



County Offices  
Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1YL

4 July 2022

**Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee**

A meeting of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Tuesday, 12 July 2022 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Debbie Barnes'.

Debbie Barnes OBE  
Chief Executive

**Membership of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee (11 Members of the Council)**

Councillors I D Carrington (Chairman), M A Griggs (Vice-Chairman), A J Baxter, M D Boles, I G Fleetwood, A G Hagues, Mrs J E Killey, H Spratt, G J Taylor, L Wootten and R Wootten



**ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA  
TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2022**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Members' Interests</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 May 2022</b>	5 - 10
<b>4</b>	<b>Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillors and Lead Officers</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>/Service Level Performance Reporting against the Performance Framework 2021/2022 - Quarter 4</b> <i>(To receive a report by Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development, Chris Miller, Acting Head of Environment and Mike Reed, Head of Waste, which enables the Committee to comment on 2021/22 Quarter 4 performance for Economy, Flooding and Waste)</i>	11 - 30
<b>6</b>	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Family Learning Programme 2021/22 (inc. plans for academic year 2022/23)</b> <i>(To receive a report by Justin Brown, Assistant Director Growth and Thea Croxall, Adult Learning &amp; Skills Manager, which provides an overview of the activity delivered by the Adult Skills &amp; Family Learning Service in 2021/22)</i>	31 - 38
<b>7</b>	<b>Environment Act 2021 - General Implications</b> <i>(To receive a report by Chris Miller, Acting Head of Environment, which informs the Committee of the requirements the authority will face as and when the individual elements of the Environment Act 2021 come into force)</i>	39 - 68
<b>8</b>	<b>Update on Visit Lincolnshire &amp; Tourism Commission</b> <i>(To receive a report by Mary Powell, Place &amp; Investment Manager, which updates the Committee on the activities undertaken in year 1 (2021/22) to deliver the Tourism Commission Action Plan)</i>	69 - 76
<b>9</b>	<b>Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Annual Performance and future business support landscape</b> <i>(To receive a report by Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development, which updates the Committee on activity delivered by the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub and the activity of other business support delivery partners)</i>	77 - 90

**10 Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

91 - 96

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

Democratic Services Officer Contact Details

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

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

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing [Agenda for Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 12th July, 2022, 10.00 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

All papers for council meetings are available on:

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



**ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
24 MAY 2022**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M A Griggs (Vice-Chairman)**

Councillors M D Boles, I G Fleetwood, A G Hagues, H Spratt, G J Taylor, L Wootten, K Clarke, A J Baxter and M D Boles

Councillor Davie attended the meeting as an observer

Officers in attendance:-

Chris Miller (Deputy Head of Environment), Dan Clayton (Sustainability Manager), David Hickman (Head of Environment), Jason Cooper (Transport and Growth Manager), Justin Brown (Assistant Director – Growth), Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Nicole Hilton (Assistant Director - Communities), Samantha Harrison (Head of Economic Development), Simon Murphy (Senior Project Officer) and Thomas Crofts (Democratic Services Officer)

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Carrington (Chairman) and R Wootten.

It was reported that, under Regulation 13 of the Local Government Committee and Political Groups) Regulation 1990, Councillor K Clarke was replacing Councillor J Killey for this meeting only.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest at this point in proceedings.

**3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2022**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND LEAD OFFICERS**

The Chairman expressed thanks to Councillor Wootten for his past chairmanship of the Committee, and to David Hickman, Head of Environment, for his services to the Council.

Chris Miller, Deputy Head of Environment was to assume David's responsibilities and continue his support to the Committee.

Councillor Davie, Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning, made the following announcements:

- Thanks was given to Councillor Wootten for his past chairmanship of the Committee and Councillor Carrington was welcomed to the Chair.
- Thanks was given to David Hickman, Head of Environment, for his services to the Council.
- Businesses and communities faced challenging times ahead as inflation continued to put pressure on finances.
- The Committee was updated on the following projects:
  - Over 100 manufacturing companies had attended the Greater Lincolnshire Manufacturing Conference, which had ran networking and workshop events for local companies with an emphasis on sustainability, carbon capture and net zero technologies.
  - The number of Lincolnshire apprenticeships were growing and proved the value of growing our own talent, with the successes of apprenticeships having been recognised at an award ceremony hosted last week.
  - Workshops on accessing Council contracts were currently being hosted at the Businesses Exp at the Lincolnshire Showground to help encourage and educate local businesses on bidding for Council schemes.
  - The Business and Innovation Centre was due to be completed in July 2022.
  - The This is Lincolnshire project had been launched, which aimed to help support local pubs in diversifying their hospitality- offers.

Members noted the announcements, and the following comments were raised:

- The number of apprentices had increased across Lincolnshire. Specific date was to be made available to the Committee.
- Support to local pubs was welcomed and Members agreed that it would be useful to see a report on the impact of This is Lincolnshire project in the future.
- Members noted the impacts of the increasing cost of living and saw devolved powers as a means to scaling up local support.

## 5 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN V - ZERO CARBON TARGET

Dan Clayton, Sustainability Manager, and Jason Copper, Transport & Growth Manager, presented a report on how the new Local Transport Plan V assisted in meeting the Council's Net Zero Carbon targets and the how it aimed to reduce transport related carbon dioxide emissions. The following was reported:

- Following the report presented to the Committee in January on Lincolnshire carbon emissions, it was requested that this report before the Committee today give further detail on the impact of transport.
- Transport accounted for one third of all carbon emissions in Lincolnshire.
- Transport emissions had stayed constant since 1990 whilst other sectors had managed to reduce their emissions. Population increases, larger car sizes and additional demand for home delivery services had counteracted advances in decarbonisation within the transport sector.
- Lincolnshire's rurality also contributed to transport being a large carbon emitting sector. Rurality also posed a barrier to switching to electric vehicles, as new infrastructure required greater resourcing.
- The Local Transport Plan V was adopted by Council in February 2022, with the following workstreams included:
  - Investment into electric vehicle infrastructure.
  - Creating better access to train stations.
  - Creating more efficient use of rail and water freight.

During consideration of the report, the following comments were raised:

- Train services were found to be a big issue in tackling transport emissions – services were often inefficient and unreliable in terms of passenger density and timetabling, and tickets were very costly.
- It was important that additional infrastructure needed to be considered in supporting greater train use to prevent towns and roads being too frequently bisected by trainline barriers.
- Further consideration was needed regarding home charging of electric vehicles, especially for housing without private driveways.
- Concerns were raised regarding future tax implications of moving towards private electric vehicles and whether the electricity grid was capable of sustaining such increased demand.
- New railway stations would help people access the existing rail network more readily.
- Increasing cycle infrastructure was welcomed and was an important part in decarbonising transport.
- The timings of Council meetings could better accommodate the use of rail by the public and attendees.
- Cross-border emissions were calculated as part of extrapolated data based on average journey times taking through Lincolnshire.
- Encouraging the use of electric bikes featured as part of the broader strategy.
- As well as encouraging efficiencies in long distance freight, shortening supply chains was another important aspect in reducing transport emissions.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee note the report and comments made.

2. That the Committee's comments be passed on to the Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning and the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT, for their consideration alongside the Green Master Plan targets.

6 GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2022-2024

Justine Brown, Assistant Director – Growth, and Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development, presented a report on the draft Greater Lincolnshire Internationalisation Strategy and accompanying action plan. The following was reported:

- The Greater Lincolnshire Internationalisation Strategy looked to establish partnership working between the Council and the private sector to facilitate the growth of local businesses.
- The Council sought to help businesses grow by supporting them to access international markets – offering 1-2-1 advice and access to specialists in different areas of business.
- The Strategy also sought to cement the Council's joint working with the Chamber of Commerce and the University of Lincoln.
- It had been found that barriers preventing small businesses accessing international markets were due to widely held perceptions of high setup costs and a lack of demand.
- The Business Lincolnshire website was being used as a portal for businesses to access relevant information and further content such as publicising successful case studies and a peer support network were being developed.

During consideration of the report, the following comments were raised:

- Members welcomed the Council taking a proactive role in facilitating economic growth in the context of uncertain times.
- Offered support included helping businesses access EU markets following Brexit.
- Lincolnshire's food sector remained strong despite economic challenges.
- Some businesses were cautious to expand into unfamiliar territory due to the reassures of the pandemic. Support was needed to help encourage growth.
- Advice to business owners was best targeted to experts in a given area but who were not necessarily experts in international trade.
- Business engaged in international trade largely focused on other English-speaking countries, support needed to be targeted at helping businesses to explore other markets, especially emerging markets.
- Members noted that local markets should not be forgotten, especially in the context of reducing carbon emissions.

RESOLVED



3. That the Committee support the Greater Lincolnshire Internationalisation Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2024.
4. That the Committee note the report and comments made.

7 ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report by Kiara Chatzioannou, Scrutiny Officer, which invited the Committee to consider and comment on the content of its own work programme for the coming year.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be approved.

The meeting closed at 11.42am.

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**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place**

Report to:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>12 July 2022</b>
Subject:	<b>Service Level Performance Reporting against the Performance Framework 2021/2022 - Quarter 4</b>

**Summary:**

This report sets out the performance of the Tier 2 Service Level Performance measures for 2021/22 Quarter 4 for Economy, Flooding and Waste which are within the remit of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee.

**Actions Required:**

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on the details of the performance contained in the report and recommend any changes or actions to the relevant Executive Councillor.

## **1. Background**

### **Economy Performance Measures**

The targets measure the number of businesses supported, the number of adults gaining qualifications and the amount of external funding attracted to Lincolnshire. Progress has been very good to date. The Growth department has been very innovative and resourceful and changed the mode of delivery to a virtual model very quickly; this alongside the government grants has greatly supported our learners and business community.

### **Businesses Supported**

During Q4 a further 457 businesses were supported bringing the total for the year to 1982, exceeding the yearly target of 1737.

2021/22 saw the successful delivery of vital COVID recovery work by the Growth Hub, including an extensive Grant scheme funded by Lincolnshire County Council. Overall, the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub has provided an essential service which has supported

1696 business who have been managing the effects of the pandemic in terms of supply chain, financial and staff recruitment and retention challenges.

Support included payment of 9 Invest for the Future grants and Digital Voucher applications and 11 European Regional Development Fund Grant payments for business development and diversification. There was an increase in uptake of the Growth hub's specialist support including 155 businesses accessing high growth business support, Business Resilience and Peer Network programmes.

There has been a significant amount of inward investment meetings during Q4 with 80 businesses supported and the Team Lincolnshire virtual coffee club meetings continued to provide support to businesses with an average attendance of 16 businesses.

In the region of 150 small businesses are supported through tenancies within the Economic Infrastructure Property Portfolio. Of these many take up support from Business Lincolnshire and in Q4 a further 8 businesses were directly supported to develop and grow directly through Portfolio. This has led to a total of 27 businesses supported during 2021-22.

### **Qualifications Achieved**

454 qualifications were achieved in Q4 bringing the total for the 2021/22 to 1,724, exceeding the target of 1,400. Demand for qualifications to work in the construction sector was a contributing factor to this and was higher than originally estimated, with several providers delivered more construction provision than originally expected.

With the onset of the Covid pandemic, the vast majority of the learning programme switched from being classroom based to online/distance learning. With the subsequent relaxation of national restrictions, this trend steadily reversed during 2021/22 with the result that only 28% of qualifications achieved in Q4 were delivered through online/distance learning, compared to 43% at the end of Q2. Overall, 65% of all qualifications achieved in 2021/22 were attributed to teaching that took place in classroom settings.

Excluding courses that were delivered online, 49% of qualifications achieved in 2021/22 were delivered at venues located in Lincoln, 15% in Gainsborough, 9% in Skegness/Mablethorpe, and 7% in Boston, highlighting that provision is aimed at learners living in areas of highest deprivation. By ensuring provision is continually aimed at targeted learners, 63% of all qualifications achieved were by male learners, with 33% by learners with no, or low levels of previous qualification attainment.

Throughout 2021/22, the service continued to maintain a focus on supporting employability, the range of qualifications achieved at the end of the year includes 112 GCSEs, or Functional Skills in English or Maths, as well as a further 10 ESOL qualifications. In terms of supporting Lincolnshire's priority employment sectors, 487 qualifications related to the construction sector, with a further 408 to the wider care sector and 241 to the hospitality sector.

## **External Funding Attracted**

During Q4 an additional £1,682,631 of external funding has been received, bringing the total for the year £20,863,130 just falling slightly short of the target of £21,000,000. We were successful in attracting £353,925 from the European funding continuation project Growing Enterprise (3). The targets for this measure were based on applications still in appraisal at the start of the 2021-22 year. Since then, there have been fluctuations in the European funding grant awards during the appraisal process and due to the impacts of covid, a number of applicants withdrew their grant request due to the economic climate.

Additional funding of £228,000 was secured from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub which has been received to expand the work we do to provide advice to businesses. The European funding Business Lincolnshire Sustainable Business Growth 2 funds for 2021/22 was also forecast to spend £998,027, however there were less face to face programmes which resulted in a claim of £890,706. This activity and subsequent funded income will now take place during the year 2022-23.

## **Flooding Performance Measures**

This measure is calculated on the basis of the number of formal investigations undertaken by the County Council under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Lincolnshire County Council has interpreted a flooding incident to be any in which one or more domestic properties are flooded internally; the strategic highway network is significantly affected; there is significant impact on farmland or there is a significant impact on the community e.g., schools or commercial property. It should be noted that whilst the figures provided are accurate at the time of reporting, these may subsequently change either up or down as active and emerging investigations progress and the causation and impacts of the flooding are fully understood.

There were 3 S.19 Investigations started in Q4 affecting 2 residential and 8 commercial properties. This compares with 21 investigations affecting 18 properties and 6 roads being significantly affected in Q4 of 2020/21.

## **Waste Performance Measures**

The recycling rate at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) has decreased in quarter 4 to 70.04% compared to 71.87% in quarter 3 as we receive less green waste in winter for composting. It is lower than last year for a number of reasons, including the legacy of emergency contract arrangements put in place during the pandemic and haulage issues resulting in full containers. We are seeking to resolve these issues by increasing the number of local disposal outlets and having increased haulage capacity.

The overall recycling rate in quarter 4 is 41.5% which is a fall from the previous quarter of 43.7%. This is also due to us receiving less green waste in the winter for composting. The

recycling rate for the year continues to be lower than pre-covid levels as we appear to be in a 'new normal' with the public presenting less waste for recycling and more non-recyclables.

The amount of waste material collected at the kerbside is 991kg/HH for the full year which is below the target of 1000kg/HH. This represents a good achievement as waste reduction is the highest priority on the waste hierarchy.

## 2. Conclusion

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to review and comment on the performance information for Quarter 4 and highlight any recommendations or further actions for consideration.

## 3. Consultation

### a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not applicable.

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Economy Performance Measures
Appendix B	Flooding Performance Measures
Appendix C	Waste Performance Measures

## 5. Background Papers

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

This report was written by

- Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development, who can be contacted on 07920 750343 or [samanthal.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:samanthal.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk);
- Chris Miller, Acting Head of Environment, who can be contacted on 07919 320273 or [Chris.Miller@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Miller@lincolnshire.gov.uk); and
- Mike Reed, Head of Waste who can be contacted on 07557 169890 or [Mike.Reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mike.Reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

## Businesses supported by the Council

Number of businesses who receive direct support and advice from services the Council commission. The council commissions a series of programmes which help business leaders to grow their business. The businesses who receive support will grow, creating jobs and other opportunities (e.g. supply chain). A higher number of businesses supported by the Council indicates a better performance.



### About the latest performance

During Q4 a further 457 businesses were supported bringing the total for the year to 1982, exceeding the yearly target of 1737.

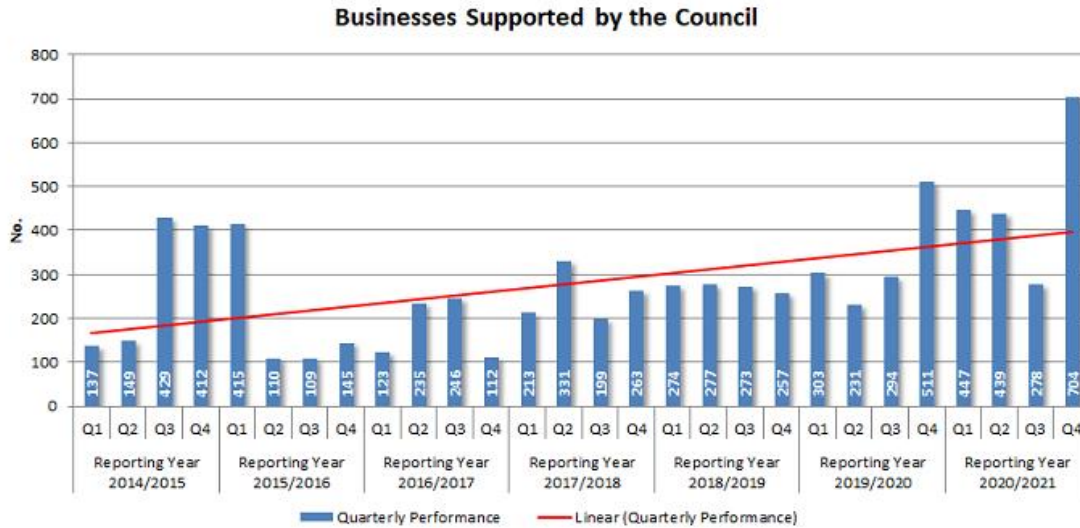
2021-22 saw the successful delivery of vital COVID recovery work by the Growth Hub, including an extensive Grant scheme funded by Lincolnshire County Council. Overall the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub has provided an essential service which has supported 1696 business who have been managing the effects of the pandemic in terms of supply chain, financial and staff recruitment and retention challenges .

