

**PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
19 JULY 2022**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR N H PEPPER (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors A N Stokes (Vice-Chairman), M R Clarke, Mrs N F Clarke, W H Gray, A M Key, K E Lee, L Wootten and R Wootten.

Councillors: R D Butroid, L A Cawrey, D McNally, S P Roe, Diana Edmonds MBE and Mrs S Woolley attended the meeting remotely, via Teams

Officers in attendance:-

Steven Batchelor (Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Senior Manager), Mark Baxter (Chief Fire Officer), Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Louise Egan (Library and Heritage Client Lead), Will Mason (Head of Culture), Carl Miller (Commercial and Procurement Manager - People Services), Martyn Parker (Assistant Director Public Protection), Lee Sirdifield (Assistant Director – Corporate), Ryan Stacey (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), Rachel West (Contract Manager) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer).

9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Brockway, A Dani, J L King and E J Sneath.

It was noted that the Chief Executive, having received notice under Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, had appointed Councillors R Wootten and L Wootten to replace Councillors Mrs J Brockway and E J Sneath respectively, for this meeting only.

10 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of members interest were made at this stage of the proceedings.

11 MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 31 MAY 2022

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 31 May 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF OFFICERS

No announcements were received from the Chairman or Lead Officers.

The Executive Councillor for Fire and Rescue and Cultural Services advised the Committee that the Ermine Community Hub had re-opened as of today, which was great news for the local community. One member praised officers for all their hard work, but expressed concern at the time taken for the hub to re-open.

13 SERVICE LEVEL PERFORMANCE REPORTING AGAINST THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2021-2022 - QUARTER 4

The Committee considered a report from Martyn Parker, Assistant Director – Public Protection, Nicole Hilton, Assistance Director – Communities, Lee Sirdified, Assistant Director Corporate, Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer and Steven Batchelor, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, which set out the performance of Tier 2 Service Level Performance Measures for 2021/22 Quarter 4 that were within the remit of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Ryan Stacey, Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Will Mason, Head of Culture were also in attendance for this item.

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

- That the number of domestic abuse reports were increasing, some concern was expressed as to whether there was a high proportion of foreign nationals subject to domestic abuse. It was reported that the actual figures were not available directly but could be shared with the Committee after the meeting. It was highlighted however it was known that it was a lower percentage than would have been expected for the demographics, in terms of reporting;
- Some concern was expressed by the electoral division Councillor for Ermine & Cathedral to the time taken to re-open the Ermine Community Hub, and that more should have been done by the Council to open the facility earlier. Confirmation was given that officers had been working very hard to get the hub open again, and that some factors delaying the re-opening were beyond the control of the Council, and as a result the timeframe had slipped;
- The positive work of trading standards officers removing counterfeit goods from a local market;
- Whether the figure for the number of domestic abuse victims receiving support on page 17 of the report pack could be split between adults and children. Confirmation was given that the figure of 1,849 was a cumulative figure, however, the figure could be broken down to better understand any problem areas. There was recognition that children were affected by domestic abuse and that there was a children and young person working within the EDAN Lincs Outreach service. It was further noted

that for future commissioning of outreach services, there would be more focus on children and young people;

