is considered as a whole, and that any phasing considers the necessary mitigation needed.

Southern Neighbourhood, Gainsborough (1,400 dwellings – plan period) Multi-agency group meetings have been held for the first development phase of 400 dwellings. An indicative Housing Infrastructure Fund allocation of £2.1m has been secured to cover upfront highway infrastructure costs that have stalled delivery of the development. A variation of condition application for the original outline has been submitted and discussions with a potential developer for the first phase are currently taking place. Highway improvement works have commenced on Foxby Lane under S278 and S38 agreements. A new amended planning application for later Phases (2046 dwellings) has been submitted to the planning authority which LCC are currently reviewing and will provide a consultation response in due course.

Northern Neighbourhood, Gainsborough (1,400 dwellings – plan period) planning application for the first phase of development for 700 dwellings has been granted consent. Associated with the consent, highway improvement works at the Corringham Road/Thorndyke Way junction have now been completed.

Handley Chase, Sleaford (1,400 dwellings – plan period) the outline planning application for 1,450 houses has been granted consent. The main site access has been completed via a S278 agreement which delivered a ghost island right turn lane on London Road. Various discharge of planning conditions and reserved matters applications have been and granted approval for a number of early phases of development. These initial phases are under construction and the local centre has now been built and opened.

Sleaford West (1,400 dwellings – plan period) the outline planning application has been approved by committee, subject to S106 agreement. LCC has requested S106 contributions towards highway improvement works at Holdingham Roundabout and for sustainable transport improvements which include improving transport connectivity between the site and Town Centre. The drafting of the S106 had stalled due to the application involving several landowners. However, the planning authority has now restarted the drafting of the S106, and

it is anticipated to be signed in 2022, which would finally result in planning consent for this development.

Northern Western Quadrant (Rectory Farm), Grantham (1,350 dwellings – plan period) planning applications were received in 2016 which were the subject of revision in 2018. The full applications for the parts of the development fronting Barrowby Road have now been approved by committee, subject to the signing of the S106 Agreement. LCC has requested S106 contributions towards the Grantham Southern Relief Road and towards bus service subsidy. The S106 agreement is currently being drafted with Legal Services, the developers, and the planning authority.

Southern Quadrant - Spitalgate Heath, Grantham (3,700 dwellings – plan period) the outline planning application for this development was submitted in 2014, which was granted permission by the planning authority subject to the signing of Section 106 Agreement. The planning authority and LCC have been in discussion with the applicants regarding S106 contributions that are required to mitigate the impact of this development. These include contributions towards the Grantham Southern Relief Road, Travel Plan initiatives for the business and residential parts of the scheme, and education provision. Since the granting of permission, the development has been awarded funding as a Garden Village, and the developers are working with the planning authority and LCC to modify the application to a development with Garden Village principles.

Southern Quadrant - Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham (4,200 dwellings) the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and Homes England were jointly developing this site. They had appointed Ove Arup as masterplan consultants and an initial options appraisal was undertaken, and pre-application discussions took place between the developers and the planning authority. The promoters held a public consultation during Summer 2021 and there was some strong opposition to the proposed masterplan from the Woodland Trust and others due to loss of trees. The DIO has now decided not to continue with Homes England as development partner. The decommissioning of the Barracks is to be delayed to 2028 and the DIO are seeking Ministerial approval before re-starting with a new design team and new development proposals.

Stamford North (2,000 houses - proposed allocation in SKDC Local Plan) the planning authority and Rutland County Council have drafted both a Development Brief and Memorandum of Understanding for the delivery of this development. LCC's position is to be engaged with the development as statutory consultee, but not be a signatory to the promotion of the development. Highway network modelling has been undertaken and the developers' consultants are preparing the Transport Assessment for the whole development. Further modelling has been requested by Rutland County Council, and WSP will undertake this when commissioned by the Developers. A planning application for the first phase of 650 houses has been submitted to Rutland County Council which is currently being reviewed. LCC has responded to Rutland County Council stating that the traffic impact on LCC's network is acceptable, but this is subject to National Highways agreeing appropriate mitigation for the A1 junctions and a S106 contribution to bus services.

Holbeach West Sustainable Urban Extension (900 homes, 750 in plan period) a planning application for 110 dwellings north of Northons Lane, which is the first phase of this allocated SUE, has been approved by the planning authority.

COMMUNITIES SERVICES

Planning - Development Management

The bulk of work by the team continues in response to developers wishing to bring forward energy related schemes to the County. The requests relate to renewable energy generation and inter-connections projects to provide the necessary infrastructure to achieve this.

Additionally, in recent months it is evident that sand and gravel operations in Lincolnshire are rapidly working through their existing permitted reserves, and we are starting to see developers seeking to bring forward new sites for future mineral extraction. The waste sector has been through a period of consolidation but applications for developments of further anaerobic digestion plants are now being brought forward.

In November 2021 the Planning and Regulation Committee refused an application to produce up to 28 million barrels of oil from under the Lincolnshire Wolds at Biscarthorpe. The application and Committee's decision attracted significant national and local media interest. The developer appealed against the refusal and a hearing in front of a Planning Inspector took place in Louth on 11th October 2022 with the decision is expected shortly.

At the other end of the energy scale the Council has been in discussion with applicants at pre-application stage for 7 significant solar park projects to the county. Due to the size of the projects, rather than the planning applications being determined at the local level, these are all classed as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) which will be determined by the Secretary of State. The County Council as a host authority has been engaged with the developers over the past year during their pre application engagement process and made it clear to these developers of the particular importance of protecting the County's best and most versatile agricultural land. The first of these schemes is expected to submit their application this year and four others in January. This will result in the examinations for these solar projects taking place next Spring. In addition, discussions are ongoing with developers who will be looking to bring cables from off-shore wind farms on-shore and across the County to connection points to link into the wider National Grid Transmission network.

In total, the team is involved with 16 NSIPs at various stages of the Development Consent Order Process. This is one of the highest numbers of NSIP projects in any local authority area in England and is creating resource pressures on the team. One NSIP project that has the potential to bring to Boston the largest energy from waste facility in the country, with a proposed 1.2 million tonnes of refuse derived fuel being transported by boat, is due for a decision by the Secretary of State in January 2023.

Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review

The first stage in the review of the Plan was the preparation of an Issues and Options Consultation Draft. This consultation along with a call for potential new mineral sites took

place during the summer. A total of 27 sites have been promoted by the minerals industry and these are now being evaluated to determine which ones are appropriate to take forward to the next stage of site selection. A targeted consultation on these nominated sites has commenced which includes District and Parish Councils which have a nominated site put forward in their Parish. This consultation runs until the middle of December. Any comments received through this exercise will be given careful consideration when the first draft is prepared setting out the council's preferred approach, including the provisional allocation of sites. Subject to the approval of the Executive, the draft plan will then be subject to full public consultation (currently programmed for next Spring). Then in spring 2024, the final Draft, known as the Publication Draft, is programmed to be published for public consultation.

The 3 draft stages of the plan will be subject to the scrutiny of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee and will require the approval of the Executive before they are published for consultation.

Following this final phase of consultation, the approval of the County Council will be sought to submit the Publication Draft for examination to the Secretary of State, together with any proposed modifications arising from the final consultation. It is anticipated that this will take place in summer 2024 and enable the Local Plan to be adopted by early 2025.

Historic Places Team

The team is currently very busy with the planning work for the NSIP projects taking up a lot of staff resource as well as the inevitable pressure associated with projects coming to an end.

Planning and archaeology

Planning and archaeology continue to provide advice to West Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council in Lincolnshire and 2 Nottinghamshire districts, Newark & Sherwood and Bassetlaw. The team also provide advice to the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Planning Services team on quarries and waste proposals as well County developments, including conservation advice on LCC properties. The quarry work is proving particularly busy as mineral operators look to meet the demand for sand and aggregate. The early discussions on the appropriate way forward for the North Hykeham Relief Road (NHRR) are underway with the consultants about to commission a geophysical survey of the route.

As the Countryside Stewardship programme moves into being the Environment Land Management scheme (ELM) are well placed to provide the necessary advice. The team is being consulted on an increasing number of tree planting schemes.

In addition, the team provide advice on archaeology to government agencies and utility companies. Anglian Water through their Strategic Pipeline Alliance are working on a pipeline which will eventually take water from the north of their region (Elsham, near Scunthorpe) to the Suffolk/Essex border. A lot of archaeological work is underway to mitigate the impact of this scheme. Anglian Water have a number of other schemes which may impact upon archaeological remains, including one along the river Witham in Washingborough parish.

Historic Environment Record

Work has now begun on the concordance project with the National Record for the Historic Environment (held by Historic England). The Lincolnshire Heritage Explorer website continues to be very popular. Just recently they have added some additional features although the level of use means that the usage allowance is being exceeded for mapping. The team have recently begun a new subscription for mapping which will address this issue.

Inns on the Edge

The pubs project is drawing to a close. The gazetteer of pubs and beer houses in the study area now includes 312 entries. Most of the site visits have been completed and any surviving remains have been noted and/or recorded.

The reports for the two subsidiary reports on economy and landscape have been submitted and are now with Historic England for peer review. The final report was submitted to Historic England by at the end of November.

Extensive Urban Survey (EUS)

The historic towns survey was completed at the end of September and are considering what the results of the EUS might be used for.

The end-of-project symposium on 30 August at The Collection was a great success. There was a great deal of discussion about how to use the information generated to better address planning and investment decisions.

Flood and Water Management

The County Council recognises the major environmental and economic importance of the coast to the future of the county; and the need to continue to engage with our partners to ensure that the appropriate strategies are developed to manage the risks of coastal flooding both in the present day and into the future to secure resilience for coastal communities against the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

The University of Lincoln is continuing to put together a jointly agreed and transparent evidence base, so that authorities can plan how best to adapt to meet the challenges of climate change and continue to thrive and realise its potential economic contribution to the region and the country.

Similarly, the Humber 2100+ project has been generating baseline data to understand the risk of tidal flooding affecting the estuary and surrounding land prior to developing a range of strategic options. Earlier this month the partnership started a communications campaign to raise awareness of tidal flood risk, to help communities understand the impacts now and in the future, and how they can live with this risk by being prepared. A pack of new materials has been produced by the partnership to help communicate risk to people living on and around the estuary. Wider engagement with stakeholders and communities is expected in the new year and members will be kept informed as both these programme progresses.

I am pleased to inform members that the preparations for the Council commemorating the 70th anniversary of the devastating effects of the 1953 floods on January 31st 2023 are

progressing well. A service of remembrance and thanksgiving will be held at Ingoldmells Church followed by an exhibition highlighting the effects the 1953 floods had on the area and also the work of those continuing to ensure that the coastal communities remain safe.

Anglian Water have commenced a non-statutory consultation on the proposed Lincolnshire Reservoir, the closing date for which is 21 December 2022. This exercise is an opportunity to shape the plans for the reservoir as Anglian Water consult with stakeholders, communities and landowners. As part of this process they are seeking local intelligence and knowledge giving consideration to opportunities to improve and reduce impacts. They are also seeking feedback on ideas and options to create benefits and comments on the early concept design. The County Council will be providing a response to the consultation, identifying there is an understanding of the importance of ensuring adequate water supply for the future but there needs to be careful consideration to ensure that local interests and the wider environment are protected. In any future proposals we would wish to see potential wider economic benefits being realised to ensure that, if a new reservoir is constructed, it fulfils its potential to become a visitor destination. The County Council, along with other organisations, will continue to discuss the needs of the county and local communities with Anglian Water as plans develop in the coming years.

Through the Floods and Water team, the County Council, supported by a range of partners and stakeholders has made a successful bid into the Defra funded national Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation programme. 1 of 25 successful projects in England to make it onto the programme, this project will focus on groundwater in the Greater Lincolnshire area, the least understood of the sources of flood risk faced. The programme provides the opportunity to develop understanding of a broad range of groundwater risks and opportunities across multiple Lead Local Flood Authority areas, leading to a range of practical actions delivered in partnership between now and 31 March 2027. It is intended that these actions should incorporate multiple benefits, such that environmental and social resilience are built into the approaches developed.

On 9 November the Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project received its 'letter of award of grant' to allow us to deliver the project under the Defra funded Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme. This follows successful approval of the Outline Business Case by the Environment Agency's National assurance team. The grant award is for £7,184,000 and the project will now deliver against this allocation between now and March 2027.

We have recently appointed a Flood Resilience Programme Co-Ordinator to help support the delivery of the project, which is in addition to the existing Community Engagement Officer appointed through the National Flood Forum, who has already been meeting with communities in Grimsby and Scopwick, 2 of the pilot areas identified within the project.

Consultants are also shortly to commence a review of the existing Lincolnshire Chalk and Limestone models to better understand the implications of Groundwater across the Greater Lincolnshire area. LCC working in collaboration with other organisations, will now work to deliver against the wider project objectives to create a better understanding of groundwater and how it can be managed both in terms of flood risk and resources; in the process improving the resilience of 3 trial communities in Scopwick, Grimsby and Barton and Barrow-on-

Humber. Learning as part of this project will develop a legacy for future management of groundwater both locally and nationally.

Submission of an Outline Business Case (OBC) for assurance and approval by the Environment Agency's national project assurance groups has been made, led by officers at the Council. This has now been approved and confirmation has now been received of the award of grant of nearly £7.2 million to deliver the project. This is the second highest grant allocation of the 25 successful projects which made it onto the programme. This project will now be taken forward to deliver against the four identified work packages across the Greater Lincolnshire area, namely;

- Improving understanding of groundwater flooding.
- Regional Improvements to Groundwater Resilience.
- Improving groundwater flood resilience in Grimsby, Barton and Barrow-upon-Humber.
- Improving groundwater flood resilience in Scopwick.

Following heavy rainfall on 17 November, 7 reports were received of properties being internally flooded with 1 in Skegness, 1 in Middle Rasen, 2 in Market Rasen and 3 in Tealby. Formal Section 19 investigations have been instigated, although it should be noted this is still a developing situation as more information comes to light. These instances of flooding follow on from the 46 Section 19 Investigations instigated following the storm event on 16th/17th August (involving over 150 affected properties) and the 7 section 19 Investigations instigated following heavy rainfall in October (involving 10 flooded properties).

Despite the numbers involved many of these investigations are well advanced, or in some cases already completed. In parallel to the active investigations, the Floods and Water team are working closely with internal colleagues in Highways as well as external partners to look at solutions to some of these localised issues, as well as considering where more significant interventions may be required.

Sustainability and Natural Environment

The Council continues to deliver against its carbon emissions targets and have reduced emissions by 68% compared to its 1990 baseline. It is recognised that more can still be done, and the Sustainability team are beginning to finalise the revised carbon management plan for the period post April 2023. In doing so the team is working with other council services to establish baseline data against which progress can be measured, and in particular working with Waste and Highways services to consider opportunities for reducing carbon emissions. It is clear that if we are to meet the targets, we have set in this crucial area, we will need all areas of the Council to undertake a drive toward reducing carbon emissions within the services we provide.

The Council also recognises its role in influencing and aiding others in this drive and have continued with engagement in schools throughout this year and also with local communities through the Net Zero Parishes scheme and we will continue to seek sources of funding to aid in the delivery of similar community focussed projects going forward.

I was pleased to be invited earlier this month to the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) annual conference to speak on the work the Council is doing towards the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This is a requirement of the Environment Act and when completed will provide a spatial strategy to establish priorities for nature recovery and map proposals for specific actions to drive this recovery and provide wider environmental benefits as well as helping inform opportunities for biodiversity and the principle of biodiversity net gain within the planning process. The strategy will also bring together land use planning and land management across Greater Lincolnshire as a region to help deliver against Biodiversity Net Gain targets. This work will be delivered through partnership working utilising the strong and well established links we already have within the sector such as with the GLNP and the local wildlife trusts.

I am also pleased to announce that the Council has been successful in its bid to the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund which will help us create the capacity to develop and accelerate our tree planting ambitions.

Countryside Access

It is clear that significant numbers of studies have demonstrated the benefits of access to nature and green space as being important for physical and mental health. The Access team is currently seeking opportunities to link more widely to the public health agenda to ensure that the council is able to continue providing quality access for all.

This is certainly true of recent projects in the Coastal County Park area where a review of routes was undertaken and through discussion and working with occupiers and land managers the access network is being altered to reflect modern demand whilst at the same time reducing the impact on those that need to work and earn a living from the land.

Members may be aware that the Government had been seeking to close the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way to claims for routes originally missed off the mapping when it was drawn up in the 1950s. Despite the imminent repeal of the cut off date for such applications, user groups have continued with their projects to research these missing routes in Lincolnshire and have doubled the already lengthy case backlog in the space of just 12 months. This is clearly having an effect on the landowner community in the County and I am pleased that officers are assisting them with advice and guidance on the legal processes involved through discussion with the National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association.

At the coast I am pleased to announce that all of the England Coast Path National Trail route in Lincolnshire, from Sutton Bridge to the Humber Bridge has now been approved by the Secretary of State and work to establish the route on the ground will commence in 2023, funded by Natural England and delivered by the Council. In doing so regard will be given to the timing of works to ensure that they have minimal impacts on the environment especially around the Wash, Gibraltar Point and Donna Nook.

Access to the coast has also been better managed in the last year through the regularisation of parking at the 6 council owned sites in the Coastal Country Park area. Whilst this has not been without some difficulties due to the pay by phone system of ticket purchase, visitor

numbers have remained good. The parking scheme has raised £45,000 in revenue after enforcement costs which will be vital for the management of our coastal tourism assets in the area such as the coast path and access sites. Officers are currently seeking to improve the ticket systems at the sites by providing greater options for payment.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 09 December 2022

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

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Major Projects

Grantham Southern Relief Road

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

Phase 2 which is the new graded separated junction on to the A1 was completed in December 2021. The junction is likely to open later in 2022.

Phase 3 is the final phase of the project and is the largest and most complex to deliver. It consists of a 5 span viaduct carrying the road over the East Coast Mainline railway and the River Witham. Works commenced April 2021 and have focussed on extensive ground works, embankment construction either side of the Witham Valley and the installation of the bridge foundation piles.

The piling works for the bridge piers commenced in January 2022 and the foundation for the western abutment has been completed. There are complexities and challenges with the construction of the eastern embankment which are being developed. One of these issues is that the underlying ground is not as robust as the designer had anticipated or designed the bridge to sit upon. The result is that the bridge is being lengthened approximate 70m towards the East to avoid the area where the poor ground is situated. This will result in approximately 18 months delay, pushing the completion back to Summer 2025. The project will also incur significant cost increases in excess of £15m.

A full investigation is under way to understand how this has occurred and where the liability rests. This is being done in conjunction with the design remediation. Elsewhere the project is continuing well with the A1 junction planned to be open by the end of 2022 and the section between the A52 Somerby Roundabout and the development roundabout opening Spring 2023.

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 Department for Transport (DfE), which also secured £110m towards the project from the DfT. A key decision to appoint Balfour Beatty as the Design and Build Contractor was approved on the 5th April 2022 who in turn will appoint a design consultant.

The project has now entered the next key stage which focusses on data acquisition and design in advance of a planning application being submitted in late 2023. Three public engagement events took place the 13th, 14th and 15th September to ensure the public are informed on progress and to gain their views on progress being made. These events were generally well received and positive towards the proposed scheme. Two further events are planned in Spring and then Summer 2023. It's likely that works will commence late 2025, however the project is subject to many statutory processes and risks that have the potential to delay the scheme. It's also worth noting that current material inflation will have a significant increase of forecast scheme costs.

Spalding Western Relief Road (SWRR)

Section 5 (Northern Connection) – In February 2018 South Holland District Council in collaboration with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) were successful in securing £12m from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for delivering this section of the SWRR. Since then, a further £8.13m has been sourced from the HCA.

Works commenced in January 2022 with the construction of the 2 piling platforms to allow the c1600 number piles to be installed to support the bridge over the rail line. These piles are now complete with the focus moving to pile caps (currently 650 completed) and construction of the embankment. In addition, the new roundabout on Spalding Road is largely completed and open to traffic. Works are programmed to be completed by the end of 2023.

Lincolnshire Coastal Highway

LCC investigated potential improvements to the A158 across the county from the A1 to the North Sea coast, known as the 'Lincolnshire Coastal Highway'. This looked at the options for intervention along the route. In identifying improvements to the Highway, consideration was given to being future-ready, building in capacity to support growth, investigating options across a range of modes and building in resilience and lower longer term costs for management of infrastructure.

A Horncastle bypass concept paper was completed which identified expected costs and benefits. Due to the DfT scoring mechanism, the benefits are very low in comparison to the cost and therefore would not attract any Government funding. This project is therefore currently not being progressed but is included in the Council's pipeline of projects to consider in the future.

A Skegness Relief Road concept paper has also been completed which indicates a route that attracts a medium 'Benefit to Cost Ratio' score meaning that it may attract third party funding should a funding opportunity be presented. A further detailed feasibility of the potential road is now being developed.

A feasibility of an Orby bypass is also being progressed.

Levelling Up Fund Projects (LUF)

LCC submitted a bid to 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 October 2021 it was announced that the bid had been successful. Since the announcement the projects have all moved into detailed design with a view to start on site in 2023 and be completed 2025.

There have been some concerns raised from the local community regarding the development of the Kirton signalised junction. A public meeting was held in July where the project team attended to answer questions and took away a large quantity of views and thoughts for the form of the proposed scheme. The team are now considering those views with regards the final form of the improvement scheme and potentially its viability.

A17 Heckington Dual Carriageway

LCC was successful with a funding bid of £50k from Midlands Connect to progress a scheme to a Strategic Outline Business Case Stage. This is match funded by LCC to help build-up a sizable 'pool' of credible business cases Midland Connect region can prioritise for submission to the DfT when the next Major Road Network (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.

LCC put forward the A17 Heckington dualling proposals, which includes dualling the sections between the east and west junctions of Heckington and possibly some junction alterations. The Business Case is due to be completed Autumn/Winter 2022.

Red Lion Square

This project is now complete and has been well received by those that wanted this form of paving. The project was delivered under budget.

Highway Maintenance

Inflation within the construction sector continues to cause significant challenges for the Highway Service. Increasing material prices, skills shortages and supply chain disruption continue to hamper delivery; however, the rate of inflation increase is showing signs of a plateau.

Inflation within the Highways Works, Traffic Signals and Professional Services contract means that the cost of the service is approximately 13% higher in April 2022 than it was in April 2021. Since April 2022, monthly inflation has continued to increase at a rate of 3% per month;

however, between July and August 2022 the average increase rate has dropped to approximately 1% with some elements of the service starting to decrease.