Support included payment of 9 Invest for the Future grants and Digital Voucher applications and 11 European Regional Development Fund Grant payments for business development and diversification. There was an increase in uptake of the Growth hub's specialist support including 155 businesses accessing high growth business support, Business Resilience and Per Network programmes.

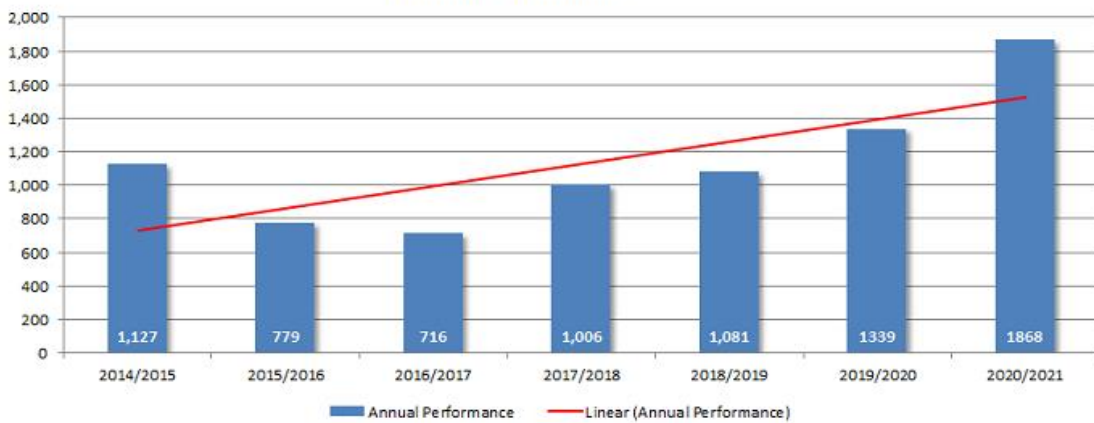
There has been a significant amount of inward investment meetings during Q4 with 80 businesses supported and the Team Lincolnshire virtual coffee club meetings continued to provide support to businesses with an average attendance of 16 businesses.

In the region of 150 small businesses are supported through tenancies within the Economic Infrastructure Property Portfolio. Of these many take up support from Business Lincolnshire and in Q4 a further 8 businesses were directly supported to develop and grow directly through Portfolio. This has led to a total of 27 businesses supported during 2021-22.

Further details



**Businesses Supported by the Council  
Annual Performance**



About the target

Targets are based on previous years actuals. However, dependent on individual business needs, the level and type of support that businesses demand and seek during the course of a year may vary which will affect the performance of this measure

About the target range

The target range for this measure allows for a +/- 5% fluctuation against the target

About benchmarking

This measure is local to Lincolnshire and therefore is not benchmarked against any other area.



## Qualifications achieved by adults

Number of qualifications achieved (skills programmes, vocational training programmes, adult and community learning) through programmes supported by the council. The council commissions a series of training schemes which help individuals to gain skills. These training schemes are focused on the skills that employers need. Employers can understand an individual's skill level by the qualifications that they hold, hence the reason that we count the number of qualifications achieved.

A higher number of qualifications achieved indicates a better performance.

Although this measure is reported on a quarterly basis, the data that is published spans two academic years, 2019/20 and 2020/21



### About the latest performance

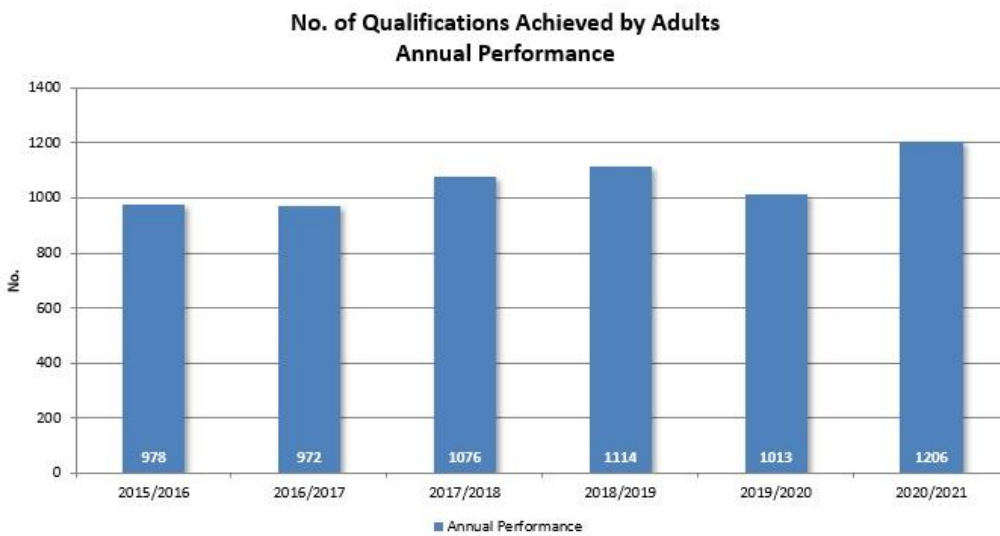
454 qualifications were achieved in Q4 bringing the total for the 2021-22 to 1,724, exceeding the target of 1,400. Demand for qualifications to work in the construction sector was a contributing factor to this and was higher than originally estimated, with several providers delivered more construction provision than originally expected.

With the onset of the Covid pandemic, the vast majority of the learning programme switched from being classroom based to online/distance learning. With the subsequent relaxation of national restrictions, this trend steadily reversed during 2021-22 with the result that only 28% of qualifications achieved in Q4 were delivered through online/distance learning, compared to 43% at the end of Q2. Overall, 65% of all qualifications achieved in 2021/22 were attributed to teaching that took place in classroom settings.

Excluding courses that were delivered online, 49% of qualifications achieved in 2021-22 were delivered at venues located in Lincoln, 15% in Gainsborough, 9% in Skegness/Mablethorpe, and 7% in Boston, highlighting that provision is aimed at learners living in areas of highest deprivation. By ensuring provision is continually aimed at targeted learners, 63% of all qualifications achieved were by male learners, with 33% by learners with no, or low levels of previous qualification attainment.

Throughout 2021-22, the service continued to maintain a focus on supporting employability, the range of qualifications achieved at the end of the year includes 112 GCSEs, or Functional Skills in English or Maths, as well as a further 10 ESOL qualifications. In terms of supporting Lincolnshire's priority employment sectors, 487 qualifications related to the construction sector, with a further 408 to the wider care sector and 241 to the hospitality sector.

Further details



About the target

Covid-19 along with changing guidance from the DFE and Exam boards has had a negative impact on the ability to plan and deliver qualification courses during 2020-21. With few qualifications actually achieved between April and June no reporting will be recorded for Q1 with this instead being reported out at the end of Q2 for what will in effect be Summer Term provision. Q3 and Q4 reporting will continue as usual as these are already matched to planned achievements during the Autumn and Spring Terms for 2021-22.

About the target range

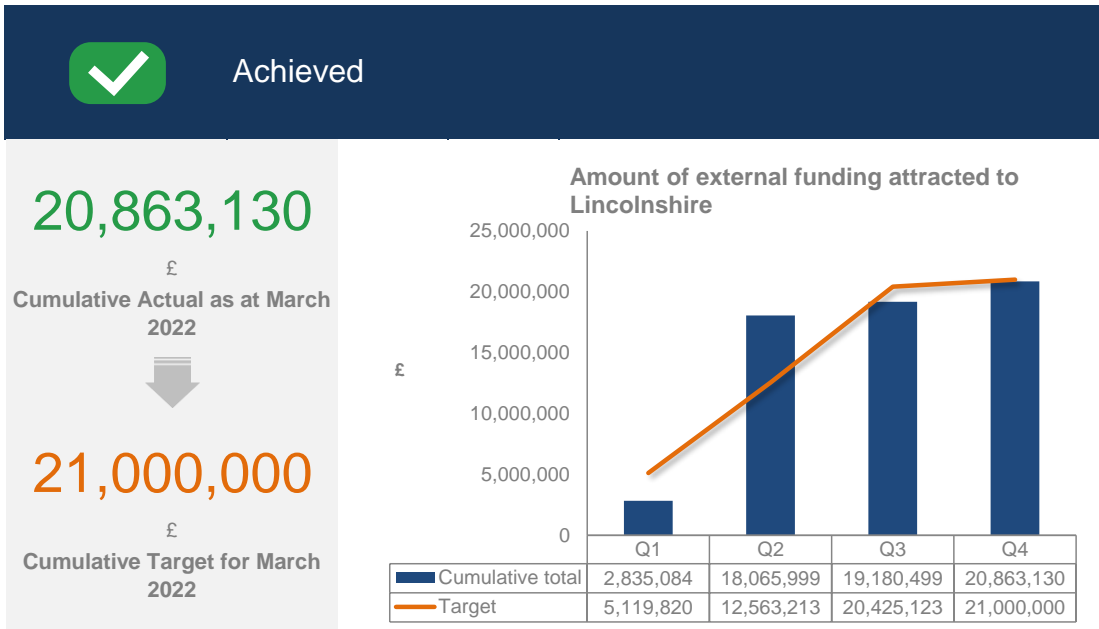
The target range for this measure allows for a +/- 5% fluctuation against the target

About benchmarking

This measure is local to Lincolnshire and therefore is not benchmarked against any other area.

## Amount of external funding attracted to Lincolnshire

Amount of external funding attracted to Lincolnshire (including Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and European funding programmes) by the council. A higher amount of external funding indicates a better performance.

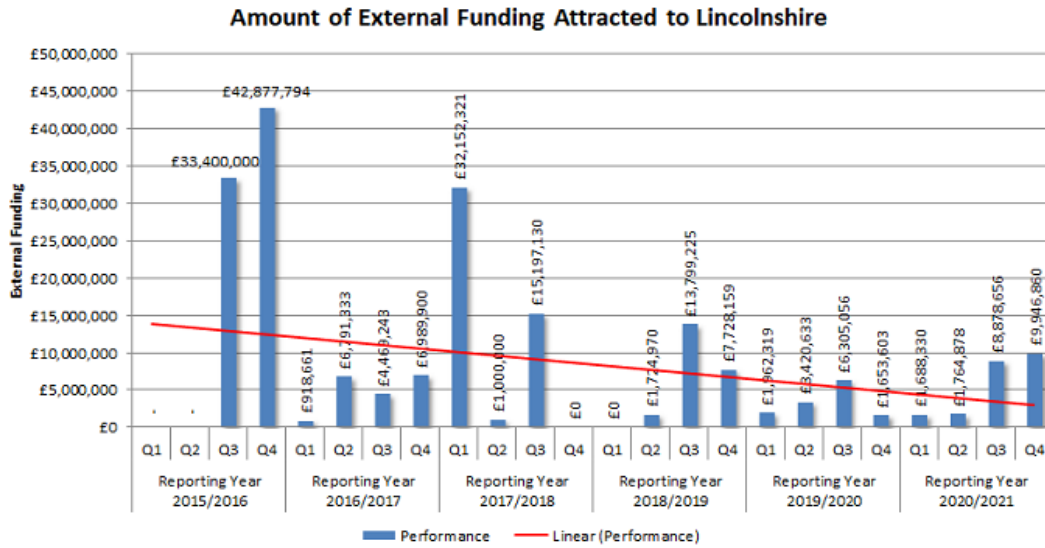


### About the latest performance

During Q4 an additional £1,682,631 of external funding has been received, bringing the total for the year £20,863,130 just falling slightly short of the target of £21,000,000. We were successful in attracting £353,925 from the European funding continuation project Growing Enterprise (3). The targets for this measure were based on applications still in appraisal at the start of the 2021-22 year. Since then, there have been fluctuations in the European funding grant awards during the appraisal process and due to the impacts of covid, a number of applicants withdrew their grant request due to the economic climate.

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Further details



About the target

The target set is based on external funding bids submitted that are anticipated to be approved throughout the reporting year.

About the target range

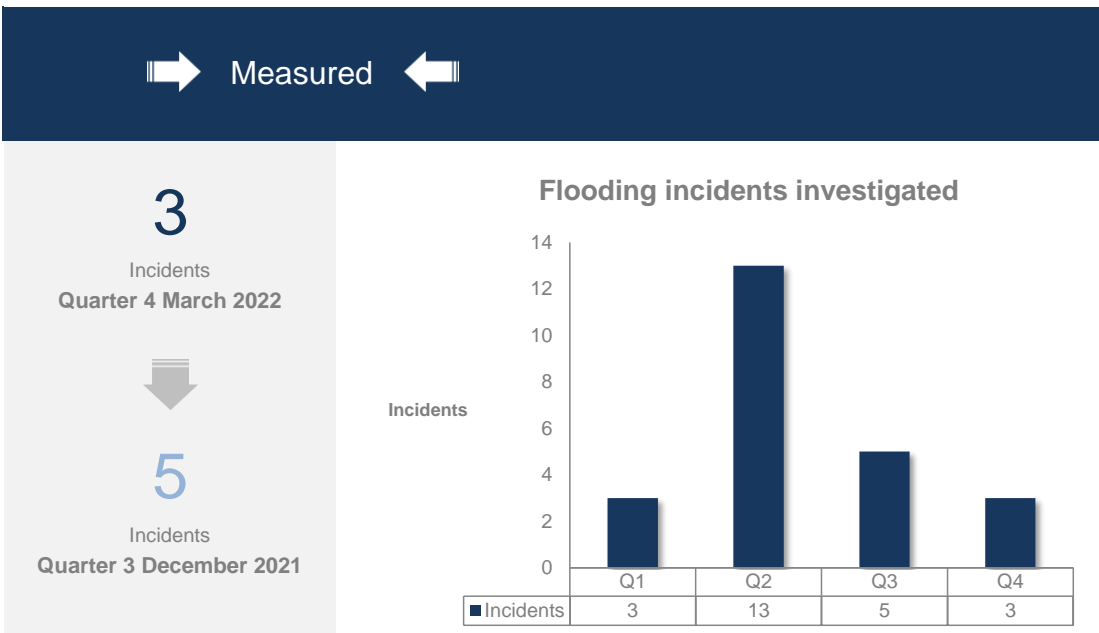
The target range for this measure allows for a +/- 5% fluctuation against the target.

About benchmarking

This measure is local to Lincolnshire and therefore is not benchmarked against any other area.

## Flooding incidents investigated

This measure is calculated on the basis of the number of formal investigations undertaken by the County Council under section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Lincolnshire County Council has interpreted a flooding incident to be any in which one or more domestic properties are flooded internally; the strategic highway network is significantly affected; there is significant impact on farmland or there is a significant impact on the community e.g. schools or commercial property. It should be noted that whilst the figures provided are accurate at the time of reporting, these may subsequently change either up or down as active and emerging investigations progress and the causation and impacts of the flooding are fully understood.

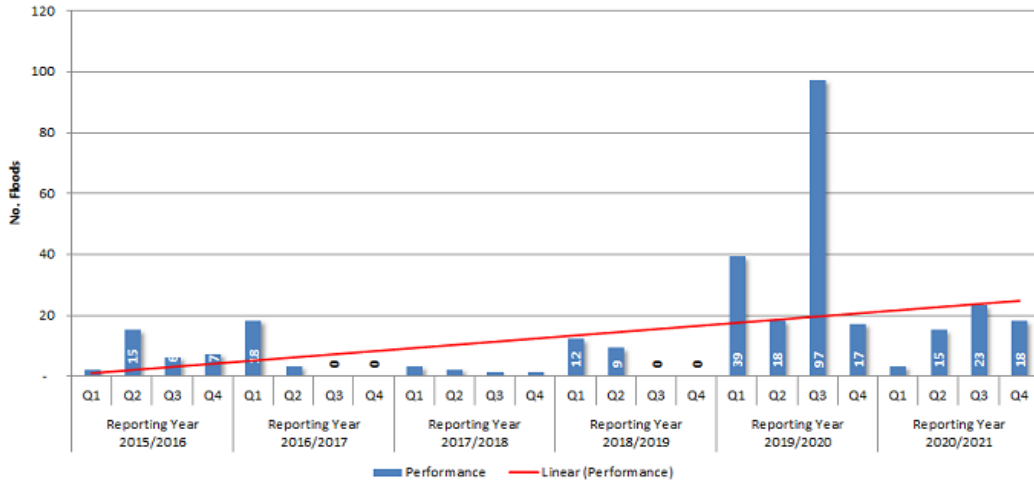


### About the latest performance

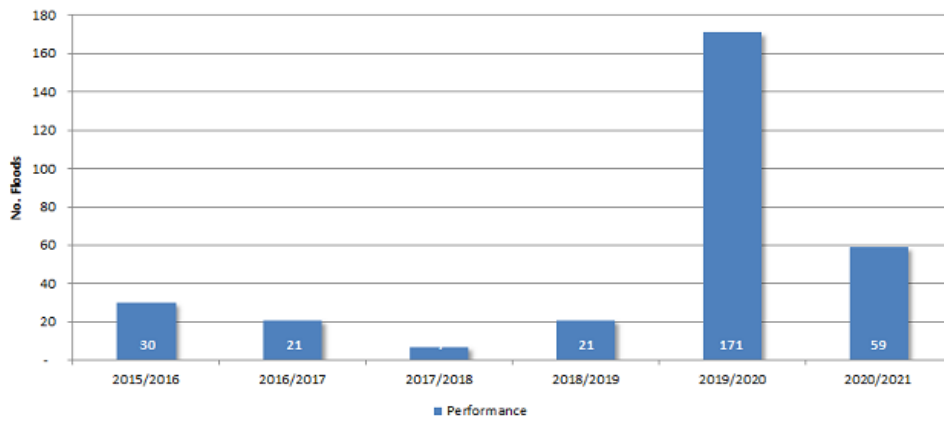
There were 3 S.19 Investigations started in Q4 affecting 2 residential and 8 commercial properties. This compares with 21 investigations affecting 18 properties and 6 roads being significantly affected in Q4 of 2020/21.