- Whether speed cameras on the A52 and the A1 had been successful in reducing the number of accidents, and whether speed cameras were likely to be introduced on other roads. It was reported that average speed cameras were probably the most successful casualty reduction tool, where there was a history of speed related collisions, and that there was also a place for spot speed and mobile cameras. The Committee noted that mobile cameras provided more flexibility and spot speed cameras had an impact where there was a cluster of collisions. The average speed camera enabled the monitoring to be spread over a kilometer or more and provided a reduction in speed as well as less conflict regarding overtaking maneuvers. It was highlighted that average speed cameras had consistently demonstrated reductions of 40% in the number of people killed or seriously injured where they had been installed year on year. The Committee was advised that it was planned to introduce more, one on the A631 and a further one on the A16 near Burwell and that a further location was also planned;
- A request was made for a further breakdown concerning the overall enjoyment of services by visitors, from the visitors feedback forms at each of the visitor sites. Reassurance was given that as well as the Councils own visitor survey, close attention was also paid to TripAdvisor, as TripAdvisor was a tool used by the public to decide whether to visit a site or not. It was highlighted that each heritage site had achieved the Excellence Award from TripAdvisor;
- Deliberate primary fires – whether there was a profile that could be used to educate people not to start fires. It was reported that there was a profile which was used in arson reduction activities, which tended to be younger nuisance type fires. The Committee was advised that the fire service worked with prosecuting authorities, such as the police to take the most appropriate action depending on the age of the offenders. Also, where the fire setting behaviour was not appropriate for prosecution, the fire service worked with the individuals to help them understand the consequences of fire;
- Because of the recent hot dry weather, one member enquired whether any promotion was planned to highlight the dangers of starting fires. It was reported that media campaigns had been done through social media and traditional media methods, and that this would be continuing. The Committee noted that work was also done with schools and campsites, to highlight the importance of not causing deliberate fires;
- The increase in the number of shop fires (page 21 of the report pack). The Committee was advised that it was not known why there had been a rise in the number of cases, or whether it was just because of the increased number of vacant premises. It was reported this this was an area that was being looked into;
- Clarification of figures relating to killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions for 2017. Officers agreed to investigate and provide the correct information for the next meeting;
- Reassurance was given that the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership was doing well in bring together resources and people working together in the county to improve road safety, but there was always more that could be done;

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- Some concern was expressed regarding fake car brake shoes. The Committee was advised that this was a frightening thought to think that some people thought this was acceptable. It was highlighted that with the increase in this type of activity around unsafe products, that identifying them was very intelligence led, and that where officers obtained information, they were able to intervene. Assurance was given that officers would look to see if there were any trends, and if required some specific campaigning would be done to raise awareness to garages, as the standard for drivers on the roads could not be lower as a result of this;
- Whether the Food Standards Agency extended deadline for inspections (30 June 2022) had been achieved. Confirmation was given the deadline had been met;
- The effectiveness of fixed speed indicator machines in the larger rural villages; and whether anything could be done to help small parishes that were unable to afford to buy one. It was reported that the reactive signs were purchased by communities as part of the Community Speedwatch Scheme; and that these could be shared and rotated. The Committee was advised that the partnership could help with the installation of the pole, if necessary, which then allowed for them to be moved from parish to parish. Confirmation was given that there was no provision for installing them countywide; and there were no resources available to be able to provide them at this time; and
- Page 45 – Illicit alcohol and tobacco products seized. A question was asked as to the effect on officer's time, and whether officers worked across several areas of trading standards, or whether they specialized in certain areas. The Committee was advised that trading standards had three pillars of work and that this piece of work would have been picked up by the Reactive Teams, of which there were two that covered the county, operating out of Boston and Lincoln. It was noted that there was some overall competence across the specialisms, but the teams tended to stay specialists within the three pillars of work.

RESOLVED

That the Committee records its satisfaction with the performance achieved in Quarter 4 and that the comments raised, be taken into consideration by relevant officers and Portfolio Holders.

Note: Councillor K E Lee wished to have it recorded that she abstained from voting.

14 NATIONAL FLOOD RESCUE ASSURANCE INSPECTION

Consideration was given to a report from Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer, which advised the Committee of the outcomes of the assurance visit on 28 January 2022 from the National Resilience Assurance Team (NRAT) to assess Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue's flood response against two national standards documents: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Flood Rescue Concept of Operations (DEFRA FRCO); and the National Fire Chiefs Council Rescue Boat Code (NFCC RBS).

The Committee was advised that following the assessment it was identified that Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue would be able to declare 2 x 'Type C Teams' (Water & Flood Rescue Technician Team).

The report highlighted at 1.4 the areas for improvement, which mainly related to the same issue of appropriately qualified instructors. Pages 58 to 59 of the report provided the Committee with details of an action plan, to ensure that the relevant areas highlighted were addressed, for Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue to achieve 2 x 'Type B Teams' (Water and Flood Rescue Team).