% change	Prelims	Routine, Cyclic and Time Charge Works	Renewals and Construction Works	Professional Services	Machine Surfacing	Hand Surfacing/Patching	Surface Dressing	Road Markings	Street Lighting	Vehicle Maintenance	Columns
Year 1	1.14%	1.85%	0.91%	0.06%	-1.84%	-0.32%	-1.68%	-1.41%	0.38%	1.34%	0.91%
Year 2	1.08%	1.25%	0.91%	2.62%	0.00%	0.25%	-2.17%	0.78%	2.21%	1.99%	0.91%
Year 3	4.87%	5.36%	8.58%	3.36%	5.72%	5.71%	10.98%	5.22%	6.13%	4.48%	56.39%
Jun-22	12.67%	12.29%	20.98%	13.45%	19.89%	17.88%	31.88%	15.46%	13.07%	10.30%	93.78%
Jul-22	13.33%	13.07%	21.13%	13.51%	25.02%	20.86%	36.33%	16.32%	13.18%	10.77%	68.63%
Aug-22	14.14%	15.26%	21.93%	13.38%	26.37%	22.19%	30.14%	17.41%	12.82%	12.12%	65.93%

The combined Capital and Reactive budget for the Highway Maintenance service for 22/23 is approximately £82 million. The inflationary pressure since the start of the contract has reduced the buying power of the service by approximately £19.3 million. The consequence of this, is that less service can be delivered in comparison to previous years and strain is being placed on the contract, the partners and supply chain in Lincolnshire.

Whilst not contractually required to do so, LCC have implemented a mid-year rate review from the August 2022 that is targeting uplifts at Small and Medium sized enterprises working within Lincolnshire. The additional uplift is programmed to be implemented by the end of November 2022 so that the supply chain is supported during the challenging economic climate.

The contract refresh procedure within each of the contracts has been completed and a decision to delay the contractual extensions has been made. This decision will now be made in May 2023. Prior to that date both parties will work through a number of actions and improvements identified as part of the refresh procedure. Balfour Beatty, Colas and WSP have also been tasked to consider what else could be offered if the extension timescales were increased.

Following Dan Goodman’s move to Lincs Laboratory as the Highways Laboratory Services Manager, Dan Adams has been appointed as the new Local Highways Manager for South. Dan Adams has previously worked in TSP as well as Local Highways East and as a Senior Highways Officer in Local Highways North. This means the Local Highways Managers are as follows:

- North – Joe Phillips
- East – Leila Hardy
- South – Dan Adams
- West – Rowan Smith

Highways Works (Balfour Beatty)

The Highway service continues to focus on the reactive service delivery. The scale of demand, resource requirements and commercial pressure within the contract are challenging, but all parties involved (including the supply chain) are making the required improvements. Since March 2022 the number of live jobs within the system has continually reduced from highs of 8200 to the current level of approximately 1800. Maintaining this figure in a manageable position will enable the service to deal with the demands placed on the service in line with

the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan. The improved position in relation to the number of live jobs has meant that for the first time since the contract started it is anticipated that PI3 is likely score during Q2 of 2022.

During this phase of catch up work the Contractor's liability in terms of insurance claims (LCC recharge claims from the public where the service has not met its policy and is beyond the timescales set within the contract) has dropped significantly from on average of £30,000 to £2000 a month

Traffic Signals (Colas)

Within the Traffic Signals contract, both capital and reactive work programmes continue on schedule based out of the main office in Grantham. Colas have completed a major CCTV upgrade within Lincoln, Grantham and Boston. LCC are now finalising the CCTV access in a software system that combines all the video feeds. Once complete, the project will provide improved visibility of the network and will be remotely monitored by the LCC Traffic Signals Team.

Professional Services (WSP)

In combination with the LCC Technical Service Partnership, our design partners WSP continue to deliver a busy programme of works, offering top up advice and support on highway design, transport modelling and other specialist advice. WSP continue to offer professional service to a number of clients across the Place directorate.

Transport

Passenger Transport

The service wide restructure has finished the consultation; and internal recruitment and selection stages. The new structure will be in place in February 2023, with remaining vacant roles being recruited to between November and February, alongside implementation planning for transition to a very different structure.

The passenger travel supplier market continues to face significant challenges, which is affecting all of Transport Services' contracting activity. The driver shortages are resulting in bus service cancellations and our ability to deliver statutory educational travel effectively. Operating costs on top of this are resulting in higher contract prices and requests for inflationary increases on existing contract prices, over and above budget forecasts.

In public transport, bus operators continue to be supported by the Government but this is likely to end late March 2023. In educational travel, the expectations of parents/carers and complex needs of passengers both continue to heighten. All of these issues are being proactively managed as much as possible, enabled by the continuing partnership working with operators. None of these issues will be eradicated in the medium term, in fact they are likely to increase in severity, reinforcing the needs for transformation.

Public Transport Services

Continued support to bus operators by both the DfT and County Council has stabilised the bus network for now. The County Council has had to intervene to provide more subsidy to service

37 (Spalding to Peterborough) operated by Stagecoach East. This is to provide funding for the Sunday service and some peak journeys during the work at an additional cost of £33,000 per annum.

Bus service operating costs continue to increase and 5 local bus and 11 CallConnect contracts are due for renewal in 2023, which is likely to result in increased contract prices. Driver shortages continue to be a problem to bus operators, leading to service cancellations, but operators continue to run most of the network. Combined with a probable withdrawal of Government financial support from April 2023, the likely impact is that current budgets will no longer cover the full cost of the current service levels provided to the residents of Lincolnshire. This uncertainty is being monitored and operators will be reviewing all their current networks before the end of March 2023. To get ahead of the issue, we are assessing the impact of changing service levels to determine whether the cost avoidance would be justifiable.

We will continue to work collaboratively with bus operators through Lincolnshire's Enhanced Partnership, focusing on protecting the bus network and enabling sustainable passenger growth. There are a number of activities, such as the 'Freedom Never Gets Old' campaign, which has resulted in an increase in the number of bus pass holders, increased levels of engagement with communities, improved bus stop infrastructure and the quality of information communicated through a variety of formats.

The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) adopted in October 2022 is being refreshed following feedback from the DfT. The revised Plan will be more focused on a smaller number of projects. The Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme are both binding on both the County Council and bus operators, once adopted. The process was paused earlier this year and will be resumed for adoption by the end of March 2023.

Projects that can be pursued within current budgets include:

- Continued programme of traffic light priority measures, enabling sequencing to change if a bus is more than three minutes late – 7 measures are live in Grantham and work is progressing in Spalding.
- Development of a Passenger Charter.
- Development of other campaigns to encourage bus usage.

The Government is still launching the £2 fare cap for single bus tickets between January and March 2023. The scheme covers local registered bus services. The scheme is voluntary and operators who participate will receive their reimbursement direct from the Department for Transport (DfT). The indication from the DfT is that the big 5 bus operators are participating, including Stagecoach East Midlands and Stagecoach East. Other Lincolnshire operators continue to indicate they will not participate, mainly due to the lack benefits for the required work involved.

Educational Travel

The team's ability to manage the high volumes of applications and customer contacts and queries is exacerbated by market sufficiency issues and increasingly higher expectation from customers. The restructure addresses this through more balanced capacity levels in the high

volume areas. In addition, net passenger numbers continue to increase year on year and we believe that parent/carers challenges with the cost of living are impacting on the demand for free educational travel.

The planned procurement activity of geographically based tendering events continues, and the whole transformation programme is projected to have achieved the first 2 years' worth of cost avoidance targets in year one – estimated to be the avoidance of £3.3m on contract prices and route removals through optimisation.

The current focus aside from operational delivery, is budget forecasting and a re-set of transformation activity in order to re-plan cost avoidance projections.

IMT SERVICES

Looking back over the last calendar year, our IMT service and Serco have delivered many successful projects as we continue our modernisation journey. We are reaching the final stages of the Office 365 rollout with the remaining areas, LFR and Legal Services, due to receive their upgrades early in the new year.

We have also seen positive developments for Legal with an upgrade to a supported version of Norwell, and focus now turns to providing a longer-term solution as they develop their business model. A replacement for the STAMP school transport system should also be implemented by the end of this month bringing benefits to that service area as it continues its transformation programme.

We have also seen successful conclusions to the implementations of Modern Desktop Management and Azure Cloud Solutions, both modernising the way we work.

Work continues at pace with our telephony systems following a required successful upgrade of the Avaya platform with focus now on transferring to the new Anywhere 365 solution, which will put the Council in the best possible position ahead of the 2024 Customer Service Centre re-procurement and delivering our wider customer and digital ambitions.

I look forward to 2023 with optimism and key priorities including refreshing and broadening our IMT strategy.

LINCOLNSHIRE BROADBAND UPDATE

LCC/BDUK ongoing Contract 3

Contract 3, (the provision of ultrafast broadband to circa 8K premises in areas prefixed by postcode LN and DN), has now upgraded 4680 premises. These premises are able to opt for download speeds of up to 100Mb/s (Ultrafast Broadband), moving up to 1Gb/s over the coming months as a result of equipment upgrades.

The contracted target area remains as postcodes prefixed by LN and DN, but our contractor Quickline, is utilising overlapping coverage from new provision to pick up some areas in the NG & PE postcode areas. This is deemed 'incidental coverage' under the contractual terms and is simply an additional benefit derived from the technology we are using.

Towards the end of this calendar year, we are looking at potentially investing additional, existing funding to extend coverage under this contract. That coverage will be in the form of Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) and will enable those premises upgraded by this deployment to enjoy gigabit capable speeds.

BDUK are still dragging their heels in terms of approving the 5G based technology that Quickline are using as being approved as gigabit capable; but we are pressing BDUK on this issue as we see it as the most cost-effective method of reaching our more remote areas with gigabit capability and will be necessary if Project Gigabit is to be successful in this county.

Project Gigabit

Project Gigabit is the latest version of the Government's £5 Billion scheme to extend gigabit capable broadband to the 20% of UK premises deemed non-commercially viable for private investment. The project is being run by BDUK, but Local Bodies are expected to work in partnership with BDUK through the procurement and deployment stages.

The plan is to break up the UK into what BDUK term 'Lots' (groups of geographical areas) that will go to tender for a provider to bid for. There are 2 Lots that currently affect Lincolnshire, Lot 10 which is an area that forms roughly concentric circles around the outer areas of Lincoln and moves west to meet premises in Nottinghamshire. Lot 23 covers the remainder of the county and includes N. and NE. Lincolnshire and the East Riding areas.

Lot 10 will go to Tender in between February and April 2023, with a supplier being appointed between November 2023 and January 2024. Lot 23 will go to Tender between April and June 2023 with a supplier appointed between January and March 2024.

The Open Market Reviews and Public Reviews have now concluded for both Lots, although BDUK will seek ongoing updates from the commercial sector on build activities up to the launch of both Tenders.

One note of concern with Project Gigabit is the aspirations of BDUK relating to the percentages of coverage they hope to achieve by Lot type. Type A, (smaller areas up to 10K premises) has an expected percentage of gigabit coverage of 90% which is a reasonably high figure, but Type B Lots (premises count above 10K which includes Lots 10 & 23) has an aspirational percentage of only 70%, although they expect suppliers might achieve a little higher percentage.

To that end, the Broadband Team has raised their concerns with BDUK regarding what they see as an unacceptable percentage of very rural premises that could be left with nothing, with no plans existing to cover these remaining premises. The Broadband Team has been working to ensure that BDUK has some form of contingency in place for these premises. The outcome of these discussions will be described in the next section (Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme).

Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme

There are currently over 24 community schemes within the county that are at various stages of progression. The scheme encourages a community to express a collective interest in obtaining gigabit capable broadband connectivity, by way of drawing down BDUK 'vouchers' that will fund the provision. We see this as a very effective way for rural communities to obtain this connectivity which is at zero cost to them.

The plus point of this scheme is that, when a community has agreed a scheme with a provider, the full deployment must be completed in less than 12 months under the service level agreement. Openreach has traditionally been the main organisation involved in this scheme and we meet with them fortnightly to discuss progress and further potential schemes that we are identifying by working with communities and by attending parish council meetings.

However, because of the impending activities that are scheduled under Project Gigabit, any new potential schemes have been suspended. Whilst this did create concern, we are now reassured by a revised scheme that has been announced and will provide greater levels of funding on a per premises basis. The actual amount of funding will be announced on 5th December 2022. The Broadband Team, conscious of the potential for a significant percentage of more rural premises still not benefitting from Project Gigabit, has been pressing BDUK to re-introduce the voucher scheme as soon as each Lot under Project Gigabit has been awarded to a supplier. At that stage, the supplier will have provided an Implementation Plan down to UPRN level and this will serve the purpose of identifying premises not going to be upgraded. We believe this will be the appropriate time to encourage those left out to take up the voucher scheme. At the time of writing, BDUK has agreed this approach.

Some schemes currently in various stages of progress include Corby Glen, South Rauceby, Swaton, South Carlton, Walesby, Upton/Burton Village and Old Bolinbroke.

The Gigahub Scheme

The Broadband Team are currently collaborating with colleagues in both N. and NE. Lincs, along with emPSN colleagues to put together a Tender for the connection of rural 'hub sites' across the three areas. The hub site will be a public building in a rural location that will be connected to the nearest telephone exchange/fibre aggregation point via full fibre connectivity. This provides the dual benefit of utilising public funding to provide a high-speed connection to a public building, with the spare fibre capacity being used to potentially connect adjacent premises and communities to full fibre.

It is further envisaged that the provision of the main 'fibre spine' utilising public funding will then encourage private investors to branch out from this fibre spine to rural areas that would otherwise be seen as non-commercially viable for private investment. LCC has identified 194 eligible sites that include primary schools, blue light buildings and doctor's surgeries, along with other public buildings. All sites are now formally approved as 'eligible' for progression by BDUK. BDUK is still working through the approvals process, and we hope to go to Tender in late Autumn.

Private Investment

At the time of writing and forgetting Openreach and Virgin Media for now, we have no less than 7 private investors who are at various stages of deployment across our larger urban areas, with a further investor having just declared a plan to deploy in the county. Clearly, this is excellent news, and we are already seeing residents and businesses in Boston, Stamford, Lincoln, Spalding, Sleaford, Holbeach, Grantham, Bourne, Skegness and the Deepings signing up for this cutting-edge technology.

There are various plans in place to deploy to Gainsborough. All investors are well funded and collectively, we believe that we will see well over 220K premises connected by the end of 2025 by private investment, with a large percentage of this number by the end of 2023. The Broadband Team are closely engaged with all investors to facilitate their involvement with Highways, planners and stakeholders, to fully understand their progress and to work with them to identify further investment opportunities in the county.

KCom has recently announced an investment of £100M in full fibre provision across the North East and their initial plans include Caistor, Market Rasen, Louth, Alford, Mablethorpe and Sutton. At this early stage, we do not have the fine detail.

In addition, Openreach has announced plans to deploy FTTP to 41 rural telephone exchanges (120K premises in total) by the end of 2026. Virgin Media has now upgraded their systems to allow areas covered by them to obtain gigabit connectivity. This upgrade by them, in conjunction with ongoing private investment has seen the percentage of gigabit capable premises rise from 10.8% in September 2021 to a current level of 47.5%, with full fibre to the premises (FTTP) currently at 27%.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 09 December 2022

Statement from: Councillor D McNally, Executive Councillor for Waste and Trading Standards

TRADING STANDARDS

Concerns have been raised nationally regarding the increased uptake in vaping among young people under the age of 18. The Trading Standards Service made 8 attempts to purchase vapes with the assistance of a volunteer under the age of 18 in the six months to September with 2 resulting in illegal sales. Guidance was issued to the sellers and they will be re-tested. The service plans to undertake further age restricted sales exercises in the coming months that will include vaping products as well as tobacco and alcohol.

The Trading Standards Service have removed 2108 non-compliant disposable vapes from the market over the same period. As well as having non-compliant labelling many exceeded the maximum permitted reservoir capacity of 2ml. Officers have also submitted 7 samples of disposable vapes and 8 rechargeable devices for safety testing.

To ensure that retailers are aware of their responsibilities the Trading Standards Service have produced an advice pack that has been sent to more than 100 businesses identified as being likely to sell vaping products.

Having received several safety related complaints regarding a business trading through online selling platforms including Amazon and Ebay, Trading Standards Officers carried out an inspection at the seller's warehouse. During the inspection a number of items of electrical equipment and furniture were examined and found to be noncompliant. Suspension notices were issued in respect of the electrical equipment and notices were issued requiring furniture and household accessories to be labelled with the correct consumer information.

Samples of the electrical equipment were seized and submitted for testing. All failed to meet essential safety requirements. Trading Standards Officers served notices requiring the business to issue a recall notice and the withdrawal of the items found to pose a risk of electric shock from the market. Advice was provided to allow the business to bring products into compliance where noncompliance was limited to technical documentation and labelling.

A further inspection was carried out to examine the remaining products held in their warehouse. Again, Officers identified problems with electrical goods and toys, and thus suspension notices were issued. Further samples were seized and have been submitted for testing.

Since the visit advising the business their obligations, they have decided to voluntarily withdraw all electrical products and toys from sale. Checks have been carried out to confirm they have removed their products from all selling platforms. When all test results have been received Officers will again provide advice as to how products can be brought into compliance if possible and will confirm how unsafe products are to be disposed of.

WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

There are some particularly challenging issues in the waste sector as energy prices increase, electricity costs have increased by 822% since July 2020 and this is causing waste disposal costs to escalate with the financial consequence yet to be quantified. The high cost of diesel is also increasing the cost of material haulage, fuels has increased by 218% in the last 12 months and this represents an annual increase of £117,000 per year.

Whilst the budget increases represent an ongoing challenge, there has been some particularly positive news to report from Waste Services. The roll out of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) project for the separate collection and disposal of paper and card has continued with all households in East Lindsey now having received their purple lidded bins with the first collection of paper and card across the whole district in November.

Our Officers are working on the ground with district council staff to improve the quality of material received, LCC staff are also supporting the Customer Service team in the call centre to help deal with queries from the public. In relation to the material being collected, the first full loads went to the paper recycler in November and we have yet to receive their quality reports but visual inspections show good quality.

The project is now complete in Boston, North Kesteven and West Lindsey and these districts are still showing good quality material which is being recycled into paper. Since the roll out commenced in Boston in April 2021, the total cost avoidance from diverting this material from the Mixed Dry Recycled bins is £575,000. This helps to pay back the capital investment for wheely bins and plans are now being made for the continuation of the project in South Kesteven, South Holland and the City of Lincoln.

The Energy from Waste facility continues to produce energy from 170,000 tonnes of waste which cannot be recycled. The facility also acts as a visitor centre and in the last 6 months we have delivered 12 community group talks and 11 schools interactive sessions. We also have Officers who have produced educational material for schools on waste and recycling, with Officers starting to visit schools to discuss these important issues. This is a new initiative which will become county wide. In addition, Officers have spent 2 days at the Lincolnshire Show where over 200 primary school children engaged in waste related exercises and the same Officers have attended Revesby Country show and over a dozen market stalls to promote the National Recycling week and the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle campaigns.

The new Household Waste Recycling Centre at Tattershall is operating efficiently and is creating a saving of £150,000 per year compared to the previous service at Kirkby on Bain. Operating this facility ourselves has allowed us to recently enter into a partnership agreement with the Lincolnshire Air Ambulance for material to be sold and reused by the public. This is beneficial to Lincolnshire County Council in having material diverted away from disposal which will reduce our costs and enables income to be generated for a very worthy charity. This reuse initiative is going to be on a trial basis and if successful could be widened out to other Household Waste Recycling Centres.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 09 DECEMBER 2022

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

NHS LIAISON

Lincolnshire Integrated Care System

In my last statement to Council, I was able to provide colleagues with a detailed update on the development of the Integrated Care System (ICS) arrangements in Lincolnshire since April 2022. As part of the ICS, the County Council and Integrated Care Board (previously the Clinical Commissioning Group) are required to establish a joint committee with specific responsibility for preparing an Integrated Care Strategy for the ICS footprint. As a coterminous system, with one Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and one Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), the local ambition is to avoid duplication and align the meeting times, location, and frequency of the ICP with the HWB.

I am therefore pleased to report that the first meeting of the ICP took place directly after the HWB on 27 September, at which I was confirmed as Chair of the ICP, with John Turner, Chief Executive Integrated Care Board (ICB) as Vice Chair.

National guidance requires the ICP to produce an interim Integrated Care Strategy, which takes account of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) by December 2022 to inform the ICB's 5 Year Forward Plan for 2023/24. Since September 2022, we have been working with the ICB to develop Lincolnshire's interim Integrated Care Strategy. This has included holding a planning and development workshop with members of the ICP, HWB and wider partners including district councils, representatives from primary care networks, the local medical committee and local pharmaceutical committee on 2 November 2022. The event was well received with positive engagement and a willingness from everyone at the event to engage in wider system planning.

The timescales are tight, which has somewhat limited the amount of wider, meaningful, public and community engagement. These limitations are recognised in the guidance and there is an expectation that a more comprehensive process will take place during 2023 to develop the interim strategy so we have a final strategy in place by December 2023.

Alongside the development of the interim Integrated Care Strategy, the JHWS for Lincolnshire has been refreshed to reflect the legislative changes and to reference the Covid Pandemic. In addition, the governance arrangements for the priorities within JHWS are being strengthened to ensure there is clarity on the role of the HWB and ICP, and the ownership and engagement of partners within those delivery boards leading on the work within the joint health and wellbeing strategy.

A comprehensive programme of engagement and development for both strategies is being planned, and will be informed by the new JSNA, due to be published early next year.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

At our meeting in September 2021, I informed Council that the Health and Wellbeing Board had approved proposals to review and redesign 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 past year a considerable amount of work has taken place to redesign the JSNA using a life course model constructed around the following headings:

- Start Well
- Live Well
- Age Well

The new web-based portal is currently being built and will provide much greater functionality to the JSNA by automating the data. It is anticipated the new JSNA will be published in March 2023.

Lincolnshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

As previously reported to Council, the completion of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statutory duty for the Health and Wellbeing Board to undertake every three years. The PNA reports on the present and future needs for pharmaceutical services in Lincolnshire. It is used to identify any gaps in current services or improvements that could be made in future pharmaceutical provision. Following the statutory 60-day consultation period, held between 19 April 2022 and 20 June 2022, I am pleased to say that the Board approved the final PNA at their meeting in September to enable publication by the statutory deadline of 1 October 2022. The PNA, along with details about the process and consultation findings, can be viewed on the [Lincolnshire Research Observatory](#).

REGISTRATION AND CORONERS

Registration

2022 has been an extremely busy and challenging year for the registration service. Demand for all registration appointments and ceremonies has remained extremely high throughout the year.

The number of death registrations undertaken between April 2022 and October 2022 stands at 4,816, which represents a 14% increase on 2021. The upcoming winter is again expected to be very challenging, and the service continues to prioritise death registrations. Birth registration volumes have also been on the rise with 2,970 being undertaken between April 2022 and October 2022 an increase of 26% against 2021 volumes.

It is pleasing to see the growth in the number of civil partnerships and marriage ceremonies undertaken in Lincolnshire this year. Following the lifting of all restrictions on weddings the service has undertaken a record number of events. 2,125 weddings and civil partnerships

have already been undertaken since April and we continue to expand our portfolio with new venues providing residents with more choice on where to hold their ceremony.

In August, the Registration and Celebratory Service went live with its first stage of digital transformation. The introduction of an online booking system is a positive step forward with residents now able to book birth, death and notice of marriage or civil partnership appointments online. Since the system was launched, online bookings are becoming more popular with around 75% of all birth and notice appointments booked online. Further online services will be made available during 2023.

As we look ahead, the General Register Office continues to push forward with its transformation agenda and is hopeful to pass new legislation which will allow residents to register births and deaths by telephone in mid-2023.