Further details

**Flooding Incidents Investigated**



**Flooding Incidents Investigated Annual Total**



About the target

This measure is reported to provide context. It is not appropriate to set a target for this measure.

About the target range

A target range is not applicable as this is a contextual measure.

About benchmarking

This measure is local to Lincolnshire as each Lead Local Flood Authority (Unitary and County Councils) defines a flood incident as they consider appropriate and therefore is not benchmarked against any other area.

## Properties protected from flooding

It is estimated that in Lincolnshire there are about 28,000 properties which have either been flooded in the past or are thought to be at risk from surface water flooding.

As outlined in the Lincolnshire Joint Flood Risk Management Strategy, in accordance with its duty to undertake improvement works to protect communities, the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority has developed an ongoing programme of surface water flood risk management schemes.

A higher number of properties protected from flooding indicates a better performance.



Not achieved

47

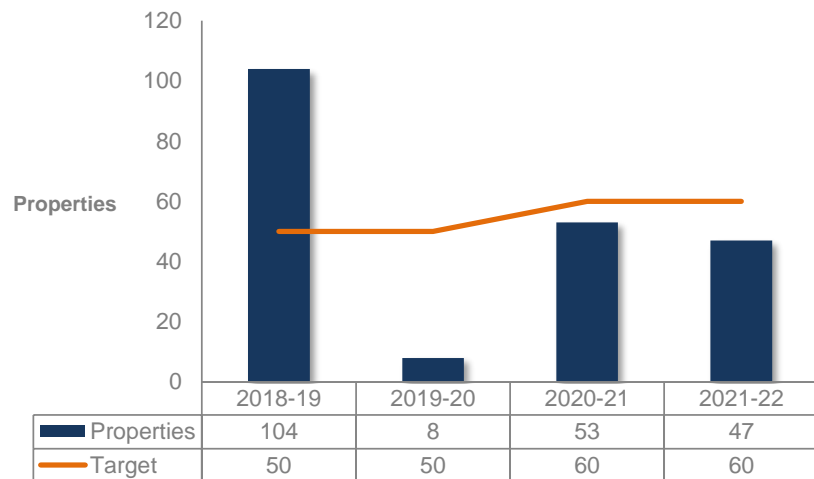
Properties  
Actual 2020/2021



60

Properties  
Target for 2020/2021

Properties protected from flooding



### About the latest performance

During financial year 2021/22 four projects were delivered across the county which will collectively better protect 47 properties from flood risk. Whilst this total falls short of the expected 60 properties better protected on an annual basis, a number of proposed schemes are currently in development which will be delivered in the coming financial year. In addition to this, a programme of work for the next four years is currently being finalised which will deliver a series of pipeline schemes to provide improved protection from flood risk across the county.

#### Further details

Please see the main graphic for all available data relating to this measure.

#### About the target

The target for 2021/22 is to reduce the flood risk to 60 homes by carrying out flood alleviation works.

#### About the target range

There is a range in the target of +/- 10 properties. The reason for this is that the schemes in the future programme protect a range of properties in any one year. As the programme is rolled out over the years there will be a consequent variation in the total number of properties protected. Other aspects which might influence the target include significant flood events and economic factors.

#### About benchmarking

The target is local to Lincolnshire and is not therefore bench marked against other Lead Local Flood Authorities.




## Recycling at County Council owned Household Waste Recycling Centres

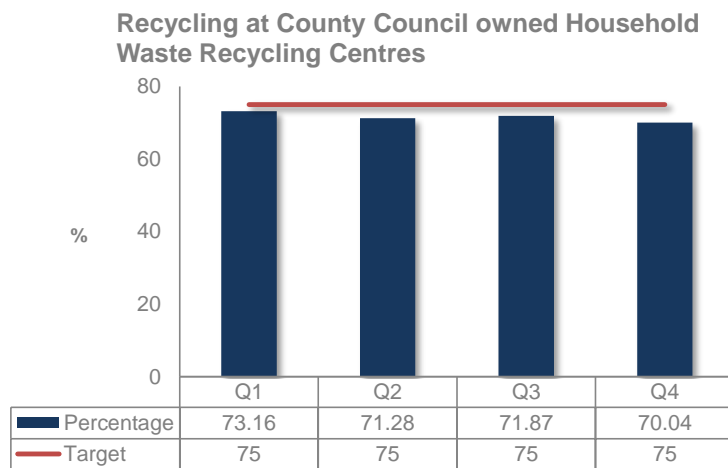
This measure excludes all sites which are not owned by Lincolnshire County Council as the Council has limited control and influence over what streams are recycled.  
Performance includes some estimates where actual figures are not yet available. Officially approved data is available four months after the end of the Quarter to which it applies.  
A higher percentage of recycling indicates a better performance.

 Not achieved

**70.04**  
%  
Quarter 4 March 2022



**75**  
%  
Target for March 2022

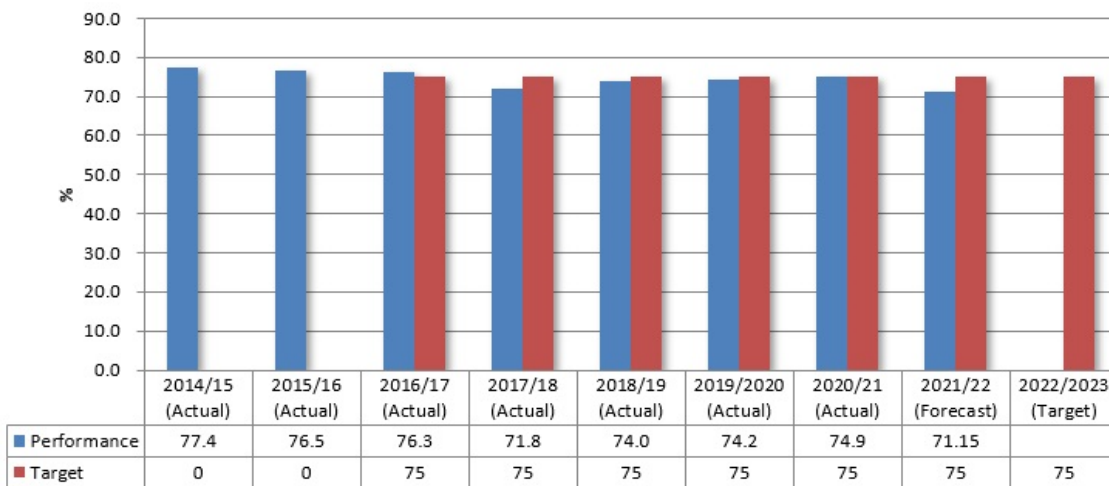


### About the latest performance

We are working on improving the quality of recyclable material and mitigating the economic concerns linked to cost of fuel and sourcing drivers. We are engaging with providers and the market to ensure more streams can be recycled in the future.

Further details

**Recycling at County Council owned Household Waste Recycling Centres**



About the target

The annual target of 75% represents a sustaining of our previous high performance.

About the target range

No target range has been set for this measure.

About benchmarking

Availability of data for other authorities is limited as this has never been an official National Indicator.

## Recycling Rate (new national formula)

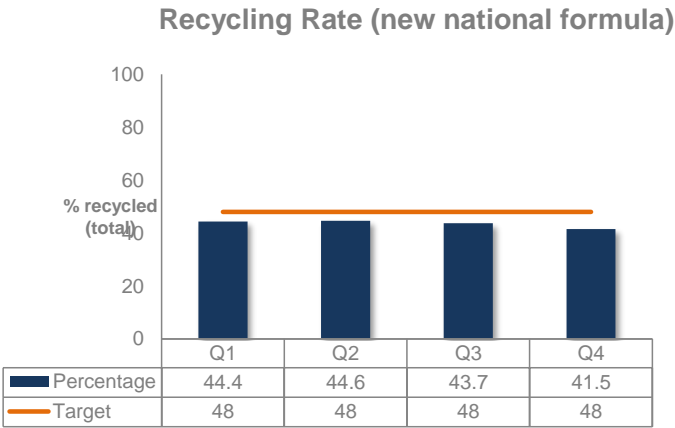
Uses the same definition as that used for the national recycling rate and includes recycling, reuse and composting from all sources not just kerbside collections. Performance includes some estimates where actual figures are not yet available. Officially approved data is available four months after the end of the quarter to which it applies. A higher percentage of household waste recycled indicates a better performance.

**X** Not achieved

**41.5**  
% recycled (total)  
**Cumulative Actual as at March 2022**

↓

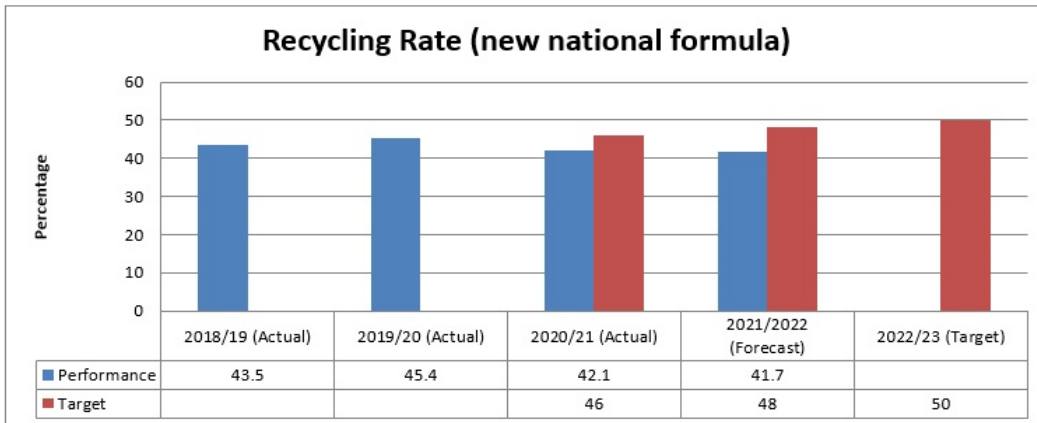
**48**  
% recycled (total)  
**Cumulative Target for March 2022**



About the latest performance

The Twin stream roll out programme means we now have Paper and card collections in 3 of the 7 districts. This is improving the quality of the paper and card collected and the quality of the recyclables collected in those districts. This programme includes increased engagement and education to increase recycling quality and the recycling rate within Lincolnshire going forwards.

Further details



About the target

To contribute to the UK recycling target of 50% by 2020 and 55% by 2025 this links to objective 5 of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy adopted in Jan 2019

About the target range

Given the number of separate figures which go into this calculation, a target range of +/- 0.5 percentage points allows for small fluctuations to remain on target.

About benchmarking

As a part of the recently-adopted Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership is committed to the development of a number of Key Performance Indicators in addition to the performance indicators already being reported. These additional measures include the level of contamination in the recycling, the overall carbon footprint of waste operations and a measure of public satisfaction with the services being received, and it is recommended that benchmarking be pursued once these have been adopted.

## Household waste collected (kilograms per household per year)

Includes all sources not just kerbside collections.

Performance includes some estimates where actual figures are not yet available. Officially approved data is available four months after the end of the quarter to which it applies.

A lower figure means less waste is being produced and collected.

Using the number of households published on waste data flow (WDF) in their calculation of NI191



Achieved

991

kg per household

Cumulative Actual as at March 2022

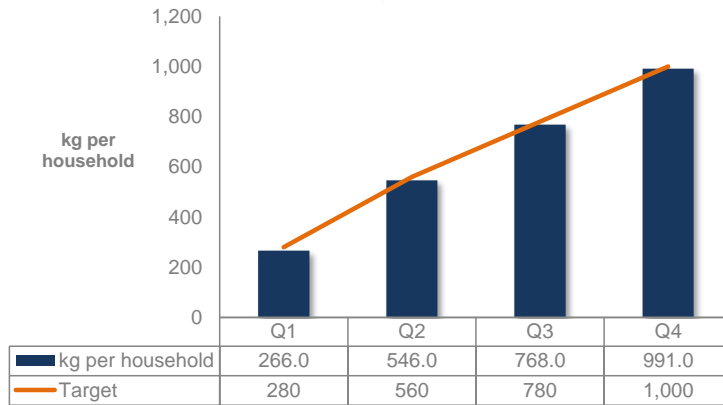


1,000

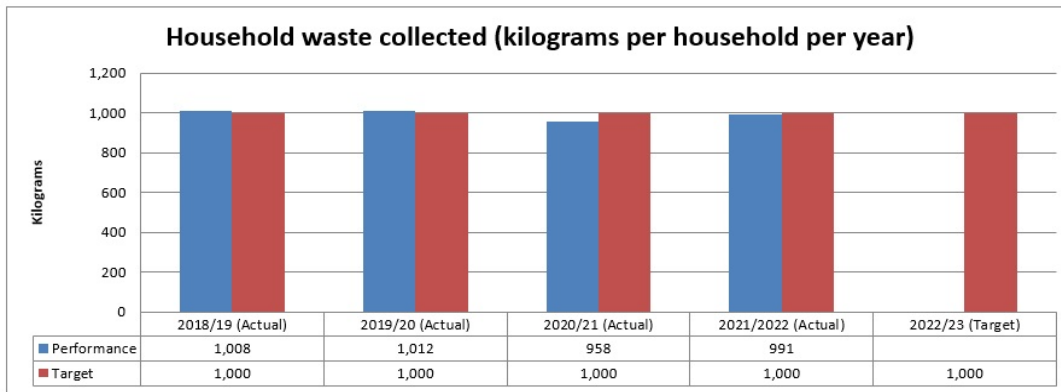
kg per household

Cumulative Target for March 2022

Household waste collected (kilograms per household per year)



Further details



About the target

To explore new opportunities of promoting waste minimisation and of using all waste as a resource in accordance with the waste hierarchy

About the target range

A maximum value of 1000kg has been set for this

About benchmarking

As a part of the recently-adopted Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership is committed to the development of a number of Key Performance Indicators in addition to the performance indicators already being reported. These additional measures include the level of contamination in the recycling, the overall carbon footprint of waste operations and a measure of public satisfaction with the services being received, and it is recommended that benchmarking be pursued once these have been adopted.



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

Report to:	<b>Environment &amp; Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>12 July 2022</b>
Subject:	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Family Learning Programme 2021/22 (inc. plans for academic year 2022/23)</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides an overview of the activity delivered by the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service in 2021/22, highlighting key successes made during the academic year.

A dashboard outlining planned Adult Skills & Family Learning provision for 2022/23 is provided at Appendix A for committee members to comment on.

**Actions Required:**

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to:

- (1) Review and comment on the successes made in the 2021/22 Academic year.
- (2) Highlight additional areas for consideration to meet the needs of businesses and constituents at a District Council level to inform the 2022/23 Adult Skills & Family Learning programme planning.

## **1. Background**

1.1 The Adult Skills & Family Learning programme is funded by the Adult Education Budget grant provided by the Education & Skills Funding Agency. This funding enables flexible tailored programmes of learning to be made available, which may or may not require a qualification, to help hard to reach learners engage in learning, build confidence, and enhance their wellbeing. Meeting the government's adult skills priorities, the funding's principal purpose is to engage adults and provide the skills and learning they need to equip them for work, an apprenticeship or further learning.

1.2 Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) Adult Skills & Family Learning Service raises achievements and aspirations by providing high quality learning opportunities in a safe environment that enables learners to progress according to their ability, needs and

interests. Through skilful partnership working with other Adult Education providers the provision is designed to add value and provide inbuilt progression routes to other provision.

1.3 This unique provision fills the gaps and meets the needs of Lincolnshire communities that are not able to be met by other funded provision. This important programme increases the confidence and skill levels of residents of Lincolnshire, giving them new career opportunities whilst helping local businesses to recruit the talented employees they need to develop.

1.4 Adult Learning programmes are planned and delivered via a range of commissioned and directly delivered arrangements, to support the delivery of key strategic priorities of Lincolnshire County Council, as well as alignment to the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) priority of increasing skills in Lincolnshire and driving economic growth. The subsequent programme is designed to meet the specific needs of residents and Employers in Lincolnshire. The Greater Lincolnshire LEP has identified six priority sectors of agri-food, engineering, manufacturing, the visitor economy, health and social care, and ports and logistics. Funding is concentrated in areas of market failure.

## 2. Programme delivery

2.1 Adult Learning provision is provided through 22 sub-contracted partners as shown in the table below. Between August 2021 and June 2022, a total of 5,535 unique learners have been engaged on Adult Learning Programmes, delivering over 800 qualifications to date.

Provider Type	Names
Third Sector and Community Interest Companies	Abbey Access Training Centre; Community Learning in Partnership (CLIP); TaylorItex; RHG Consult; Gainsborough Trinity Foundation; Riverside Access and Training Centre Gainsborough; Workers' Educational Association
Trusts	Lincoln Pelican Trust; Seagull Recycling Ltd; Lincolnshire Action Trust
Training Organisations	Soteria Solutions; ESH Consultancy; Three Counties Accounts Training Services (3CATs); East Lindsey Information Technology Centre (First College); Train4; LAGAT Ltd.
FE Colleges / Secondary Schools	Boston College; Grantham College; Lincoln College; Stamford College; Grimsby Institute of Further & Higher Education;

2.2 A wide range of Adult Learning courses are offered, via the two strands of Adult Skills and Wellbeing provision. This wide-ranging provision encourages engagement with adult learning for personal development, as well as developing skills and supporting improved employability. Courses include GCSE and Functional Skills maths and English,



computerised accounts, Makaton, CV writing and Interview Skills, Customer Service Skills, nursing and social care, health & safety, Paediatric First Aid, construction skills, Pilates, modern foreign languages, mental health and wellbeing, digital employability skills and computing, and where appropriate include a qualification.

2.3 In addition to the Adult Skills and Wellbeing programmes, Family Programmes are delivered in partnership with schools, children's centres and in community venues across Lincolnshire ranging from 1-week short, engagement workshops of 3-hours duration, to 18-week long courses of 66 hours. Courses include the traditional Keeping up with the Children in literacy, numeracy and ICT, as well as play-based provision such as Learning through Play, Fun with Numbers, etc.