In conclusion, the Committee was advised that once the outstanding actions were completed, LFR would be able to confirm its status as being Type B compliant with NRAT.

During consideration of this item, the Committee raised some of the following comments:

- Whether the long-term sickness mentioned on page 57 of the report pack related to Covid/mental health issues or whether they job related issues. The Committee was advised as this was personal information this would not be shared, but assurance was given that staff were supported through this period while they had been absent from work, and that there had been no specific trends, it was had just been unfortunate timing to have two people off on long-term absence at the same time;
- Thanks were extended to the Chief Officer for the comprehensive report and congratulations were extended to the achievements of the service; and
- The role of the national flood assets. The Committee was advised that not all fire and rescue services had national assets, but Lincolnshire did, as flooding was one of the highest risks identified in the Community Risk Management Plan and also the Councils Corporate Risk Register. It was reported that there was a central team who were hosted in Merseyside (national resilience team) and if any foreign rescue service, or any county had significant flooding incidents that went beyond their own capabilities and assets, they had the ability to call on national resilience and the central team would then co-ordinate the mobilisation of assets on the register to help with the incident. It was highlighted that to work alongside the host service, officers needed to be properly trained, and that was why the Assurance Team assessed fire and rescue services to ensure that there was a consistent level of training and a consistent level of PPE and that qualified personnel could all perform at the same level. The Committee noted that Lincolnshire FRS had provided support to Cumbria when they had received significant flooding; and support was also provided to Lancashire to help tackle wildfires.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended thanks to the Chief Fire Officer for the presentation.

RESOLVED

That the report and action plan presented be received; and that the comments raised by the Committee be taken into consideration.

15 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2024 - YEARLY UPDATE

The Committee considered a report from Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer, which provided a progress update on the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2020/2024.

Ryan Stacey, Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented the report to the Committee, referring to end of performance update, which included community fire safety, community fire protection, the performance management report for 2022/23; and the Integrated Risk Management Plan – Mid-Term Review.

The Committee were advised of the proposed reporting areas for scrutiny, details of which were shown on page 91 of the report pack. Page 92 of the report pack also highlighted the proposed changes to the attendance standard, to make them clearer to communities. It was noted the measures would be going out for public consultation for the remainder of the 2020/2024 IRMP. Some comparison attendance standards data was provided on pages 92 and 93 for the Committee to consider.

The Committee was invited to comment on the report and to agree on the improvement actions required highlighted within the report. During discussion, the Committee raised some of the following comments:

- Some concern was expressed to the proposed attendance standard ‘We will respond to all other incidents within an average of 15 minutes for the first fire engine’. A question was asked as to how current response times compared to those in 2010. It was reported that the difference between the proposed other incidents and dwelling fires was dwelling fires got worse minute by minute, and that in terms of survivability there was a requirement to have that attendance standard a lot quicker (11 minutes for the first engine). In the case of a road traffic collision whilst it was very important to get there quickly, it was a static incident, and it was about getting the person to medical care, hence why there was a difference in attendance standard. With regard to response time pre-2010, it was reported that at that time there had been seven whole time stations; and that in 2013 investment from the Council had enabled this to increase to nine whole time stations, and as a result, this had improved the service attendance standards. It was highlighted that with the commitment of On-call officers getting to the station, there had not been a significant difference regarding attendance standards. A further concern was expressed as to how the proposed attendance standards would be explained to people in more rural communities so that they could be assured. The Committee was advised that what the proposed attendance standards were seeking to achieve was a reduction in deaths and injuries. It was also noted that the prevention strategy was focused on rural areas with regard to educational awareness and that there were teams working in local communities to help keep people safe in the first instance;
- Clarification was sought as to whether the workforce and the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) had been involved in the process. It was reported that the FBU were involved in the Integrated Risk Management Plan and the informal consultation process, and

that the FBU would be involved in the current development of the 2024-2028 Integrated Risk Management Plan;