Coroner's

The Coroner's Service continues to experience high demand with the number of deaths being referred to the coroner continuing to rise, a 13% increase in referrals between April 2022 to October 2022 compared to April to October 2021 has been experienced.

The service continues to work hard to clear back logs in inquest cases. Between April 2022 and October 2022, the Coroner has heard 331 inquests representing a 42% increase against 2021 volumes. The service continues to focus on bringing down the average time to inquest and the number of open cases. Recruitment of new Coroners Officers is currently underway and will be a welcome addition to the team, which will allow the service to continue to meet the high levels of demand being faced and continue to improve timeliness and performance.

The service continues to await the approval from the Chief Coroner to appoint a permanent Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire and it is now expected that the MOJ will not provide outcome on our bid to create a Greater Lincolnshire Coronial Service until April 2023 at the earliest.

COMMUNITY ENAGEMENT

Council's engagement activities

Between April 2022 and November 2022, the engagement team supported 56 engagement activities carried out by services across the council. This includes 9 consultations, 39 public and wider stakeholder engagements and 8 internal engagements. An ongoing example of our engagement work during this period has been the good home alliance pilot. This project is available for responses until 30 November and has seen 655 people provide responses since it opened in June.

The engagement team utilise a forward planning process to ensure clear oversight of engagement and consultation activities. The information, provided by services, informs the prioritising of engagement resources in the coming year. By developing this process, interaction and dialogue between the engagement team and services have been strengthened. This forward planning ensures our engagement approaches are proactive and effective, helping to maximise their impact.

We are committed to engaging with our residents and stakeholders, both internal and external. This council objective enables evidence-based, informed decision making with accountability and transparency at all stages of our work. Our engagement demonstrates the value and respect we have for local people, helping us to provide information and deliver services that meet their needs.

It is essential that people who participate in engagement see the impact of their involvement. We prioritise providing feedback to maintain dialogue and encourage further engagement. The embedded engagement process in place has a strong focus on clear reporting. Reports are shared widely to close the feedback loop and update local people on the impact of their contributions. Reports on engagement activities are shared internally and made available on Let's talk Lincolnshire.

Let's talk Lincolnshire

The council has been using Let's talk Lincolnshire for over a year, since its launch in September 2021. The online engagement platform has received 68,000 visits and has nearly 2,500 active participants. Between September and October, the online survey for the recent North Hykeham Relief Road engagement received 264 responses. This online survey was available in addition to the three public information events held. This approach enabled us to reach people across the county who did not attend the events. The Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) Community Risk Management Plan survey launched in October and has already received 155 responses to the online survey. This compliments the targeted face to face surveys that LFR are carrying out with vulnerable and high risk groups. Online engagement like this helps us listen to and understand the issues and experiences that are important to residents. Their feedback helps us to take action and make changes to improve council services to meet people's needs.

County Views citizens' panel

The County Views citizen's panel has increased from 588 members in autumn 2021 to 1,083 in autumn 2022. The summer 2022 survey, on communication and media, had 364 responses. The responses have provided valuable data to inform how we can best reach out to and work with our communities. The information is particularly useful to the communications and engagement team. The autumn 2022 survey will ask residents about their views on council priorities to help inform decision making on the upcoming budget.

The summer 2022 survey data showed that Google, local council websites, local news websites and Facebook are used most to find out about council services. Facebook is by far the most used social media platform for residents to find information on their local area. 185 respondents (51%) follow at least one council on social media. 281 respondents (77%) felt their local area is a great place to live. The top three areas respondents said were most important in making an area a good place to live were access to nature, coast, parks and open spaces, safety and education provision. The top three areas respondents said most needed improvement in their area were job prospects, road networks and highways maintenance and housing.

The results of all County Views surveys are available on Let's talk Lincolnshire. [County Views Reports](#)

Agenda Item 7

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE SUPPORT COUNCILLORS

COUNCILLOR NAME	PORTFOLIO
Councillor Martin Hill OBE Leader of the Council <u>SUPPORT COUNCILLOR:</u> Councillor Mark Whittington	Resources, Communications and Commissioning
Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell OBE Deputy Leader of the Council <u>SUPPORT COUNCILLOR:</u> Councillor Stephen Roe	Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration
Councillor Mrs Wendy Bowkett <u>SUPPORT COUNCILLOR:</u> Councillor Elizabeth Sneath	Adult Care and Public Health
Councillor Richard Butroid <u>SUPPORT COUNCILLOR:</u> Councillor Hilton Spratt	People Management, Legal and Corporate Property
Councillor Lindsey Cawrey <u>SUPPORT COUNCILLOR:</u> Councillor Alexander Maughan	Fire & Rescue and Cultural Services
Councillor Colin Davie <u>SUPPORT COUNCILLOR:</u> Councillor Thomas Dyer	Economic Development, Environment and Planning
Councillor Richard Davies <u>SUPPORT COUNCILLOR:</u> Councillor Clio Perraton-Williams	Highways, Transport and IT
Councillor Daniel McNally <u>SUPPORT COUNCILLOR:</u> Councillor Jack Tyrrell	Waste and Trading Standards
Councillor Mrs Sue Woolley <u>SUPPORT COUNCILLOR:</u> Councillor Colin Matthews	NHS Liaison, Community Engagement, Registration and Coroners

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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	9 December 2022
Subject:	Political Proportionality and Allocation of Seats to Committees and Sub-Committees

Summary:

Changes have been considered and recommended by the Pensions Committee to their composition and Terms of Reference for approval by Council.

Further, following the recent By-Election the Council may (if a change to political groups is made) be required to review the political proportionality affecting the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees.

This report invites the Council to consider changes to the Pensions Committee, to note the impact on the allocation of seats in accordance with the political balance rules of the changes to the Pensions Committee and the potential outcomes of the By-Election and accordingly, approve the necessary amendments to the allocations of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Boards and Working Groups.

Recommendation(s):

That the Council approves:-

- 1 the changes to the composition and terms of reference of the Pensions Committee set out in Appendix B;
- 2 that the Constitution be amended to substitute the wording in respect of the Pensions Committee set out in Appendix B for the wording relating to that Committee currently contained in Article 7.2 of the Constitution;
- 3 that accordingly the Pensions Committee be increased from 11 seats to 12 seats, by the addition of one co-opted member and retaining the allocation of these seats to elected members to 8; and
- 4 that the County Council approves the allocation of Committee seats (as detailed in Appendix C or D as the case may be) in accordance with the political balance rules.

1. Background

Pensions Committee

- 1.1 The Pensions Committee, at its meeting on 13 October 2022, considered a report proposing a change to the structure of the Pensions Committee to meet the upcoming requirements of the Scheme Advisory Board Good Governance Review. The changes to the structure involve the addition of a representative from the academy sector to join the Committee, increasing the overall size from eleven to twelve. The accompanying report presented to Pensions Committee is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 1.2 Council is requested to consider the proposal to add a further co-optee to the Pensions Committee.
- 1.3 In addition, the Committee considered its own terms of reference and have suggested changes for Council approval to the wording contained therein in order to better reflect the role of the Committee. The amended terms of reference are attached for Members' consideration at **Appendix B**. The original Terms of Reference are shown attached to the Report at Appendix A
- 1.4 Council is requested to approve the suggested amendments for incorporation into the Council's Constitution.

Proportionality

- 1.5 The County Council last agreed the overall proportionality figures and Appointments to Committees at its Annual Meeting in May 2022 for the ensuing municipal year.
- 1.6 The authority sadly lost Cllr Mrs Angela Newton MBE earlier this year, triggering a By-Election for the Spalding West Division. This will take place on Thursday 8th December 2022, the results of which will be announced at this meeting of Council.
- 1.7 The By-Election is being contested between candidates who describe themselves on the ballot paper as a Conservative and a South Holland Independent. If, immediately following the election the successful candidate notifies the proper officer of their wish to join the corresponding group on the Council, then the Council will be under a duty to review the allocation of seats on the Committees of the Council as soon as practicable after notification is received.
- 1.8 The first practicable opportunity to review allocation will be at the meeting on 9 December and it is deemed too significant a delay to wait to report this to the forthcoming meeting of Council on 17 February 2023.
- 1.9 By virtue of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended) this report brings forward a review of the allocation of places to political groups on Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council. In order to achieve political

proportionality as far as is reasonably practicable the 1989 Act requires the Council to apply certain principles as follows:

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

The membership of each group must be compared to the membership of the Council to establish the correct proportion to be used in the allocation of seats. Under Schedule 1 of the 1989 Act "membership" means the number of persons who are Members for the time being of the Authority. The number of Members at the time of this decision is 70.

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

- i) to determine the proportion of the total membership of the Council who are members of one or more political groups and ensure that the same proportion of the total number of seats to be filled is allocated to each of the political groups in the proportion that the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the authority; and
- ii) to ensure that Non-Aligned Members are allocated any seats which do not fall to be earmarked for a political group under the above requirement.

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

1.11 There are 130 Committee seats, and 14 seats on Sub-Committees that fall to be filled by the Council.

1.12 **Appendix C** sets out how the allocation of seats best meets the requirements of Section 15 of the 1989 Act and the requirements of the 1990 Regulations as far as is reasonably practicable in the event that the successful candidate in the by-elections serves notice on the proper officer prior to the Council meeting that they wish to join the Conservative group. This alternative would see a change to the existing allocation consisting of:

- one seat on the Audit Committee transferring from the South Holland Independent Group to the Conservative Group; and
- one seat on the Pensions Committee transferring from the South Holland Independent Group to the Conservative Group.

This would be the only change effected by the reallocation, other political group allocations, and the allocation of seats to unaligned Members remain unchanged.

1.13 **Appendix D** sets out how the allocation of seats best meets the requirements of Section 15 of the 1989 Act and the requirements of the 1990 Regulations as far as is reasonably practicable in the event that the successful candidate in the by-elections serves notice on the proper officer prior to the Council meeting that they wish to join the South Holland Independents group. This alternative would see no change to the existing allocation as it represents a return to the position before the seat became vacant.

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 no any equalities impacts arising out of considering and approving the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees to political groups on the Council.

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 and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

There are no implications for the JSNA or JHWS in relation to the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees to political groups on the Council.

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.

There are no implications in relation to Crime and Disorder arising from the allocation of seats on committees and sub-committees to political groups on the Council.

3. Conclusion

It is a matter for the Council to agree the size and terms of reference for its Committees and allocate seats on Committees and Sub-Committees to the political groups on the Council, which it must do in accordance with the law relating to proportionality.

4. Legal Comments:

Council is required to allocate seats on the Committees of the Council to political groups in accordance with the law relating to proportionality as set out in the report. The Council is required by the provisions within its constitution to establish committees, and to approve changes to Committee Terms of Reference. The decision is within the remit of the Council.

5. Resource Comments:

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

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

No

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Report to Pensions Committee 13 October 2022
Appendix B	Amendments to the Terms of Reference for Pensions Committee
Appendix C	Amended Political Proportionality 2022/23 (Conservative)
Appendix D	Amended Political Proportionality 2022/23 (South Holland Independents)

8. 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 Nicola Calver, who can be contacted on 07387 133755 or nicola.calver@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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

Report to:	Pensions Committee
Date:	13 October 2022
Subject:	Pensions Committee Structure and Terms of Reference – proposed change

Summary:

This report proposes a change to the structure of the Pensions Committee to meet the upcoming requirements of the Scheme Advisory Board Good Governance Review. In addition, amendments are proposed to the terms of reference in the Council's constitution to better reflect the requirements of members of the Pensions Committee.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee consider and discuss the report and

- 1) approve the proposed Committee structure change to increase the number of Committee members by one enabling a place for a representative from the Academies sector; and
- 2) approve the updates to the terms of reference in the Council's constitution.

Background

1. As the Committee are aware, the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) has undertaken a governance review of the LGPS, which resulted in a draft Good Governance Review report ([Good Governance Final Report February 2021.pdf \(lgpsboard.org\)](#)) being published in 2021 and which was shared with the Committee. DLUHC have approved the recommendations, with some minor changes, and it is expected that there will be a consultation shortly with the requirements coming into effect from 1 April 2023.
2. One of the areas within the report is about representation on Pension Committees of scheme employers, stating "the SAB's view is that it would expect scheme managers to have the involvement of employers and member representatives on any relevant committees". The current co-opted membership to the Lincolnshire Pensions Committee is for one member representing the district councils, one member representing small scheduled bodies and one representing scheme members. The

largest area not represented is the Academy sector, which makes up 177 of the Fund's 260 active employers (as at 31 March 2022).

3. With that in mind, and to meet the in-coming requirements from SAB, it is recommended to increase the membership of the Committee from three to four co-opted members – enabling a representative from the academy sector to join the Committee. As with all the current membership of the Committee, this would be a voting position. The overall size of the Committee would increase from eleven to twelve members.
4. Employers in the Academy sector would be asked to nominate individuals to fill this position and, if there were more than one candidate, a selection process would be undertaken by the Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman and Officers. This would ensure that any co-opted member fully understood the requirements of the position and had the capacity to be an active member of the Committee.
5. In addition to reviewing the structure of the Committee, work has been undertaken to review the terms of reference set out within the Council's constitution, to better reflect the role of the Committee. As the Committee are aware, there is a very broad range of knowledge required to be a member of the Pensions Committee, so the additional detail sets out more clearly what the expectations are.
6. The current terms of reference is set out in appendix A, and the amended terms of reference is set out in Appendix B, which also includes the proposed change in the structure of the Committee membership. If approved by the Committee, this will be taken to Full Council in December to update the constitution.

Conclusion

7. The structure of the Pensions Committee has been reviewed to reflect the recommendations being made in the Good Governance Review, and it is recommended to increase the number of co-opted members by one, enabling a place for a representative from the Academies sector. This would increase the size of the Committee to twelve.
8. In addition, the wording has been updated in the terms of reference in the Council's constitution to better reflect the broad range of knowledge required to be a member of the Pensions Committee, setting out more clearly what the expectations are.
9. If the Committee approve the changes, this will be taken to Full Council in December to update the constitution.

Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

The Pension Fund has a risk register which can be obtained by contacting the Head of Pensions.

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Pensions Committee - current terms of reference
Appendix B	Pensions Committee - proposed terms of reference

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 Jo Ray, who can be contacted on 01522 553656 or jo.ray@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Pensions Committee – current terms of reference

There will be a Pensions Committee having 11 members. 8 shall be Councillors representing the political balance of the Council overall in accordance with the terms of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, together with three co-optees representing both the non-County Council employers in the Fund and individual Fund participants.

All members of the Committee including co-opted members shall be entitled to vote.

Functions:

- Drawing upon appropriate professional advice, to set investment policies for the Fund, including the establishment and maintenance of a strategic benchmark for asset allocation, and approval of the Investment Strategy Statement.
- To review the performance of Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Limited and its sub-funds, legacy fund managers and associated professional service providers.
- To approve the annual Report and Statement of accounts of the fund.
- To consider any other matters relevant to the operation and management of the fund.
- As necessary and appropriate issue instructions to the Council's representative as shareholder of Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Limited on matters affecting the exercise of the Council's rights as shareholder in the company.
- To respond to any relevant consultations impacting upon the benefit provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

In fulfilling its functions the Committee shall have regard to the advice of the Lincolnshire Local Pension Board established in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015 and shall receive and consider recommendations from the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Joint Committee.

Pensions Committee

There will be a Pensions Committee consisting of 12 members. 8 of the members will be Non-Executive Councillors and reflect the political balance overall. 4 members shall be co-optees representing the Academy Sector, the non-County Council employers in the Fund and scheme members.

All members of the Committee, including co-opted members, shall be entitled to vote.

Role and purpose:

The role of the Pensions Committee is to exercise the functions of the council in relation to the Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund in conjunction with other bodies who contribute to the Fund in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations and associated legislation. This is a fiduciary role to ensure that the Fund is invested and managed for the benefit of scheme beneficiaries to ensure the long term objective is met of paying all benefits as and when they fall due.

The Committee is responsible for ensuring that the Fund is properly operated in accordance with all relevant regulations and best practice as advised by the Pensions Regulator, the Scheme Advisory Board, DLUHC and CIPFA, including both investment and administration matters.

In fulfilling its functions the Committee shall have regard to the advice of the Lincolnshire Local Pension Board established in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015 and shall receive and consider recommendations from the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Joint Committee

Functions:

- Drawing upon appropriate professional advice, to set investment policies for the Fund, including the establishment and maintenance of a strategic benchmark for asset allocation, and approval of the Investment Strategy Statement.
- To give consideration to the agreed Investment and Responsible Investment Belief framework when setting investment policies and ensure that the Fund is meeting its Stewardship requirements, with support from the professional advisors and officers.
- To review the performance of Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Limited and its sub-funds, legacy fund managers, including their stewardship and responsible investment arrangements, with support from the professional advisors and officers.
- Appoint and review professional service providers including fund custodian, investment consultant and actuary, with support from the professional advisors and officers.
- To appoint and review the performance of the Fund's Administrator, with support from the professional advisors and officers.
- To review the performance of scheme employers in meeting their responsibilities.
- To review the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Fund, specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.

APPENDIX B

- To approve the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Fund.
- Carrying out the duties set out in the Regulations in relation to the actuarial valuation of the Fund and in relation to any other decisions about the amount the employers need to pay, and approval of the Funding Strategy Statement.
- To review and approve, on a regular basis, all required policies including, but not limited to, the Administration Strategy, Communications Policy, Governance Compliance Statement, Risk Management and Training Policy.
- To contribute to any relevant consultations impacting upon the governance, investment or benefit provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- To meet the minimum training requirements within the required timeframe, as set out in the Committee's Training Policy.
- To consider any other matters relevant to the operation and management of the Fund.
- To report to full Council on a regular basis on the committee's performance in relation to its effectiveness in meeting its purpose.

APPENDIX C - AMENDED PROPORTIONALITY 2022/23 (CONSERVATIVES)

	Seats on Council	Proportionality (%)
Total Seats	70	100.00
Conservative Group	55	78.57
Independent Group	4	5.71
Labour Group	4	5.71
Liberal Democrat Group	3	4.29
South Holland Ind	2	2.86
Unaligned Independents	2	2.86
Vacancy	0	0.00

NO NEED TO APPLY PROPORTIONALITY

Regulatory Committees	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total Seats Allocated
				Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	
Audit Committee	9	7	2	5.50	6	0.40	0	0.40	0	0.30	1	0.20	0	0.20	0	0	0	7
Pensions Committee	12	8	4	6.29	7	0.46	0	0.46	0	0.34	0	0.23	0	0.23	1	0	0	8
Planning and Regulation Committee	15	15	0	11.79	12	0.86	1	0.86	0	0.64	0	0.43	1	0.43	1	0	0	15
Appointments Committee	12	12	0	9.43	9	0.69	0	0.69	0	0.51	1	0.34	1	0.34	1	0	0	12
Scrutiny Committees	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total Seats Allocated
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	14	11	3	8.64	9.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Adults & Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Cttee	11	11	0	8.64	8.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.31	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00
Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	14	11	3	8.64	9.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00
Public Protection & Communities Scrutiny Cttee	11	11	0	8.64	9.00	0.63	0.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	0.00	0.31	1.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00
Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	11	11	0	8.64	9.00	0.63	0.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	0.00	0.31	1.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00
Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	11	11	0	8.64	8.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	1.00	0.31	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00
Flood & Water Management Scrutiny Committee	11	11	0	8.64	8.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	1.00	0.31	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00
Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire	16	8	8	6.29	6.00	0.46	1.00	0.46	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.23	1.00	0.00	0.00	8.00
JHOSC	3	3	0	2.36	2.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.13	1.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
TOTAL SEATS ON REGULATORY & SCRUTINY CTTEES	150	130	20	102.14	102.00	7.43	7.00	7.43	7.00	5.89	6.00	3.71	4.00	3.71	4.00	0.00	0.00	130.00

Sub-Committees	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total Seats Allocated
				Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	
Definitive Map & Statement of PROW Sub-Cttee	7	7	0	5.50	5	0.40	0.00	0.40	1.00	0.30	0.00	0.20	1.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
Pay Policy Sub-Committee	7	7	0	5.50	5	0.40	1.00	0.40	0.00	0.30	1.00	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
TOTAL SEATS ON SUB-COMMITTEES	14	14	0	11.00	10	0.80	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.40	1.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.00

Panels and Boards	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total Seats Allocated
				Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	
Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel	3	3	0		2.00		1.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
(COUTYWIDE ALLOCATION)																		
TOTAL SEATS ON PANELS AND BOARDS	3	3	0	0.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00

Outside Bodies (Politically Balanced)	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total seats on Obs
				Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	
IFCA	2	2	0	1.57	2.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
ESPO Management Committee	2	2	0	1.57	2.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Gibraltar Point Joint Advisory Committee	4	4	0	3.14	3.00	0.23	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.17	1.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
SE Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Cttee	3	3	0	2.36	2.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.09	1.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Central Lincs Joint Strategic Planning Cttee	3	3	0	2.36	2.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	1.00	0.13	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Snipe Dales Joint Advisory Committee	4	4	0	3.14	3.00	0.23	1.00	0.23	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
Wolds AONB Member Joint Advisory Committee	2	2	0	1.57	2.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
TOTAL OB APPOINTMENTS	20	20	0	15.71	16.00	1.14	1.00	1.14	1.00	0.77	1.00	0.57	1.00	0.57	0	0	0	20.00

Meetings where Political Balance rules do not apply	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total Seats
				Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	
Health and Wellbeing Board	30	8	22	-	8	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	8
Bourne Town Hall Trust Management Committee	5	5	0	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Corporate Parenting Panel	7	7	0	-	6	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	7

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APPENDIX D - AMENDED PROPORTIONALITY 2022/23 (SOUTH HOLLAND INDEPENDENTS)

	Seats on Council	Proportionality (%)
Total Seats	70	100.00
Conservative Group	54	77.14
Independent Group	4	5.71
Labour Group	4	5.71
Liberal Democrat Group	3	4.29
South Holland Ind	3	4.29
Unaligned Independents	2	2.86
Vacancy	0	0.00

NO NEED TO APPLY PROPORTIONALITY

Regulatory Committees	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total Seats Allocated
				Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	
Audit Committee	9	7	2	5.40	5	0.40	0	0.40	0	0.30	1	0.30	1	0.20	0		0	7
Pensions Committee	12	8	4	6.17	6	0.46	0	0.46	0	0.34	0	0.34	1	0.23	1		0	8
Planning and Regulation Committee	15	15	0	11.57	12	0.86	1	0.86	0	0.64	0	0.64	1	0.43	1		0	15
Appointments Committee	12	12	0	9.26	9	0.69	0	0.69	0	0.51	1	0.51	1	0.34	1		0	12
Scrutiny Committees	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total Seats Allocated
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	14	11	3	8.49	9.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.31	0.00		0.00	11.00
Adults & Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Cttee	11	11	0	8.49	8.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	0.00	0.31	0.00		0.00	11.00
Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	14	11	3	8.49	9.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.31	0.00		0.00	11.00
Public Protection & Communities Scrutiny Cttee	11	11	0	8.49	9.00	0.63	0.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	0.00	0.47	1.00	0.31	0.00		0.00	11.00
Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	11	11	0	8.49	9.00	0.63	0.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	0.00	0.47	1.00	0.31	0.00		0.00	11.00
Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	11	11	0	8.49	8.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	1.00	0.47	0.00	0.31	0.00		0.00	11.00
Flood & Water Management Scrutiny Committee	11	11	0	8.49	8.00	0.63	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.47	1.00	0.47	0.00	0.31	0.00		0.00	11.00
Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire	16	8	8	6.17	6.00	0.46	1.00	0.46	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.23	1.00		0.00	8.00
JHOSC	3	3	0	2.31	2.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.13	1.00	0.13	0.00	0.09	0.00		0.00	3.00
TOTAL SEATS ON REGULATORY & SCRUTINY CTTEES	150	130	20	100.29	100.00	7.43	7.00	7.43	7.00	5.89	6.00	5.57	6.00	3.71	4.00		0.00	130.00

Sub-Committees	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total Seats Allocated
				Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	
Definitive Map & Statement of PROW Sub-Cttee	7	7	0	5.40	5	0.40	0.00	0.40	1.00	0.30	0.00	0.30	1.00	0.20	0.00		0.00	7.00
Pay Policy Sub-Committee	7	7	0	5.40	5	0.40	1.00	0.40	0.00	0.30	1.00	0.30	0.00	0.20	0.00		0.00	7.00
TOTAL SEATS ON SUB-COMMITTEES	14	14	0	10.80	10	0.80	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.40	0.00		0	14.00

Panels and Boards	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total Seats Allocated
				Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	
Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel	3	3	0		2.00		1.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	3.00
(COUNTYWIDE ALLOCATION)																		
TOTAL SEATS ON PANELS AND BOARDS	3	3	0	0.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	3.00

Outside Bodies (Politically Balanced)	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total seats on Obs
				Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	
IFCA	2	2	0	1.54	2.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.06	0.00		0.00	2.00
ESPO Management Committee	2	2	0	1.54	2.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.06	0.00		0.00	2.00
Gibraltar Point Joint Advisory Committee	4	4	0	3.09	3.00	0.23	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.17	1.00	0.17	0.00	0.11	0.00		0.00	4.00
SE Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Cttee	3	3	0	2.31	2.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.13	1.00	0.09	0.00		0.00	3.00
Central Lincs Joint Strategic Planning Cttee	3	3	0	2.31	2.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	1.00	0.13	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.09	0.00		0.00	3.00
Snipe Dales Joint Advisory Committee	4	4	0	3.09	3.00	0.23	1.00	0.23	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.11	0.00		0.00	4.00
Wolds AONB Member Joint Advisory Committee	2	2	0	1.54	2.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.06	0.00		0.00	2.00
TOTAL OB APPOINTMENTS	20	20	0	15.43	16.00	1.14	1.00	1.14	1.00	0.77	1.00	0.86	1.00	0.57	0		0	20.00

Meetings where Political Balance rules do not apply	Total Seats on Committee	Councillors	Others	Conservative Group		Independent Group		Labour Group		Liberal Democrat Group		South Holland Independents		Unaligned Independents		Vacancy		Total Seats
				Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	Proportional Seats	Allocated Seats	
Health and Wellbeing Board	30	8	22	-	8	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0		0	8
Bourne Town Hall Trust Management Committee	5	5	0	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	5
Corporate Parenting Panel	7	7	0	-	6	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0		0	7

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

Report to:	Council
Date:	09 December 2022
Subject:	Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24

Summary:

The Council must agree its Members' Allowances Scheme every year. This report presents the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for consideration by the Council before it agrees its scheme for 2023/24.