2.4 A small number of Traineeship programmes are delivered which include Functional Skills maths and English, and work experience.

2.5 Learning programmes are delivered in schools, colleges, military bases and community venues.

2.6 High levels of satisfaction, retention, attendance and achievement.

### 3. Key data

Target category	Annual target	Actual (31.5.22)
Unemployed learners	50%	50%
Male learners	36%	35%
Learners from ethnic minority groups	9%	15%
Learners with Learning difficulties or disabilities	20%	27%
Learners with no/low qualifications (under level 2)	40%	28%
Learners from areas of deprivation	25%	27%

### 4. Things we are proud of, academic year 2021/22

4.1 Covid continues to impact on recruitment to the Adult Learning programme. However, we are delighted that through the continued hard work of our Learning Providers, with support from the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service, our learner numbers for the current year are healthy.

4.2 Working in partnership with local community groups and family hosts to provide learning opportunities for Ukrainian families. This includes provision provided in South Kesteven, Stamford, Grantham, Bourne, Boston, Market Deeping and Lincoln. Additional ESOL provision has been organised to meet this extra demand in year. Very positive feedback has been received from our responsive approach:

*“Thanks again for hearing our request for classes and acting on it!”* Yvette Díaz-Muñoz  
the Chair of Stamford Diversity Group CIC

4.3 Working in partnership with Lincoln College, providing pre-employment training and Sector Based Work Academy Provision for Anglian Water and Stokes, helping unemployed learners into employment.

4.4 Sensitive support for our more vulnerable learners, observed at an Eco Wellness session delivered by Seagull Recycling Centre at their Skegness Eco Centre in May 2022. There were 14 attendees, including one lady with dementia with her husband. Key aspects that stood out and what made it a highly positive session was the effort put in to make the session suitable for all those present. It produced such positive energy that everyone was enjoying the experience, supporting each other, wanting to share their enthusiasm by giving specific feedback to the observers present. The genuine care taken in achieving this was down to the excellent skills of the tutor who seamlessly put the learner at the centre of the experience. Sensitive encouraging and motivating all present with the right level of support when required, particularly for the lady with dementia

4.5 Learner feedback, particularly from those struggling with social anxiety:

*“Today I have attended a First Aid Course lead by Martin, and I felt I needed to email how brilliant I thought he was. I struggle with social anxiety, and from the moment I met him I felt at ease. The way he spoke, the way he tailored the course to all of our needs was just fantastic. Martin was very clear with the way he spoke and I felt like I understood everything he said. I felt very comfortable at asking questions and did not feel silly to ask. Please could you ensure this gets passed on and he is recognised for this. “*

4.6 Reintroduction of Learner of the Year Awards at the Lincolnshire Show, following Covid, where we are able to recognise the hard work and commitment of our learners. 27 strong nominations were received across the service and the three winners from Abbey Access Centre in Lincoln, Community Learning in Partnership based in Market Rasen, and Riverside Access and Training Centre based in Gainsborough were presented with their awards by Councillor Martin Hill on 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the Lincolnshire Show.

## **5. Conclusion**

Members of the Committee are invited to note the successes made by the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service in 2021/22, and comment on the planned 2022/23 programme highlighting any additional areas for consideration to meet the needs of businesses and constituents at a District Council level to inform future curriculum planning.

## 6. Consultation

### a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

## 7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Adult Skills & Family Learning 2022/23 planned programme Dashboard

## 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 Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager, who can be contacted on 07789 982248 or at [Thea.croxall@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Thea.croxall@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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## Adult Skills and Family Learning Service Planned Provision for 2022/2023

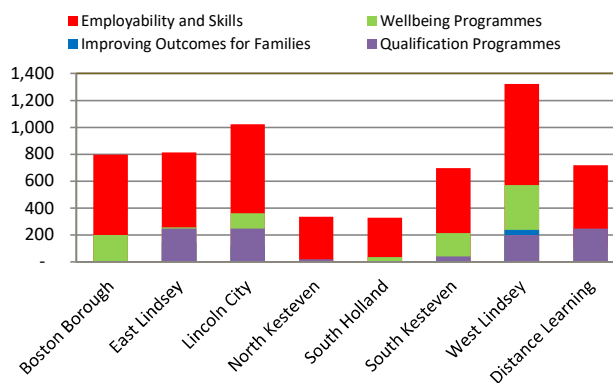
The LCC Adult Skills & Family Learning programme is designed to fill the gaps and provide accessibility to provision for learners where there are gaps in FE provision. Skilful planning and good partnership working ensures inbuilt progression routes are in place to other provision.

### High Level Overview

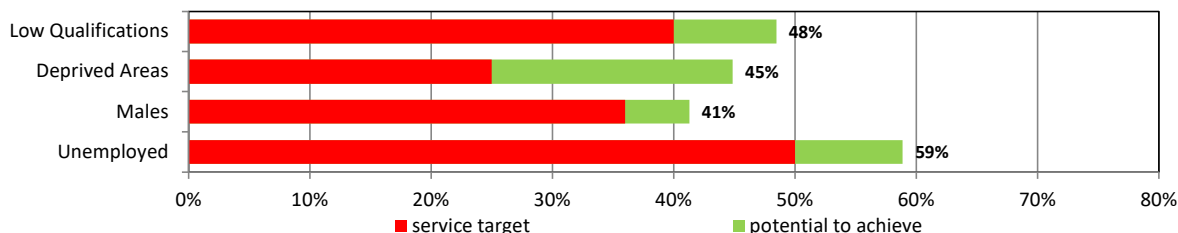
Theme	Employability and Skills	Wellbeing Programmes	Improving Outcomes for Families	Qualification Programmes	TOTAL
Learning Places	6,034	1,755	503	1,008	9,300
% of total	65%	19%	5%	11%	100%

### Learning Places by Commissioning Theme

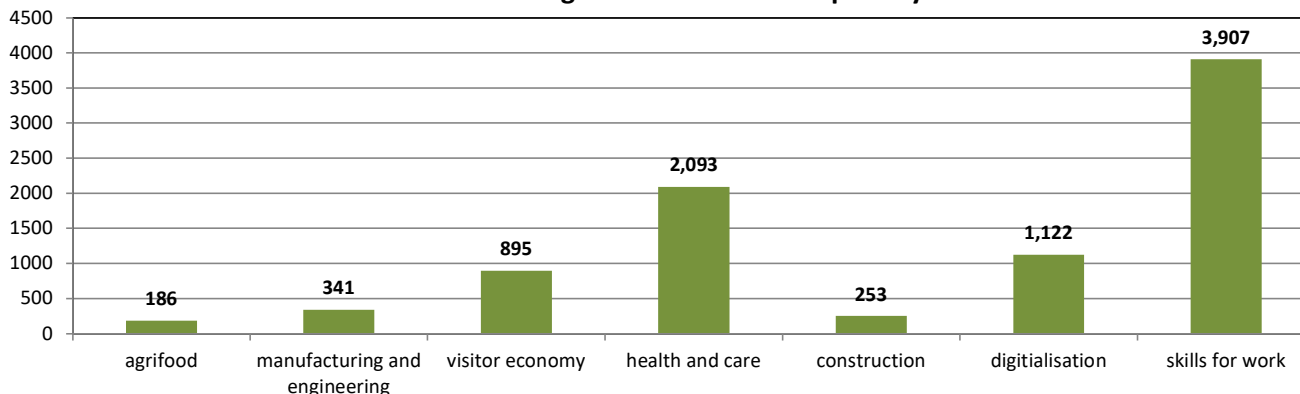
Non Accredited	Employability and Skills	Wellbeing Programmes	Improving Outcomes for Families	Qualification Programmes
Boston Borough	797	200	-	-
East Lindsey	813	258	145	249
Lincoln City	1,023	360	120	248
North Kesteven	336	-	-	20
South Holland	329	36	-	-
South Kesteven	697	214	-	42
West Lindsey	1,321	573	238	202
Distance Learning	718	114	-	247
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,034</b>	<b>1,755</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>1,008</b>



### Target Groups



### Planned Learning Places linked to LEP priority sectors



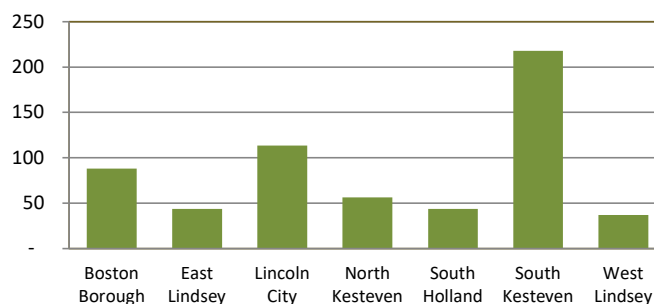
## Adult Skills and Family Learning Service Planned Provision for 2022/2023

### Planned Qualifications

Functional Skills English and maths - range of locations across Lincolnshire  
 GCSE English, maths - Mablethorpe, Gainsborough, Market Rasen and Distance Learning  
 Essential Digital Skills - range of locations across Lincolnshire  
 Foundation Award in Bookkeeping and Accounting Software - Grantham, Sleaford, Stamford and Distance Learning  
 Certificate in Payroll for Business - Grantham, Sleaford, Stamford and Distance Learning  
 Business Administration L1 and L2 - Gainsborough, Lincoln, Skegness, The Wolds and Distance Learning  
 Customer Services L1 and L2 - Lincoln and Gainsborough  
 Award in Managing Money - Lincoln  
 Award in developing Enterprise Skills - Lincoln  
 CACHE Level 2 Support Work in Schools - Distance Learning  
 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning - Lincoln  
 Award in Youth Work Principles L2 - Gainsborough  
 Award in Occupational Studies in the Workplace - Mablethorpe  
 Award for Personal Licence Holders L2 - Skegness  
 Certificate for Introduction to Health, Social Care and Children's and Young People's Settings - Skegness and Distance  
 Certificate for Introduction to Customer Service - Skegness  
 Certificate in Principles of Working with Individuals with Learning Disabilities - Distance Learning  
 Certificate in Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health - Distance Learning  
 Award in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care - Gainsborough  
 Award in Health Professions L2 - Gainsborough and Mablethorpe  
 Certificate in Health and Social Care Professions - Lincoln  
 Certificate in Counselling Skills L2 - Market Rasen  
 Certificate in Nutrition and Health - Distance Learning  
 L2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner - Distance Learning  
 L2 Award for Door Supervisors in the Private Security Industry - Gainsborough, Lincoln and Skegness  
 Certificate in Psychology L2 - Gainsborough and Market Rasen  
 Skills Awards Level 1 Award in Construction - Gainsborough  
 Basic Construction - Distance Learning  
 Food Preparation and Cooking L1 and L2 - Lincoln  
 Barista - Lincoln  
 Certificate in Employability Skills - Lincoln

### Breakdown of Directly Delivered Family Learning Provision by District Council Area

District Council	Learning Places in 22/23
Boston Borough	88
East Lindsey	44
Lincoln City	114
North Kesteven	56
South Holland	44
South Kesteven	218
West Lindsey	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>600</b>





**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson - Executive Director - Place**

Report to:	<b>Environment &amp; Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>12 July 2022</b>
Subject:	<b>Environment Act 2021 - General Implications</b>

**Summary:**

This report aims to ensure that Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee, are aware of the requirements the authority will face as and when the individual elements of the Environment Act 2021 come into force.

**Actions Required:**

That the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) considers the various elements of the Environment Act 2021 and the various implications the provisions will have on the delivery of Council services across the authority; and,
- (2) recommends officers undertake individual assessments of implications for services and resources as and when sections of the Act are brought into force.

**1. Background**

The Environment Act 2021 gained Royal Assent on 9 November 2021. The Act implements the Government's ambitions for 'improving the natural environment', which were previously set out in publications including the 25 Year Environment Plan (2018). These ambitions have now formed the basis of statutory or legal requirements which mandate action, under the oversight of the newly formed Office for Environmental Protection (OEP).

While the Environment Act is now part of UK law, its required actions do not commence either directly or immediately, or at least not all actions for all parties. There remain a range of preparatory actions that need to be undertaken before further implementation of the wider legal framework (secondary legislation or regulations) will take place.

Appendix A of this report sets out the key parts of the Environment Act 2021 and includes an assessment of the implications of each part of the Act for the County Council however in general the requirements of the Act can be broken down into 5 specific areas

- **General governmental and regulatory requirements**

The key element of this section is the formulation of the Office for Environmental Protection as an independent regulator to oversee the effective implementation and enforcement of environmental law. Coupled to this is the provision of a new set of governmental targets across a broad spectrum of requirements against air quality, biodiversity, water quality, waste reduction and resource efficiency.

These targets will be enshrined in the national Environmental Improvement Plan which initially will be Defra's current 25-year Environment Plan which will then be reviewed by the end of January 2023.

Arrangements will be made for the effective monitoring and reporting of data against each of the specific targets as well as a commitment to embed environmental principles in domestic policy making.

#### Implications for Lincolnshire County Council

There will be a need to ensure that we have the capacity to report back to central government on the progress made at a local level with regards the overarching targets. There will also be an expectation that local authorities will monitor the impacts that their services and strategies have upon the environment. Cllr Baxter, in a motion to Council in December requested that Council committee reports included, where required, considerations as to how a policy, decision or project affected the environment and in particular with regards to carbon management.

It is officer's recommendation that the previously trialled Sustainability Impact Assessment (Appendix B) is reviewed to incorporate natural environment impacts prior to being included in committee report templates and to be completed as and when an environmental impact is considered likely. This may create a capacity concern for the Sustainability Team in reviewing the assessments for completeness and accuracy.

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- **Waste**

The focus here is on improved recycling quality and consistency including greater levels of segregation of waste including food waste. Alongside this requirement will be new schemes focussing on extended producer responsibilities toward the payment of packaging disposal and charges for single use plastic and a deposit return scheme for drinks containers.



Other proposals will allow for greater levels of monitoring waste movement from production to recovery and regulation regarding the export of waste.

### Implications for Lincolnshire County Council

As already noted, separate food waste collection and disposal will be required. However, Defra consulted on a number of details in mid 2021 and are expected to clarify those details, including timescales, in 2022. The deadline to introduce collections currently appears likely to be “by 2025” at the latest.

Existing Waste Transfer Stations will need to be adapted to transfer food waste which will have a capital cost. A new haulage contract will be required purely for transporting food and a new disposal outlet will have to be secured either through a contract with an external supplier or facilities built to process the waste.

Separate collections will also require more Waste Transfer Station capacity above the five which we currently operate. This may require a new Waste Transfer Station to be constructed once modelling waste storage is complete in mid 2022.

Whilst government have promised some funding, both pump-priming and under New Burdens, it is unclear whether this will fully cover the additional costs to councils.

These waste collection requirements also apply to:

- (a) residential homes
- (b) premises forming part of a university, or school, or other educational establishment, and
- (c) premises forming part of a hospital or nursing home.

The regulations also apply to commercial and industrial waste where the waste is similar in nature and composition to household waste. As a result, it is likely that waste from the Council offices will need to be separately collected.

The Council (in its role as Waste Planning Authority) will have a role to play in ensuring there is sufficient and suitable capacity and facilities available to manage each waste stream. This will have an impact where LCC is required to process planning applications by third parties for new facilities, where the Council need to build its own facility(s) and by making provision and allocating suitable sites to deliver facilities through the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

With regard to producer led responsibilities the impacts will affect the Council’s funding streams but as, yet the impact is difficult to assess and model until the final scheme details are released.

- **Clean Air**

The Act introduces an amendment to local air quality management to ensure their cooperation at local levels and that the responsibility for tackling pollution will be shared between relevant public bodies (tier one and two) as well as neighbouring authorities.

Implications for Lincolnshire County Council

Where a tier two authority has produced an air quality action plan the county council must provide details of proposals of measures that the county authority will undertake to achieve and maintain air quality standards for that area.

At present there are three air quality action plans in Lincolnshire in Lincoln, Boston, and Grantham. As an example, for Grantham the plan zone relates to the A52 corridor through the town and one measure the Council could point to is the reduction of traffic as a result of the completed southern relief road.

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- **Nature**

The government is introducing a requirement for public bodies, such as the county council, to ensure the national general biodiversity objective of conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England is being met locally. Key to this will be the statutory requirement for developers to provide a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain and for local nature recovery strategies to be implemented across the whole of the country. There will also be a voluntary scheme of conservation covenants for landowners.

The Act also introduces a new duty on highway authorities to consult local authorities before felling street trees.

Implications for Lincolnshire County Council

*Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)*

The key impact of the introduction of biodiversity net gain will be across the planning system and become mandatory in winter 2023. It is expected that BNG will complement our wider biodiversity objectives in either creating new green infrastructure or improving climate resilience. In doing so this should be reflective of our work with other organisations such as the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and work collectively to define what the priorities are for biodiversity in the area.

There will be a requirement for planning applications to be supported with additional information on the change in the biodiversity value attributed to a project alongside biodiversity gain plans. Planning authorities including the county council are required to consider these submissions in the exercise of their planning functions, to ensure that they

are secured, approved and where relevant registered. Each application will require assessment that the biodiversity metric calculator has been applied properly and that the mitigation net gain is appropriate and contributes to enhanced biodiversity and the local nature recovery strategy.

The planning authority is responsible for the enforcement of the agreement as well as ensuring that the BNG sites are monitored over a 30-year period. Whilst the monitoring is the responsibility of the developer (either directly or through payment to a 3rd party company) the planning authority must ensure compliance and recording of monitoring outcomes.

It is estimated that the county council manages between 160-180 planning applications per annum and of those approximate 100 would require BNG proposals to be included.