- Community Fire Protection information at the bottom of page 84. One member enquired whether there was a data base of at-risk properties. It was reported that there was a data base, the service used, the National Land Premises Gazette, which identified all domestic and non-domestic premises in the County. It was noted that this information was then checked to understand what the built environment looked like, and it was then developed into the IRMP and the risk-based inspections. It was noted that when visits were made, generic and specific risks were identified. This information was then made available to fire crews on their mobile data terminals. It was noted further that for specific risks, there would be a specific risk based operational risk inspection, which would then alert the operational crews. The Committee noted that an element of pre-planning could be done in advance of the attendance of crews at an incident;
- Clarification was sought as to the co-operation of the service with airfields in the County and their independent fire services. The Committee was advised that the service worked continually with the Ministry of Defence, and smaller stations, to help them mitigate risk and to train with them in aspects of fire safety; and
- The SHERMAN campaign, identifying risks that made people vulnerable to fire: S – Smoking, H – Hoarding, E – Elderly, R – Reduced Mobility, M – mental health issues, A – alcohol/drug misuse, and N – needs care or support.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman extended his thanks to the presenters.

RESOLVED

1. That the information contained in the end of year Integrated Risk Management Plan performance update be noted.
2. That the changes proposed to the reported measures be agreed.
3. That a public consultation be approved for a change in the way the attendance standard is expressed in the Integrated Risk Management Plan.

16 LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - LINCOLNSHIRE CREWING ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered a report from Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer, which advised the Committee of the proposal to enter consultation to seek to change the Lincolnshire crewing duty system.

The Chairman invited Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer to present the item to the Committee.

In guiding the Committee through the report reference was made to the current arrangements; and reasons why the Lincolnshire crewing duty system needed to change.

Appendix A to the report provided a copy of the fire cover review; changes proposed. It was highlighted that following the service review, understanding of operational fire risk, improved training, and assessment of on call firefighters and redistribution of specialist skills the service was able to change the crewing model at Sleaford fire station to a day crewing duty system as detailed on the national scheme of conditions of service. This would then provide a wholetime service with daytime cover 7 days a week and night-time cover being provided by on call personnel. It was highlighted that Sleaford fire station was the only station identified through Fire Risk Assessment Methodology (FRAM) as medium risk, with the other seven stations still requiring 24/7 wholetime cover.

A copy of the Impact Assessment was detailed at Appendix B to the report and Appendix C provided a copy of the Risk Log for Sleaford Fire Station.

The Committee was advised that the service had been involved in a joint working group to review the operational response model and efficiencies provided; and that personnel had been engaged in the process via a staff survey and face to face meetings.

The Committee were asked to comment on the proposal to seek to change the Lincolnshire crewing duty system to that detailed in paragraph 1.4 of the report, to change the Sleaford crewing model.

During consideration of this item, the Committee raised some of the following comments:

- What effect the potential change would have on the response times in the Sleaford area. The Committee was advised that minimal impact was expected regarding response times/standards. The change would however mean there would be savings with not having to pay allowances for the wholetime cover, which would enable more core personnel to be recruited that might live closer to the station, to ensure that the response standard was maintained in Sleaford;
- Whether 20 personnel, four watches of five, was adequate, as some comments received had indicated that on some occasions, the service was running on four people. The Committee was advised that this specifically referred to Lincoln Station, where there were 20 personnel and that regarding ridership, an optimum ridership of four was deemed as safe practice, but that ideally five on an appliance was better, but this was not always possible. Reassurance was given that the number would never go below the minimum crewing of four and that steps were taken to ensure that the right amount of personnel attended an incident. Some clarity was sought over the role of the fifth person as being the breathing safety person, and if that was the case if the appliance was riding four, were there safe systems in place to ensure that rapid deployment was applied. The Committee was advised that the technique had been well embedded across all fire stations, so that deployment was immediate;
- Compensatory rest. It was reported that compensatory rest was when people who had been committed to station for four or five days, were not expected to work 24/7, as people's welfare was at the heart of the service. However, it was highlighted that there was a clear understanding, if there was a life risk incident, someone on a compensatory rest could get called in to respond. The Committee was advised that a

local review had been done on this matter with every single firefighter on the Lincolnshire crewing system and that agreement had been reached which enabled them to get rest periods they required, but also ensured that there was appliance availability should it be needed. It was highlighted that where a rest was interrupted alternative flexible duty patterns would be given to address as many concerns as possible in this regard;