Recommendation(s):

1. That the Council considers the IRP report and recommendations at Appendix A to this report.
2. That the Council approves the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2022/23 as the Lincolnshire County Council Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2023/24 subject to the amendments shown in Appendix D to this report

1. Background

- 1.1 The County Council agrees a Scheme of Members' Allowances and expenses each year in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ('the 2003 Regulations') and other relevant legislation.
- 1.2 The 2003 Regulations require that an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) is convened to make recommendations to the Council. The Council is required to consider any IRP report and recommendations before agreeing a scheme but is not required to accept the IRP's recommendations.
- 1.3 The IRP was convened on 10 November 2022 and its report, findings and recommendations are attached at **Appendix A**.
- 1.4 Their recommendations included an uplift in the Childcare and Dependents' Carers' Allowance which is payable to reimburse elected members for the cost of caring for their children or dependent relatives, whilst undertaking their role as a councillor. The Panel recommended that the allowance be increased from an

hourly rate equivalent to the National Minimum Wage for the time being to “an hourly rate equivalent to the National Living Wage, plus £1.”

- 1.5 Panel members felt that, in the interests of advancing equality of opportunity, this would reduce the risk of those with caring responsibilities being excluded from standing as county councillors.
- 1.6 The IRP also discussed the increased cost of fuel since the last review of the Members’ Allowances Scheme but were satisfied that the scheme’s alignment to the HMRC mileage rates was appropriate. They did however recommend that awareness should be raised among councillors about their entitlement to claim 5p per mile for passengers performing the same duties.
- 1.7 During its deliberations the IRP was reminded that at its meeting on 11 November 2021, following a fundamental review of the scheme, it had recommended that the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances in Schedule 1 of the scheme be increased annually by the average percentage increase in pay for employees covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (Green Book) for the previous 12 months. This had subsequently been agreed by Council.
- 1.8 The agreed indexing can remain in place for up to four years before it must be reviewed by the IRP.
- 1.9 However, the current year’s national pay award for ‘Green Book’ employees has been agreed as a £1,925 uplift, rather than a flat percentage increase, prompting the IRP to reconsider the index-linking question after just 12 months.
- 1.10 In determining which index to recommend the IRP considered several options. These are set out below, together with an estimate of how much they could cost in monetary and percentage terms:

Option	Description	Estimated Cost (£/%)
1	The Local Government pay agreement sets out new rates for staff allowances, such as overnight allowances for social workers, and these have been updated by 4.040%. Appendix B to this report reflects a 4.040% increase to the Scheme as highlighted in yellow.	£53,081 (4.040%)
2	The Local Government Association (LGA) says the increase to the national pay bill has been costed at 6.886%. Locally, considering the profile of the Lincolnshire County Council workforce, the increase has been estimated at 6.397%. Appendix C to this report reflects a 6.397% increase to the Members Allowances Scheme as highlighted in yellow.	£84,045 (6.397%)

Option	Description	Estimated Cost (£/%)
3	Inflation rates were another indexing considered by the IRP, but in the interests of retaining the link to the Green Book increase, the IRP dismissed these options. September's CPI was 10.1% and RPI 15.4%. Increasing by the rate of CPI is costed in the estimated cost.	£132,703 (10.100%)
4	A combination of Options 1 and 2 above, with the basic allowance being increased by 6.397% and the special responsibility allowances being increased by 4.040%, was considered by the IRP to be the closest to the original decision to link the allowances to the annual average 'Green Book' pay increase. This option is reflected in the yellow highlights in Appendix D to this report.	£71,637 (5.746%)
5	The IRP also considered an option to calculate a 6.397% increase in the allowances budget and then divide the increase by the number of members and add this to the basic allowance, while freezing the Special Responsibility Allowances. The Panel decided it would not be appropriate to recommend this option as members of the Panel felt other options were closer to the original decision to link the annual average 'Green Book' pay increase.	£84,045 (6.397%)
6	The IRP also considered an option to calculate a 4.040% increase in the allowances budget and then divide the increase by the number of members and add this to the basic allowance, while freezing the Special Responsibility Allowances. The Panel decided it would not be appropriate to recommend this option as members of the Panel felt other options were closer to the original decision to link the annual average 'Green Book' pay increase	£53,081 (4.040%)

1.11 The IRP considered that there were merits in both Options 1 and 2 above, but panel members felt that on balance, Option 4 offered the closest to the rationale behind the Green Book increase and therefore recommended this to Council.

1.12 Recommendation 2 in the Recommendations section of this Report accordingly reflects the IRP's recommendation (Option 4). If Council were to prefer Option 1 or 2 above, then recommendation 2 in the Recommendations section of the Report would need to be changed to refer to either Appendix B or Appendix C respectively.

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 recommended increase in Childcare and Dependants' Carers' Allowance explained in paragraph 1.4 and 1.5 above seeks to advance equality of opportunity by reducing the risk of those with caring responsibilities being excluded from standing as a county councillor.

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 and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

Decisions as a result of recommendations in this report are unlikely to impact on the JSNA or 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.

Decisions following on from recommendations in this report are unlikely to have any impact on the exercise of the Council's Crime and Disorder functions.

3. Conclusion

The Council must agree its Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 and in doing so must take into account recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, which are outlined in this report.

4. Legal Comments:

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

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

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

5. Resource Comments:

Within its budget proposal, the Council makes adjustments recognising inflationary impacts to the cost base. The rate of inflation since the Council set its budget has increased significantly and is now expected to remain higher for longer.

This has had implications for the local government pay award, which has a direct link to member allowances as considered in the report. The Council has reflected these changes within its financial planning process, and the options set out above are consistent with the current planned budget provision.

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	Minutes of the Independent Remuneration Panel - 10 November 2022
Appendix B	Amendments to the 2022/23 Members' Allowances Scheme to reflect the IRP's recommended increase in Carers' allowances and a 4.04% increase in the other allowances.
Appendix C	Amendments to the 2022/23 Members' Allowances Scheme to reflect the IRP's recommended increase in Carers' allowances and a 6.4% increase in the other allowances.
Appendix D	Amendments to the 2022/23 Members' Allowances Scheme to reflect the IRP's recommended increase in Carers' allowances, a 6.4% increase in the basic allowance and a 4.04% increase in the Special Responsibility Allowances.

8. 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
Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23	Lincolnshire County Council website

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

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Notes of a meeting of the Lincolnshire County Council Independent Remuneration Panel held at County Offices, Lincoln on Thursday 10th November 2022.

Present:

Tony Lawlor (via Teams link), Aileen Lucas, Colin Childs, Richard Quirk,

Officers present:

Nigel West, Nicola Calver, Adam Hopley (via Teams link), Devon Moore (minutes secretary)

Apologies:

Heather Lee

Introductions:

Nigel West welcomed all members of the Panel to the first meeting since the fundamental review of the Members' Allowances Scheme for the period 2023 onwards.

Election of Chairman

Nigel West explained that Peter Clay had left the Lincolnshire Independent Remuneration Panel, having moved out of the county. Therefore, there was a need to elect a new chairman.

It was moved, seconded, and RESOLVED that Colin Childs be elected as chairman of the IRP.

Members Allowances Scheme 2023/24:

The chairman enquired as to whether there had been any requests for changes to the current scheme. Nigel West confirmed that there had been no issues raised and no changes requested.

Members of the Panel discussed the current scheme and made the following points:

Mileage Allowance – A member of the panel highlighted the fact that members carrying passengers who would otherwise be entitled to claim a mileage allowance for the same journey could claim a passenger supplement 5p per mile per passenger. It was felt by the IRP members that awareness of this should be raised among councillors.

Childcare and Dependants' Carers' Allowance – A member of the panel suggested that it might be difficult to employ carers at the current rate equivalent to the National Minimum Wage. He suggested this be raised to an hourly rate equivalent to the National Living Wage, plus £1. Panel members agreed that this proposal be recommended to Council.

Index-Linking:

IRP members were reminded that in November 2021 they had agreed to index-link the allowances to the average percentage increase in pay covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services for the previous 12 months (Green Book). The index link could be in place for up to four years at which time it must be reviewed, however it could be reconsidered at any time.

This year The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has agreed a pay award for Green Book staff (G1-16) of an uplift of £1,925 on all NJC pay points. Because of the nature of the award consideration had to be given to an appropriate percentage increase.

The Local Government Association (LGA) had highlighted that the increase to the national pay bill had been costed at 6.886%, but the cost to individual councils would vary according to the profiles of each individual council's workforce. (NB: Calculations carried out by finance officers indicate that the increase to the Lincolnshire pay bill would be 6.4%)

The Local Government pay agreement sets out new rates for staff allowances, such as overnight allowances for social workers, and these had been uprated by 4.04%.

Members of the Panel discussed the pay award for employees and considered several options:

- A) Increase the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances by 4.04%
- B) Increase the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances by 6.4%
- C) Increase the Basic Allowance by 6.4% and increase the Special Responsibility Allowance by 4.04%
- D) Calculate a 6.4% increase in the allowances budget and then divide the increase by the number of members and add this to the basic allowance, while freezing the Special Responsibility Allowances.
- E) Calculate a 4.04% increase in the allowances budget and then divide the increase by the number of members and add this to the basic allowance, while freezing the Special Responsibility Allowances.

Members of the Panel discussed these options at length and decided that it would not be appropriate to recommend Option D or Option E above, as members of the Panel felt that other options were closer to the original decision to link the annual average 'Green Book' pay increase.

Although the panel felt there was merit in Options A and B above they agreed to put forward Option C as their preferred index-linking for the 2023/24 Scheme.

The Panel considered using inflation rates, CPI (10.1%), and RPI (15.4%), but decided that these options would not be appropriate.

It was therefore RESOLVED to recommend to Council that for the 2023/24 Members Allowances Scheme the basic allowance be increased by 6.4% and the Special Responsibility Allowances be increased by 4.04%.

EXTRACT FROM MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Amendments to the 2022/23 Members' Allowances Scheme to reflect the IRP's recommended increase in Carers' allowances and a **4.04% increase** in the other allowances.

Revised Schedule 1 – Allowances

Responsibilities and allowances within bands 1-12 in the table below are 'Special Responsibility Allowances'.

Band	Responsibility	Current Allowance	Option 1: 4.04% Uplift
-	Basic Allowance	£11,248.74	£11,703.19
1	Leader of the Council	£35,639.38	£37,079.21
2	Deputy Leader of the Council	£23,388.30	£24,333.19
3	Members of the Executive	£20,047.11	£20,857.01
4	Chairman of the County Council	£13,498.40	£14,043.74
	Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board		
	Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire		
	Chairman of the Audit Committee		
	Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board		
	Chairman of the Pensions Committee		
4	Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee		
5	Chief Whip	£10,682.81	£11,114.40
6	Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees	£10,123.85	£10,532.85
	Leader of the Opposition		
7	Executive Support Councillor	£8,909.91	£9,269.87
	Chairmen of the Scrutiny Panels		
8	Minority Group Leaders	£5,568.73	£5,793.71
9	Vice-Chairman of the County Council	£4,499.55	£4,681.33
	Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board		
	Vice-Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire		
	Vice-Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board		
	Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee		
	Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub Committee		
	Chairman of the Councillor Development Group		
	Vice-Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee		
Vice-Chairman of the Pensions Committee			
10	Vice-Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees	£3,374.67	£3,511.01

approved version 20.05.22

11	Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Panels	£2,969.97	3,089.96
12	Vice-Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub Committee	£1,124.89	£1,170.34
	Member of the Shadow Executive		
-	Childcare and dependents' carers' allowance The Monitoring Officer has discretion to increase the rate in particular cases of need.	An hourly rate equivalent to the National Wage for the time being	An hourly rate equivalent to the National Living Wage plus £1.00.
-	Co-opted Member	£835.37	£869.12

EXTRACT FROM MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Amendments to the 2022/23 Members' Allowances Scheme to reflect the IRP's recommended increase in Carers' allowances and a **6.4% increase** in the other allowances.

Revised Schedule 1 – Allowances

Responsibilities and allowances within bands 1-12 in the table below are 'Special Responsibility Allowances'.

Band	Responsibility	Current Allowance	Option 2: 6.4% Uplift
-	Basic Allowance	£11,248.74	£12,023.33
1	Leader of the Council	£35,639.38	£38,093.51
2	Deputy Leader of the Council	£23,388.30	£24,998.82
3	Members of the Executive	£20,047.11	£21,427.55
4	Chairman of the County Council	£13,498.40	£14,427.90
	Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board		
	Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire		
	Chairman of the Audit Committee		
	Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board		
	Chairman of the Pensions Committee		
4	Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee		
5	Chief Whip	£10,682.81	£11,418.43
6	Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees	£10,123.85	£10,820.98
	Leader of the Opposition		
7	Executive Support Councillor	£8,909.91	£9,523.45
	Chairmen of the Scrutiny Panels		
8	Minority Group Leaders	£5,568.73	£5,952.19
9	Vice-Chairman of the County Council	£4,499.55	£4,809.39
	Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board		
	Vice-Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire		
	Vice-Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board		
	Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee		
	Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub Committee		
	Chairman of the Councillor Development Group		
	Vice-Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee		
9	Vice-Chairman of the Pensions Committee		
10	Vice-Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees	£3,374.67	£3,607.05

approved version 20.05.22

11	Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Panels	£2,969.97	3,174.48
12	Vice-Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub Committee	£1,124.89	£1,202.35
	Member of the Shadow Executive		
-	Childcare and dependents' carers' allowance The Monitoring Officer has discretion to increase the rate in particular cases of need.	An hourly rate equivalent to the National Wage for the time being	An hourly rate equivalent to the National Living Wage plus £1.00.
-	Co-opted Member	£835.37	£888.83

EXTRACT FROM MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Amendments to the 2022/23 Members' Allowances Scheme to reflect the IRP's recommended increase in Carers' allowances and a **6.4% increase** in the basic allowance and a **4.04% increase** in the Special Responsibility Allowances.

Revised Schedule 1 – Allowances

Responsibilities and allowances within bands 1-12 in the table below are 'Special Responsibility Allowances'.

Band	Responsibility	Current Allowance	Option 4: Hybrid Uplift
-	Basic Allowance	£11,248.74	£12,023.33
1	Leader of the Council	£35,639.38	£37,079.21
2	Deputy Leader of the Council	£23,388.30	£24,333.19
3	Members of the Executive	£20,047.11	£20,857.01
4	Chairman of the County Council	£13,498.40	£14,043.74
	Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board		
	Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire		
	Chairman of the Audit Committee		
	Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board		
	Chairman of the Pensions Committee		
4	Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee		
5	Chief Whip	£10,682.81	£11,114.40
6	Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees	£10,123.85	£10,532.85
	Leader of the Opposition		
7	Executive Support Councillor	£8,909.91	£9,269.87
	Chairmen of the Scrutiny Panels		
8	Minority Group Leaders	£5,568.73	£5,793.71
9	Vice-Chairman of the County Council	£4,499.55	£4,681.33
	Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board		
	Vice-Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire		
	Vice-Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board		
	Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee		
	Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub Committee		
	Chairman of the Councillor Development Group		
	Vice-Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee		
Vice-Chairman of the Pensions Committee			
10	Vice-Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees	£3,374.67	£3,511.01

approved version 20.05.22

11	Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Panels	£2,969.97	3,089.96
12	Vice-Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub Committee	£1,124.89	£1,170.34
	Member of the Shadow Executive		
-	Childcare and dependents' carers' allowance The Monitoring Officer has discretion to increase the rate in particular cases of need.	An hourly rate equivalent to the National Wage for the time being	An hourly rate equivalent to the National Living Wage plus £1.00.
-	Co-opted Member	£835.37	£869.12



Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes OBE, Chief Executive

Report to:	County Council
Date:	9 December 2022
Subject:	A Devolution Deal for Lincolnshire

Summary:

This report asks the Council to support draft proposals for devolution for Greater Lincolnshire and to enter into negotiations with Government to seek a devolution deal at the earliest opportunity.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the council supports:

1. Engagement with government officials to secure a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire on the basis of the draft devolution prospectus at Appendix A.
2. In principle, devolution to a mayoral county combined authority for Greater Lincolnshire.
3. Continued engagement with key stakeholders with a view to Appendix A being further developed and enhanced as the basis of the devolution bid to government to ensure that Greater Lincolnshire is in as strong a position as possible to secure a deal.

Alternatives Considered:

To not support the draft proposals for devolution for Greater Lincolnshire.

Reasons for Recommendation:

Supporting the draft proposals for devolution for Greater Lincolnshire will enable us to enter into negotiations with Government to seek a devolution deal which would provide upper tier councils with an opportunity to seek the transfer of a range of new powers

and budgets from Government that can be targeted to local need, used to boost growth in the local economy and level up Greater Lincolnshire.

Not supporting the draft proposals for devolution for Greater Lincolnshire will prevent Lincolnshire County Council entering into any negotiations with Government to seek a devolution deal.

Due to the correlation of increased devolution and economic performance of regions as cited in the Levelling Up White Paper and the resulting new powers from central government coupled with enhanced and more sustainable funding streams the proposed option is the preferred option.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Levelling Up White Paper sets out the Government's ambitions for devolution across England by 2030 and provides the framework for devolving powers to local economic geographies. The white paper is being enshrined in legislation through The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill currently in Parliament.
- 1.2. A first wave of new devolution deals is being negotiated between the Government and upper tier councils with deals already announced in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and North Yorkshire.
- 1.3. The Government has yet to set out a timetable for the second wave of deals, however this is expected to be negotiated in 2023 and would provide upper tier councils with an opportunity to seek the transfer of a range of new powers and budgets from Government that can be targeted to local need, used to boost growth in the local economy and level up Greater Lincolnshire.
- 1.4. Working together, Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, the seven district councils across Greater Lincolnshire, business and key stakeholders have developed options for a devolution deal for the economic geography of Greater Lincolnshire. This has been informed by:
 - Collaboration across all 10 Councils in Greater Lincolnshire to develop a long-term vision for greater Lincolnshire to deliver a better future for the communities, visitors, and businesses of Greater Lincolnshire. A copy of the vision document is attached as appendix B.
 - Business Engagement through the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership to gauge the interest, understanding and desire for devolution from local business.
 - Involvement of all 10 Councils in Greater Lincolnshire including discussions with council leaders and a series of meetings of chief executives to refine proposals for devolution to meet the needs of all parts of the historical county.

- Officer level workshops to explore the detail of skills, innovation, investment and infrastructure asks and principles for devolution.

A Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire

- 1.5. The proposals seek to achieve the maximum level of devolution for Greater Lincolnshire to bring greatest benefit for Greater Lincolnshire's residents and deliver on the area's ambitious strategies for growth across key sectors that would lead to more high skill, high wage jobs.
- 1.6. The focus of the proposed deal would be to:
 - Boost growth and productivity in key sectors and supply chains by levelling up infrastructure to create high skill, high wage jobs
 - Increase living standards and opportunity by levelling up skills and access to employment and new high skill, high wage jobs
 - Target investment to level up our towns and places to deliver sustainable growth
- 1.7. Key sectors of the Greater Lincolnshire economic geography are also of strategic importance to the UK and devolution for Greater Lincolnshire will support wider UK objectives for levelling up, energy security, food security and achieving net zero.
- 1.8. A devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire will be subject to negotiation with Government and the council is invited to consider the proposals for devolution as basis for engaging with Government officials to secure a future deal.
- 1.9. Many of the areas benefitting from devolution have gone on to negotiate additional deals with the Government that build on their initial success. The Greater Lincolnshire proposals for devolution are considered the appropriate asks for a first deal aligned to the powers that are currently available in the devolution framework. If successful they would provide a platform to negotiate further deals to deliver on wider aspects of the Greater Lincolnshire vision in the future.

Agreeing a devolution deal

- 1.10. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill sets out the levels, requirements, and process for devolution. New powers and funding would be devolved from Government to a new county combined authority and the maximum level of devolution – level 3 - would only be achieved if this also included a directly elected mayor.
- 1.11. This new type of combined authority has an initial prescribed voting membership of the mayor and upper tier councils, identified as constituent members. It can also

involve a range of stake holders including district councils and businesses as non-constituent members, scrutiny committee members and advisory boards.