Developers can also make use of a biodiversity credits scheme where they are unable to deliver requirements within their own sites. This provides an opportunity for LCC, as a landowner, to identify its own land for usage as part of offsetting against those credits. This will require the identification of potential net gain sites and the undertaking of metric calculations early on to establish the baseline value of sites. The options available to LCC as a landowner would be to either secure a buyer for the biodiversity units that can be created, start the habitat improvement works now and benefit from the added value that creating habitats in advance gives. Starting work early can lead to more than doubling of the number of units available for sale within just a few years.

#### *Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)*

It is yet to be confirmed that LCC will be the lead organisation for the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS and the production of the strategy although the current indication from Natural England is that this will be the case.

Each strategy will

- Agree priorities for nature's recovery,
- Map the most valuable existing areas for nature
- Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

The government intends that the strategies will be used in a broad role in the land use planning system for use by local planning authorities in preparing local plans to promote environmental recovery and long-term sustainability and to support the delivery of wider "nature-based solutions" to environmental problems such as flooding, climate change mitigation and adaptation, access to nature and poor water quality.

As the likely responsible body there is an expectation that the council will work closely with relevant public, private and voluntary sector organisations to draw on collective expertise.

The Joint Strategic Oversight Committee is currently reviewing how officers within LCC, North Lincolnshire Council and North-East Lincolnshire Council can work collaboratively with regards to the delivery of the preparation of the strategy and the opportunities to engage with the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership to aid in doing so.

At the present time, the Council does not have an internal ecological resource to manage BNG processes or the delivery of the LNRS. Further work detailing the capacity requirements will be undertaken shortly.

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- **Water**

The requirements of the Act mainly focus on duties and powers not held by LCC concerning drainage and sewerage management as well as abstraction. The only potential implication is with regards to water resource management where LCC is currently engaged with Water Resources East and with Anglian Water on the Lincolnshire Reservoir project.

## **2. Conclusion**

That the Environment Act 2021 will have far reaching consequences and impacts of local government services inclusive of those provided by the County Council. Detail on elements of the Act is not fully known as yet but the Council must begin to prepare for the changes proposed.

Officers will be preparing further reports as and when further detail is released, and individual elements are due to be brought into force.

Officers will also begin to prepare a sustainability and natural environment assessment template for inclusion in Council decision making.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

No risk and impact assessment has been undertaken for the individual provisions of the Environment Act where they affect Council services. These will be considered as and when the individual elements of the Act are brought into force.

#### 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Environment Act 2021 - Implications Tracker
Appendix B	Draft Sustainability Impact Assessment

#### 5. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Chris Miller - Acting Head of Environment, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or [chris.miller@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.miller@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

**APPENDIX A**

Environment Act – Overview

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
<b>General</b>	Office for Environmental Protection to uphold environmental law	<p>A new independent regulator that will hold the government to account, including through the courts if necessary.</p> <p>The OEP will scrutinise all government policy to ensure the environment is at the heart of decision making. It will have the power to run its own independent investigations and enforce environmental law, including taking government and other public bodies to court where necessary.</p>	<p>Any person may complain to the OEP if they consider a public authority has failed to comply with environmental law within one year of the alleged failure. After receiving a complaint, the OEP may carry out an investigation if in its view the public authority may have failed to comply with environmental law.</p> <p>The OEP was fully established following the passing of the Act.</p>	
	Long-term targets to improve air quality, biodiversity, water, and waste reduction and resource efficiency	<p>The Government must publish long term targets for air quality, water, biodiversity and resource efficiency and waste reduction. The Act gives the Secretary of State the power to establish long-term, legally binding, environmental targets. Long-term targets must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be at least 15yrs in duration</li> <li>• Set a standard to be achieved, which is capable of being objectively measured</li> </ul>	<p>There is likely to be a data reporting requirement on the Council from the new targets. Particularly on biodiversity and waste. Air quality has been a district responsibility – but the Act includes a new target to reduce PM2.5 emissions, which have not been previously covered in any of the Lincolnshire Air Quality Management Zones.</p> <p>The Government published a report on the likely targets in August 2020 – but the</p>	

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set a date by which the target is to be achieved</li> </ul> <p>These must be published by late 2022. Then regular reporting on progress.</p>	targets will be set in 2022.	
	Environmental Improvement Plans, including interim targets	<p>An “environmental improvement plan” is a plan for significantly improving the natural environment in the period to which the plan relates. That period must not be shorter than 15 years. For each legally binding target, EIPs must include 5-year interim targets which set the milestones that need to be achieved. At the end of each 5-year period, a new set of interim targets must be set.</p> <p>The Defra 25yr Environment Plan is expected to be adopted as the first EIP – the plan will be reviewed and updated by the end of January 2023 to reflect the first set of legally binding targets.</p>	Requirements on the Council will become fully clear once the EIP is adopted and the targets are set in 2022. However, there is likely to be a reporting requirement.	
	A cycle of environmental monitoring and	The Secretary of State must make arrangements for obtaining and publishing data on the natural		

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
	reporting	environment to monitor progress towards achieving targets and interim targets and determining whether the natural environment is improving. The Secretary of State must report annually to Parliament on progress towards achieving targets, interim targets and measures in EIPs.		
	Environmental Principles embedded in domestic policy making	<p>The Secretary of State has a duty to prepare a policy statement on environmental principles, with the objective of contributing to environmental protection and sustainable development. Ministers of the Crown (i.e., all ministers, excluding Treasury and Defence) must have due regard to the principles when developing policy. The principles are:</p> <p>(a)the principle that environmental protection should be integrated into the making of policies,  (b)the principle of preventative action to avert environmental damage,  (c)the precautionary principle, so far as relating to the environment,  (d)the principle that environmental</p>	This makes the case that the Council should also ensure that the Environment is addressed in its policy making process by all areas. We already have the Sustainability Impact Assessment, which has been trialled with some projects and policies – this needs to be updated in light of these new government principles and rolled out to cover the whole of the Council’s activity.	



	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
		damage should as a priority be rectified at source, and (e)the polluter pays principle.		
<b>Waste</b>	Greater consistency in recycling collections in England	Expanding on pre-existing legislation, this gives a focus on the consistency of waste collection across all local authorities, such that the following materials will be segregated for collection from domestic premises: glass, metal, plastic, paper & card (all under previous legislation), food waste (new), and garden waste (new). The Act reinforces the requirement that recyclable household waste must be collected separately from other household waste and, subject to the below, separately from other recyclables. Similarly, to the current “TEEP” legislation, Recyclable household waste in two or more recyclable waste streams may be collected together where— (a)it is not technically or economically practicable to collect recyclable household waste in those recyclable waste streams separately, or (b)collecting recyclable household	As already noted, separate food waste collection and disposal will be required. However, Defra consulted on a number of details in mid 2021 and are expected clarify those details, including timescales, early in 2022. The deadline to introduce collections currently appears likely to be “by 2025” at the latest.  Existing Waste Transfer Stations will need to be adapted to transfer food waste which will have a capital cost. A new haulage contract will be required purely for transporting food. Also, a new disposal outlet will have to be secured either through a contract with an external supplier or facilities built to process.  Separate collections will also require more Waste Transfer Station capacity above the five which we currently operate. This may require a new Waste Transfer Station to be constructed once modelling waste storage is complete in mid 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral wastes) kg per capita by 50% by 2042 from 2019 levels. It is proposed that this will be measured as a reduction from the 2019 level, which is estimated to be approximately 560 kg per capita</li> </ul>

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
		<p>waste in those recyclable waste streams separately has no significant environmental benefit (having regard to the overall environmental impact of collecting it separately and of collecting it together).</p> <p>Recyclable household waste which is food waste must be collected at least once a week.</p> <p>the recyclable waste streams are—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) glass;</li> <li>(b) metal;</li> <li>(c) plastic;</li> <li>(d) paper and card;</li> <li>(e) food waste;</li> <li>(f) garden waste.</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst government have promised some funding, both pump-priming and under New Burdens, it is unclear whether this will fully cover the additional costs to councils.</p> <p>These waste collection requirements also apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) residential homes</li> <li>(b) premises forming part of a university or school or other educational establishment</li> <li>(c) premises forming part of a hospital or nursing home</li> </ul> <p>The regulations also apply to commercial and industrial waste where the waste is similar in nature and composition to household waste. As a result it is likely that waste from the Council offices will need to be separately collected.</p> <p>The Council (in its role as Waste Planning Authority) will have a role to play in ensuring there is sufficient and suitable capacity and facilities available to manage each waste stream. This could/would be by processing planning applications by third parties for new facilities; the Council building its own facility(s); making provision and allocating suitable sites to</p>	

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
			deliver facilities through the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.	
	A deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers	provides a framework for introducing Deposit Return Schemes, such as for drinks containers.	<p>Across the UK, consumers go through an estimated 14 billion plastic drinks bottles, 9 billion drinks cans and 5 billion glass bottles a year.</p> <p>Defra consulted on deposit return schemes in mid 2021 and are expected to issue a response in early 2022. A considerable quantity of high-value recyclables is likely to be diverted from kerbside collections, but the overall financial implications are difficult to model until the final scheme details are decided.</p> <p>The proposals included: Retailers selling in-scope drinks containers will be obligated to accept all deposit return scheme container returns to their store and refund the deposit amount to the consumer when an item is returned. In addition, retailers will be required to add the deposit price to the purchase price of the drink at the point of sale and ensure pricing information clearly demonstrates the price of a drink and the deposit attached to that container.</p> <p>There could be support programmes from</p>	

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
			producers and retailers to ensure that bottles and containers are properly dealt with in the waste system.	
	Extend producer responsibility to make producers pay for 100% of cost of disposal of products, starting with plastic packaging	It is proposed that, by ensuring that packaging producers pay more for expensive disposal options, by 2030, 73% of all packaging placed on the UK market and in scope of packaging Extended Producer Responsibility will be recycled	Defra consulted on EPR in mid 2021 and are expected to issue a response in early 2022. This will provide a significant funding stream to local authorities, although it should be noted that this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is likely to be based on modelled costs rather than actual costs, and</li> <li>• May result in a reduction in other government funding rather than providing a windfall to councils.</li> </ul>	
	Charges for single use plastics	Provides a framework for introducing charges on single use plastics – going beyond carrier bags to encompass other products.		
	Electronic waste tracking to monitor waste movements and tackle fly-tipping	The Act gives powers to set up a new electronic waste tracking system to record what happens to waste as it moves from production to recovery or disposal.		
	Power to introduce new resource	New powers to the Secretary of State to introduce clear labelling and		

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
	efficiency information (labelling on the recyclability and durability of products)	consumer information to enable consumers to identify products that are more durable, repairable and recyclable and to inform them on how to dispose of used products. Information requirements may include: a. expected life of the product b. aspects of the product's design which affect its expected life; c. the availability or cost of component parts, tools, or anything else required to repair or maintain the product.		
	Regulate shipment of hazardous waste	The Act gives powers for greater control of hazardous waste.		
	Ban or restrict export of waste to non-OECD countries	The Act enhances the powers to restrict the export of waste.		
<b>Clean Air</b>	Require Local Authorities to tackle air quality	Amends the local air quality management (LAQM) framework to enable greater cooperation at local level and broaden the range of organisations that play a role in improving local air quality - in	Schedule 11 of the Act brings County Councils into the air quality process:  Where a district council of a district in England for which there is a county council intends to prepare an air quality action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Mean Concentration Target ('concentration target') – a target of 10 micrograms per cubic metre (<math>\mu\text{g m}^{-3}</math>) to be met across England by</li> </ul>

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
		<p>particular, responsibility for tackling local air pollution will now be shared with relevant public bodies (which will be designated as air quality partners), all tiers of local government and neighbouring authorities</p>	<p>plan it must notify the county council that it intends to do so.</p> <p>Where a county council has been given a notification by a district council under subsection (2A) it must, before the end of the relevant period, provide the district council with proposals for particular measures the county council will take to contribute to the achievement, and maintenance, of air quality standards and objectives in the area to which the plan relates.</p>	<p>2040 for PM2.5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population Exposure Reduction Target ('exposure reduction target') – a 35% reduction in population exposure by 2040 (compared to a base year of 2018).</li> </ul>
	Simplify enforcement within smoke control areas	<p>Replace the criminal offence of emitting smoke from a chimney in a smoke control area with a civil penalty regime, which allows for the removal of the statutory defences that currently hinder enforcement - this will enable quicker, simpler and more proportionate enforcement at a local level against the emissions of smoke within a smoke control area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>give local authorities powers to address pollution from solid fuel burning on inland waterway vessels (such as canal boats) in smoke control</li> </ul>		

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
		<p>areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strengthen the offences in relation to the sale and acquisition of certain solid fuels for use in smoke control areas, by removing the limit on the fine for delivering unapproved solid fuels to a building in a smoke control area and requiring retailers of solid fuels to notify customers that that it is illegal to buy unapproved fuel for use in a smoke control area unless burning in an approved appliance.</li> </ul>		
<b>Nature</b>	Strengthened biodiversity duty	<p>For the purposes of this section “the general biodiversity objective” is the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England through the exercise of functions in relation to England.</p> <p>(1)A public authority which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.</p> <p>(1A) After that consideration the</p>	The Council will need to develop an action plan that meets the requirements of the biodiversity duty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.</li> <li>Increase species abundance by at least 10% by 2042, compared to 2030 levels.</li> <li>improve the England-level GB Red List Index of species extinction risk by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.</li> <li>to create or restore in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to</li> </ul>

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
		<p>authority must (unless it concludes there is no new action it can properly take)—</p> <p>(a)determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective, and</p> <p>(b)take such action as it considers appropriate, in the light of those policies and objectives, to further that objective.</p>		<p>2022 levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70% of the designated features in the Marine Protected Areas network to be in favourable condition by 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition, and additional reporting on changes in individual feature condition.</li> </ul>
	<p>Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity</p>	<p>introduces a new requirement on developers to provide for a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) as a condition of planning permission for new development. A register of BNG sites will be created; registration information will be accessible to members of the public. The Secretary of State is given powers to issue biodiversity credits to ensure a functioning market for BNG.</p> <p>2-year transitional period before BNG becomes mandatory but cannot be ignored by developers as already</p>	<p>This will be delivered through the planning system –there will be implications for some minerals and waste developments but also for the Council as a developer of its own schemes/projects. Where it is not possible to secure on-site BNG then developers can look to secure this off-site as a last resort. Therefore, potential for LCC to identify and use some of its own land to establish ecological areas that developers can then use to meet their BNG commitments. Monies could be secured via S106 Planning Obligations to pay for maintenance/management of sites for 30yrs (as required) which not only meets commitments but could also help to</p>	



	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
		<p>forms part of national planning policy in the National Planning Policy Framework</p> <p>The Secretary of State may make arrangements under which a person who is entitled to carry out the development of any land may purchase a credit from the Secretary of State for the purpose of meeting the biodiversity gain objective referred to in Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or Schedule 2A to the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>There is a Biodiversity Metric which can be used to give a biodiversity value for a site.</p> <p>The Consultation on the implementation of the Biodiversity Net Gain process began in January 2022.</p>	<p>deliver LNR (see below)</p> <p>It will be a major source of funding for nature projects around the county. Key partnerships will be with the GLNP and LWT. "Will be" or "could be". As it indicates in the adjacent column, developers could seek to purchase biodiversity credits from the SoS. If this happens there is no guarantee that the money will be spent in Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Could be a commercial opportunity for Lincolnshire County Council - aware that other Counties such as Leicestershire, who are large land holders, are looking at some of their land holdings to be used to off-set for their own development where it is not possible to provide the 10% at the site of the development and also to make provision for other developers who are not able to achieve their 10% net gain at the development site and "purchase" this net gain requirement from the Counties land holding.</p> <p>Also need to consider who will assess if the biodiversity put forward by the developer in the planning application is credible or</p>	

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
			<p>not. LCC unlike many other County Planning Authorities does not have an "in house" ecologist to provide this advice. Recommendation that LCC considers employing an ecologist(s) for its own requirements and also could investigate through a Service Level Agreement to provide this service to District Councils in Lincolnshire who will also need to undertake such assessments but do not have ecologists to undertake this assessment either.</p> <p>The other requirements on Local Nature Recovery Strategies mean that it makes sense to address BNG on a countywide basis – where it could be used to deliver large scale benefits.</p> <p>Making BNG straightforward to comply with can help in enabling development in an area.</p> <p>The County Council will submit a response to the Biodiversity Net Gain Consultation.</p>	
	Local Nature Recovery Strategies	There will be a new system of spatial strategies for nature covering the	The County Council is likely to be the lead organisation for the LNRS – but this is not	

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
	to support a Nature Recovery Network	<p>whole of England - Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). Each strategy will include, for the area that it covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a local habitat map</li> <li>• a statement of biodiversity priorities</li> <li>• the priorities, in terms of habitats and species, for recovering or enhancing biodiversity (taking into account the contribution that recovering or enhancing biodiversity can also make to other environmental benefits)</li> </ul>	<p>confirmed as yet.</p> <p>The LNRS process represents a huge opportunity to bring a wide variety of groups together to develop plans to improve the natural environment across the whole of Lincolnshire. There are significant opportunities to work together with the unitary authorities. Also in partnership with the authorities around the Wash, Fens and Trent.</p>	
	Duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling	A new duty is placed on local highway authorities to consult with local communities before felling street trees.	Will impact on the work of the arboricultural officers and issues around removal of trees due to ash dieback disease.	
	Strengthen woodland protection enforcement measures	Amends the Forestry Act 1967, fines for illegal felling will be increased to “unlimited”; introduction of a court ordered Restocking Order to be made by the courts to allow for the Forestry Commission to list Restocking Notices and Enforcement Notices on the Local Land Charges register.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 17.5% of total land area in England by 2050.</li> </ul>

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
	Conservation Covenants	<p>establishes conservation covenants which are a system of voluntary but legally binding agreements between a landowner and a designated “responsible body” such as a conservation charity, public body or for-profit body to conserve the natural or heritage features of the land.</p> <p>Conservation covenants may contain positive and restrictive obligations to fulfil conservation objectives for the public good and generally, they will bind subsequent landowners to their conditions.</p>		
<b>Water</b>	Effective collaboration between water companies through statutory water management plans	amends the current statutory water resources planning process to ensure there is more effective collaboration between water companies and other sectors to manage supply and demand, deliver resilience against droughts and facilitate environmental improvement through a better understanding of environmental need	Potential impact on the Water Resources East project for a South Lincolnshire Reservoir.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abandoned metal mines target: Reduce the length of rivers and estuaries polluted by target substances from abandoned mines by 50% by 2037 against a baseline of around 1,500km.</li> <li>Nutrient targets: to address the two principal sources of nutrient pollution by</li> </ul>

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
				2037: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment by at least 40% by 2037 against a 2018 baseline.</li> <li>• Reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 80% by 2037 against a 2020 baseline.</li> </ul>
	Drainage and sewerage management planning a statutory duty	Each sewerage undertaker must prepare, publish and maintain a drainage and sewerage management plan. A drainage and sewerage management plan, is a plan for how the sewerage undertaker will manage and develop its drainage system and sewerage system so as to be able, and continue to be able, to meet its obligations under this Part.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 80% by 2037 (against a 2020 baseline)</li> </ul>
	Minimise damage water abstraction may cause on environment	Gives powers to the Environment Agency from 2028 to revoke or vary permanent abstraction licences without liability for compensation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population by 20% by 2037.</li> </ul>

	Area	Requirement / Comments	Implications for Lincolnshire County Council	Proposed Targets
		where the change is necessary to protect the environment or where the licence is consistently under-used.		

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Draft Sustainability Impact Assessment**

The aim of this Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) is to ensure that sustainability issues are comprehensively covered during the development process of major decisions around service provision and policy development at Lincolnshire County Council. The SIA document is intended to be simple to use and is a basic set of "sustainability questions to consider" during the project / policy development process.

To support users in completing the Sustainability Impact Assessment an example of a completed form is provided at the end of this form.

The Assessment systematically goes through each area of sustainability and attempts to identify if the project or change in service provision will have a sustainability impact. When completing the form, you should consider positive and negative sustainability impacts. The assessment should also consider both internal and external sustainability impacts.

As part of the national and global effort to tackle climate change, the County Council has set an objective to reach net zero carbon by 2050. The Sustainability Team has developed a Green Masterplan document, which sets out how the net zero carbon target can be achieved. The use of the SIA process will help to support the development and implementation of the Green Masterplan and in achieving the 2050 net zero carbon target. To meet the target for the whole county the Council needs to work closely with businesses, other public sector partners and local communities. Full details of the Green Masterplan can be seen at:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/greenmasterplan>

The SIA aims to record basic details about the project and the changes that it will cause. In cases where there are negative impacts the form has the option to add any mitigation measures, which could be used to reduce the overall sustainability impact. The Sustainability Team will be able to provide support and assistance in completing the assessment. However, the form is intended to be straightforward to use. In addition, completed examples of the assessment form will be produced to guide the users through the completion process.

As part of the Green Masterplan, the Sustainability Team is planning to develop an Environmental Management System. The SIA process will be a crucial part of demonstrating that environmental impacts and aspects are being considered in the decision-making process at the Council.

It is intended that the SIA will sit alongside the established equalities assessment process and will fit into the existing governance procedures for major decisions. It is likely that the information available for the SIA will evolve as the project is developed. Therefore, the form can be completed as completely as possible at an early project stage and then updated as more information becomes available. It will become a living document as the project develops.

Major property developments undertaken by the Council are still likely to require a full Environmental Impact Assessment and this process is not intended to replace the EIA system. The types of projects that require an EIA are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

**Sustainability Impact Assessment: Data Collection Form**

Area	Sustainability Questions to Consider	Impact of Project Changes	Proposed Mitigation Measures
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the project increase the amount of energy that the Council directly uses?</li> <li>2. Are there opportunities to introduce energy efficiency measures as part of the project?</li> <li>3. Does the project need additional building space? If so, can this be accommodated in existing Council run buildings?</li> <li>4. Are there any new systems or equipment required for the project that are likely to have a high energy demand and will need to be monitored?</li> <li>5. Will staff training be required for the operation of equipment and systems related to the project?</li> <li>6. If new equipment is required for the project have the energy use and operating costs been included in the decision-making process?</li> </ol>		
<b>Renewable / Alternative Energy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are there opportunities to install renewable energy systems as part of the project?</li> <li>2. Can existing renewable systems be enhanced or upgraded as part of the project?</li> </ol>		
<b>Waste</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the project increase the amount of waste generated?</li> <li>2. Will the project lead to the creation of new hazardous waste streams?</li> <li>3. Are additional recycling facilities required as a</li> </ol>		



Area	Sustainability Questions to Consider	Impact of Project Changes	Proposed Mitigation Measures
	<p>result of the project?</p> <p>4. Are there opportunities to minimise the amount of waste generated as part of the project?</p>		
<b>Resource Use</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the project mean that the Council has to purchase additional resources?</li> <li>2. Will the major suppliers to the project have Environmental Management Systems / Environmental Policies?</li> <li>3. Have the Whole Life costs of the project been determined?</li> <li>4. Will the project make current activities more efficient?</li> <li>5. Are there opportunities to generate social value as part of the procurement process for the project?</li> </ol>		
<b>Water</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the project increase the amount of water that the Council uses?</li> <li>2. Are there opportunities to install water efficiency devices as part of the project?</li> <li>3. Will the project require new large scale water uses that need to be monitored / metered?</li> </ol>		
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the project impact on any existing habitats or biodiversity areas?</li> <li>2. Are there opportunities to create new habitats as part of the project?</li> <li>3. Will the project require landscaping works? If so can native species be included in the planting</li> </ol>		

Area	Sustainability Questions to Consider	Impact of Project Changes	Proposed Mitigation Measures
	plans?		
<b>Transport</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the project reduce the need for car transport?</li> <li>2. Are there opportunities to promote / create the infrastructure for active travel as part of the project?</li> <li>3. Will the project require any new transport services?</li> <li>4. Are there opportunities to install electric vehicle infrastructure as part of the project?</li> <li>5. Will any vehicles required for the project be Electric Vehicles?</li> <li>6. Is the project location in or adjacent to an Air Quality Management Zone?</li> </ol>		
<b>Climate Change Adaptation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the project likely to be impacted by future climate change impacts – such as higher summer temperatures, increased drought and flooding, etc?</li> <li>2. Is the project taking place in a building where there are already issues with overheating? If so are there opportunities to introduce natural cooling solutions?</li> </ol>		
<b>Noise</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are there likely to be any noise pollution implications from the project?</li> </ol>		
<b>Green economy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could the project be used to support the development of environmental skills within the</li> </ol>		

Area	Sustainability Questions to Consider	Impact of Project Changes	Proposed Mitigation Measures
	<p>county?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Can the project be used to support the environmental sector within Lincolnshire?</li> <li>3. Can the project link with local higher and further education providers to encourage and promote environmental skills?</li> </ol>		
<b>Community Engagement &amp; Awareness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can the project be used to promote the Green Masterplan and Net Zero Carbon Targets to the wider population?</li> <li>2. Are there opportunities to use the project to engage with the business community on environmental issues?</li> </ol>		

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**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place**

Report to:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>12 July 2022</b>
Subject:	<b>Update on Visit Lincolnshire &amp; Tourism Commission</b>

**Summary:**

This report gives an update on the activities undertaken in year 1 (2021/22) to deliver the Tourism Commission Action Plan. It shows substantial progress has been made to promote Greater Lincolnshire to visitors and in supporting the strategic leadership of tourism businesses. Activity to date has focused on providing digital skills, business development, place making and opportunities to reduce seasonality.

**Actions Required:**

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to:

- (1) Note the current progress and provide input to assist Officers to plan and facilitate future Visitor Economy interventions.
- (2) Consider the year 2 action plan and determine whether it provides a local cohesive, evidence-led response to meet Greater Lincolnshire's Visitor Economy challenges and aspirations.

**1. Background**

There has been an enormous amount of disruption, change within the tourism sector during the Covid period, as a result the council has taken a strategic leadership role to support and shape the future industry offer within Greater Lincolnshire by setting up a Tourism Commission with local industry leaders in September 2020, chaired by Cllr Davie.

The commission met five times and produced a series of recommendations under the headings of Investment, Skills, Product Development and Marketing and additional resources were allocated by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) to deliver them.

A two-year programme of activity was drawn up and year 1 has been delivered. This report describes the achievements of the first year and the plan for 2022/23; whilst recognising that some work is cross cutting.

## **2. Investment**

A [Green Tourism Toolkit](#) has been produced in order to show how it could benefit visitor economy business by: addressing changing consumer trends; attract and retain the best staff; reduce operational costs; reduce negative environmental impact and help ensure their local area thrives. We accept that going greener is daunting, so the toolkit, through a series of small steps is there to support businesses.

Through the Coastal Community Fund, we are running a coastal pilot on a Green Tourism Ambassador programme. Representatives from coastal tourism businesses are being trained on how to better implement sustainability over a seven-month course. This has been oversubscribed and we plan to roll this out across Lincolnshire in year 2.

## **3. Business Strategy and Skills**

Many businesses in the Visitor Economy have struggled with their digital skills, but the past two years has revealed that their general business skills need refreshing too. This has resulted in the development of a dedicated website [Business.Visitlincolnshire.com](https://www.business.visitlincolnshire.com), which was launched in November 2021. Its strapline is 'Hospitable You: Helping you run your business and stop it running you'. It was to be jargon free and aimed at the visitor economy. We asked businesses how they liked to learn, and it was clear that one size does not fit all, with some liking a video whilst others a factsheet, so we did both. It covers business planning, finance, funding, planning, marketing and digital as well as legislative and industry updates. The site features around 70 masterclass videos using a variety of experts, and each was filmed at a tourism business, and includes sections on market research, career and HR awards and support networks. The site is still developing, with the Green Tourism Toolkit being added in March 2022.

Working with the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub we developed a programme called Hospitable Boost, based on our learning through developing the website. 29 businesses attended 12 masterclasses over a number of weeks. Initial group sessions were inspired by Lincolnshire video case studies, followed by 1 to 1 support, 1 to few and 1 to many masterclasses. Feedback has been excellent, and we already have a waiting list for a second Hospitable Boost series (beginning October 2022), so we are assuming there has been some word-of-mouth promotion; *"It has been fantastic. The masterclasses have been brilliant, and all the information was very relevant to me and my business. Enjoyed the discussions and engagement with other business owners"*.

To go alongside this, we work closely with Hayley Toyne, the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Advisor for the Visitor Economy. She has a host of knowledge and skills that are incredibly useful to the businesses she speaks to within the sector, and this is enhanced by the further development of tools being created on Business.Visit Lincolnshire website.

The website also has a section on Visitor Economy Careers and HR information which can be used to educate and inspire future employees. This seeks to showcase the wide variety of roles and opportunities and we are now working with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Careers Hub to extend this work further.

#### **4. Product Development**

The opportunity was taken to completely redevelop [visitlincolnshire.com](https://www.visitlincolnshire.com) which had formerly been a gateway site for Greater Lincolnshire that led onto individual authority sites, whether Unitary Authorities or District Councils. Information was key during lockdown and the new website was created to both Inspire and to Inform.

All local authorities have had the opportunity to shape the content on their area. It is the main consumer website for Greater Lincolnshire and is still operating as that first point of contact gateway. Much work is being done on search engine optimisation and vls.com is coming top on many searches, people tend to remain on the site because it has variety and quality that ultimately leads to bookings. The website being the main consumer facing site of Greater Lincolnshire.

The Cycling offer has been developed with Visit Lincoln (Destination Lincolnshire) and we have been working with the Countryside team on developing the Walking area, by far the most popular part of the website. Visitor Pledges have been used in many countries around the world. A Visitor Pledge video is in preparation which will major on respecting and protecting the countryside.

The site has enormous capacity for growth and is still developing with the bird watching area being the latest addition with officers working with Lincolnshire Bird Club, RSPB, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England and the National Trust. A coastal bird trail has been developed and is now on vls.com. This starts at Alkborough Flats in the north and finishes at Frampton Marsh in the south. The USP of the trail is that this is an insider's guide, a where to go, when to go and what to see by the people who really know. This is an affluent repeat-visiting market with a great fit with our walking and cycling offer. The [Coastal Bird Trail](#) has just gone live and features three videos, one on RSPB Frampton Marsh and two shorter ones on top tips.

There will be three further trails: Wolds/Marsh; Fens; Limestone/Trent Vale. The county council commissioned new photography at Alkborough Flats and Far Ings which it has shared with the group; interestingly the shoot at Alkborough Flats picked up a pair of glossy ibis, very rare visitors, proving that Greater Lincolnshire has much to offer. Promotion of the coastal bird trail will start at the Rutland Bird Fair in July.

Video has proved a successful area for both our consumer work and business support. Video case studies have been very well received and hearing from a fellow business on how they have done something is far more engaging than being informed by a consultant. We are producing more video case studies in year 2. We produced four short videos to go out during National Tourism Week (March 2022) as part of our promotional work, these were themed on Lincolnshire Food, Lincolnshire Outdoors, Cathedral 950<sup>th</sup> and new build,

and a vox pop on Why I love Lincolnshire. They were used on social media and now sit on vls.com so we are getting continued usage from them.

As part of our Heritage Product Development, we are producing a series of ‘Behind the Scenes’ heritage videos. Whilst they are promotional, they will be quite story based and so more engaging. The behind-the-scenes theme gives us plenty of leeway for a wide range of stories that work for each venue. These will be launched as completed during 2022/3.

## 5. Promotion and Marketing

Our social media activity has increased, both direct to the consumer and to visitor economy businesses. This is working well and will continue in Year 2. We have promoted the new website and our new product development. Behind the scenes much work is being done on search engine optimisation and ensuring that vls.com comes top in searches. In Year 1 we were still partially in lockdown and many people were holidaying in the UK, so rather than promoting businesses that were already fully booked we have concentrated our efforts in ensuring that our website and related product is the best it can be. We will continue this approach in Year 2.

### Public Relations & Social Media

As an addition to the marketing for the websites, we have a visibility on several social media platforms. These continue to grow in popularity, with the reach and followers growing week on week.

Visit Lincolnshire	Business.Visit Lincolnshire
<b>Facebook Page:</b> <a href="https://facebook.com/visitlincolnshire">facebook.com/visitlincolnshire</a> @VisitLincolnshire Page Likes: 4,818 Reach & Impressions: 1,958,466	<b>Facebook Page:</b> <a href="https://facebook.com/visitlincolnshirebusiness">facebook.com/visitlincolnshirebusiness</a> @Visit Lincolnshire Business Page Likes: 41 Reach & Impressions: 419,284
<b>Instagram:</b> <a href="https://instagram.com/visitlincolnshire">instagram.com/visitlincolnshire</a> @visitlincolnshire Followers: 4,595 Reach & Impressions: 677,459	<b>Twitter:</b> <a href="https://twitter.com/visitlincs_biz">twitter.com/visitlincs_biz</a> @VisitLincs_Biz Followers: 150 Reach & Impressions: 19,533
<b>Instagram:</b> <a href="https://instagram.com/visitlincolnshire">instagram.com/visitlincolnshire</a> @visitlincolnshire Followers: 4,595 Reach & Impressions: 677,459	<b>LinkedIn:</b> <a href="https://linkedin.com/company/visitlincolnshirebusiness">linkedin.com/company/visitlincolnshirebusiness</a> @Visit Lincolnshire Business Followers: 264 Reach & Impressions: 5069
<b>Pinterest:</b> <a href="https://pinterest.com/visitlincolnshire">pinterest.com/visitlincolnshire</a> Followers: 105 Reach & Impressions: 7,196	<b>Facebook Group:</b> <a href="https://facebook.com/groups/visitlincolnshirebusiness">facebook.com/groups/visitlincolnshirebusiness</a> Members: 91 Active Members: 70



Visit Lincolnshire	Business.Visit Lincolnshire
	<b>Newsletter List:</b> <a href="https://business.visitlincolnshire.com/email-newsletter-subscription">business.visitlincolnshire.com/email-newsletter-subscription</a> Subscribers: 67 Email Open Rate: 64%
<b>Brand Hashtag:</b> #VisitLincolnshire	<b>Brand Hashtags:</b> #VisitLincolnshire #GreenTourismLincolnshire
<b>Commonly Used Hashtags:</b> #Lincolnshire #LincolnshireCoast #LincolnshireWolds #LincolnshireHeritage #TravelInspiration #TravelTheWorld #TravelPics #VisitEngland #England #BeautifulBritain #UKShots	<b>Commonly Used Hashtags:</b> #LincolnshireBusiness #Lincolnshire #BusinessSupport #GreenTourism #Sustainability #SustainableTourism #SustainableBusiness #Destinations #DestinationMarketing #SmallBusiness #LincsConnect
<b>Total Audience: 26,551</b> <b>Total Reach &amp; Impressions: 2,715,652</b>	<b>Total Audience: 613</b> <b>Reach &amp; Impressions: 443,886</b>

The County Council have an annual contract with Mark Hibbert, a PR consultant who specialises in the tourism field. This contract covers Greater Lincolnshire and is to attract regional, national and international coverage (local coverage is dealt with in-house) and all local authorities can contact him direct to brief him on stories. The contract provides us with regular contact with travel media; regular use of social network media to promote the destination; included in monthly E-newsletter for travel editors and media; included in his weekly #newsin30second round-up for travel editors, writers, and bloggers; travel news round-up circulated to travel media.

In addition to this and to ensure that the PR machine runs smoothly, there is a further contract with Visit Lincoln/Destination Lincolnshire. When journalists come on familiarisation visits to Greater Lincolnshire there is considerable organisation required in making their trip successful: arranging transport, accommodation, meals, welcome packs etc. In liaison with Mark Hibbert, Visit Lincoln undertake this role on our behalf.