- Assurance was also sought that the proposed changes were not just about savings;
- Timing of the consultation being through the summer holidays when lots of people would be on their summer break. A further question was asked regarding publicity and methods of consultation. The Committee was advised that the fire and rescue service would be working with the Councils Engagement Team, and that the Engagement Plan would ensure that as many people as possible were contacted; and that the timescale for the consultation would be reviewed in light of earlier comments made, and for contact to be made with parish councils;
- How certain the service was that the proposed changes would improve recruitment opportunities. It was reported that the conversation for change had been initiated from staff, when members of the leadership team had taken time to visit stations to ask them directly how things were operating. One area that had been highlighted had been the restrictions within the Lincolnshire crewing system. As a result of this and the impact on recruitment, steps were then taken to ensure the service was to become an employer of choice for all people within local communities and to ensure that the service represented the diverse nature of Lincolnshire;
- Whether there had been any response from officers. Clarification was given that the whole process had been done in collaboration with staff and with the direct bodies that form the joint working group, who actually outlined what needed to be achieved. The proposals had then been checked to make sure that they met the needs of fire and rescue and its statutory duties, but also addressed the concerns of the work force and the direct bodies. Reassurance was given that the whole process had been conducted in a very collaborative way and was a well-supported proposal within the organisation;
- Page 97 advised that there had been challenge from the Fire Brigades Union. The Committee was advised that there was a fundamental difference as to how Lincolnshire approached the crewing duty system compared to other fire and rescue services. It was reported that Lincolnshire had been one of the first services to adopt this type of system and that this had been done through a local agreement with the FBU. Other services had not gone down this route and had imposed a duty system without a local agreement. Because of this, that was why the court ruling had challenged this regarding working time directives. It was highlighted because of the positive working relationship Lincolnshire had with the representative bodies it did not need to go down that route, as early engagement and discussions had taken place to make sure the service satisfied the Working Time Directive; and
- The definition of a close proximity crew. It was reported that these were crews that were available for 96 hours, but in that time staff were able to either go home if they live within five minutes of the station, or if not the station provided accommodation, to ensure that the personnel were available for operational response. It was

highlighted that this was in essence, the same as an on call firefighter, which in Lincolnshire was the backbone of the response model within the county.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended thanks to the presenter.

RESOLVED

That support be given by the Committee to the report and that the comments raised be forwarded on to the Executive Councillor for Fire and Rescue and Cultural Services.

17 PERFORMANCE OF THE LIBRARY SERVICE CONTRACT - SIX YEAR REVIEW REPORT

Consideration was given to a report from Louise Egan, Library and Heritage Client Lead, which provided the Committee with an update of the contract performance of the sixth year of the out-sourced library contract to Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL).

The Chairman invited the Library and Heritage Client Lead to present the report to the Committee. Diana Edmonds MBE, National Libraries Director for GLL was also in attendance for this item.

The Committee was advised that GLL had brought vast improvements to the library service across the region, and that the performance for year six had been no different. Page 155 of the report pack, and Appendix C to the report provided performance details for the Committee to consider. The Committee noted that despite some closure periods during year-six, the core library services had been visited over half a million times; and that over one million physical stocks had been issued. It was also reported that the service had received nearly 400,000 digital issues from customers using on-line facilities from their own homes; and that the service had also received half a million website visits.

The Committee noted that there was no doubt that the pandemic had brought about changes in how library stock was accessed and used, however, indications were that the pandemic had not resulted in a simple shift from physical to digital. Pages 144 and 145 of the report pack provided further information in this regard.

Appendix A to the report provided details of the library service – contract components and Appendix B provided information relating to the six-year review of social value.