- 1.12. In return for devolution of powers the Government expects the county combined authority to provide strong and effective leadership; flexibility; and appropriate accountability. The proposed East Midlands mayoral county combined authority for Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, Derbyshire and Derby provides a high-level model accepted by Government as meeting these principles and leaves significant element of the governance to be determined by the new organisation once formed.
- 1.13. The Government has set out that devolution deals should be led by upper tier councils. In preparation for any negotiation upper tier councils will continue to engage with district councils, businesses, the education sector and other stakeholders to develop the strongest possible devolution proposition and negotiating position for Greater Lincolnshire. This will include building on initial local discussions to negotiate and agree the governance arrangements and principles for a mayoral county combined authority within the constraints of the legislation.
- 1.14. Members will be asked to formally consider progress at a number of decision points including agreement to:
 - Seek a deal and enter into negotiation with government (this report)
 - Consult on a draft devolution proposal following negotiations with Government (future report)
 - The final proposal and to establish a mayoral county combined authority (future report).
- 1.15. If successful, residents across Greater Lincolnshire could be invited to elect a mayor in 2025.

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 no implications arising from the recommendations in this report for those with a protected characteristic, as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

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.

There are no direct implications relating to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy arising from the recommendations in this report.

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.

There are no direct implications relating to the prevention of crime and disorder arising from the recommendations in this report.

3. Conclusion

3.1. Supporting the draft proposals for devolution for Greater Lincolnshire will enable us to enter into negotiations with Government to seek a devolution deal which would provide upper tier councils with an opportunity to seek the transfer of a range of new powers and budgets from Government that can be targeted to local need, used to boost growth in the local economy and level up Greater Lincolnshire.

4. Legal Comments:

The Report seeks support for engagement with government concerning a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire.

If successful such a deal would involve the Council in invoking the statutory process for the establishment of a combined county authority which will involve consultation on a formal proposal and the submission of a final proposal to the government followed by the making of secondary legislation.

As stated in the Report, further reports will be brought to full Council at appropriate stages as that process progresses.

The decision is within the remit of the full Council.

5. Resource Comments:

There are no direct resource implications associated with this paper. Any future activity linked to this proposal will be subject to its own resource analysis and commensurate decision making process.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

Not applicable.

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes.

c) Scrutiny Comments

Not applicable.

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

This paper relates to agreement to enter into negotiation based around the complementary Devolution document attached as appendix A. Subsequent policy change and / or service delivery will be subject to their own risk and impact analysis.

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Devolution Greater Lincolnshire Prospectus
Appendix B	Vision for Greater Lincolnshire

8. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Summary of Business Engagement	Agenda for Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee on Friday, 14th October, 2022, 2.30 pm (moderngov.co.uk)
East Midlands Devolution Deal	East Midlands devolution deal - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Levelling Up White Paper	Levelling Up the United Kingdom - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill	Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

This report was written by Matthew Garrard, Head of Policy, who can be contacted at matthew.garrard@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Devolution Greater Lincolnshire

Growth | Energy | Food



Devolution Greater Lincolnshire Growth | Energy | Food

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These proposals provide a framework for discussions with Government on a devolution deal and to level up Greater Lincolnshire. They are subject to the governance and approval processes of participating councils.

Throughout this document references to Greater Lincolnshire include the County and Districts of Lincolnshire and the unitary areas of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire Growth | Energy | Food

The future for Greater Lincolnshire is one where our 1.1 million residents have good lives, with independence, wealth and good health. Where our communities are connected and working together we ensure national food security, logistic networks and clean energy to power the UK's homes and economy.

It is a future driven by local councils working together through a shared vision to realise the potential of the Greater Lincolnshire economy to benefit our residents including:

- securing the opportunity for everyone who wants a job to get one, so that the proportion of economically inactive people is no longer 17% higher in Greater Lincolnshire than it is nationally
- supporting all working age adults to have opportunities to enhance their skill level, boosting productivity and improving on the 29% of our working age residents who have a level 4 qualification or above
- investment in public transport connectivity and infrastructure so that it is no longer holding back our economy, with improvements reducing isolation and loneliness for our more vulnerable residents
- protection for thousands of homes and businesses, and hectares of productive land that are currently at risk from coastal erosion, sea level rise and flooding.

Growth is fundamental to delivering our vision and future prosperity. The public and private sectors are already collaborating to tackle common challenges that until now have held back growth across Greater Lincolnshire. But there is a need for further powers, funding and flexibility from Government to accelerate progress and address:

- the need to capitalise on economic opportunity through better alignment of skills, employment, and career opportunities
- low business productivity affecting investment and earning potential which can be addressed by raising skills levels
- pockets of significant unemployment and economic inactivity
- the need to manage water as an asset, to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding, and meet our unique demands for water that support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture
- a population ageing above the national average which will lead to disproportionate demand for care and health services, and a reduced labour market. We need to attract and retain younger workers to maintain a viable workforce and for future growth
- the costs of rurality: Our geography includes the 4th most sparsely and largest populated county in England. We need to improve connectivity and access not just through road, but also rail, digital and energy distribution infrastructure.

Devolution for Greater Lincolnshire is an enabler for growth.

Transferring powers, funding and flexibility to Greater Lincolnshire through a devolution deal would accelerate delivery on our ambitious strategies for growth across the key sectors of our economic geography that will lead to more high wage, high skilled jobs. It would provide the catalyst to improve learning, training and pathways into those jobs to raise living standards and level up for local residents.

Our plans for devolution are focused on the unique challenges and opportunities within Greater Lincolnshire. Opportunities that can make a significant contribution to the future security of the UK, from green energy to food, water and defence.

Devolution for Greater Lincolnshire has the strong support of our business community. Over 200 businesses representing around 40,000 employees across Greater Lincolnshire have already had their say and continue to be engaged in the development of our plans. Their needs – greater influence over digital infrastructure, physical infrastructure, and skills development – are reflected in the proposals for devolution to Greater Lincolnshire.

As there is currently no one democratic body that covers our economic area we will seek to establish a county combined authority as a strong and accountable model of leadership for levelling up Greater Lincolnshire, including an elected mayor if this is a requirement in the final legislation. The Mayor and County Combined Authority will compliment and work with existing public/private partnerships and neighbouring combined authorities to support wider growth opportunities.

Greater Lincolnshire in 2050:

Voice	Citizens have an increased say, involvement and role in deciding what happens and how it gets implemented.
Mobility	Every town is accessible to everyone via public transport, in a safe and sustainable way.
Connectivity	A digitally connected place where the infrastructure is as important as any basic utility.
Homes	There are enough of the homes that people need, which are affordable to them, and decent and dignified to live in.
Health	All citizens have an equal chance of living a healthy life, regardless of status, or background.
Jobs	Everyone enjoys a fulfilling job.
Education	Every child receives an excellent education, in a high quality environment. Every adult is able to improve their skills to stay actively employed.
Biodiversity net gain	Developments give back more nature than they disturb through biodiversity net gain.

Our ambitions, asks and outcomes for devolution for Greater Lincolnshire



Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Our potential for growth

Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of our nation as the source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities, and food security. We play a vital role in global trade, securing the nation's supply chains in key industries.

Securing growth in Greater Lincolnshire matters to the UK.

This is a time of significant opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire. We are at the heart of delivering on vital national growth sectors – through the UK Food Valley, our Freeport and our market leader role in offshore renewables.

At the same time, we have a clear focus on delivering against the Levelling Up agenda and transforming our town centres and resorts. Devolution is essential to complement those initiatives through local powers, influence and decision making.

The key sectors of our economic geography are of strategic importance to the UK. Devolution to Greater Lincolnshire will support wider UK objectives for growth across the following areas:

Energy, decarbonisation and net zero

Greater Lincolnshire is at the heart of the UK's offshore renewable energy generation and the decarbonisation of industry. We are pivotable to the nation becoming a net energy exporter by 2040 and achieving net zero. Devolution to Greater Lincolnshire is a fundamental part of investing in the North Sea and the onshore infrastructure required to expand our renewable capacity and innovate in carbon capture.

“Energy is the lifeblood of the global economy. From heating our homes to powering our factories, everything we do depends on a reliable flow of affordable energy.

Our island's resources, with its shallow seabeds and high winds offers us unique advantages that have made us global leaders in offshore wind and pioneers of floating wind. With smarter planning we can maintain high environmental standards while increasing the pace of deployment by 25 per cent. Our ambition is to deliver up to 50GW by 2030, including up to 5GW of innovative floating wind.

Accelerating our domestic supply of clean and affordable electricity also requires accelerating the connecting network infrastructure to support it.”

British Energy Security Strategy

Food, fish seafood and food manufacturing

As the UK seeks to grow a prosperous food sector that ensures a secure food supply in an unpredictable world, devolution to Greater Lincolnshire will support delivery of a world leading food cluster with the potential to add 50% GVA by 2030, equating to around £2 billion. With its focus on new food chain automation and digital technology, innovation within the food valley supports the UK's ambition to become a science superpower.

“The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and turbulence caused by the invasion of Ukraine are reminders of the crucial importance of UK food producers to our national resilience.

Today, food manufacturers provide employment opportunities in areas where there might otherwise be deprivation; they offer apprenticeships and opportunity; they invest in research and development, and they give local areas a sense of pride and identity. None of our food manufacturers could succeed without the farmers and fishermen who supply them with high quality produce.

The food industry also has a central role to play in the government’s levelling up agenda... It is the largest manufacturing sector in the UK, bigger than automotive and aerospace combined. It invests in local communities.”

Government Food Strategy

Ports, logistics and supply chains

The Government’s Maritime 2050 Strategy recognises that the UK economy is highly dependent on the maritime sector, with 95% of goods exports and imports moved by sea, including nearly half of the country’s food supplies and a quarter of its energy supply.

The UK’s continued success as a global trading nation is dependent on its ability to import and export goods efficiently. Devolution to Greater Lincolnshire will support the next phase in the evolution of our ports and the competitiveness of our logistic sector that underpin trade and national supply chains.

“The maritime sector has played a critical role for centuries in the growth and development of the UK as a primary facilitator of global trade.

Our highly successful commercial ports have constantly evolved, investing billions in their operations to ensure they remain at the fore of new patterns of trade.

Today we rely on the sector not only for the import and export of goods, but also the value the wider maritime sector brings to our economy through the likes of businesses services.”

Government’s Maritime 2050 Strategy

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Delivering energy security for the UK

We will be a world leading provider in renewable and clean energy providing the UK with energy security and exporting our energy and skills to the world.



Why Greater Lincolnshire: We are fundamentally connected with at least 25% of the UK's energy production and Greater Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the UK's Green Industrial Revolution. We are creating profitable opportunities for low carbon energy and industrial businesses, all aligned with ambitious national sustainability and energy export goals:

- The low carbon economy and green energy production across Greater Lincolnshire are already worth £1.2bn per annum to the economy, employing over 12,000 people.
- Grimsby is home to the largest offshore wind operations and maintenance cluster in the world, serving the largest windfarms in the world, delivering green energy, and offering opportunities to retrain into new high skill high wage jobs.
- Scunthorpe has strategically important steel, engineering and industrial expertise to support green energy and manufacturing opportunities whilst maximising steel and logistics opportunities in the town.
- Ground-breaking projects for industrial decarbonisation, green jet fuel, carbon capture and hydrogen offer global leadership, could protect jobs in steel, chemicals and manufacturing across Greater Lincolnshire, create new green jobs and inspire the move to net zero across the UK.

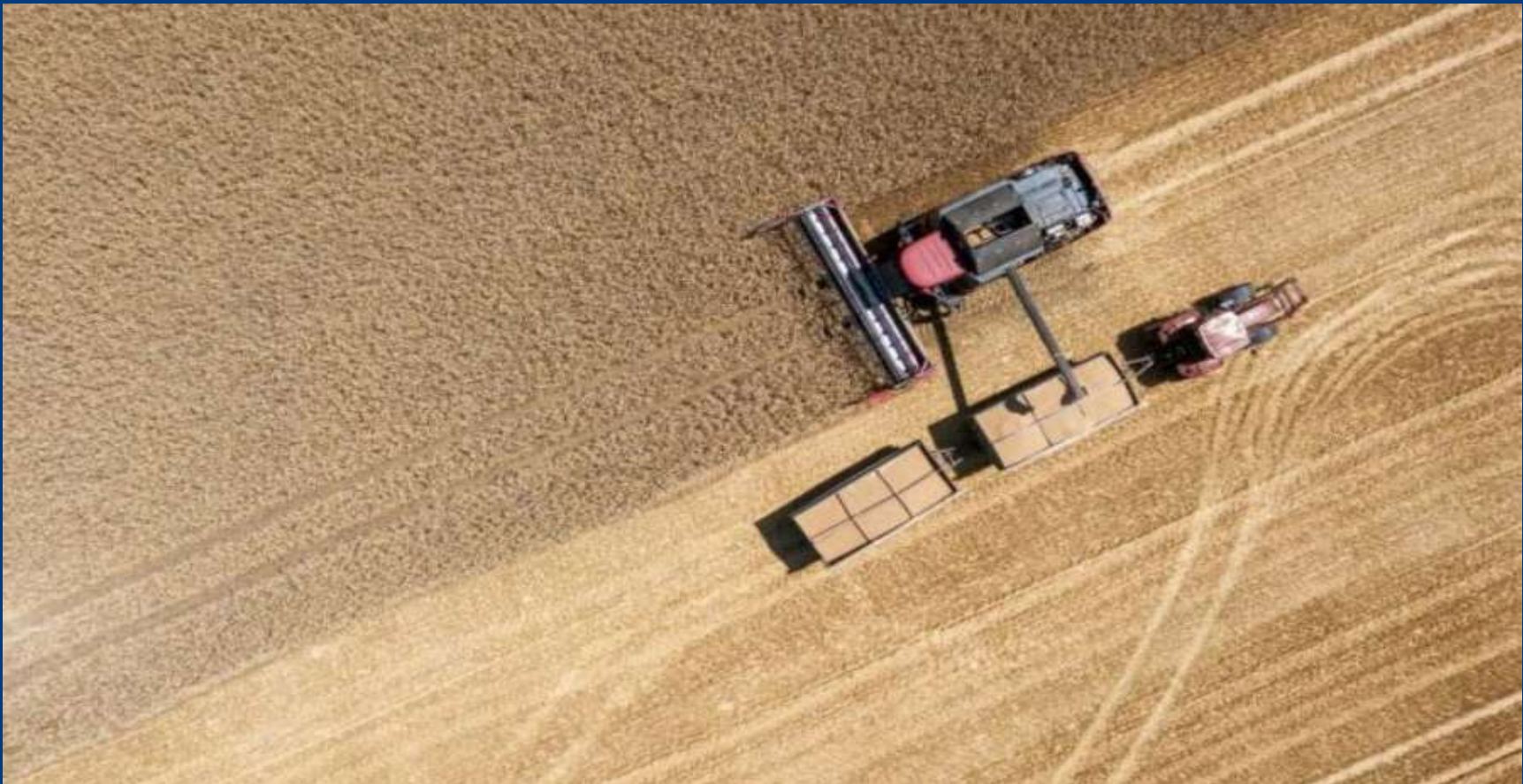
Our potential for growth: We will deliver growth in offshore wind as well as global leading projects for carbon capture, green jet fuel and hydrogen that significantly contribute to the UK's green targets, protect jobs in heavy industry across Greater Lincolnshire and create future high skilled high wage jobs.

Major projects to deliver growth include:

- Proposals for Hornsea 3 and 4 and the Race Bank Extension would significantly increase capacity of a number of the UK's largest off-shore wind farms and create high skilled jobs responsible for well over a third of the 30GW envisaged for the UK by 2030.
- Developments such as the Humber 2030 Vision, Humber Zero Carbon Capture Project and the Killingholme Marshes Drainage Scheme that will significantly increase demand for skilled engineers to support construction, manufacturing and maintenance, requiring employers to up-skill their existing workforce to meet evolving industry training standards.
- Able Marine Energy Park - a strategic location in the National Renewable Infrastructure Plan and a freeport tax site - is set to become a bespoke, world-leading facility to serve the needs of the burgeoning offshore renewable energy sectors.
- Proposals to meet 30% of UK Government hydrogen production targets by 2030 will create new jobs and reduce UK reliance on natural gas.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Delivering food security for the UK

We will be a world leading provider of food, associated technological innovation, enabling the UK to reach food security and exporting our produce, technology and skills to the world.



Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Delivering food security

Why Greater Lincolnshire: We have an international reputation for food, seafood, and farming and one of the largest concentrations of food manufacturing, seafood processing, research, storage and distribution areas in Europe:

- Greater Lincolnshire supplies 70% of seafood consumed in the UK, 30% of the nation's vegetables, 18% of poultry, with a total agricultural output of over £2bn in 2019.
- The seafood processing and trading cluster consists of approximately 70 businesses employing 5,500 people, with the immediate supply-chain employing over 10,000 people. The cluster is the largest in Europe and is worth over £1.5 billion to the economy.
- Greater Lincolnshire is home to a major food logistics cluster supporting the area's seafood processing, agriculture and food manufacturing industries.
- The agri-food chain provides 24% of jobs throughout Greater Lincolnshire rising to 40% in South Holland; with 75,000 employees in the farm to factory gate supply chain.
- We lead the UK, developing the skills needed to transform the agri-food sector. Through the National Centre for Food Manufacturing, the Agri-Food Centre of Excellence and the work of our academic partners, we are driving the application of new technologies and increased productivity in this sector.

Our potential for growth: The UK Food Valley will be a top 10 global cluster by 2030 delivering more high skill, high wage jobs and making the food chain a career of choice for aspirational young people through innovation including:

- Greater Lincolnshire is home to Europe's largest Agri-food Tech automation and robotics cluster, attracting businesses which are investing heavily in automation.

Recognised by the Department for International Trade as a High Potential Opportunity (HPO), to design, manufacture and commercialise automation and robotics technologies, growth in these tools will reduce the need for hard to fill low wage seasonal jobs in agriculture and replace them with high skill high wage roles.

- Leading national efforts to reduce carbon emissions from food production and manufacturing. This will focus on how new technology and skills, new energy sources and production processes can be used to reduce the carbon emissions from production, processing, transport, and storage of food.
- A proposal for a Centre for Food Logistics based around the Boston port, providing training in logistics, and allowing agrifood firms across the UK Food Valley to import inputs close to home and reduce costs.
- Support further growth in the agri-tech sector through our new agricultural growth zone, creating a centre to support agriculture and developing a skills pipeline to attract the next generation into the industry.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Securing the nation's supply chains

We will maximise the strategic advantages of our ports and lead their transformation into one of the most smart, clean, and efficient port clusters in the world.



Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Securing supply chains

Why Greater Lincolnshire: Lincolnshire is the UK gateway to Europe for the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse: Benefiting from prime deep water locations our ports and connectivity advantages have supported the growth of a UK-leading logistics cluster, serving industry sectors including renewables, advanced manufacturing, food manufacturing and energy.

- Our ports are nationally significant assets: Immingham - the UK's biggest port by tonnage - specialises in commodities and has direct routes to North and South America, Africa, Australia, the Middle East and the Far East.
- Grimsby is a nationally significant car import terminal, handling 500,000 imported vehicles a year, and has become an established O&M location for offshore wind firms Ørsted Energy, Centrica, Siemens, E.On and RES. Similarly, Killinghome has deep sea car vessel facilities.
- As the only coastal part of the Midlands, the ports of Boston, Gainsborough and waterways to Wisbech have regional significance and provide direct access into the UK Food Valley.
- Considerable investment has been made in the Humber ports and logistics sector:
 - £40m in the Port of Grimsby to provide facilities to build and maintain wind farm assets,
 - £120m by ABP to upgrade container terminals at Immingham, and its automotive terminal at Grimsby, and
- £65m in the bulk terminal at Immingham, which handles vessels up to 366 metres in length and imports for British Steel's Scunthorpe plant.
- Our South Lincolnshire Logistics Hub is strategically located within the UK's leading food production area, enabling fast access to UK population centres and international markets.

Our potential for growth: Greater Lincolnshire will support the transformation of our port cluster into one of the most smart, clean and efficient sectors in the world, leveraging greater value from the ports by handling increasing volumes of trade and attracting more value-added manufacturing activity. We will also ensure that our ports and logistics clusters are strongly connected into the region's decarbonisation activity.

We will enhance our competitiveness in logistics activity by ensuring that the necessary key physical infrastructure is in place to support the cluster. Major projects in Greater Lincolnshire include:

- The Humber freeport has the potential to become the largest of the UK freeports and a powerful driver of economic growth in local manufacturing firms and logistics.
- The South Humber Industrial Investment Plan (SHIIP) is a major 15-year programme of investment delivering substantial new industrial infrastructure to support the Northern Lincolnshire ports and releasing good-quality development land for employment between the Ports of Immingham and Grimsby.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Our plan for devolution

Achieving the greatest benefits for our residents, businesses and visitors



Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Our plan for devolution

Our plan for devolution is underpinned by an agreed set of principles:

1. **Start of a journey:** This deal is the first step towards greater local control and deeper relationships locally and with Government.
2. **Greater Lincolnshire Geography:** We will work across Greater Lincolnshire on the areas that make sense to grow the economy for all, recognising that there the benefits will build over time and in different ways
3. **Greater Lincolnshire flexibility and reach:** We will target delivery at the level that makes sense within our geography, enabling local and cross-cutting interventions.
4. **Additionality and sovereignty:** We will only act to be additive to existing activity in a way that maintains local sovereignty.
5. **Socio-economic focus:** We will focus primarily on encouraging good, inclusive local growth that improves the lives of our residents.
6. **Draws down from Government:** We will always draw down powers from Government through full devolution, co-commissioning and piloting innovation
7. **Clear asks:** We will be specific about the powers, and funding required to make an impact locally.
8. **Sustainable:** We will transition to new powers over time, so that change is sustainable and manageable.

In Greater Lincolnshire we are seeking the highest level of devolution at the earliest opportunity that will enable us to achieve the greatest benefits for our residents. As there is currently no one democratic body that covers our economic area we will seek to establish a county combined authority as an efficient and accountable model of leadership for levelling up Greater Lincolnshire, including an elected mayor if this is a requirement in the final legislation.

Our asks include a broad range of powers, services and budgets set out in the Government's Framework for Devolution in the Levelling Up White Paper.

Nearly three quarters of businesses talking to us about devolution told us that new and innovative approaches are required to address their needs. Therefore, our asks also include powers beyond those listed in the White Paper which are needed to address our unique needs and opportunities for growth and levelling up.

Devolution of these powers will provide the Government with an opportunity to enhance the devolution framework to reflect new and innovative asks.

A Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund

We are seeking a single long-term investment fund over 30 years, to provide local capacity to target money on interventions and make the best impact. This will deliver significant benefits for Greater Lincolnshire, allowing larger, strategic investments and effectively addressing some of our longer term and fundamental issues, such as rural deprivation and low productivity.

This money will be invested in enabling infrastructure, energy efficiency, business productivity and innovation in our key sectors of food, energy, ports and logistics, and targeted skills and employment support to tackle spatial deprivation in our coastal, rural and urban communities.

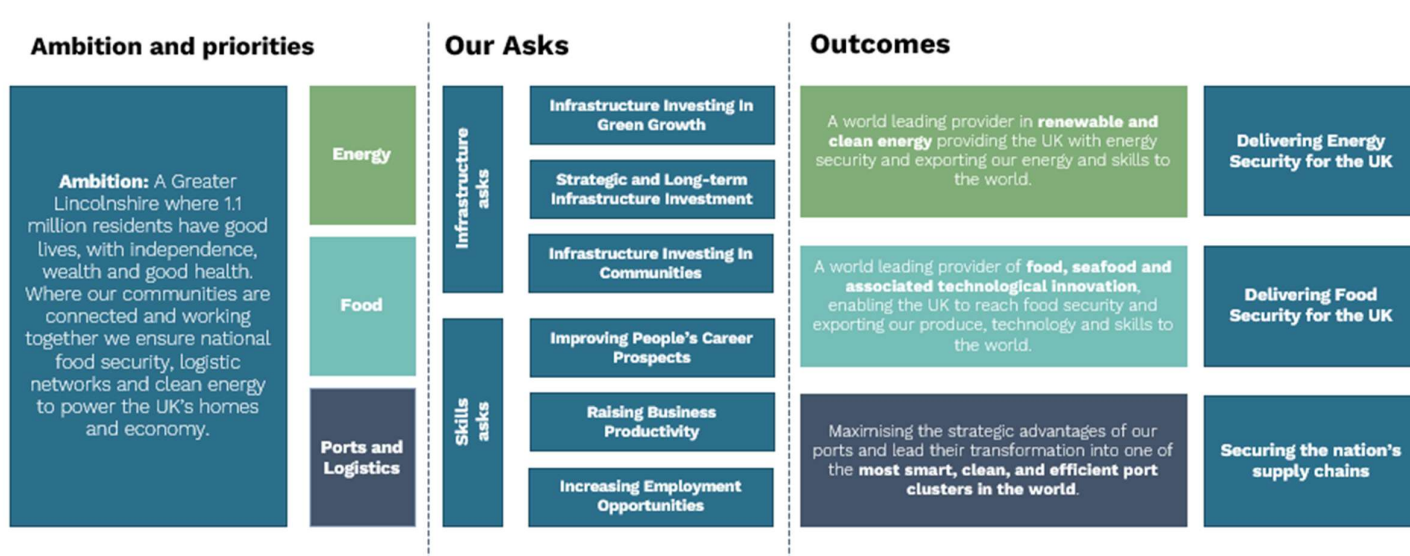
The Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund will complement Levelling Up Fund and Shared Prosperity Investment, as well as devolved responsibility for other new funds or initiatives supporting our businesses, our place and our people.

For our key areas, we will commit to working collaboratively locally and with Government to deliver local priorities. Some of this will be based on commissioning of approaches and projects, and full devolution of additional funds and powers may follow on from successful pilot projects.

Our plan for devolution supports levelling up across Greater Lincolnshire with a focus on:

- Place – local decisions and investment in infrastructure unlock growth in our county, particularly in key sectors that create high wage, high skills jobs that boost living standards. Long term strategic planning and social investment enable sustainable growth and level up our left behind neighbourhoods, market and industrial towns and city for residents as thriving, attractive communities that they are proud of and competitive destinations for visitors.
- People – skills, training and employment opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire are tailored to spread opportunity and access to high wage, high skills that can boost living standards; and address labour shortages across our key industrial sectors.

Our ambitions, asks and outcomes we seek through this deal are shown below:



Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Infrastructure

Greater Lincolnshire has a strong case for investment, supported by the local industrial strategy evidence base, local plans and emerging local transport plans. This solid foundation is already reaping rewards with a multitude of projects underway across the area.

However, there is an opportunity to go further and faster to boost growth and address levelling up challenges within Greater Lincolnshire and the wider economy.

In order for Greater Lincolnshire to realise its potential, significant investment in infrastructure is required to tackle areas of inequality. These include focusing on enhancing digital connectivity, enabling access to work and addressing the causes of market failures in housing delivery and high-speed broadband roll out.



Strategic and long-term investment to meet growth needs

The Ports & Logistics sector employs around 18,000 people, is worth £700 million to the Greater Lincolnshire economy, and accounts for over 25% of UK rail freight. But rail capacity is a constraint on future growth and our economic area is held back by poor connectivity with a reliance on congested and rural roads for business, logistics, tourism and access to amenities – all maintained through much reduced road maintenance funding.

With coastal and low-lying regions, water management is a crucial aspect of climate resilience, and Greater Lincolnshire has plans to become a rural innovation testbed for energy and water management. Greater Lincolnshire will therefore be at the forefront of the UK's climate strategies.

We plan to use the devolution of infrastructure powers to create investments in infrastructure which level up opportunity for all, specifically:

- investment in green growth and our environment.
- a planned approach to strategic and long-term investment for transport and utility purposes that provides confidence for investment and relocation.
- investment in infrastructure which enhances the quality of communities and accessibility of homes for all.

Infrastructure Theme 1:

INVESTMENT IN GREEN GROWTH AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

Within this theme we have the following priority areas:

- Investing to achieve net zero, to drive productivity and to grow jobs;
- Investing to take advantage of our unique natural environment in a responsible way, whilst protecting our communities from the impact of climate change.

Priority 1: Investing to achieve net zero, to drive productivity and to grow jobs

Greater Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the UK's offshore energy production, hydrogen innovation and the development of decarbonisation for heavy industry but we need to ensure that this is supported by infrastructure such as the energy grid capacity and pipelines that are required to deliver growth.

With this in place we will establish the UK's first net zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040 which will capture and store around 10% of UK carbon dioxide emissions and develop blue and green hydrogen infrastructure and production.

Our asks are:

Ask 1: Co-commissioning a joint strategy for developing the unique infrastructure required in Greater Lincolnshire to enable carbon capture and storage innovation and other green growth (CO-COMMISSIONING ASK)

Rationale: Greater Lincolnshire's energy and low carbon sectors are national leaders, and our geology provides significant opportunities for further growth. This will include transforming the energy intensive industries which are typically found in northern Lincolnshire and enabling the ambitions of the Humber Energy Board to be achieved. Taking advantage of these opportunities requires input from government through DEFRA, BEIS, and other departments, and from global business, higher education, and local authorities. Often this input is fragmented which leads to missed opportunities or to abortive work. A co-commissioned strategy will enable us to accelerate delivery.

Ask 2: Pilot the roll-out of the use of mixed dual fuel methane and hydrogen in the domestic heating network which has been tested in northern Lincolnshire (PILOTING INNOVATION ASK)

Rationale: Initiatives such as the Hydrogen Town and collaboration with Cadent has shown that there is a real prospect of this fuel source being market ready if supported by the right infrastructure projects for production and storage. Rolling out new approaches to energy can be time consuming. Devolution would ensure that timely investment decisions are achieved to enable the technology to come to the market more quickly with obvious advantages.

Ask 3: Devolution of the delivery of electric charging in rural areas, market towns and urban centres and charging for homes without driveways beyond the LEVI scheme. (DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: A LEVI project to deliver vehicle charging points in areas where the private sector would be unlikely to invest has now been approved and will run to 2023 in parts of the region. The approach in Greater Lincolnshire will lead to faster delivery of EV charging in difficult to reach locations and will provide learning points for when DfT roll out the programme more widely. Given that one of the Greater Lincolnshire partners will have already delivered the LEVI pilot scheme, devolved funding for the roll-out of the scheme is sought to expand the reach of the programme to the full region.

Ask 4: -Pilot an investment model for SMEs that incentivises the switch to low or non-carbon energy models. (PILOTING INNOVATION ASK)

Rationale: The cost of switching energy models can be prohibitive for SME with consequences for the environment and their ability to trade with larger organisations seeking green supply chains. With appropriate funding the pilot seeks to address these challenges and provide a model for wider use.

Priority 2: Investing to take advantage of our unique natural environment in a responsible way, whilst protecting our communities from climate change impact.

Greater Lincolnshire is a largely rural, low-lying landscape including nationally important natural treasures such as lime woods, chalk streams, saltmarsh and the only area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) in the East Midlands covering the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Our diverse geography is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with high levels of risk from coastal flooding only increasing as sea levels rise. However, this risk provides us with the opportunity to accelerate the drive towards nature recovery, to match the energy ambitions and attack both climate change and biodiversity loss. Our long-established and collaborative Local Nature Partnerships with a long tradition of working co-operatively, and the location for two of the environmental land management scheme test pilots, provide us with a head start in the transition towards a successful nature recovery network

Inland we are one of the driest counties. Our ambitions for the UK Food Valley and UK food security are reliant on Greater Lincolnshire achieving water security to meet the needs of agriculture and the new growing demand for water for decarbonisation.

Our asks are:

Ask 5: Devolution of funding to deliver the strategic work streams required to meet the challenge of implementing a single Local Nature Recovery Network for the whole of Greater Lincolnshire (DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: This would enable the new authority to meet the challenge of implementing a joint network for the whole region in working with our Local Nature Wildlife Partnerships. It would provide a multi-year resource to allow strategic planning and delivery of ecological mitigation ahead of development (as demonstrably achieved as part of the South Humber Industrial Programme), to promote a balance between biodiversity and growth, strategic natural flood prevention and enable creation of new habitats to offset developments.

Ask 6: Co-commissioning of Environmental Land Management Scheme planning/awards, to support faster expansion of the nature recovery network as an enabler for growth (CO-COMMISSIONING ASK)

Rationale: The government's agriculture act recognises the importance of farming and environmental priorities being much more closely aligned. Greater Lincolnshire has a high proportion of farming businesses, and a range of landscapes which benefit the community and visitors. Enabling the CCA to co-commission ELMS with DEFRA will enable there to be a clear, planned, and prioritized approach to environment mitigation.

Ask 7: Piloting a Water Sustainability Agency to develop a Greater Lincolnshire Water Strategy, protect the country from food shortages caused by floods and droughts and co-commission flood prevention and water management programmes to support growth. This will include the ability to set local tax incentives for business to develop water resources and water efficiency management on their sites and contributing to flood relief schemes. (PILOTING INNOVATION ASK)

Rationale: With coastal and low-lying regions, water management is a crucial aspect of climate resilience, and Greater Lincolnshire has plans to become a rural innovation testbed for energy and water management.

The issue of water involves the management of risk during wet periods and the maintenance of supply during drier times. It also includes significant mitigation requirements to create a sustainable balance between growth and the impact such growth would have on the water system. It involves several agencies, all of whom have responsibilities which need to be better co-ordinated, including water companies and internal drainage boards. The new authority will achieve this through the piloting of the agency proposed.

Infrastructure Theme 2:

A PLANNED APPROACH TO STRATEGIC AND LONG-TERM INVESTMENT FOR TRANSPORT AND UTILITY PURPOSES THAT PROVIDES CONFIDENCE FOR INVESTMENT AND RELOCATION

Within this theme we have the following priority areas:

- Infrastructure which supports the movement of people, goods, and ideas
- Investing in a modern transport system which offers a mix of solutions that connects people to learning, business opportunity, jobs, leisure and services

Priority 3: Infrastructure which supports the movement of people, goods, and ideas

To level up Greater Lincolnshire, we intend to prioritise investment in infrastructure that boosts the strategic opportunities identified in the Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Plan for Growth, and that supports residents to travel to new high skill, high wage jobs.

Midlands Connect has identified the Trans Midlands Trade Corridor and the A1 as priorities. East west movements particularly by rail, but also upgrading the A46, are recognised as vital for growing ports and linking the Humber and East Midland Freeports and we have a pipeline of infrastructure projects to invest in and accelerate growth.

Our asks are:

Ask 8. A multi-year transport infrastructure settlement to be devolved to local leaders to support delivery of joint local transport plan which covers road, rail, freight, public transport, and active travel (FULL DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: Investment in infrastructure is critical to drive business confidence, but it currently relies on bids to government and its various agencies. These bids are often based upon nationally set priorities. The bidding process means that there is limited certainty over future funding and locally determined priorities are not necessarily joined up or met. Devolving the funding over a multi-year basis will address these challenges.

Ask 9. A joint digital strategy supported by DCMS and BEIS that drives digital innovation and commercial investment, underpinned by digital infrastructure including 5G roll out and local commissioning of funding for broadband connectivity, full fibre to premises and accelerated delivery of the rural gigabit scheme. (CO-COMMISSIONING ASK)

Rationale: Recent Open Market reviews have shown where private investment will and won't provide broadband. The Rural Gigabit programme in Greater Lincolnshire is expected to be delivered in the medium rather than short term. Businesses and communities tell us that they are hampered by poor digital connectivity and mobile phone signals. This also restricts the digital transformation of local councils. Tackling this problem quickly will enable businesses to improve productivity and residents to access modern digital services.

Priority 4: Modern transport which offers a mix of solutions that connects people to learning, business opportunity, jobs, and services

Greater Lincolnshire is a large geography with limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality.

Despite the geographical challenges we face, Greater Lincolnshire has been at the forefront of demand responsive transport, developing innovative services that we intend to expand further as we create a transport network which breaks the link between poor transport connectivity and the skills gap. We recognise the vital role of rail, especially for freight, access to higher education and tourism and we will grow patronage beyond pre pandemic levels.

Many parts of our geography are low lying and well suited to active travel and there are also significant opportunities to grow the green visitor economy. Several high calibre cycling routes have been identified across Greater Lincolnshire which would enhance the offer for visitors and residents, connecting important destinations.

Our asks are:

Ask 10: Devolution of all funding which promotes active travel for routes to support our growth sectors, access to jobs and education/training, and which boosts the green and visitor economy. (FULL DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: The competitive nature of Active Travel funding has led to a patchwork of delivery, with some communities seeing that other areas of the country can travel sustainably to work whilst they cannot. Many businesses in Greater Lincolnshire operate within supply chains which insist upon low carbon activity. The lack of a coherent approach to active travel puts them at a disadvantage compared to their competitors.

Ask 11: Local Leadership for rail services to align to local need and priorities, including a five-year investment plan and transition to a minimum level of service provision. (CO-COMMISSIONING AND PILOTING INNOVATION ASK)

Rationale: Rail freight and passenger rail travel are vital in greater Lincolnshire. Increases in rail freight must contribute to our ambitions for decarbonisation. Passenger services will, by the nature of our large and predominantly rural area, be less well used than in major urban areas and this could lead to decisions being taken by operators on the basis of simple market forces. A co-commissioned approach to rail services will provide a much stronger voice to articulate the local context to influence and inform provision.

For example, the Ports & Logistics sector employs around 18,000 people, is worth £700 million to the Lincolnshire economy, and accounts for over 25% of UK rail freight. But rail capacity is a constraint on future growth of the sector. More generally, our economic area is held back by poor connectivity with a reliance on congested and rural roads for business, logistics, tourism and access to amenities.

Ask 12: Devolution of funding and powers to deliver a Greater Lincolnshire Bus Service Improvement Plan, including flexibility in the application of Government regulation and funding for public transport in the region to better serve rural areas (DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: we believe that introducing local leadership to public transport provision could require flexibility within regulatory frameworks. Greater Lincolnshire would wish to pilot approaches to that flexibility as part of our County Deal.

Ask 13: Pilot e-bus programmes in four areas across Greater Lincolnshire (PILOTING INNOVATION ASK)

Rationale: Our ambition to decarbonise Greater Lincolnshire requires a concerted effort of residents, businesses, and local authorities. Often areas with smaller populations will be unable to benefit from the latest technology because our lower critical mass makes private investment less viable. The post-Covid-lockdown period has caused significant viability problems for bus operators and much of our bus fleet is outdated.

Ask 14: Local prioritisation and leadership of investment for transport and other infrastructure in our market and industrial towns through devolved responsibility for appropriate funding. (DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: The bidding culture for funding means that it can be difficult to provide the long-term commitment to initiatives and secure funding for complementary projects as part of a coherent strategy to meet local needs.

Devolving the funding through the County Deal will mean that decisions on the allocation of funding will be taken according to nuanced local needs and will mean that local leaders can set a long term strategy to join up local projects which help to level up communities.

Infrastructure Theme 3:

INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF COMMUNITIES AND ACCESSIBILITY OF HOMES FOR ALL

Within this theme we have the following priority areas:

- Investing in high quality homes, locations and services.

Priority 5: Investing in high quality homes, locations and services

Recruiting and retaining a younger workforce to offset our ageing population and deliver future growth requires Greater Lincolnshire to have the right housing in the right locations. Access to high quality housing is important to improve the health outcomes and life chances of residents.

We are committed to a long-term plan for sustainable growth across Greater Lincolnshire as well as the short-term actions needed now to improve living standards for our existing residents.

Delivering sustainable growth requires development sites to get the right infrastructure at the right time and requires an approach to enabling housing delivery at a pace which supports economic growth. This can be achieved through a spatial plan for Greater Lincolnshire. Aligned with other policy and investment decisions, the plan would provide a framework for infrastructure at the right geographical scale to give effect to national priorities aimed at supporting sustainable growth and improving the overall wellbeing of the environment and communities.

We are proud of Lincolnshire's heritage and connection to the armed forces and want to ensure that as the RAF estate is consolidated into Coningsby, Waddington and Cranwell, the Government, MOD and regulators work with local leaders to ensure the timely release of strategically important sites for growth - such as RAF Scampton - with the infrastructure required for housing and business.

We also intend to level up our left behind neighbourhoods, market towns, urban centres and city for residents as thriving, attractive communities and competitive destinations for visitors.

Our asks are:

Ask 15: Co-commission an investment plan with BEIS, National Grid, Western Power and Northern Power Grid which underpins our strategy for growth (CO-COMMISSIONING ASK)

Rationale: The investment plans of power suppliers are often based upon data which is quickly out of date, and which cannot adapt to the commercial realities of site development whether for housing or other uses. Communication between local areas and the energy providers will be strengthened. The private sector's involvement in R&D and subsequent application of new approaches to energy supply will be critical for growth of the area. Additionally, the co-commissioning of an investment strategy will enable developers to have more certainty about when a power supply might become available for a parcel of land.

To address supply issues, the new authority will additionally work with these partners on a strategy to improve the energy efficiency of all homes in all sectors.

Rationale: Greater Lincolnshire has a strong One Public Estate programme. However, where centralised government departments are disposing of land (eg ex-military bases and ex North Sea Gas terminals), the ethos of the programme is not adopted to the same extent. Publicly owned land could be better used to support housing and commercial growth; there are several examples where local authorities have had to compete with the private sector to acquire land when other suitable pockets of publicly owned land have remained unused. Involving all government departments who have land to dispose of will enable facilities to be put to productive use more quickly and at greater benefit to the taxpayer.

Ask 17: Devolved funding for infrastructure projects that unlock and bring forward sites which are hindered by viability problems, including co-commissioning an investment programme with Homes England that supports our strategy for housing growth (DEVOLUTION ASK).

Rationale: The cost of delivering major housing schemes in Greater Lincolnshire, mitigating against risks of floods for example and addressing gaps in utility supply, mean that there are numerous uneconomical/unviable sites and subsequently fewer homes are available for our communities. Grant funding is required to intervene, bridge, de-risk and accelerate housing & employment sites. Devolving a budget, similar to the Homes England “Homes

Ask 16: A joint board to co-commission the acquisition, disposal and investment strategies for public agency land in greater Lincolnshire (CO-COMMISSIONING ASK).

Infrastructure Fund”, will allow the new authority to accelerate housing and economic growth across both urban and rural settings.

Ask 18: A pilot approach to drive regeneration, improvement and consistency for the people that live in over 90,000 private rented sector homes across Lincolnshire (PILOTING INNOVATION ASK).

Rationale: Analysis has shown that private rented housing stock in Greater Lincolnshire’s urban and rural areas is often of a poor standard. By enabling local ownership of emerging regulatory powers, including the implementation and management of selective licensing schemes across the whole area, the County Deal will be able to improve private rented housing stock across the whole area to the benefit of its residents.

Ask 19: Devolution of appropriate new funding to support delivery of strategic regeneration. (DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: The bidding culture for Government funding means that it can be difficult to provide the long-term commitment to initiatives which are seeking to address deep-seated problems. Devolving the funding through the County Deal will mean that decisions on the allocation of strategic funding will be taken according to nuanced local needs and a long-term strategy for levelling up communities, linked to other local initiatives, programmes and priorities.

Ask 20: Ability to create and draw funding to develop specific Mayoral Development Corporations to unlock stuck sites.
(DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: Mayoral Development Corporations (MDCs) have powers to acquire, develop, hold and dispose of land and property and have powers to facilitate the provision of infrastructure and have been instrumental in unlocking growth in other areas.

Devolution of this power through a County Deal would provide the new authority with further tools to support growth where allocated sites remain unprogressed.

Skills and employment

Taking a whole system approach to employment and skills, which helps everyone to be able to gain the job that they want whilst helping employers to raise productivity and create better jobs in Greater Lincolnshire is key to sharing opportunity and raising living standards.

Our leading sectors have the potential to create high skill, high wage jobs that can level up Greater Lincolnshire. Our vision is threefold, and it encompasses support for people of all ages

First, we will provide the entry level training and employment support which helps people into employment. Second, we will provide access to the right training in the higher level skills that our most important business sectors need in order to build on their competitive advantage. And third, we will provide productivity and



Raising awareness of the wide range of new industries, offering exciting opportunities across Lincolnshire

innovation support to our most important business sectors so that they continue to create the jobs of the future.

Our approach to skills is responsive to the needs of employers, recognising the requirements that employers have in order to operate productively. These requirements include ensuring that there is a pipeline of motivated and competent staff who want to develop their career in Greater Lincolnshire, delivering training which meets the needs of employers, and providing the support which make it as easy as possible for people to gain and remain in employment.

Our approach will complement wider investments in the local training provider market; it has been developed following advice from the Federation of greater Lincolnshire Colleges and from engagement with private training providers, universities and businesses. Our approach recognises that our training providers are critical to the delivery of our County Deal aims, and that we will invest in those providers' so that we can offer training and employment which is of the same level of quality as our leading business sectors.

We plan to use the devolution of Skills and Employment to create a whole system approach across three further themes:

Skills Theme 1: **improving people's career prospects and earnings potential**

Skills Theme 2: **raising business productivity**

Skills Theme 3: **increasing employment opportunities**

Skills Theme 1:

IMPROVING PEOPLE'S CAREER PROSPECTS AND EARNINGS POTENTIAL

Within this theme we have the following priority areas:

- Raising awareness, inspiration, and access to the support for our residents to train, retrain, and upskill for the job they want.
- Growing skills capacity for the future.

Priority 1: Raising awareness, inspiration, and access to the support for our residents to train, retrain, and upskill for the job they want.

We have a significant cohort of our working age population that left school with few, if any, qualifications, working in often seasonal and casual roles. We have lower levels of young people progressing into a traditional higher education pathway, families needing or choosing to earn rather than learn.

We want to change this engrained culture by raising awareness of the range of new industries, offering exciting opportunities but requiring different skills which many of our residents don't know about. We want to promote employment opportunities to increase the number of graduates and encourage them to gain employment locally and to stay in our region.

Our asks are:

Ask 21: Devolved funds to provide a high quality and uniform approach to careers advice for all ages, devolved to the new authority to procure and manage (DEVOLUTION ASK).

Rationale: People living in Greater Lincolnshire are often unaware of the career opportunities available to them and the pathways to pursue in order to achieve a good quality career. This is often because of the inconsistent nature of careers provision and the “stop start” nature of the funding. Having a single long-term approach aimed at all ages will enable us to overcome those challenges and support local skills improvement plans. We will support career leaders and advisers to spend time in Greater Lincolnshire industries to be better informed about career opportunities. We will work closely with OFSTED to ensure that a high level of quality in careers advice is offered.

Ask 22: Power to flex, innovate and adapt the loans, allowances and funding rules to encourage more adults to train (DEVOLUTION ASK).

Rationale: The barriers facing people who want to learn can be multiple and affected by their personal circumstance or the circumstances of the economy in which they live. Low pay and seasonality are perhaps the most striking examples in Greater Lincolnshire. Giving the new authority the ability to adapt funding entitlements to meet individual needs will lead to more people undertaking training.

We will accelerate implementation of the new lifelong learning allowance in Greater Lincolnshire now rather than 2025 by: introducing an individual learning account for all 16-year-olds and pilot innovative skills voucher entitlement; waiving the ELQ (Equivalent or Lower Qualification) criterion that restricts many individuals' ability to fund training; working with DWP to enable adult learners to be able to stay on Universal Credit whilst studying and to enable trainees to continue separate paid employment alongside their training placement for more than 16 hours a week.

We will additionally use devolved powers to secure transport to support learners' access to training/employment and to address issues such as childcare and mental health support

Priority 2: Growing skills capacity for the future.

We want more adults to participate in learning and progress into and through employment raising the qualification levels of the workforce, reversing the decline and gap with national performance levels and support the existing workforce to access high skill high wage jobs that raise living standards.

Our asks are:

Ask 23: Fully devolved Adult Education Budget with a funded 2-year transition period (DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: Full devolution of the AEB will provide the new authority with the freedom to flex and manage at place level all AEB allocations and to focus funds on local priorities in a way which is difficult to achieve with regional or national commissioning.

Devolution of this funding will provide certainty to local providers when they take a risk to address local problems without being sure that there will be a long-term market for that provision. Devolution of AEB will also enable us to fund specialist providers, linking to key industries and being flexible to different opportunities (eg the construction phase of major investments will require different levels and skills of staff to the operational phase) .

We recognise that this is a significant change and are therefore seeking a two-year transition period.

Ask 24: A pilot programme to improve the private and public sector skills infrastructure in greater Lincolnshire (PILOT FOR INNOVATION ASK).

Rationale: Our colleges, universities, and private training providers are ambitious for the future growth of Greater Lincolnshire. However, their ambition is constrained because of a lack of finance to invest and because of the difficulties in recruiting and retaining suitably qualified teaching staff. Greater Lincolnshire LEP has, through external grant programmes, piloted activity to exchange teaching staff between colleges and industry. Further investment is needed in a strategically programmed way rather than through competitive bidding. Our colleges also tell us that their recruitment is constrained by the national cap on FE lecturers' salaries. We wish to work with DWP and DfE on a pilot programme to improve the private and public sector skills infrastructure, addressing physical capital as well as recruitment and new teaching methods.

Ask 25: To pilot the roll out of higher-level qualifications, working with the area's further education colleges on their practical implementation, in the area's priority economic sectors (PILOT FOR INNOVATION ASK).

Rationale: Our future is one where we support all working age adults to have opportunities to enhance their skill level, boosting productivity and improving on the 29% of our working age residents who have a level 4 qualification or above.

This pilot would directly target this aspiration whilst supporting growth in strategically important economic sectors that are key to future prosperity across Greater Lincolnshire.

Ask 26: Devolution of a long term budget for Skills Bootcamps to quickly raise skills levels in those occupations which have hard to fill vacancies in critical roles (PILOT FOR INNOVATION ASK).

Rationale: We want the provision of skills in Greater Lincolnshire to be flexible and able to respond to gaps in the labour market, particularly where these restrain growth in our game changing sectors. The pilot would build on our expertise to provide a more responsive skills offer that meets the needs of business and learners.

Skills Theme 2:

RAISING BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY

Within this theme we have the following priority areas:

- **Driving innovation, enterprise and adoption of new technologies**

Priority 1: Driving innovation, enterprise and adoption of new technologies

We want to keep up the momentum of our advancement in renewables, robotics, digital logistics, seafood processing and food technologies by attracting and placing more graduates to work across our growing clusters and contribute to the UK's ambition to become a science superpower.

We want more people to progress into further and higher education and more businesses to take up the opportunities of working closely with a college or university. We will promote and build on the Graduates into SMEs schemes, further reinforcing the links between education and knowledge transfer whilst also addressing cost and return within smaller business enterprises.

Innovation and growth in our fish, seafood and vegetable businesses can offer wider benefits for the national health, but small Lincolnshire businesses can find bidding for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) competitions restrictive and a constraint on innovation in fast moving industries.

We want more businesses across Lincolnshire to be able to access innovation programmes and be supported to compete for funding

through streamlined processes that can unleash further creative innovation in our key sectors.

Our asks are:

Ask 27: Piloting a programme which takes SMEs to a pre-innovation stage which will enable them to adopt innovations more readily. (PILOTING INNOVATION ASK)

Rationale: The proposed pilot programme will create a pathway of SMEs who are well-prepared for UKRI support and will consider how to tackle barriers that hinder the take up of innovation. Greater Lincolnshire's businesses will create high quality careers as they adapt to future economic conditions. In order to adapt, they will need support and advice, often from UK Research and Innovation and Innovate UK funded activity. However, the competitive nature of these programmes can make them difficult for our priority sectors to access, and it appears that the success rate when greater Lincolnshire SMEs bid for SMART funding is just 2.5%.

Limited access to innovation support is a main reason that innovation levels are not higher. The University of Lincoln has identified that SMEs are not prepared to absorb innovation, do not have the financial resources to provide the right levels of match funding, and are deterred by the risk of failing in an application, believing that important time and resource will be lost. Delivering an "Innovation Readiness" pilot with UKRI and Innovate UK, the new authority will make innovation support and knowledge transfer more accessible and better focused on our priorities.

Ask 28: Co-commissioning of UKRI and Innovate UK programmes to drive business innovation across Lincolnshire (CO-COMMISSIONING ASK)

Rationale: Our analysis shows that there are significant business investments in innovation which in turn will often drive their supply chain's own investment in innovation. These investments are underpinned by programmes such as productivity Hub, Catapult, Made Smarter, and Freeport Innovation Partnerships. Businesses can also access R&D tax credits, and their motivation to innovate can be driven by legislative changes rather than by business leaders identifying productivity gains. The picture of innovation support and motivation is complicated. The new authority proposes to work with Innovate UK and UKRI to produce a clear map of support, and to co-commission a programme for our priority sectors.

Ask 29: Pilot four centres of innovation targeting food technology (Holbeach), advanced manufacturing (Scunthorpe), decarbonisation (Stallingborough) and defence (Lincoln). (PILOTING INNOVATION ASK)

Rationale: The new authority will work with government to establish four Innovation Acceleration Zones harness the expertise available across Greater Lincolnshire, support future growth and our contribution to the future security of the UK.

Skills Theme 3: INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Within this theme we have the following priority areas:

- Enabling and promoting a greater volume and diversity of work based recruitment and training pathways to well paid and higher skilled employment;
- Establishing a 'whole system' approach to getting more people into well paid work.

Priority 1: Enabling a greater volume and diversity of work-based recruitment and training pathways into well-paid and higher skilled employment

Apprenticeships can provide a pathway into high skill, high wage jobs and exciting careers in our key sectors, but apprenticeship starts have declined across the whole country over the last 5 years.

We want to provide an apprenticeship place for everyone in Greater Lincolnshire who wants one, but we need flexibility within the funding of apprenticeships to boost participation. We also intend to pilot new occupational traineeships to increase young people progressing onto apprenticeships and employment.

As well as apprenticeships we want to provide more support for T Level work placements through our employer partnerships and provider networks so that every young person studying has a guaranteed local placement.

Our asks are:

Ask 30: A Greater Lincolnshire Skills Investment Revenue Fund and develop bespoke apprenticeship arrangements for Lincolnshire including a Lincolnshire portal for apprenticeship requests (PILOTING INNOVATION ASK)

Rationale: To address some of our employment and skills issues and opportunities, the new authority will need to commission activity which complements, but is not funded by, mainstream programmes. It is believed that significant proportions of the apprenticeship levy paid by major employers in Greater Lincolnshire goes unspent and could be recovered and invested into those new activities which the authority would wish to commission. Businesses have said that they find it difficult to locate information and advice on apprenticeships, and students/parents have said the same. Therefore, we will introduce a Greater Lincolnshire Portal, promoting apprenticeships and matching employers with people interested in undertaking an apprenticeship, we will also facilitate the match of transfer of Levy funds via the Digital Apprenticeship System

Ask 31: Power to deploy a top sliced element of the IFATE (Institute for Apprenticeship & Technical Education) funds to build face to face capacity to support our small businesses at a local level to access the people and training services they need. (DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: The new authority will work with government to pilot new activity which will make a meaningful difference to the particular conditions in Greater Lincolnshire. This includes cost and access challenges experienced by our rural areas and a top sliced allocation of IFATE is sought to add extra capacity to the work to overcome employment and skills provision in our most rural areas.

Priority 2: Creating a ‘whole system’ approach to getting more people into better paid work

Everyone, irrespective of their background, should be able to achieve their full potential. Greater Lincolnshire is a diverse area where social mobility is extremely polarized. This means that people born into low-income families, regardless of their talent, or their hard work, do not have the same access to opportunities as those born into more privileged circumstances.

We believe there should be an obligation on all nationally commissioned DWP providers to share information, consult and work jointly with local authorities. We want greater flexibility to wrap the support necessary across public services for people to take steps towards the workplace and the attractive jobs offered by growth in Lincolnshire.

We need to offer more support to get those of working age to be economically active and provide an appropriately skilled and available labour pool.

Our asks are:

Ask 32: Devolved funds for programmes led by DWP, DfE, and other government sponsored training provision to a local level so that they can be commissioned and managed co-terminus to our economic opportunities and are targeted on local need.
(DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: DfE and DWP regional boundaries currently cut through the Greater Lincolnshire geography which, allied to different levels of commissioning of provision, leads to fragmentation. This means that the provision of employment support can be patchy and that there are missed opportunities to align services which would help to overcome barriers to employment.

Having a single provider with shared accountability will enable the new authority to establish a strong dialogue and avoid the risks that occur through multiple communication channels with multiple providers, creating rebalanced contract incentives to favour those furthest from the workplace.

As part of this work, we will seek to pilot new occupational traineeships, accompanied by a small remuneration to increase attractiveness to young people. We will also co-commission DWP services to reach those the economically inactive and those under-employed in low paid work and extend the DWP ‘Work Coaches’ network to widen support that can be offered to unemployed and disadvantaged young people. We will co-commission sector-based learning academy provision with DWP so that it meets the recruitment needs of the area and its businesses.

Improved data sharing across public bodies including health, welfare, education and local councils is fundamental to being able to operate more effectively.

Ask 33: Power to establish a duty on all relevant public bodies to support employment and training provision for those leaving care.
(DEVOLUTION ASK)

Rationale: The upper tier authorities in greater Lincolnshire are responsible for caring for the most vulnerable in society, and evidence shows that young people who leave care and transition into good quality employment will often thrive successfully. All public bodies in greater Lincolnshire create jobs, and by establishing a duty to co-operate in supporting young people leaving care the public organisations will give this cohort the opportunity for a positive start to their careers and adult life.

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A Vision for Greater Lincolnshire

A flourishing future for all

Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of our nation as the source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities and food security. This vision is our chance to set a new standard for what a good life is in the 21st century.

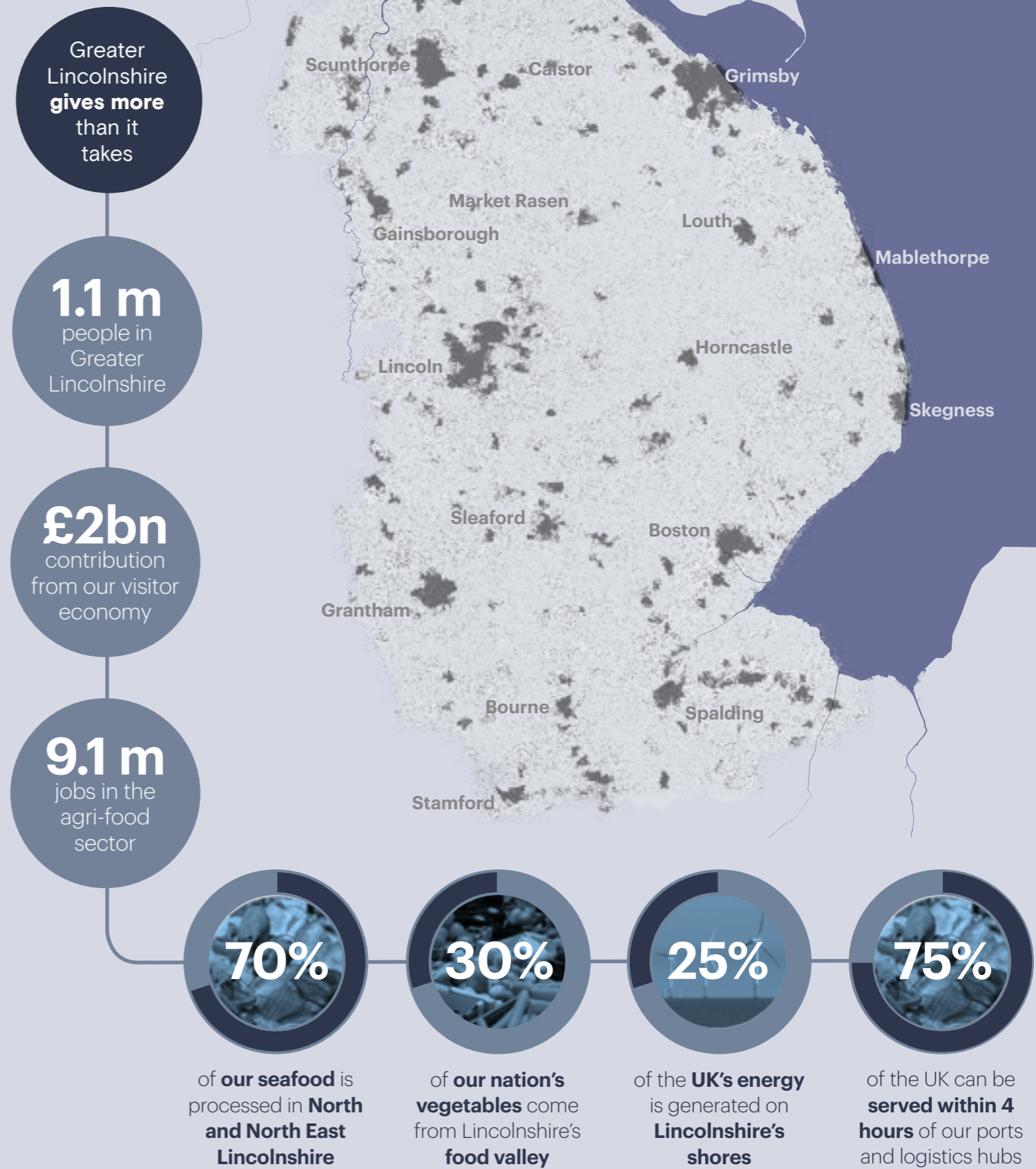
We are a diverse place of places powering and feeding the nation, home to 1.1m people, with 60% of us living in our many market towns, seaside settlements and historic Lincoln city. We have a unique place in the future success of our nation as the source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities and food security.

We have top-rated education, a visitor economy worth over £2 billion, and are leaders in ports, logistics, defence, engineering, food production, and energy production. Many of us enjoy easy access to our beautiful countryside, miles of coast and our wide beaches. From the Humber to the Wash, life is good for many.

Yet the economy doesn't work for everyone and the potential of Lincolnshire is more significant than what is currently realised. Around

150,000 people are economically inactive, and the proportion of economically inactive people who want a job is 17% higher in Greater Lincolnshire than nationally. Only 29% of our working age residents have a level 4 qualification or above, which is 32% lower than nationally, and we are ambitious to support all working age adults to have opportunities to enhance their skill level.

Our lack of public transport connectivity and infrastructure holds back our economy, contributes far too much air pollution and compounds isolation and loneliness for some of our more vulnerable residents. Services are expensive to deliver and Lincolnshire does not get its fair share of government funding to deliver services across our large area, which creates a risk that too many people are dependent upon the state or



We have always been pioneers. From Isaac Newton's role in the enlightenment and modern science, to draining the fens and agricultural mechanisation which has enabled us to feed the nation. Now we are on the cusp of a unique innovation-led economy that will help solve climate change and hunger. It is time to harness our creativity and ingenuity together to make the most of our natural assets.



charitable donations. Thousands of our homes and businesses, and hectares of productive land are at risk of coastal erosion, sea level rise and flooding.

As we come out through a global pandemic, we need to reframe our ambitions. Lincolnshire's many assets, not least our population, huge areas of productive land and unique natural environment can be harnessed. They can help create a future that works for every one of us living here whilst being at the forefront of respecting and enhancing the wellbeing of the planet.

Greater Lincolnshire's vision is to create a flourishing future for all. We will do this by drawing on our great natural assets, common purpose and history of ingenuity. We will harness our vibrant areas while setting new standards for a regenerative economy:

a system where we give much more than we take. Together, we are connected place of places powering and feeding the nation. Together, we enable our residents to be independent and achieve wealth and good health. Together, we protect and enhance the wellbeing of the world.

In 2050 we will look back to a turning point in the 2020s where we asked, "what does a good life look like for everyone?". We will be proud to have taken rapid and decisive action to deploy technologies, policies, and our collective skills to set us on a path to meet our own, local version of the UN sustainable development goals set out in this vision. The moves we made put Greater Lincolnshire first by realised our needs through a strategy that also placed us central to UK innovation and independence post-Brexit.



Lincoln is a historic cathedral City with a thriving economic and cultural life. The City is the focus for innovation and development within the sub-region. It has a high jobs density and serves a travel to work catchment of more than 350,000.

4 <https://www.plumplot.co.uk/Lincolnshire-population.html>

5 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/88150/greater-lincolnshire.pdf

6 NOMIS

7 https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/Greater_Lincolnshire_Local_Skills_Report_April_2021.pdf

WHAT IS IN A VISION?

This is the first 2050 vision for Greater Lincolnshire covering from Humber to the Wash. This vision draws on many sources of information and inspiration including our public health responses to the pandemic and associated challenges, our LEP Economic Recovery and Renewal plan and engagement with business. It draws upon work with service providers and citizen engagement.

From this collaboration it has never been clearer that the complex challenges we face as a society can only be solved through working together, tackling them in partnership with one another, and drawing on our strengths to create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. In order to guide our journey, we need to know our destination. It is that destination that is described here.

What is this vision?

- An ambition for life in Greater Lincolnshire in 2050
- A focus on Humber to the Wash, cherishing that we are a place of places, powering and feeding the nation
- Something that grapples with the big issues and ensures we are well prepared for change, together
- Something to inspire and invoke courage and innovation
- Something that helps us harness local assets and resources in ways that help us achieve our shared goals

What is it not?

- A plan to override all other plans, but it can act as a guiding light
- Just about place or economy, but rather it is first and foremost about people
- Owned by just one organisation, or just the public authorities – ownership lies with us all including employers, the third sector and every citizen.
- Perfect or something that has all the answers

OUR PLACE, OUR HISTORY, OUR ASSETS



Lincolnshire has a rich history of innovation and independence of mind. Isaac Newton's family home is famously situated here and was the location for many of his truly groundbreaking experiments. The story of the pilgrim separatist movement that founded the United States started in Gainsborough and Boston. Our county was at the forefront of mechanising agriculture through the invention of the tractor, which later revolutionised our national security with the adaptation of tractors to tanks.



We have been the birthplace of many reformers from political leaders such as Margaret Thatcher to Edith Smith, the UK's first female Police Constable. Our towns feature in British literary classics by world renowned authors including D. H. Lawrence and George Elliot. Stamford's Georgian architecture is so outstanding that it was designated the UK's first conservation town. We can even claim the world's first rock festival, with Jimmy Hendrix headlining Spalding's Barbeque 67, two years before Woodstock.



In the early 2020s our economy was worth more than £20bn per annum. The strengths and opportunities in specific sectors were agri-foods, energy and water, ports & logistics, the digital economy, visitor economy, and health & care. In all these sectors, GLLEP were experiencing positive jobs growth and positive business birth rates. We were increasingly recognised as an agri-food centre of excellence and our ports and logistics hubs already acted as gateway to other regions including the Northern Powerhouse.



Our history has shaped the communities that have settled here and our local economy. Many places in Lincolnshire have a long association with the RAF, including bases at Cranwell, Waddington and Digby to name but a few. Relatively low house prices and an outstanding natural environment make Lincolnshire a very attractive place to call home.

A CASE FOR CHANGE

Every great place faces challenges. Every great vision makes the big calls to tackle threats head on and capture opportunities arising from its assets and the changing world we live in.

Coastal erosion, extreme weather patterns and sea level rise.



“

I'm worried about stories of floods. I want to keep our home, and hopefully one day extend it as our family grows.

”

The threat of coastal erosion, extreme weather patterns and sea level rise also presents an opportunity to be a global leader in climate adaptation. Forecasts indicate that without mitigation, nearly one third of Greater Lincolnshire including Grimsby, Mablethorpe, Skegness, Boston as well as parts of Cleethorpes, Lincoln, Scunthorpe, Gainsborough, Woodhall Spa, Immingham and more are at risk of being below annual flood level in 2050. This could translate to hundreds of thousands of homes, businesses, livelihoods, and productive land at risk and could create a negative spiral of decline and retreat. Our natural assets in these areas are a positive which we want to protect. In the past Lincolnshire has made a virtue of low lying areas and managing it through dams, dikes, ditches, and pumps to create fertile land to feed our nation. We will invest in exceptional water management alongside renewable energy technologies and become a global leader in the field of climate adaptation, an industry that is worth billions of pounds.

The cost of public services is growing.



Lincolnshire has 20-26% higher levels of inactivity among people over 55 than the rest of England, which is one of the top risk factors for preventable disability.

The underlying cost per person is higher in rural areas than cities. OECD rural studies suggest transport service provision becomes more expensive in areas with lower population densities. This is also true of the cost of providing social care, which is higher in rural areas than urban areas. We must rethink how services are provided, what preventative measures are in place for certain families, where and how future populations live. We can be world-leading in innovation of the delivery of digital rural health and care. A thriving economy is also vital ensuring, and how we capture that growth locally for reinvestment is crucial.

A CASE FOR CHANGE

Every great place faces challenges. Every great vision makes the big calls to tackle threats head on and capture opportunities arising from its assets and the changing world we live in.

Aging population



“

Since my health issues impacted my mobility, I have socialised a lot less. I'm often waiting for family to visit as I can't get out and about like I used to.

”

We have an aging population that needs care. The aging population in Lincolnshire has increased 30% faster than the rest of the UK rate since 2020. Within 20 years, over half of East Lindsey's population will be 65 or older. This is similar in West Lindsey, South Holland, Boston, North Kesteven and South Kesteven. Older populations often increasingly suffer from loneliness and contribute less to the economy. We can become a leader in innovation and research in the delivery of healthcare in rural communities, linked to our aging better programme. To avoid a negative economic spiral, we can tackle isolation and loneliness, focus on the right support, and simultaneously make efforts to attract more young people to stay or set up in Lincs. We will work together to understand challenges faced and tackle them head on, for example by encouraging intergenerational support, more people to start a family and working for world leading businesses to grow a better economy.

We are undergoing rapid change in technologies.



Over 16,000 Lincolnshire residents are employed in a digital role with over 8,250 specifically within the digital sector experiencing a 17% increase in just three years

Cloud computing, artificial intelligence, robotics, and gene editing are changing industries and the world of work. Some jobs can be done from anywhere. As more activities are automated some jobs won't exist. This will challenge some traditional industries and livelihoods. However, technology has the potential to transform Greater Lincolnshire's core industrial sectors of farming, food, ports and logistics, manufacturing, and water management. In the food, agriculture and tourism sectors, highly physical work can be unsuitable for people in later life, but new technology can support an older workforce in these industries. Greater Lincolnshire has an opportunity to place itself at the forefront of the 4th Industrial revolution.

OUR VISION FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE IS TO CREATE A FLOURISHING FUTURE FOR ALL.

We embrace the 21st century and set new standards for a regenerative economy: we give so much more than we take. We are critical to the success of the UK. Our uniqueness creates opportunities for all.

Together we are **an interconnected place of places powering and feeding the nation.**

Together our residents have good lives, with **independence, wealth and good health.**

Together we ensure **national food security and clean energy supply** to power the UK's homes and economy.

Together we **protect and enhance the wellbeing of the world.**

Our missions



We will achieve this by simultaneously protecting our ecosystem and making good use of our great natural assets, including miles of coast and vast areas of productive land.

Through ground-breaking sustainable water management, leading the transition to clean

energy, locally grown healthy produce and an increasingly circular economic model we have a net-positive ecological impact.

We will help the wellbeing of the world through the shift to renewable energy, slowing of sea level rise, and provision of food technology.

COMMUNITY

Our focus on boosting community means we have citizen-led transformation in our market towns, city, seaside resorts and rural hamlets. We are renown for our ingenuity, shared values and mindset that have driven positive change, reinforced self-help and community-led solutions, and helped us all live a great life.

Our past our local heroes give us great inspiration and confidence that we can achieve great changes.

We are even more inspired by today's heroes. They are the carer, the conservationist, the shop keeper, the fisherman, the farmer, the world leading environmental engineer, the local architect, the artist, the digital entrepreneur, the firefighter, and the emergency care volunteer.

We cherish the diversity of the many unique places from Humber to the Wash. The historic beauty of Stamford and Lincoln, connectivity of Grantham

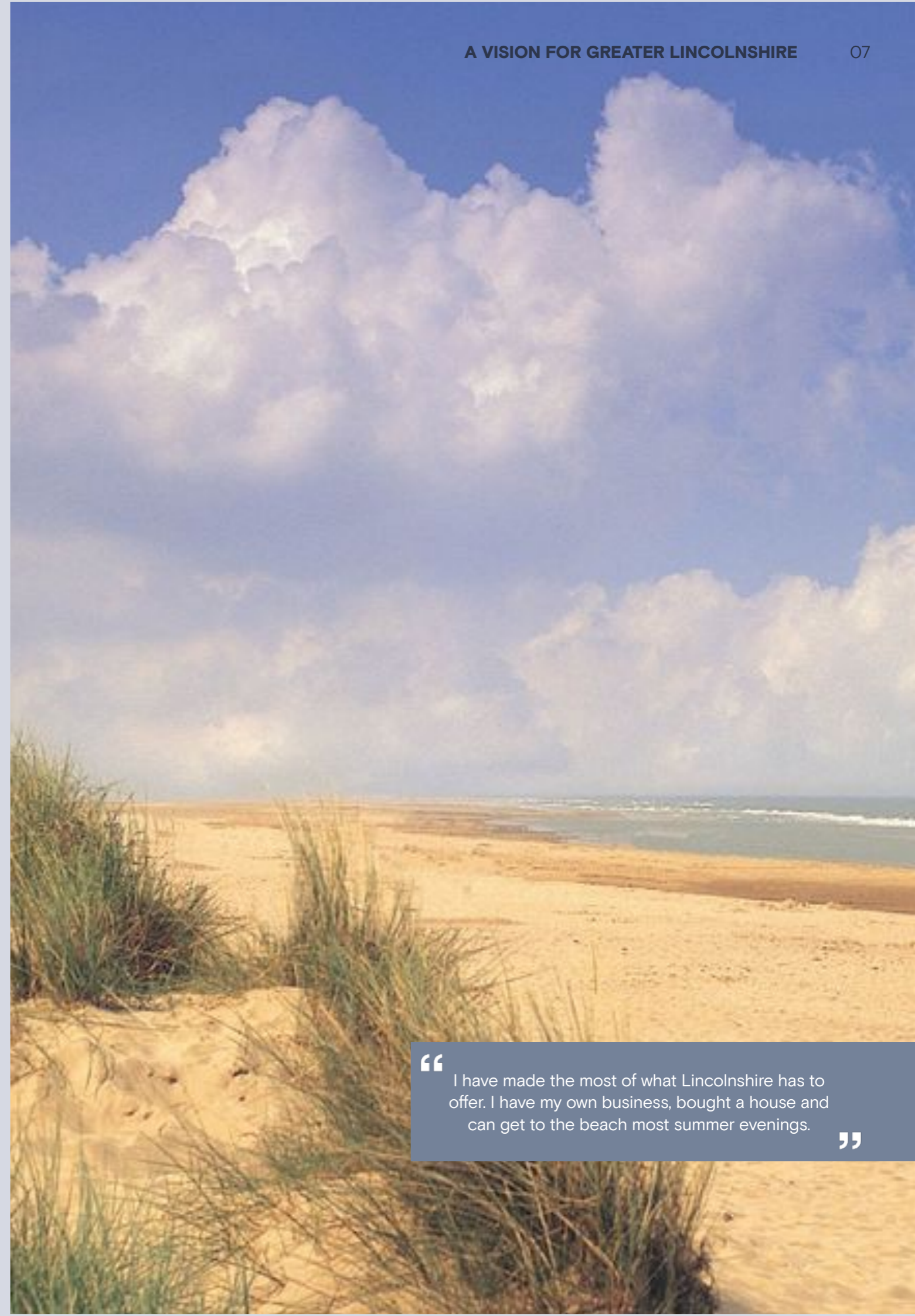
and grand past of Gainsborough make us proud. The shared family holidays in Skegness, Mablethorpe, and Cleethorpes bring us closer together. The world-leading, high-tech industries of the Humber bank and Boston inspire us.

We cherish the diversity of the people in our places, the skills they bring, the kindness they show and the stories they tell. Together we are helping each other lead a good life. Together we are feeding and giving energy to the UK. Together we are supporting the wellbeing of the world.

“

I have made the most of what Lincolnshire has to offer. I have my own business, bought a house and can get to the beach most summer evenings.

”





CULTURE

All citizens and visitors are provided with a high-quality, diverse art and cultural offering. Several towns are renowned for their culture and arts scene. Young people and all our children become acquainted with art and culture.



“ I have been spending time in nature after it was prescribed by the GP. Meeting people along the way helps me feel part of a wider community. ”



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

People are proud of the places they live and their fellow citizens. We work together with a spirit of high trust, care and focus on wellbeing. Inequalities no longer exist.



INDEPENDENCE

People enjoy their independence, promote diversity, participation, collaboration and reciprocity.



IMPROVED OUTCOMES

We have reset a new relationship with our communities.



VOICE

Citizens have an increased say, involvement and role in deciding what happens and how it gets implemented.



HERITAGE

Fixing up historic buildings and assets – making the most of what we have (rarely knocking down and starting new).



PEACE & JUSTICE

Every town is a safe and livable for residents and visitor.

MOVING & LIVING WELL

Our great places are connected by zero-carbon public transport. Neighbourhoods fulfil everyone's needs by providing places to meet and build our networks, homes, places to work and fair access to the services we need, including digital connections. All of which gives us independence and joy. Active travel is the norm and there is a well embedded infrastructure to encourage it. Our towns, villages and city, resorts and ports, and high-tech hub are accessible and interconnected within Greater Lincolnshire, to the UK and the world.

Travel solutions are abundant, sustainable and green. Trains have been upgraded, are more frequent and we've invested in other modes such as rapid bus transit schemes. Zero emission cars are available to all. Hydrogen powered vehicles move freight rapidly between producers, ports and consumers using a network of modern infrastructure. Cycleways are very well used because most of us use our e-bike or walk for journeys less than a mile. This means we have vastly reduced congestion and our air is always clean. This has reinforced Lincolnshire as an active, health, independent population.

We live in great towns and neighbourhoods that fulfil most of our regular needs within a modest walking distance. With everything easily accessible and great places to socialise, we have eradicated loneliness, our community spirit is considered the best in the country, and we all have a huge amount of independence, self-sufficiency and joy.

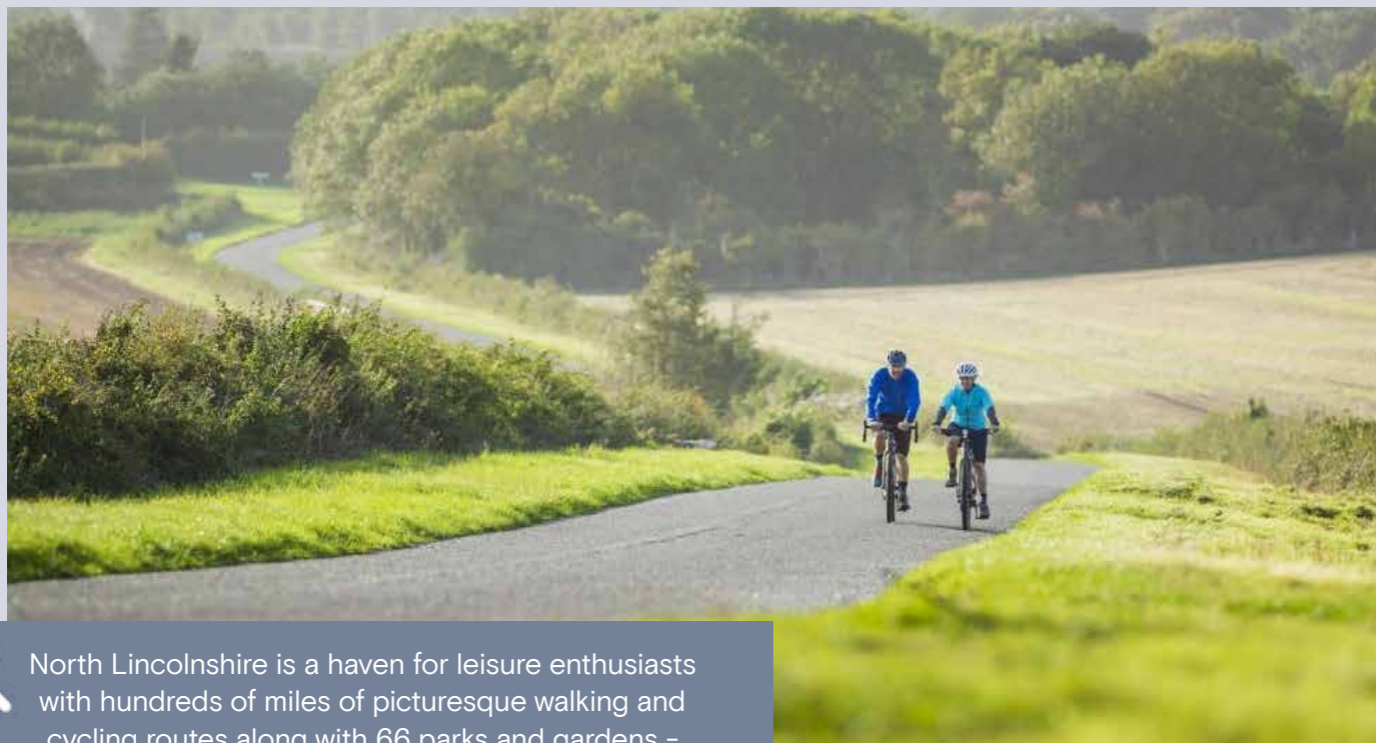
We have capitalised on our assets and brought buildings back into use to strengthen our communities. New homes, streets, parks, the places we work and our civic buildings are all well designed, developed at a 'human scale' with minimal impact on the local

or global ecosystem. We have renewed our neighborhoods and regenerated our town centres.

Our towns, villages and city high streets are hives of activity. They are great places for people to meet, and for young and old spend their leisure time safely together. We have seen the creative reuse of buildings like department stores into spaces to live, work, and play, which seamlessly blending marketplaces and co-working space. New entrepreneurs are starting out on their journey, taking advantage of the creative community, digital connectivity, inspired by their work-live opportunities. Our seaside is renowned as the best promenades in the UK, rivalling any in Europe.

We have all the homes that people need, in the right place. We have deployed clever thinking, new material, and the wise use of technology to create new types of beautiful, affordable housing. People take pride in their homes so the building we do have are well maintained, decent, safe, and warm places to live.

Our buildings and streets are fitted with the latest smart devices to help those who need it. Our streets, waste, lighting, transport systems are all monitored and guided by smart



North Lincolnshire is a haven for leisure enthusiasts with hundreds of miles of picturesque walking and cycling routes along with 66 parks and gardens - including five holding the prestigious green flag award.

technology, helping ensure public services are well directed and timely. Everything is transparent so citizens are able to see the information and help themselves. Community pride means we all look after our public spaces.

We don't take access to the countryside for granted or inadvertently neglect our urban spaces. We've planted trees in every street. Our parks are well maintained. Some things haven't changed. We still cherish our neighbourhoods in bloom. We still love leaning over the fence to catch up with our neighbours. However, our renewed towns, villages, and city are healthy, safe, beautiful, and welcoming for every user.

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“ My proudest achievement is that I do not own a car, and don't intend to. I'm making the most of my bike and the limited public transport available. It would be good if we could have more ”

MISSION TARGETS



DESIGN QUALITY

Gentle density - for example, semi-detached homes, rowhouses, stacked townhouses, etc - beautiful architecture, and spaces in between.



MOBILITY

Every town is accessible to everyone via public transport, in a safe and sustainable way.



CONNECTIVITY

A digitally connected place where the infrastructure is as important as any basic utility and citizen skills are outstanding so we are all connected to the world.



HOMES

There are enough of the homes that people need, which are affordable to them and decent and dignified to live in.



HEALTH

All citizens have an equal chance of living a healthy life, regardless of socioeconomic status, or background.



FOOD

All citizens have access to healthy food choices that are affordable to them.

INNOVATION-LED ECONOMY AND SHARED PROSPERITY

We are world leading in energy, green technology, digital technology, and water management. We have ensured the UK has decarbonised and is self-sufficient in food and energy. Everyone has a well-paid, fulfilling job. Our modernised infrastructure no longer holds back growth, it only holds back the water.

Our renewable energy derived from wind, sun and tidal movement, alongside new hydrogen fuel technology, is powering production in our local economy and the UK as a whole. We export our expertise all over the world to tackle climate change and this has driven up GDP. Thanks to investment and innovation in our world class ports and logistic sector, seafood and food industries through the Food Valley and A15 agri-tech growth corridor initiatives we are feeding the nation and the nation is a net exporter of agricultural services and produce.

We are proud to have turned the very real local risk of sea level rise into an opportunity using our spirit of ingenuity and embracing new technology. This includes AI, robotics and genomics in industry. It includes adopting new materials and construction techniques. In taking decisive action in the 2020s to save our local homes, business premises and productive land from sea level rise,

we developed the means to save the wellbeing of billions of people across the planet.

Being at the forefront of the fourth industrial revolution means we have created a high growth, high-wage economy that is the envy of the country. We have made sure it has benefited everyone through outstanding school education and expanded post-16 skills training. Fully integrated work between universities, colleges and employers is the norm and technology transfer is driving innovation. Lincoln University has expended into many local towns. Branches of other world-leading universities have set up in our area.

Every school is outstanding and our university is a global leader in research and teaching. No one is left without a well-paid, fulfilling job. Food banks are thing of the past that we look back on with dismay. All but the most vulnerable are self-reliant



The low carbon economy and energy production across Lincolnshire are already worth £1.2bn per annum to the economy.



and independent, and we have taken extraordinary measures to focus on early intervention and preventative support for those people. Community resilience coupled with a successful economy means there is always help and support for the vulnerable among us.

We have created an entrepreneur's paradise and are considered the number one best environment to set up and grow small businesses. The digital connectivity is second to none. That means people have chosen to move to Lincolnshire to enjoy our work life balance. It is the access to nature, wide beaches and big skies that remains an outstanding part of the draw to the most talented people. Our town centres are hubs of cultural activities, there is a vibrant night-time

economy and historical buildings have been carefully repurposed for work and pleasure. This has attracted young people to stay after university and inspired local young people to stay and build their career. They take advantage of good value homes and great prospects of working in fulfilling jobs.

We are one of the top tourist destinations including food tourism. Our visitor economy has been transformed through investment and benefits from more reliable employment for workers in the sector. Our attractions and unique landscape make us a regular feature in international tourist guides. We are the ongoing subject of a globally popular Netflix series about innovation-led economy.



JOBS

Everyone enjoys a fulfilling job.



EDUCATION

Every child receives an excellent education, in a high quality environment. Every adult is able to refresh and improve their skills in order stay actively employed.



75k employees in farm to factory gate supply chain which is, proportionally to the total number of jobs, 3x higher than national figures



INCOME

Everyone is financially secure, enabling them to be independent and support their loved ones. They will be supported on occasions where they cannot provide for themselves.



WORLD LEADING FOOD & FARMING

World leading provider of food, associated technological innovation, enabling the UK to reach food security and exporting our produce, technology and skills to the world.



CLEAN, GREEN ENERGY

World leading provider in renewable and clean energy providing the UK with energy security and exporting our energy and skills to the world.



WORLD-LEADING WATER MANAGEMENT

World leader in water management ensuring Greater Lincolnshire's industry and residents are resilience to flooding and we are exporting our skills to the world.



TOURISM

Destinations are thriving and prize-winning. Secure at least one truly world-beating attraction that makes it into every Tourist Guide to the UK/ Europe.



ENTREPRENEURS & ENTERPRISE

Entrepreneurs enjoy an outstanding business environment with a great range of facilities, infrastructure, access to finance, and focus on environmental and social impact.

ECOLOGY & ECOSYSTEM

We will achieve our vision by simultaneously protecting our ecosystem and making good use of our great natural assets. Through ground-breaking sustainable water management, leading the transition to clean energy, locally grown healthy produce and an increasingly circular economic model we have a net-positive ecological impact. We will help the wellbeing of the world.

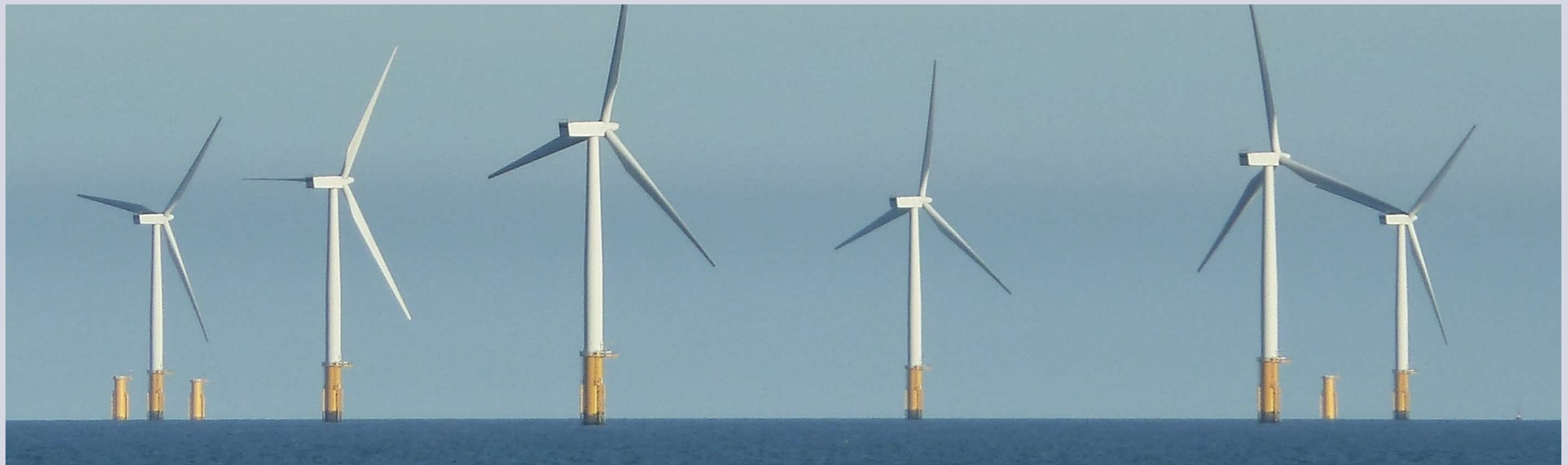
Lincolnshire's natural environment is our biggest asset. The sun, wind, and waves have powered our renewable future. The sea keeps us connected to global markets, supporting our economy, which in turn supports a good life for all. The verdant, fertile land and access to the sea enables us to feed the nation. Our coastal Salt Marshes stores more carbon per unit of area than rainforests. They also reduce wave energy as a natural defense against flooding. The beaches attract people to live here and visitors to spend time and money here. We know how precious this resource is, hence, we treat it with the utmost respect.

Habitats are protected and have been enhanced. We have primarily built our homes and industry on previously used land and deployed clever technologies and policies that led to

rapid decarbonisation in the 2020s. It was in our interest to be good global citizens and meet our commitments in the Paris Accord to keep global temperature rises to 1.5c.

Our economic growth sectors have thrived on strong environmental and social agenda.

For example, our food production focuses on making us well, through whole foods and better nutrition rather than fatty, high-sugar fast food. It's also the thousands of small things that have mattered. We have planted street trees, cherished our parks, shifted our waste management to a circular economic model through community-led change. Zero food waste schemes bring unloved food together in community projects that promote cooking classes, bringing people, together to tackle loneliness and provide meals for people that cannot provide for themselves.





Greater Lincolnshire is a key player in the global green energy revolution, within an eco-system that supports hundreds of high-skilled, well-paid, sustainable jobs.

MISSION TARGETS



DECARBONISATION & AIR POLLUTION

Meet our Paris commitments through taking rapid action and working within carbon budgets. Manage ozone depletion. Reduce air pollution from all harmful sources.



COASTAL EROSION

Learn to effectively protect our coast and areas at risk of flooding and in doing so become world leaders.



SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

Concentrate on sustainable forms of development and land use.



PROTECT OUR WATER

Curb excessive use of fertilizer, reduce carbon emissions to address ocean acidification and only use the fresh water we need.