## 6. State of the Visitor Economy

We subscribe to the annual STEAM data which gives us a good picture of the state of growth in the visitor economy. Up to 2019 we were seeing very positive growth and tourism was worth £2.49bn to the economy of Greater Lincolnshire. It is no surprise that in 2020 this figure fell to £1.2bn and it does highlight how important the visitor economy is to Greater Lincolnshire. 2021 has seen a return to growth, even though the earlier part of the year was still in lockdown, tourism was worth £2.03bn. Hence, we are seeing a partial but not full recovery as yet. Many businesses are reporting the difficulty of recruiting staff, and this is a UK wide problem in the hospitality sector; this does add to the stresses and the difficulty sometimes of getting businesses to engage in skills development.

The number of day visitors recovered more strongly than staying visitors in terms of outright numbers. However, in terms of economic impact, staying visitors account for 61% of the total economic impact, with day visitors accounting for 39%.

Serviced accommodation, such as hotels and B&Bs appear to be struggling to recover in comparison to non-serviced accommodation such as caravans, cottages and airbnbs etc. Visitors using serviced accommodation are down 35% on 2019 levels, whereas non-serviced accommodation has only seen an 8% decrease. This is likely to reflect a combination of rules.

### 7. Update on 2021/22 work and future work streams

Year One 2021/22	Year Two 2022/23
Green Tourism Toolkit	Green Tourism Ambassador programme
Redeveloped <a href="http://www.visitlincolnshire.com">www.visitlincolnshire.com</a> (vls.com)	Develop new areas on vls.com
<a href="http://www.business.visitlincolnshire.com">www.business.visitlincolnshire.com</a> (bvls.com)	Develop new areas on bvls.com
Product Development: Bird Watching, Walking	Continue Product Development: Walking, Bird Watching, Heritage, Business Tourism, Visitor Pledge
Video: Case Studies, Tourism Week promotional videos, Birdwatching	Hospitable Boost programme
Visit Lincolnshire Conference March 22	Careers Promotion in conjunction with the LEP's Careers Hub and Enterprise Coordinators
Champing Research	Promotion of vls.com to local, national and international visitors
Business Tourism Research	Promotion of bvls.com to the Greater Lincolnshire visitor economy businesses to help them to develop, grow and become more resilient.
Social Media to consumers and to businesses	
Promotion of vls.com	

### 7. Conclusion

The tourism sector was badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic which led to tourism businesses needing to adapt their strategies and which also led to the opportunity to promote the area to people looking to take UK holidays. The actions resulting from the Tourism Commission have been able to give the sector the tools to develop and enhance their offer, whilst the re developed website and social media had helped to attract new business. Year 2 actions will continue to build on the foundations to help to ensure the Visitor Economy continues to recover, upskill and grow.

The resources used to fund the Tourism Commission was new funding from the Covid Recovery Fund and this was evenly split in terms of spend profile 2021/2 and 2022/3. During lockdown this has enabled LCC to take a more strategic tourism role and we have led on some major ticket items such as [www.visitlincolnshire.com](http://www.visitlincolnshire.com), [www.business.visitlincolnshire.com](http://www.business.visitlincolnshire.com) and the green tourism toolkit and this seems to have been appreciated.

The tourism budget for `23/24 would be very small in comparison and it would be difficult to continue this role. We welcome the opportunity to discuss accessing future funding to achieve this agenda.

## **8. Consultation**

A Tourism Commission, comprising tourism business representatives from across the greater Lincolnshire area helped to shape these priorities.

### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

The main risks to investment in the Tourism sector relate to external factors in the Visitor Economy.

However, controllable factors include the risk of duplication between different types of organisations with an interest in the sector. The Greater Lincolnshire Tourism Officers' Group has been established to enable officers to collaborate and align their activity rather than risk proliferation and provides an incredibly useful forum for information sharing with the opportunity for external bodies to take 'guest spots' to help increase knowledge such as new and emerging trends.

## **9. 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 Mary Powell, Place & Investment Manager, who can be contacted at 07810 793943 or 07791 283622, or by e-mail at [Mary.Powell@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.Powell@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place**

Report to:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>12 July 2022</b>
Subject:	<b>Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Annual Performance and future business support landscape</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides an update on activity delivered by the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub and the activity of other business support delivery partners. Businesses continue to face challenges, and many are still in post COVID recovery, whilst also having to manage other impacts from rising costs, supply chain and recruitment issues. Overall, the Growth Hub continues to perform well and provides a service which responds to changing needs and service users continue to provide positive feedback.

The report also raises committee member awareness of the changes in the funding landscape for business support as we transition to UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and away from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This will have a significant impact on the way these services are funded and the resulting business support landscape will change.

**Actions Required:**

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to:

- (1) note the current progress and provide input to assist Officers plan future Growth Hub services; and
- (2) note that publicly funded business support across Greater Lincolnshire has assisted a high number of businesses and that the co-ordinated approach of the growth hub has helped businesses to understand what support is available. Members are asked to continue to support the Growth Hub in highlighting services to business contacts.
- (3) Note the impact of the change to the funding landscape which will significantly reduce future business support services and consider a coherent approach that will be more efficient and accessible to businesses and reduce potential proliferation.

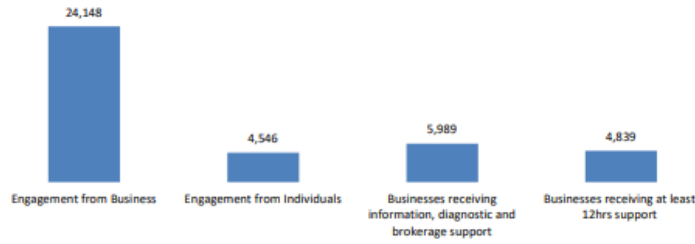
## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub was launched in April 2015 following a Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) requirement for all Local Enterprise Partnerships to facilitate the development of a Growth Hub to provide a single place to go for business support, helping businesses from all sectors and at all growth stages. The joint economic development strategy between the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) aligned funding and officer time to ensure a robust, highly acclaimed growth hub service.
- 1.2 The Growth Hub provides a single access point to a targeted package of information, diagnostic, advisory, coaching, mentoring and development programmes. Furthermore, the Hub ensures a 'single conversation' is facilitated with local businesses, raising awareness and uptake of both public and private sector support, by improving coordination, coordination, marketing and signposting to other local and national provision.
- 1.3 The Growth Hub activities are predominantly funded through ERDF funding which has been secured up until June 2023 utilising LCC staff salary budget as match to drawdown the European Funding.
- 1.4 The current £7.012m ERDF Sustainable Business Growth 2 programme has 2042 businesses enrolled of which 996 have received at least 3 hours of support and 444 have received at least 12 hours of support. 199 Grant Applications with a total value of £691,749 have been approved.

This is a partnership project between LCC, North Lincolnshire Council, E Factor (on behalf of North East Lincolnshire Council) and the University of Lincoln.

- 1.5 We have also been successful in further funding bids to BEIS for additional core revenue funding of £286,625 for the year 22-23, which funds our Scale Up Support and specialist advisory support for sectors outside of the ERDF funding, as well as PR and Marketing activity, CRM, website, research and evaluation.
- 1.6 All the of ERDF funded business support offers delivered by partner organisations are available under the Growth hub umbrella. The headline results for this wider activity can be found in the impact report below.

**Businesses Engaged**

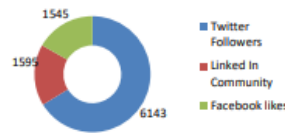


**1415**  
helped to start a business

**753**  
Businesses Created

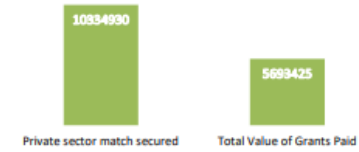
**1910**  
Jobs Created

**Social Media**



**1682**

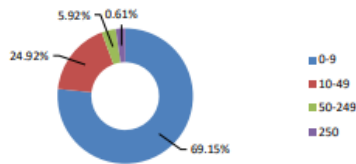
Number of Grants Approved



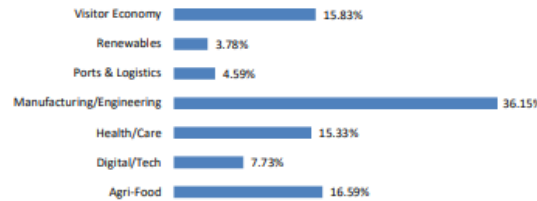
**Satisfaction with the Growth Hub**

**91%**

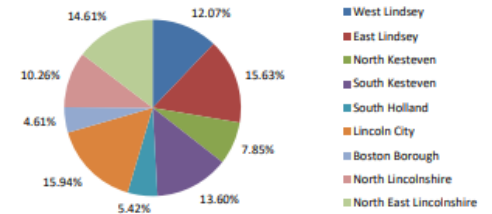
**SME Employee Numbers**



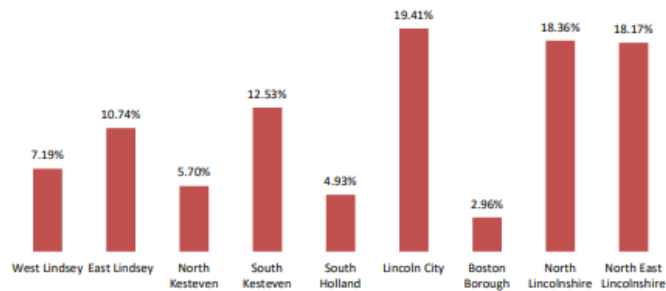
**LEP Priority Sector Split**



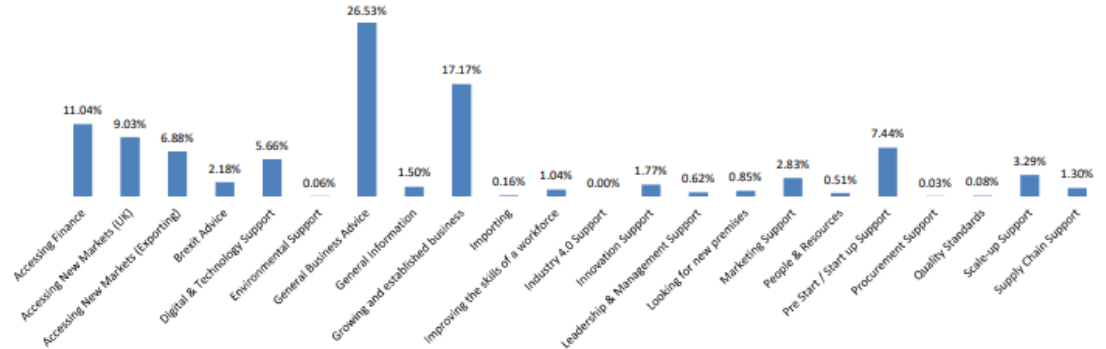
**SMEs by Authority Area**



**Jobs Created by Authority Area**



**Primary Reasons for Accessing Support**



## 2. Business Lincolnshire Delivery in 2021-22

Since April 2022 the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub (BLGH) service in its entirety has engaged with 4521 businesses and provided more intensive support for 989 and created 343 new jobs.

In 2021-22 the Growth Hub has received substantial funds to deliver vital business support offers, this was an unprecedented year and the funds were provided to aid recovery and transition, (it should be noted that the Growth Hub funds for 2022/23 have been reduced here is no further substantially to £286,625 a 50% cut and there is no further funding for Peer Networks).

2021/2022 Funding	Amount	Requirements
BEIS Core Funding	£573,250	Scale Up Support and specialist advisory support, PR and Marketing, CRM, website, research and evaluation. EU Transition business readiness support via specialist advice, resilience programme and outreach activities. East Midlands cluster role
BEIS Peer Networks (successful bid)	£218,930	Delivery of 13 Peer Networks and East Midlands cluster support
ERDF Sustainable Business Growth 2 Programme (successful bid)	£890,706 (income for 21-22 activity)	Growth Lincolnshire provides a comprehensive and enhanced offer of one to one support, capacity building and growth funding,
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,682,886</b>	

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub offer includes:

- 10 general advisers, 1 Scale Up Account Manager and 10 specialist advisers plus a wider pool of other specialists that can be called upon as demand dictates
- One to one General Advice – fully funded, easy access to impartial business growth adviser who will undertake a Business Review and Action Plan
- One to one Specialist Advice – fully funded specialist support around accessing finance, resource efficiency, supply chain development, digital, innovation, exporting as well as sectoral support such as for manufacturing, digital/creative/ tech, visitor economy and agri-food
- ScaleUp Account Manager, Next Level ScaleUp Programme
- Business workshops, briefings & flagship events



- Online information portal – [www.businesslincolnshire.com](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com) -
- Access to Local Business Support Phone Number and National Business Support Helpline via phone or online webchat
- Facilitated access to national programmes including: Department for International Trade, Intellectual Property Office, Innovate UK, Enterprise Europe Network, Help to Grow Management / Digital, etc.
- Access to outreach 'spokes', e.g., enterprise, innovation and incubation spaces across the county, which provide services such as virtual office, hot desk facilities, meeting rooms, networking events, etc.

### **Programmes delivered during 2021/22**

There has continued to be significant amounts of business support provision available to businesses to respond and recover from the pandemic. During 2021/22 we have been able to maintain a number of the new programmes that launched in 2020/21 which had showed high business demand, as well as the launch of a number of new support offers. Briefly, these include:

- Contracts with Specialist Sector Advisers for the Agricultural / Horticultural and the Visitor Economy Sectors have been renewed, and a vacancy for a Digital Sector Growth Manager working from the Mosaic Digital Hub has recently been filled.
- A second phase of the [Manufacturing Transformation Programme](#) continues to help manufacturers overcome challenges and adapt to future consequences by improving business performance, innovating product and service offerings or developing new business opportunities.
- A second phase of the [Supply Chain Improvement Programme](#) helps businesses to identify current Supply Chain Gaps through a combination of one to one support and workshops.
- The [Greater Lincolnshire Engineering and Manufacturing Network \(GLEAM\)](#) which is being delivered in partnership with the University of Lincoln, has had a rebrand and continues to gain momentum. Members and partners join free and receive complimentary affiliate membership of MakeUK and access to a one year licence for the Zellar Carbon calculation online platform. Five online network events have included topics such as Digitalisation and Industry 4.0, Sustainable Supply Chains, Clean Growth, Manufacturing an Environment for Success and Manufacturing a Skilled Workforce. Face to face events have now started to be scheduled which is encouraging participation.
- The [Made In Lincolnshire](#) interactive digital brochure has seen great interest this year and now includes information about 110 of Greater Lincolnshire's manufacturers. The brochure can be used as a tool to showcase the strength and diversity of the

manufacturing and engineering sector and support local, regional and national supply chain opportunities.

- The [Empowering SMEs In International Trade](#) is an East Midlands wide programme which assists businesses who are either exporting or importing and require specialist support and guidance in navigating the complexities of trading and ensuring compliance with trade regulations post EU exit.
- The [Building Business Resilience Programme](#) is an East Midlands wide programme that offers a strategic yet practical review with an aim to strengthen them and ensure they were prepared to withstand a range of unexpected challenges.
- Phase 2 of the national [Peer Networks](#) Programme supported 135 businesses across 13 cohorts organised sectorally, e.g. manufacturing, high growth, health & care.
- Our partnership with Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce to deliver the [Leadership and Wellbeing Hub](#) has been extended for a further year due to the continuing demand for the offer which provides 1-2-1 support to businesses and individuals and a webinar programme.
- During 2020/21 we have aligned the workshop and event provision with our sister brand Team Lincolnshire, to enable greater reach and cross collaboration.
- Our new [Next level Scale Up programme](#) launched at the end of March following the natural conclusion of the previous support offers. It incorporates an extensive package of support for our high growth businesses which has been designed to address the challenges that these fast-growing businesses face. The support will help them to develop a high performing team, understand the development needs of the Senior Management Team, develop their Net Zero credentials and get change moving rapidly. The programme includes 121 coaching and will provide access to a peer group community of local growing businesses to share ideas.
- The [Fit for Business](#) concept originated from intelligence gathered during the pandemic that there was a need to business owners to improve skills in basic business acumen. Subjects such as legal structures, finances, Licenses & registration and Business plans had been developed into a suite of 'Fit for Business' podcasts that will be launched over a period of time to build up a knowledge library that can be accessed at any time. They are very easy to listen to and aim to deal with the subject matter in a simple way. The Podcasts will initially be available on all podcast streaming services and additionally permanently available on the Business Lincolnshire Youtube channel.
- Following on from research undertaken by Bishop Grosseteste University in partnership with Business Lincolnshire, the [Greater Lincolnshire Social Economy Academy \(GLSEA\)](#) has been launched. The Academy offers a blend of practical and academic expertise delivered by a range of partners and is open to Charities, Social Enterprises, Cooperatives

and Community groups. An extensive workshop programme has been developed which will be promoted through BG Futures and Business Lincolnshire.

- Continued provision of Growth Hub Adviser for Rutland.

### Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Key Performance Outcomes

Indicator	Annual Total (1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022)	Cumulative Total (since launch of Growth Hub)
Number of businesses that have received 'light touch' triage, information and/or signposting support (excluding website traffic)	4,671	24,298
Number of individuals that have received 'light touch' triage, information and/or signposting support (excluding website traffic)	1,582	4,528
Total number of unique visitors to Growth Hub website	27,232	195,645
Number of businesses receiving 'medium intensity' information, diagnostic and brokerage support	959	5959
Number of businesses receiving 'high intensity' support e.g., account management / intensive support directly provided by the Hub or partner organisation	1,086	4,800
Total number of individuals who been helped to start a business	220	1,389
£Private sector match secured	£2,312,420	£10,322,786

Figures from April 2021 to March 2022	Number
Number of jobs created	343
Number of jobs safeguarded	452
ERDF Grants approved – SBG2	69 ( £143,052)
Facebook Likes	1545 (up 191)
Twitter followers	6143 (up 115)
Linked in	1595 (up 568)

Client monitoring and evaluation is undertaken for all intensive interactions, the Growth Hub service continues to be valued:

- 92% of respondents were with either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the service
- 96% of respondents were either very or somewhat likely to recommend the service they received / event they attended to a friend or colleague

### **3. Future Business Support Landscape**

The business support landscape is changing post June 2023 as all of the current European Regional Development Funded programmes will come to a close.

The current model leverages a central ERDF funded core advisory team, business support programmes and grants to connect to a much wider ecosystem of local and national support offers, 'hiding the wiring' for businesses and providing simplification and a 'no wrong door' service and this has proven an effective system which is robust whilst offering flexibility to respond rapidly to changing needs, as we have seen recently with the EU Exit and COVID response work.

The new national funding streams are at a much smaller scale and will operate at a local authority level. As a result, there is likely to be a significant reduction in the number and scope of business support offers across Greater Lincolnshire.

Through working in partnership with all ten Local Authorities in Greater Lincolnshire area, there is the opportunity to develop a core offer via the UKSPF to help to ensure that there is a clear route to business support, reduced proliferation of individual services and it will help to reduce patchwork provision.

#### **Current Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Funding**

During the last ERDF programme 2014-20 across Greater Lincolnshire approximately £20m was contracted to business support providers (under the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub umbrella) to provide a range of services from start up, innovation, international trade, investment funds, technology support, grants and a comprehensive range of sector and growth support.

Furthermore, the Growth Hub directly secured £7.01 ERDF investment to allow for tailored business support offers specific to the needs of the county's business demographic including business advisers, specialist advisers, sectoral and thematic programmes, capital and revenue grants and workshop and business development programmes.

These ERDF programmes will close in June 2023 and the UKSPF will be the replacement for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

The Growth Hub receives an annual BEIS allocation via the LEP to commission additional support services outside of the ESIF funded support. In 2021 -22, Business Lincolnshire received £573,250 directly from BEIS to provide enhanced support for COVID recovery, however for 2022/23 the allocation has returned to pre pandemic levels and has been reduced by 50% to £286,625 (£40,000 of this is ringfenced for East Midlands Cluster work).

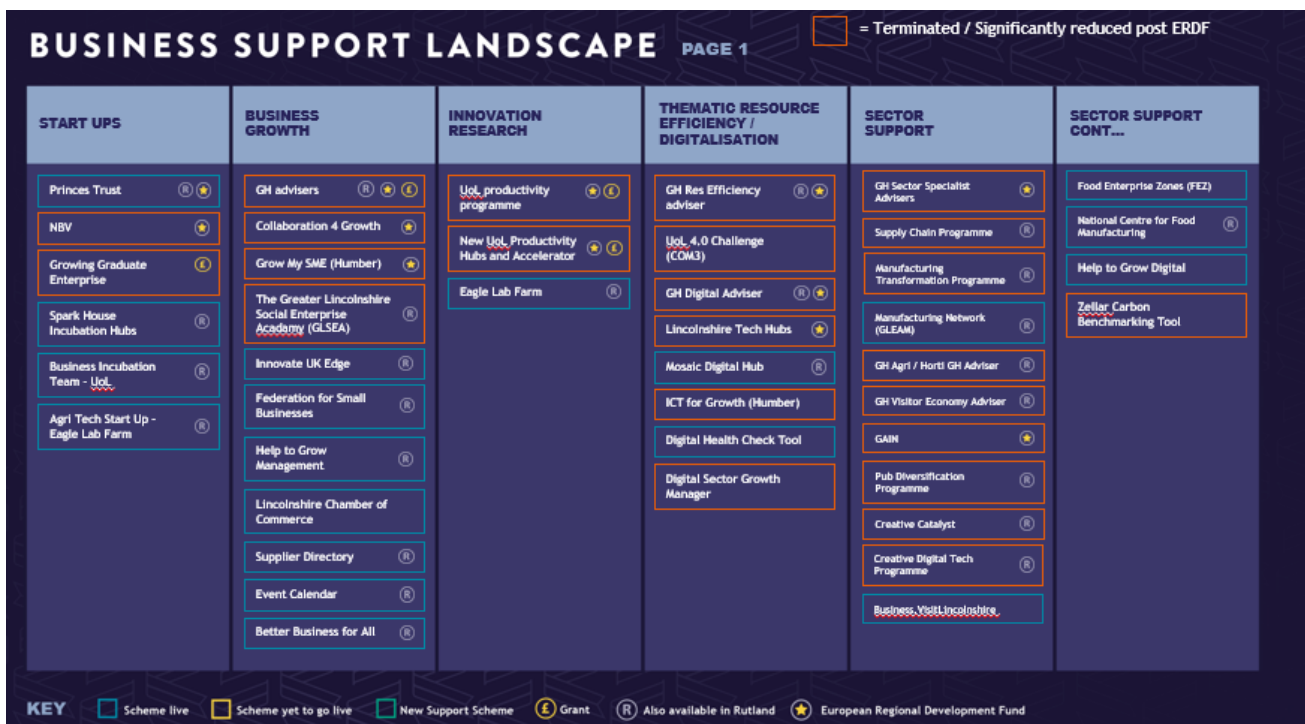
### Current Business Support Landscape

The Greater Lincolnshire business community has become accustomed to a plethora of support funded through the various local ERDF schemes managed by multiple organisations. The ERDF funding has enabled a rich business support landscape.

However, at the end of June 2023, the support landscape that we know currently will terminate or will significantly reduce in scope if an alternative source of funding, through Local UKSPF allocations or another national source, is not identified. (See Picture 1 – red highlighted provision is ERDF funded).

The only remaining publicly funded business support will be via the national programmes (Help to Grow, Innovate UK, DIT, IPO) or support provided by the University of Lincoln, Bishop Grosseteste University, the FSB, Lincolnshire and Hull and Humberside Chambers, incubator spaces and Local Authority economic development provision.

Picture 1. Current Business Support Landscape



(Continued on next page)

BUSINESS SUPPORT LANDSCAPE PAGE 2					
BUSINESS RESILIENCE / EU EXIT	HIGH GROWTH	FINANCE	INVESTMENT & PROPERTY	EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS	EXPORTING
Fit for Business (R)	GH Scale Up Adviser (E, R)	Grants4Growth (E)	Team Lincolnshire (R)	GLLEP Enterprise Skills Co-ordinators (R)	DIT International Trade Advice (R)
Building Business Resilience (R)	Next Level Scale Up Programme (R)	MEIF Loan & Equity Funds (R)	Foreign Direct Invest Support (R, E)	LCC Adult Learning - 2Aspire (R)	Introduction to Export (R)
Wellbeing Hub (R)	10 x 10 Accelerator (R)	Finance for Growth (Humber) (E)	Managed Workspace (R)	Skills Support for the Workforce (R)	LEP International trade adviser (R)
	LIBS Peer to Peer Support and Mentoring	British Business Bank (R)	promotelincolnshire.com (R)	Apprenticeships, Internships & Traineeships (R)	Export Academy (R)
	Scale Up Alumni (R)	Lincolnshire Investment Network (LIN) (R)		worldofwork.co.uk (R)	Humber Free Port (R)
		Lincolnshire Business Angels (E)			Great.Gov.UK (R)
		GH Finance Readiness Adviser (E)			GH International trade adviser (R)
					Lincolnshire Chamber International Trade Adviser (R)
					Lincolnshire Chamber Export Documentation Service (R)

KEY:   Scheme live   Scheme yet to go live   New Support Scheme £ Grant R Also available in Rutland ★ European Regional Development Fund

Looking at current levels of demand for services, there is a clear need for a continued universal core business support offer that is complemented with tailored services to meet specific sectoral and growth needs, which provides economies of scale and increased value for money.

### Business Support through UKSPF

The main focus of the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund is about restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging. ‘Strengthening *the social fabric of communities, building pride in place and creating the foundations for economic growth at the neighbourhood level*’

Supporting local businesses is highlighted as one of 3 central themes that investment is aimed at, with the following objectives:

- **Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion**, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and **range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.**
- **Promoting networking and collaboration**, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners **within and across sectors** to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and **stimulate innovation and growth.**
- **Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities**, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake **new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.**

UKSPF allocations have been made at the Lower Tier Authority level, whereas ESIF funding has previously been allocated at an Upper Tier Authority level.

In order to maintain a universal core business support offer across the Greater Lincolnshire area, there is a need for all ten Local Authorities to agree a core service specification and financial contribution from their UKSPF allocations.

Without unilateral agreement between all of the Local Authorities, there is a high likelihood of patchwork provision, fragmentation and duplication at unnecessary cost, with potential for gaps in essential provision.

It is therefore vital that we mitigate the risk of some countywide needs being overlooked and ensure that we facilitate opportunities for securing added value.

### **Possible Core Business Support Model post ESIF**

Business Support services need to be ready for delivery quickly in order to meet the relatively short timeframes associated with the funding. The guidance suggests that areas come together to deliver the UKSPF activity across places where there is already an established history of collaboration between Local Authorities.

Moving forward there is an opportunity to continue to provide a core business support service through Business Lincolnshire that all Local Authorities can access, and we can collectively rise to the challenge and opportunity of the Levelling Up agenda in the Greater Lincolnshire LEP area and collaborate effectively in order to support our residents and business community.

This approach seeks to;

- Utilise the existing proven Growth Hub structure and service
- Make strategic connections and avoid gaps emerging between each Local Investment Plan/ project
- Achieve critical mass and economies of scale
- Provide value for money
- Avoid patchwork provision
- Capitalise on our Business Support Knowledge, experience and intermediary relationships
- Align services with the national Growth Hub business support offer funded by BEIS

The UKSPF prospectus provides us with an opportunity to widen access, reduce the eligibility restrictions and encourage broader outputs and outcomes, that recognise the social and health impacts of business support as well as the economic impacts. The Growth Hub is poised and ready to work together to take advantage of this expanded scope.

Furthermore, there are signification opportunities to align the Business support offer with the existing Adult Education – Adult Skills and Family Learning provision, the new Multiply programme and the LEP’s Skills provision and Career Hubs.

## How the future might look

The Growth Hub team have been working with the ten Local Authorities to discuss future options and have devised a core proposition to support businesses and communities to drive a productive, resilient, and low carbon economy.

The proposal seeks to build on the competitive advantages and collectively achieve better outcomes for all residents in Lincolnshire by providing solutions that are both accessible and inclusive across our diverse economic geography and responsive to the specific challenges of our local areas - our expansive rurality, coastal economies and our High Streets and market towns.

**However, to realise this model, there is an expectation that ALL Local Authorities 'buy into' an agreed core service to maintain parity of offer across the whole geography.**

However, it is important to recognise the Local Authority financial contribution to the service will enable Local Authorities to have an element of control over the delivery. To this end, the core offer assumes that:

- LA's would be able to feed into the design of the start-up offer, specialist programmes, virtual events programme, client eligibility rules, etc.
- LA's will continue to have a seat on the Programme Board
- LA Logos would be added to the Business Lincolnshire website, Forms, Fliers, etc.
- A Self Serve reporting tool would be built so that LA's could access real time information about the businesses that have accessed support and their journey and outcomes achieved

There are 2 elements to the service proposal;

### **A) Base Offer without UKSPF (Subject to BEIS funding)**

- Programme Management including partnership and alignment, activity
- Local and National Telephone Helpline
- Basic enquiry handling from web and telephone enquiries with onward referral to local, regional and national programmes
- Delivery of GLEAM, Greater Lincolnshire Engineering and Manufacturing Network, Financial Intermediary Forum and Lincolnshire Investment Network
- Existing Business Lincolnshire Website structure
- CRM and Management Information reporting
- Flagship events (up to 2x per annum)
- Insight & Evaluation activity
- Alignment with the localised Multiply programme offer and the LEP Career Hubs



**B) UKSPF Core Offer – supported by the Greater Lincolnshire LA UKSPF partners, by pooling UKSP funds centrally and commissioning universal services**

- GLEP wide Information Diagnostic and Brokerage Service
- A dedicated advisory resource per local authority
- Shared access to the specialist adviser pool (e.g., Agri /Horti, Manufacturing, Visitor Economy, Carbon Reduction, Digital etc.)
- Shared access to a comprehensive virtual workshop / events programme
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of services / ability adapt provision to respond to business need
- Enhanced Research Activity and Reporting, Website functionality, Marketing and Information Content and MI Reporting
- Shared access to specialist support programmes – Opportunity to co-design specialist support programmes. This could include:
  - Start Up Academy
  - Support for Social Economy businesses
  - VE Sector specific support, e.g., Hospitable Boost
  - Carbon reduction support programme
  - Manufacturing Transformation Programme
  - High Growth Business support programme
- Strong links to other local and national support

#### **4. Conclusion**

The Growth Hub continues to provide much needed support for businesses as they continue to navigate through COVID recovery, whilst managing a plethora of other significant economic pressures that have been prevalent this year.

Funding is in place in 2022 -23 to ensure our services continue to encompass an end to end advisory service for all Greater Lincolnshire businesses from Start Up to Scale Up, with specialist provision commissioned to meet the changing needs of businesses.

However, over the next 12 months all ERDF funded projects will close as European Funding comes to an end is replaced with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and there is currently high levels of uncertainty as to the future business support landscape. There is a high risk that business support provision will be significantly reduced and may become patchy with a lack of a universal offer for many of our country's businesses.

A proposal has been developed and presented to all ten Local Authorities which requests a contribution to support a continued universal core offer, but we are yet to have confirmation of which Local Authorities are in support and the value of funding that will be contributed.

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to review and comment on the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub activity and to note the future changes to the funding landscape and consider the opportunity to develop a coherent approach will be more efficient and accessible to businesses and reduce potential proliferation.

## **5. Consultation**

### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

## **6. Background Papers**

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

This report was written by Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development, who can be contacted on 01522 550576, or at [Samantha.L.Harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Samantha.L.Harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk); and Angela Driver, Senior Commissioning Officer – Enterprise, who can be contacted on 01522 552815, or at [Angela.Driver@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Angela.Driver@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

<b>Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources</b>	
Report to:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>12 July 2022</b>
Subject:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme</b>

**Summary:**

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

**Actions Required:**

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

## **1. Background**

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

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

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

## 2. Work Programme

12 July 2022		
	Item	Contributor
1.	<b>Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Performance Framework 2021 - 2022 – Quarter 4:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economy</li> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• Waste</li> </ul>	Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development Chris Miller, Head of Environment Mike Reed, Head of Waste
2.	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Family Learning</b>	Justin Brown, Assistant Director Growth Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager- Economic Development
3.	<b>Environment Act 2021</b>	Chris Miller, Head of Environment
4.	<b>Tourism Commission Update and year 2 actions</b>	Mary Powell Place & Investment Manager- Economic Development
5.	<b>Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Annual Performance and future business support landscape</b>	Samantha Harrison Head of Economic Development Angela Driver Enterprise Growth Manager - Economic Development

13 September 2022		
	Item	Contributor
1.	<b>Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Performance Framework 2022 - 2023 – Quarter 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economy</li> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• Waste</li> </ul>	Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development Chris Miller, Head of Environment Mike Reed, Head of Waste
2.	<b>Coastal Car Park Strategy</b>	Chris Miller, Head of Environment
3.	<b>Planning Reform &amp; the Levelling Up Bill</b>	Vanessa Strange, Head of Infrastructure Investment
4.	<b>Horncastle Industrial Estate extension</b>	Mick King, Head of Economic Infrastructure
5.	<b>Sutton Bridge place-making</b>	Mick King, Head of Economic Infrastructure
6.	<b>Utilities Provision in Greater Lincolnshire</b>	Mick King, Head of Economic Infrastructure
7.	<b>Theddlethorpe Geological Disposal Facility Working Group - Update</b>	Justin Brown, Assistant Director Growth

25 October 2022		
	Item	Contributor
1.	Infrastructure Update	Vanessa Strange, Head of Infrastructure Investment
2.	Business Premises Portfolio Lettings Policy	Mick King, Head of Economic Infrastructure
3.	Business Premises Portfolio Disposals Policy	Mick King, Head of Economic Infrastructure
4.	Charging rates in Planning Services	Neil McBride, Head of Planing
5.	Recycling and Food Waste Collection	Mike Reed, Head of Waste

29 November 2022		
	Item	Contributor
1.	Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Operational Contract Procurement <i>(Pre-decision Scrutiny; Executive Decision 6<sup>th</sup> December)</i>	Mike Reed, Head of Waste
2.	Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Performance Framework 2022 - 2023 – Quarter 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economy</li> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• Waste</li> </ul>	Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development Chris Miller, Head of Environment Mike Reed, Head of Waste
3.	Team Lincolnshire Investment Strategy	Samantha Harrison Head of Economic Development Karen Seal Principal Place and Investment Officer

### 3. Items to be Programmed<sup>1</sup>

- Alternative Fuels
- Climate Change Impact
- Developer Contributions
- Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership Presentation
- Green Technology Grant
- Historic Places Team Strategy
- Planning White Paper
- Property Green Agenda – potential guest presentation facilitated by Sustainability
- Review of Land Sales Policy – Regeneration (County Farms)
- Skegness Business Park
- Tenant Survey
- The role of LEPs and the relationship with LCC following government guidance

<sup>1</sup> In alphabetic order.

- Update to Paper and Card Waste Collection Project (Spring/Summer 2023)
- Verge Biomass
- Business Premises Portfolio performance (March 2023)

#### 4. Conclusion

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

#### 5. Consultation

##### a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

#### 6. Appendices

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

#### 7. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 07500 571868 or by e-mail at [kiara.chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:kiara.chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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

MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	HOW AND WHEN TO COMMENT PRIOR TO THE DECISION BEING TAKEN	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
<b>Household Waste Recycling Centre Operational Contract Procurement [1026109]</b>	6 December	Executive	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Head of Waste E-mail: <a href="mailto:mike.reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk">mike.reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	Yes	All Divisions.

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