Reference was also mentioned to IT infrastructure development and how important IT had been through the pandemic, particularly customers bringing in their own devices and using Wi-Fi provision within libraries; and the development of library hubs and the benefits that had given to communities.

In conclusion, the Committee was advised that GLL would continue to focus on the recovery of the service during year seven, which included encouraging people back to the service to make the most of the facilities within their communities.

During consideration of the item, the Committee raised some of the following comments:

- Thanks were extended to the fantastic facilities provided by library hubs and to the work being done with communities;
- The time taken to re-open the Ermine Library Hub;
- The progress being made on the Grantham library transferring to GLL. The Committee was advised that work was still ongoing with colleagues in property services to find an alternative site to transfer to, to relocate the library service;
- Support was extended to the issuing of craft and activity packs to children and that it was hoped that with more sponsorship more of this would happen in the future. It was reported that the packs were initially created out of need as customers could not get in physically. But, as a result of the take-up being so great, it was now part of the standard offer;
- The success of tea and coffee mornings and that more people were slowly coming back to have a cup of tea and a natter; and
- The importance of the social value the library service realises for communities.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended thanks to the presenter.

RESOLVED

That the performance of the Library Service Contract – Six Year Review Report presented be received and that support be given to the development of future Actions for year seven; and that the comments raised by the Committee be noted.

Note: Councillor K E Lee wished it to have it recorded that she had abstained from voting.

18 PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman invited Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, to present the report, which invited the Committee to review the work programme as detailed on pages 157 to 164 of the report pack and to highlight any additional scrutiny activity to be included for consideration in the work programme.

During consideration of this item, the Committee put forward the following comments/suggestions:

- The potential of moving the flooding incident item to later in the year. The Committee noted that the current timing was to ensure that all elements of flooding were covered in the amalgamated report; and
- The Community Trigger Process. Reassurance was given that this would be covered as part of the anti-social behaviour item, which was due to be considered in the next couple of months.

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RESOLVED

That the work programme presented be received.

The meeting of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee ended at 12:19pm.

19 DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES RE-COMMISSIONING

SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report from Carl Miller, Commercial and Procurement Manager and Rachel West, Contract Manager, which invited the Committee to consider and comment on a report regarding the re-commissioning of Domestic Abuse Support Services (DASS), which was due to be considered by the Executive on 6 September 2022. It was highlighted that the views of the Committee would be passed on to the Executive as part of their consideration of this item.

The Chairman invited the Commercial and Procurement Manager and Contract Manager to present the item to the Committee.

The Committee was advised of the background to the service, the current service provision, and reasons for the proposed remodelling of the DASS. It was highlighted that the existing contract was not able to be extended further and that a new service needed to be in place for April 2023.

The Committee was also advised of the service review conducted over the last eight months, the key findings of the review were summarised on pages 173 and 174 of the report pack; the proposed changes to the current arrangements; the budget and cost implications; risks and dependencies; the commercial approach being taken; payment and performance; contract commencement and duration, it was noted that the new contract would be for a maximum period of five years, with an initial period of three years, with the opportunity to extend for a further two-year period; and the procurement implications.

In conclusion, the Committee was advised that the re-commissioning of a countywide DASS supported the priorities and delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan, the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership, Lincolnshire Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24; and the Councils' statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. It was noted that the proposed improvements and integration of the current Outreach and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Services under the umbrella of DASS, through the specification and associated processes would enable the Council and partners to maximise the service impact and outcomes for individuals, to build up resilience. To help prevent further victimisation and support victims to live safe, happy, and healthy lives.

During consideration of this item, the Committee were pleased to receive the detailed report and were supportive of the proposals set out in the report, which aimed at tightening support measures around vulnerable individuals.

Members also commented on the supportive, proactive outreach offer as described in the report and believed that this would be helpful in dealing with the increased number of cases reported and the various risk categories identified.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended thanks to the presenters.

RESOLVED

That unanimous support be given to the recommendations to the Executive as detailed on page 168 of the report pack and that the comments raised by the Committee be recorded and passed on to the Executive to help facilitate their decision making on 6 September 2022.

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm