



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

7 September 2023

Council

A meeting of the Council will be held on **Friday, 15 September 2023 in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL, commencing at 10.30 am** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda. The attendance of all Councillors is requested.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Council

Councillors R P H Reid (Chairman), E W Strengeiel (Vice-Chairman), M G Allan, P Ashleigh-Morris, T R Ashton, Mrs A M Austin, A J Baxter, M D Boles, Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, A W Briggs, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, S Bunney, R D Butroid, I D Carrington, T A Carter, L A Cawrey, K J Clarke, M R Clarke, Mrs N F Clarke, R J Cleaver, K H Cooke, P E Coupland, A Dani, C J Davie, R G Davies, P M Dilks, T J G Dyer, I G Fleetwood, R A Gibson, W H Gray, M A Griggs, A G Hagues, A M Hall, M Hasan, M J Hill OBE, R J Kendrick, A M Key, Mrs J E Killey, J L King, K E Lee, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet, C Matthews, A P Maughan, D McNally, Mrs S A J Nutman, Mrs M J Overton MBE, S R Parkin, N H Pepper, Clio Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, S P Roe, N Sear, P A Skinner, T J N Smith, E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, G J Taylor, J Tyrrell, Mrs C L E Vernon, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R A Wright, T V Young and 2 Vacancies

**COUNCIL AGENDA
FRIDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Declarations of Councillors' Interests	
3	Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 May 2023	5 - 10
4	Result of the By Election for Lincoln Carholme Electoral Division	11 - 14
5	Chairman's Announcements	
6	Statements/Announcements by the Leader and Members of the Executive	15 - 64
7	Questions to the Chairman, the Leader, Executive Councillors, Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees	
8	Review of Financial Performance 2022/23	65 - 80
9	Political Proportionality and Allocation of Seats to Committees and Sub-Committees	81 - 86
10	Appointments of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees	87 - 90
11	Appointments to Outside Bodies	91 - 94
12	Appointment of Independent Persons	95 - 102
13	Changes to the Constitution - Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board Membership	103 - 110
14	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23	111 - 130
15	Motions on notice submitted in accordance with the Council's Constitution	

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

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing [Agenda for Council on Friday, 15th September, 2023, 10.30 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

All papers for council meetings are available on:
<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records>



**COUNCIL
19 MAY 2023**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR MRS A M AUSTIN (CHAIRMAN)

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

50 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL 2023/24

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

RESOLVED:

That Councillor R P H Reid be elected the Chairman of the County Council for 2023/24.

51 ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL 2023/24

On the nomination of Councillor P A Bradwell OBE, seconded by Councillor R D Butroid and there being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor E W Strengiel be elected the Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2023/24.

52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M D Boles, K H Cooke, A G Hagues, A M Key, M J Overton MBE and R B Parker.

53 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

None were declared.

54 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2023

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 February 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

55 RESULT OF BY ELECTION FOR EAGLE AND HYKEHAM WEST ELECTORAL DIVISION

The Council received the Electoral Return for the By Election for Eagle and Hykeham West Electoral Division.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Briggs to his first meeting of the Council.

56 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Council Chamber and thanked them for taking part in the County Council photograph.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Lincolnshire Show would be held on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd June at the County Showground and all Members were invited to take part in the Meet Your Councillor section of the stand. Further details would follow.

The Chairman was proposing to hold a service of dedication and thanksgiving in Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday 10th September 2023. Invitations would be sent nearer the date but in the meantime, he asked that the date be noted in diaries.

On a sadder note, the Chairman reported the death of three former County Councillors: David Mawby DL who was County Councillor for the former Holbeach Fen division having been first elected in May 1977 and retiring in 2001. Mr Mawby served as Deputy Leader of the Council from 1997 to his retirement in 2001; Tony Turner MBE JP who represented the North Wolds electoral division until his retirement in May 2021, having first been elected to the Council at a by-election in August 1995. He served for 26 years on the county council, having previously been elected to the former Cleethorpes Borough Council in 1954 and also elected to the former Humberside County Council; and Ken Bridger, who represented the Market Rasen Wolds electoral division from May 2005 to June 2009. Members were invited to stand for a minute's silence to pay tribute.

57 THE LEADER TO REPORT ON EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIOS, APPOINTMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE AND APPOINTMENTS OF EXECUTIVE SUPPORT COUNCILLORS

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

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

Statements by the Leader and members of the Executive were circulated at the meeting.

The Leader of the Council was pleased to announce the achievements of the Council for 2022/23 despite facing challenges such as the end of the Pandemic, the War in Ukraine, a surge towards net zero and high inflation. Despite challenges, the Council remained financially and operationally robust and services remained good or outstanding. Ensuring that services were delivered well and provided good value money for residents was a priority. The Leader of the Council also highlighted some of the successes for 2022/23 and outlined future projects. Plans for devolution were progressing, with the option for the Council to make a formal bid to the Government in Autumn 2023.

The challenges of migration within Lincolnshire were acknowledged, including the potential challenges posed by plans for asylum accommodation at RAF Scampton. The Council were working with the City of Lincoln Council and West Lindsey District Council as plans progressed.

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

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

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

1. that the Council's Committees, along with their terms of reference, as set out in the Constitution be established for the 2023/24 municipal year in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2;
2. the size of the Committees, as set out within the appendices to the report be agreed for the 2023/24 municipal year in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2;
3. that the allocation of Committee seats (as detailed in Appendix A which was circulated with the Order of Proceedings) be agreed in accordance with the political balance rules; and
4. That appointments to Committees as nominated by Group Leaders and detailed in Appendix B, which was circulated with the Order of Proceedings, be agreed.

60 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

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

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the nominations for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees, as set out in schedule 4 to the Order of Proceedings, be approved.

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

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

	<u>Question by</u>	<u>Question to</u>	<u>Subject</u>
a)	Councillor A P Maughan	Councillor R G Davies	Road safety improvements in Hough
b)	Councillor J E Killey	Councillor C J Davie	Update on Zero Carbon Emissions
c)	Councillor R J Cleaver	Councillor R G Davies	Speed Limit Policies
d)	Councillor S Bunney	Councillor C J Davie	Planning development conditions
e)	Councillor C Matthews	Councillor C J Davie	Implications of onshore and offshore wind farm developments
f)	Councillor K J Clarke	Councillor W Bowkett	Outcome of CQC Inspections within Adult Care Homes
g)	Councillor A J Baxter	Councillor C J Davie	Solar Energy Generation
h)	Councillor R A Gibson	Councillor R G Davies	Update on road reconstruction equipment
i)	Councillor E W Strengiel	Councillor R G Davies	Western Growth Corridor
j)	Councillor K E Lee	Councillor P A Bradwell	Castle Academy School
k)	Councillor T J G Dyer	Councillor R G Davies	OBE
l)	Councillor P M Dilks	Councillor R D Butroid	North Hykeham Relief Road
m)	Councillor J L King	Councillor R G Davies	Deepings Leisure Centre
n)	Councillor P A Skinner	Councillor R D Butroid	Flooding
o)	Councillor A M Austin	Councillor R G Davies	Leverton Fire Station
p)	Councillor R P Reid	Councillor C J Davie	Tree planting
		Councillor R D Butroid	Thurlby Youth Hostel

62 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023-25

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

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

1. That the 2023-25 Calendar of Meetings, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved and the points outlined in paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5 be noted;
2. that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Democratic Services following consultation with the Chairs of the relevant Committee(s) / Working Group(s) to amend the Calendar of Meetings as and when required.

63 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the Council makes the appointment to the organisations as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

64 REFRESH OF THE CORPORATE PLAN

A report by the Chief Executive had been circulated.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the refreshed Corporate Plan 2019-2029, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be agreed.

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

No motions on notice had been submitted.

The meeting closed at 11.59 am

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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	15 September 2023
Subject:	Result of By Election for Lincoln Carholme Electoral Division

Summary:

The purpose of this item is to formally report to the County Council the outcome of the Lincolnshire County Council By-Election for Lincoln Carholme Electoral Division which is due to take place on 14 September 2023.

Recommendation(s):

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

1. Background

- 1.1 A By-Election for the Lincoln Carholme Electoral Division is due to take place on 14 September 2023 following the resignation of Councillor Robert Parker in July 2023.
- 1.2 At the time of writing this report the outcome of the By-Election is unknown, and this will be reported at the meeting.
- 1.3 Appendix A to this report will set out the formal notice of Return of Persons Elected for that division, and will be included in the order of proceedings published on 15th September 2023.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are no direct implications for the JSNA or JHWS.

Crime and Disorder

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

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

3. Conclusion

The County Council is requested to note the outcome for the Lincolnshire County Council By-Election due to be held on 14th September 2023 as set out in Appendix A to this report (circulated in the Order of Proceedings).

4. Legal Comments:

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

5. Resource Comments:

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

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

N/A

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached within the Order of Proceedings	
Appendix A	Electoral Return for Lincoln Carholme Electoral Division

8. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Nicola Calver, Member Services Manager, who can be contacted on 07387 133755 or nicola.calver@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 6

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

COMMERCIAL

Procurement and Commissioning

The Commercial Team (Infrastructure) have helped deliver a wide range of procurement and commissioning projects throughout 2023 including the supply, installation and maintenance of electric vehicle charging points with intelligent software to LCC's Business Centre portfolio, the employee benefits offer, the disposal and recycling of surplus furniture, the Council's software reseller to access Microsoft products & laptops, fire service fleet maintenance and the Customer Service Centre & digital transformation support.

Moving forward, the team are supporting the re-provision of the Corporate Property contract, with a particular focus on the multi-million pound Facilities Management service and we are assisting in the early stages of re-commissioning the Libraries service. To prepare for changes in the Environment Act 2021, which will place a requirement to divert food waste from landfill the team is supporting the commissioning and procurement of food waste collection.

FINANCE

Statement of Accounts 2021/2022 and 2022/2023

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUCH) have been working with the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) to address the national issue of the number of local audits outstanding. Whilst our accounts for 2021/2022 have not received a final audit opinion, our external auditors have presented their findings to the Audit Committee and have provided assurance that the only outstanding items to address are technical accounting issues being addressed at a national level. The Council's draft accounts for 2022/2023 were presented to Audit Committee on the 19 June 2023 and were available for public inspection as per the statutory requirements. Our external auditors Mazars are currently reviewing our accounts and will be updating Audit committee of their progress on the 25 September 2023.

Revenue and Capital budget monitoring Quarter 1 (Q1)

The first budget monitoring reports for the current financial year 2023/2024 are based on the forecast position as at 30 June 2023. The reports were presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 24 August 2023, with the comments of the Board presented to the Executive on 5 September 2023. Our prudent budgeting has allowed us to fully budget for the delivery of our services, in spite of challenging economic factors. Whilst we continue to closely monitor our costs and service demands we are forecasting a small underspend on our budgets for 2023/2024 at this time.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Devolution

Greater Lincolnshire remains on track to agree a devolution proposal for the area. It is engaged in negotiations with government departments to secure funding and powers that will help to accelerate growth across our key sectors of food, energy security, ports and logistics. The deal text is being drafted with DLUHC officials and numerous government departments, setting out the powers and funding that will be contained within the devolution deal, and to a clear intention for further devolution beyond the first deal.

Briefing sessions have been offered to district council elected members to highlight the opportunities that devolution can offer to Greater Lincolnshire and update on the latest progress.

Work is on-going with the governance, reform, and democracy unit to ensure that effective arrangements are agreed and that there is appropriate representation from colleagues in district councils, businesses, and education providers. This will see further engagement with district councils and other stakeholders over the coming weeks.

It is still expected that a deal will be reached in Autumn 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The newly commissioned Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Service (LDASS), commenced on 1 April 2023. The priority during these initial five months has been to ensure a smooth transition to the new service model, whilst ensuring a continuation of support for child and adult victims of domestic abuse.

LDASS and Victim Lincs

LDASS (provided by EDAN Lincs) offers three elements of service: Adult Intervention, Children and Young People and Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy. Working in partnership with Victim Lincs (OPCC Victims services) there have been improvements to the triage process allowing LDASS to focus its resources on supporting victims and speeding up access to its services.

Digital Platform

As part of the new contract expectations, EDAN Lincs have developed a new digital platform www.ldass.or.uk, the first phase of which went live in May 2023. This phase of the digital platform has been designed around the three key principles of prevention, protection, and recovery. The platform provides comprehensive information for both child and adult victims of domestic abuse and includes a chat or text-based service to ensure people have a range of ways to access the service and support at different times of the day and week.

The platform also has a professional's area, with resources tailored to meet the needs of partner stakeholders and referrers including promotional materials, referral pathways, information for referrers, top tips for referrals, what to expect following a referral, how to work jointly with the service, and how to identify and support victims. The service will continue to grow the number of resources over time and update where necessary.

Survivor groups

To support a new element of the service model, Outreach and Engagement, EDAN Lincs has worked in partnership with the social prescribing team in South Holland to establish a pilot Domestic Abuse survivor group; with the focus being on building self-esteem, confidence and empowerment. EDAN Lincs worked with other professionals in the area to promote this group, to ensure they reached the intended audience. The service plans to work with other social prescribing groups and volunteering groups, to replicate this approach in other parts of the county.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Leaving Care

The support to our young people leaving care has received additional invigoration and funding through a successful bid to the Department For Education (DfE) around the staying Close and Connected agenda. Lincolnshire Children Services has successfully secured £1.3million extra funding to invest into a model aimed at supporting our young people so they stay connected to their previous children’s homes.

Staying Close is not simply a housing offer, it is a model which provides an enhanced package of support to young people leaving children’s homes and is designed to be a comparable offer to the option to Stay Put, which supports young people in foster care to remain with their former foster carers until age 21. Many care leavers report experiencing a ‘cliff-edge’ when they leave care and move out into independent tenancies, we want to create a service that helps young people achieve their best at that point of transition. The programme provides an offer of move-on accommodation, alongside a package of practical and emotional support from partner agencies and Lincolnshire’s leaving care service. This project will run for two years and will be subject to evaluation.

Children’s Health Service

The Children’s Health 0-19 team has seen an increased demand on the service post-pandemic and continues to focus on full delivery of the Healthy Child Programme. The service has introduced a new Community Nurse role to support delivery of the programme and ensure that health visitors can focus on meeting the more complex needs of our most vulnerable children. In line with the national picture, recruitment to health visitor posts remains challenging but the new nurse roles and our family health workers will ensure that families continue to receive a high-quality service. Despite the challenges, the service has recruited six student Health Visitors due to commence in September 2023 and will join the qualified workforce in September 2024, evidence that Lincolnshire continues to be viewed as an attractive place to work.

Fostering

Lincolnshire children in care who are unable to be placed within their family network or with connected persons are matched and placed with fostering families. The fostering service supervise and support a wide range and number of carers to offer placements for the short and longer term. The use of the Valuing Care Toolkit enables staff to match the needs of the children alongside the skills and knowledge of the foster carers available.

There continues to be a shortage of carers across the country and our efforts to retain and recruit carers is a continued priority. Valuing this group is essential and investing in them with

quality support, supervision and training in addition to an increase of 12% on the allowances this year will hopefully ensure that carers remain, and new carers will join us as their fostering agency of choice.

The service continues to attract new applications and the engagement of existing carers within the recruitment activity continues. This together with the fostering-friendly initiative, positive foster carer community and the layered support to carers to support children who have experienced trauma encourages the sustainability of our in-house provision, notwithstanding that commissioned resources continue to be needed to support the children in care numbers.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Service

In July, the SEND Employment Project hosted the very first SEND Careers and Employment Awards at Lincoln City Football Club. The event celebrated the talents and successes of young people with SEND and recognised some of the great staff that support them.

The project is creating careers and employment opportunities for young people and adults with special educational needs and disabilities. Awards were sponsored by local employers and presented to participants that have demonstrated excellence in their work.

Students from Eresby, Willoughby, Aegir, St Christopher's and St Francis Special Schools, along with learners from Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) Young People's Learning Provision and Ancaster Day Centre received awards in the following categories: The PepsiCo Enterprise Challenge, Lincoln City Foundation Community Impact, the British Army's Desert Rats, Serco's Work Experience, Ruddock's Career Eager Beavers, Aaron Services' Supported Internships and LCC's awards to volunteers and students for their work in The QUAD Café. The event also celebrated the success of several young people who have now gained paid employment.

The SEND Employment Project continues to promote employer engagement and to widen opportunities for young people with SEND.

Schools

The Education Team works closely with our strategic partners in the Teaching School Hub, Diocese of Lincoln, and schools to ensure that all schools have access to the best professional support and development possible. Through the Education Improvement Strategy, the majority of maintained schools continue to work collaboratively to support each other, and schools are accessing a range of nationally funded programmes for tutoring and intervention.

Early examination results show that Lincolnshire's primary pupils are performing well in relation to their starting points in most schools. The performance of secondary schools overall continues to be in line with the national picture. Our maintained schools are performing well in Ofsted inspections, but there is some turbulence in inspection outcomes in the academy sector.

School Admissions

Despite an increase in demand, on national offer day 86% of secondary-age children received a place at their first-choice school, with a further 1% allocated their first preference following

revised applications and appeals. We expect this number will be higher next year as the cohort size decreases. For primary admissions, 95% received a place at their first-choice school.

Families First for Children - Pathfinder

In July 2023, the DfE formally announced Lincolnshire as one of the initial three national Families First for Children Pathfinders which will run between September 2023 and March 2025. The pathfinders have been established as part of the government's children's social care implementation strategy, 'Stable Homes built on love' and responds to recommendations from the independent review of children's social care and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report on child protection. This brings opportunities to develop and test new ways of working within Lincolnshire who are recognised within the sector as an innovative and transformational authority. The pathfinder has been created to co-design new reforms to Family Help, Child Protection, Statutory Safeguarding Partnerships and in unlocking the potential of Family Networks for children and families across Lincolnshire.

In Lincolnshire we will now start work alongside key government agencies and local partners including Police, Health, and Education within Lincolnshire to support the creation of a future system where we support families in a new way and develop a stronger multi-agency and expert child protection response. Our work on this pathfinder will be captured and evaluated by the Department for Education, with a view towards wider national sector led improvement.

Children's Homes Expansion

Work on Robin House, the new children's home in Lincoln is now complete and the home will open early September following confirmation of successful Ofsted Registration. Construction is well underway for our second new build children's home in Louth which is expected to open early 2024. These exciting projects have been made possible due to DfE match funding.

Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

This programme continues to build on the strong provision of Children's Centres and our early help offer. A range of services to enhance children, parents and families' experiences have been commissioned and will be implemented over the next three months.

In June and July we saw the launch of three of our Family Hubs:- Lincoln North, Sleaford and Swingbridge. The launches were enjoyed by many families and partners with a range of enrichment activities on offer.

Our next steps are:

- To implement our training plan and workforce development strategy.
- Work with locality teams to ensure the start for life offer is embedded.
- Embed parent/carer panels to inform the programme.
- Develop our evaluation methodology.

Children's Centres

Children's Centres continue to be popular and well attended across Lincolnshire, with a range of family activities taking place during August to support families during the school holidays. We have seen high engagement at the themed holiday events which have included Rhubarb Theatre company and sensory themed sessions which include visits from the sensory bus. Baby massage continues to be very popular with courses fully booked and lovely feedback regularly shared by families.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

For Summer 2023 we have one-hundred and thirty-two HAF clubs across Lincolnshire, seventeen of which are SEND specific. All providers delivering HAF in Lincolnshire should provide an inclusive offer and are supported with advice and guidance where required to help them to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. From last year HAF has seen a rapid growth in clubs in particular those being provided for children with additional needs.

The Lincolnshire programme has been recognised by the DfE for its partnership work and presented to other local authorities on 'value for money' showcasing how donations have enhanced our clubs. Some of our partners include, Branston Ltd, GoGro, Lincolnshire Coop, Active Lincolnshire, Community Dental Services and many more.

A Lincolnshire provider has also been recognised for engaging with secondary-aged girls to improve fitness, make new friendship groups and access a variety of enrichment activities and was awarded with a special recognition award during the annual DfE HAF awards at Westminster earlier this year.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The newly commissioned Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Service (LDASS), commenced on 1st April 2023. The priority during these initial five months has been to ensure a smooth transition to the new service model, whilst ensuring a continuation of support for child and adult victims of domestic abuse.

LDASS and Victim Lincs

LDASS (provided by EDAN Lincs) offers three elements of service:- Adult Intervention, Children & Young People and Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy. There has been great partnership working with Victim Lincs (OPCC Victim services) to improvement the triage process allowing LDASS to focus its resources on supporting victims and speeding up access to its services.

Digital Platform

As part of the new contract expectations, EDAN Lincs have developed a new digital platform www.ldass.or.uk, the first phase of which went live in May 2023. This phase of the digital platform has been designed around the three key principles of prevention, protection, and recovery. The platform provides comprehensive information for both child and adult victims

of domestic abuse and includes a chat or text-based service to ensure people have a range of ways to access the service and support at different times of the day and week.

Serious Violence

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership has agreed a serious violence strategy that will focus on the following areas:

- Public place serious violence, with or without a weapon, particularly in the night-time economy and related to the illicit drug trade.
- Male on male violence, particularly in the under 25s.
- Sexual offences, particularly against the 0-19s.
- Geographic pockets of violence that are in the most prevalent areas in Lincolnshire (this will be monitored and addressed through regular analytical reviews and a place based, whole system approach).
- Homicide (Domestic/Non-Domestic).

MIGRATION

Homes for Ukraine

Since the Homes for Ukraine scheme launched on 14 March 2022 Lincolnshire has welcomed over one-thousand three-hundred Ukrainian guests to join their hosts across the County. The Scheme is still live with new applications received every week (though at much lower numbers in comparison to Spring/Summer 2022).

Some guests are successfully starting to move on to other areas of the UK either into independent accommodation or to a new host. However, the majority are choosing to stay in Lincolnshire where they have settled into the community, may have children in school and started working. More than one-hundred and sixty family groups and individuals are now living independently in the County; whilst two-hundred and fifty family groups and individuals are residing in hosting arrangements. The rest have moved to other areas, moved abroad or returned to Ukraine.

Afghan Resettlement

In Spring the government announced plans to end the use of bridging hotels that nationally are still temporarily housing around eight-thousand Afghans. On 14 May 2023, the government issued formal notice to those housed at The Urban Hotel in Grantham to vacate their accommodation by 25 August 2023. South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) is taking the lead and a dedicated Housing Officer has been working with twenty-seven Afghan families. Following intensive support from SKDC over the last few months, only four families are looking to remain in the county with the other twenty-three families sourcing accommodation elsewhere in the Country. All families have a plan for settled accommodation to move on to once the hotel is closed.

Asylum Dispersal

Following the government announcement in March 2023 that surplus military sites will be used to accommodate asylum seekers, RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire was identified to house approximately two-thousand single, adult males.

A factsheet along with frequently asked questions (FAQ's) has been produced by the Home Office and can be found [here](#)

West Lindsey District Council is pursuing legal action seeking to prevent the use of the site. East Midlands Councils Strategic Migration Partnership are chairing a weekly Multi-Agency Forum (MAF). This strategic group of chief officers is seeking assurance that all identified risks have been considered and mitigated appropriately by the Home Office and its contractors before the site is mobilised.

In addition to utilisation of the MAF governance, the Local Government Association (LGA) have chaired meetings between all large site Chief Executives and Senior Civil Servants. The three Lincolnshire Council Leaders have also corresponded with the Immigration Minister to seek the government's response to actions expected of the Home Office to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the local community, those accommodated and staff working on site. They are also seeking recognition that a major national infrastructure project requires significant resource commitment, should it go ahead as planned.

We continue to liaise with colleagues in Essex, East Sussex and North Yorkshire, to share information/learning, especially as other large sites have already gone live and can share valuable reflections.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

Greater Lincolnshire Public Health Pilot

The Greater Lincolnshire Public Health Pilot has now come to an end after eighteen months of collaboration between the Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire public health teams. The Lincolnshire Health Protection Service exited Greater Lincolnshire arrangements at the end of July having agreed priorities and programmes of work, which are now being progressed within their respective teams. As of the end of August, Derek Ward has returned to his pre-pilot role as Director of Public Health at Lincolnshire County Council.

Oral Health

Oral Health remains a key priority for Public Health and we have contributed significantly to the development of the Lincolnshire Dental Strategy. The focus of Public Health is on oral health promotion, supporting people to know how to look after their teeth and gums through information campaigns and targeted projects. Recently, as part of National Smile Month, we worked in collaboration with the Community Dental Service and The Red Arrows to run a poster competition for children across Lincolnshire. The winning poster will be used to promote oral health messages in the future. Next, we will support local delivery of Mouth Cancer Action Month in November. We also promote good oral health by distributing toothbrushing packs to vulnerable groups, including to children through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme, through the Health Visiting Programme, and to service users in key Public Health Commissioned Services.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Suicide Prevention remains a key priority for the Mental Health, Dementia, Learning Disability and Autism Alliance. Currently, we are focussing on refreshing the Lincolnshire Suicide Prevention Strategy and exploring ways to support people following a suicide attempt. We continue to raise awareness and provide training that aligns with the aims of World Suicide Prevention Day, which took place recently.

I am pleased to announce the launch of a new website, hosted by Double Impact, which signposts to support for gambling related harms. Gambling is a key risk factor for poor mental health and suicide, and raising awareness of where to go for help is important both for people who experience gambling harms and professionals who are supporting them.

New Strength and Balance Service Launched

Our new Strength and Balance Exercise Service for falls prevention is up and running. The programme follows the well-established FaME (Falls Management Exercise) model. Delivered by One You Lincolnshire, there are currently five groups up and running - two in Lincoln, one in Spalding, one in Moulton and one in Skegness. Further roll out is planned, focusing on rural

and coastal Lincolnshire. So far, participants have been very complimentary about the support received through the programme.

Health Protection in Care Homes

The Health Protection Team continues to work collaboratively across Health and Social Care to influence the delivery of a proactive care model in care homes across Lincolnshire. Alongside the Integrated Care Board (ICB), the Health Protection Team recently supported the launch of the 'to dip or not to dip' protocol, an evidence-based pathway which aims to improve the diagnosis and management of Urinary Tract Infections (UTI) in older people living in care homes. This has now been introduced into Orders of St John Care Trust homes with the intention to implement it in all Primacy Care Networks and care home settings.

Results of the LCC 2022/2023 Annual Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Assurance Programme for Care Homes were positive, with the majority of care homes demonstrating overall IPC compliance and indicating good standards of practice. Of the two hundred and eighty-nine homes in Lincolnshire, forty three did not achieve overall compliance in some or all IPC criteria. These homes are currently receiving intensive support via their named Health Protection Nurse, with training and improvement plans in place to address areas where compliance was not achieved. We will prioritise re-inspection of these homes in the 2023/2024 IPC Assurance Programme.

Integrated Lifestyle Service – One You Lincolnshire

This year our Integrated Lifestyle Service, One You Lincolnshire, has been evaluated by the University of Lincoln and has been found to outperform national standards in every area – for smoking cessation, weight loss, alcohol reduction and increased physical activity. The service has also been shown to have a positive impact on health inequalities, with more people accessing the service from the groups that experience poorest health outcomes.

Child & Family Weight Management Pilot

Helping our children maintain a healthy weight is a key priority for the Health and Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care System. This year our new Child & Family Weight Management service 'Gloji Energy' has been offering support to families, including to those who are classified as obese via the National Child Measurement Programme. This is an innovative pilot programme designed to ensure children and families can get active, have fun but also learn how to eat well and stay healthy. We've seen some very positive feedback from families and it has been featured on BBC Look North. We look forward to evaluating this pilot fully in 2024.

E-cigarettes & Vaping

The growth in children and young people using vapes has caused some concern in the last twelve months. Our public health team have led work to contribute to the government's 'call for evidence' on the subject, ensuring that the perspective of people in Lincolnshire is heard as national policy is considered. Work with colleagues in Children's Services and Trading Standards will continue to ensure that we are supporting schools and young people to understand the risks around tobacco products, including disposable and reusable vapes, and to ensure that the problem of illicit and illegal vapes is addressed.

ADULT CARE

Day Services – The Quad Café

The Quad Café opened its doors in July 2022 with a mission to create purposeful opportunities for people of all abilities. The café is now run and operated by a dedicated team including people with learning disabilities from the county's day service and hosts work placements from local special schools, with the café becoming an asset for the city.

The café has cultivated a loyal customer base who are as invested in the café's social mission as they are in the coffee and cakes! Many have taken part in the café's innovative 'seed cycle' offer, where customers take a free seed kit and return a few months later and re donate their produce to the café.

The Quad's wider supply chain also reflects its social focus. A network of community groups now supply fresh produce and engage in the seed exchange program, driven by a shared commitment to the café's social impact. The success of the Café has allowed The Quad to support these local projects, by gifting Polly tunnels and equipment to build accessible raised beds.

One year on The Quad continues to thrive by providing purposeful placement opportunities and pathways into work for participants who benefit from welcoming, supportive work experience where they can learn, contribute, and grow.

Team Around the Adult

In June, the Team Around the Adult (TAA) hosted a one-day Conference in partnership with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board. The focus on effective multi-disciplinary meetings, trauma-informed approaches and hoarding. Glen Garrod, Executive Director for Adult Care and Community Well-being welcomed one hundred and twenty participants from all agencies across Lincolnshire. The conference provided an opportunity to discuss and explore ideas about how to achieve the best outcomes, making sure that intervention and action plans are developed to help and support people with a range of complex needs and always ensuring the person is central to the process. The evaluations from the day show how successful the event was; as well as positive feedback on increasing knowledge, participants commented on the positive atmosphere and a wonderful opportunity to share ideas and make new connections.

Phase two of TAA continues to undertake a multi-agency audit of forty cases with the aim of learning to identify opportunities for early intervention and prevention. Analysing themes and trends, the Team Around the Adult Phase two strategic Task and Finish Group has identified a need for co-ordinated and multi-agency access to Trauma informed intervention training, which the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board has now agreed to develop and put in place in Lincolnshire. Emerging findings associated with the perception of 'non-engagement' and individuals 'not being ready' for support has also informed a review of the LSAB Self-Neglect Protocol.

Lincolnshire's Care Workforce – Updated Action Plan

The adult social care workforce is the key enabler to delivering the right services, at the right time, to the right standard to meet the needs of the people who draw on services in Lincolnshire.

There are approximately 23,500 jobs in adult social care, across Lincolnshire split between local authorities (3%), independent sector providers (92%) and jobs working for direct payment recipients (5%). Attracting and retaining the workforce remains a key priority and as such the 'Bridging the Gap' action plan has been updated by The Independent & Voluntary Sector Workforce Strategy Group which is chaired by Justin Hackney, Assistant Director for Specialist Adult Services and Safeguarding.

The membership of the group recognises that most organisations or individuals responsible for employing people to deliver care and support will have their own strategies, plans and approaches to secure a sustainable and high-quality workforce that will be capable of delivering excellent outcomes. The group is focussed on taking forward strategic areas that will add value to the wider work being completed in the Lincolnshire Health and Care system in relation to workforce matters.

The strategy group reports into the wider Integrated Care System (ICS) People Board but also provides a dedicated place to focus on the Adult Social Care workforce. The updated plan sets out the priorities we will work on together over the next two years (and beyond). The priorities included in this plan have been informed by several sources of intelligence including but not limited to, feedback from the sector, feedback from people who need care and support, strategic risks, local commissioning strategies & plans and national policy and strategy.

CQC Assurance Pilot

The Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission, (CQC) new powers to assess how adult social care performs. Under the new regime, the CQC will be reviewing data and published evidence across all local authorities with responsibility for adult social care, focusing on care provision, integration and continuity as well as assessing needs.

Data and evidence from this review won't be published at individual local authority level but will be published at an overall national level as a collection of evidence similar to their annual statutory 'State of Care' report to Parliament.

Prior to the formal assessments of local authorities taking place (which are expected to start in October) and in the intervening period, LCC expressed an interest in supporting CQC with a pilot to test their assurance methodology. We see the CQC assurance process as something that will add value to our existing ambitions of continuous improvement. It was a very busy three-month period from May through to the end of July, taken up with the CQC Assurance pilot. Many of our ACCW staff were involved, diverting their efforts from the usual day job in preparing the data and readying ourselves for the CQC team visit to County Offices and the interviews they undertook. A host of information about the way we provide support and the way we all work together was completed by the deadline of early June and ninety-four

colleagues were interviewed as part of the Assurance process in early July. We now must wait for the formal feedback from CQC and their overall rating.

Specialist Housing

The Council is committed to supporting Lincolnshire residents to live as independently as possible and remain in a home of their own where they can age in place, with access to care and support. Working in partnership with District Councils and Registered Housing Providers, the Council aims to improve the health and wellbeing of older people and adults of working age with a disability and help reduce funding pressures attached to domiciliary and residential care.

In March 2022, De Wint Court opened its doors after two years construction, offering alternative accommodation choice for older people. The scheme, in partnership with the City of Lincoln Council is the first development of LCC's capital programme and features seventy one- and two-bedroom apartments in Lincoln. The scheme has provided Lincolnshire residents with additional employment opportunities, with twenty-four new jobs created for individuals who were previously out of work. 20% of the construction workers lived within 5km of the scheme and eight apprentices were employed to support development.

De Wint Court has helped to divert people from residential care, improve social isolation, and provide health and wellbeing benefits for tenants. Many tenants have experienced a decrease in the care and support hours they require since moving into De Wint Court, whilst other tenants have shared how they are now able to see close family members who haven't been able to visit them in the past due to access issues in their previous accommodation - just one example of the improvements individuals have experienced to their lives since signing their tenancy at De Wint Court.

The Council recognises the importance of housing to someone's health and wellbeing and continues to partner with others to fulfil its ambitions. Following the demand for De Wint Court, the Council has partnered with LACE Housing and West Lindsey District Council to provide additional extra care units for older people within the West Lindsey district. The scheme on Prebend Lane, Welton which started construction in April 2023 will feature an additional sixty-two units of accommodation for over 55's. The scheme is due to complete at the end of 2024.

In February 2021 the Council committed to supporting the development of an extra care scheme for older people and supported living accommodation for working aged adults with a disability in Sleaford. In partnership with North Kesteven District Council, the scheme once complete will feature fifty-two units of accommodation. The scheme is currently progressing through the planning process and subject to planning approval and funding will commence development in early 2024.

In addition, in March 2023 working in partnership with ACIS Group and West Lindsey District Council, LCC committed to support the regeneration of Market Rasen House in the centre of Market Rasen to provide ten apartments for working aged adults with a disability. This scheme will be the first of its kind for the Council within the county providing exclusive access

for service users. Subject to planning and funding the scheme will commence construction in Autumn 2023 with the desire to open its doors in September 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

HR Management Information

There has been further improvement in the workforce metrics over the last twelve months. 2022/2023 saw a continued and gradual reduction in days lost to sickness absence but this was above the County Council target 7.5 full time equivalent (FTE).

2023/2024 Quarter 1 however, has seen the first reduction under the target and is now at 7.44 FTE. It has been nearly two years since the Council reported at this level. Similarly, the twelve-month voluntary turnover percentage has also continued to decline and is now at its lowest for twelve-months at 9.27%.

LEGAL SERVICES

From 8 to 10 August 2023 Legal Services Lincolnshire underwent a full assessment of its compliance with LEXCEL, the Law Society's Practice Management Standard. The assessor found no areas of non-conformity with the standard and twenty areas of good practice. The LEXCEL standard applies across the legal profession including private practice and is an important part of the assurance framework for Legal Services. This excellent result provides evidence for the Council that the service is run in accordance with established professional principles.

CORPORATE PROPERTY

Property Services Re-procurement

On 4 July 2023, Executive approved the direction of travel regarding the re-procurement of Property Services (once the existing contract ends in March 2025). This will include the insourcing of several property professionals to strengthen the statutory compliance responsibilities around our buildings and ensure property projects are delivered within budget and on time. In addition, it will improve the overall responsiveness of our Property Services and ensure value for money in all construction related activities.

Property Rationalisation Project

Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) Smarter Working project was launched with the aim of improving technology and adapting our workspaces to support colleagues to deliver their best for our communities. Our approach, which also includes the widespread adoption of hybrid working is detailed in our Smarter Working Policy. As this approach has now been embedded across LCC, Smarter Working as a project has been formally closed and a Property Rationalisation Project has been launched with effect from September 2023. This Rationalisation Programme will focus on reviewing the main Lincoln Newland Campus, including re-opening Orchard House B, and welcoming colleagues from some outsourced services into the council onto the Newland Campus. We will also

be working with colleagues who work across Lincolnshire to enhance and rationalise our buildings in other areas of the County.

Deepings Leisure Centre

The Council has a statutory obligation to grant a 125-year Academy lease to the Academy Trust operating the Deepings School. To enable this to progress, following an Executive decision on 4 July, an Expressions of Interest exercise was launched on 11 August 2023 offering an opportunity for a third party to acquire, refurbish and operate the vacant Deepings Leisure Centre. The opportunity will run for six weeks, closing on 22 September and will be subject to a viable and sustainable business case. Should a successful bid not be received, the Council will look to demolish the Leisure Centre. A formal decision will be made by December 2023, following a full review and evaluation of proposals.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE

Operational Response

In the first quarter of 2023/2024 the service saw a reduction in the number of incidents compared to last year. The biggest reduction was in secondary fires, which was attributed to environmental factors. For example, Lincolnshire experienced fewer wildfires, as the county was not exposed to such extreme temperatures during June and July of this year.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue (LFR) was one of the first services to be inspected as part of tranche one of the third round of HMICFRS inspections. The inspection visits were conducted over eight weeks in May and June of this year, and had a significant resource impact on the service, as staff supported the inspection process.

The initial feedback received following the inspection is largely positive. While there will be areas for improvement detailed in the inspectors' final report, overall, the inspectorate suggested that the service is moving in a positive direction.

The final report is due in the autumn and will, no doubt, detail areas for improvement. We understand that there is a slight delay in the publication of the report so that moderation to benchmark against other inspections can be completed.

Integrated Risk Management, Operational Support & Service Support

The development of LFR's new Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP 2024-2028) has been the focus of the integrated risk management team over recent months. The team, together with staff from Lincolnshire County Council's communications team have conducted two public engagement forums to ensure we fully understand our community's perception of risk across the county. The feedback will enable us to shape our organisation to ensure we continue to have the right resources in the right place at the right time.

We continue to focus on our business continuity arrangements to ensure we have robust and resilient plans in place to deal with significant events such as staff shortages. This was highlighted through the planning phases following the need to prepare for potential industrial action at the beginning of 2023.

Following national research undertaken by the University of Central Lancashire, and the designation of firefighting as a carcinogenic occupation by the World Health Organisation, the service undertook a gap analysis. Work is now underway to ensure we adopt the appropriate procedures and protocols to protect our staff accordingly.

The development of Grantham Fire Station has been completed, with a refurbishment of the station and the development of a training facility on the site.

The purchase of the Waddington training facility site has also been completed and work is now underway to identify how the site can be developed to meet the future needs of LFR, including collaboration opportunities with our other blue light partners.

The service support team have been successful in implementing Office 365 and the service's new intranet site. This work is a significant step change for LFR and will enable optimisation across a number of our functions. It will also enhance to our communication channels across the service.

Work has now started on the procurement of a new management information system, enabling us to utilise data sets to drive decision making and to share information across systems within LFR to ensure we eliminate inefficiencies.

The replacement of the control room's command and control/mobilisation software, in addition to the aging station communications equipment, has been initiated. This will consider a wide range of new technologies, and represents a key investment for the service and authority. The service support team will be instrumental in providing guidance and support throughout the lifecycle of the project which will continue into 2025/2026.

People

The service has taken steps to ensure that the recommendations contained in the London Fire Brigade cultural review are actioned within our service. We have developed a people framework that links to our CRMP. HMICFRS also published a spotlight report into values and culture which has informed our thinking.

The service is reviewing staff structures to ensure it is making best use of skills, and ensuring it is capable of meeting the demands of the future. The first part of this structural review will take place in November 2023, while full delivery is likely to extend over 2-3 years. As part of the process, we have both engaged and consulted with staff widely and will continue to do so as the project moves forward.

Fire Protection

A positive end to 2022 resulted in the three areas identified as a 'cause for concern', in the previous HMICFRS report, have been signed off by the Inspectorate. A significant amount of effort from the team ensured that several improvements were able to be implemented, whilst maintaining a focus on the next inspection.

Our risk-based inspection programme (RBIP), has continued to evolve and we have aligned our categorisation of risk to the most recent guidance issued by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). Delivery against the RBIP remains on track, with a focus on using partner datasets to ensure our understanding of local risk is enhanced and drives our protection activities.

The competence and development of the fire protection team and operational crews, to support delivery of protection activities, continues to be a priority. We have developed a robust training plan and have committed to utilising the Home Office grant funding to upskill our workforce. A programme of training to uplift the skill sets of our operational crews is ensuring that we have resilience arrangements in place for the enforcement of fire safety legislation.

The team have been developing a service-wide response to the new and emerging risk of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). Linking with colleagues in Planning, we are contributing to consultations to outline minimum safety standards required within fire safety management plans.

Fire Prevention

Understanding risk and ensuring we target our resources and support towards those identified as most vulnerable has been a focus for the team. In partnership with the Integrated Risk team, we have developed our risk profiling and identification methodology. By understanding key vulnerabilities that make individuals more at risk from fires and injuries in the home setting, we have been able to identify datasets to allow us to profile and categorise risk to household level. Engagement with LCC colleagues in Public Health has allowed us to utilise external datasets to enhance the risk profile.

A national focus on evaluating the impact of prevention activities has offered direction for the prevention management team. We have been able to implement a comprehensive evaluation programme that measures three specific areas; behavioural change, social and economic benefits and measures against key performance indicators. Performance is presented regularly to our Performance Management Board, evidencing how we are having a positive impact on our communities.

Safeguarding remains a priority for the team and service. The NFCC have developed and published national policy and we have been working hard to review and adopt where relevant. Following a recent change in legislation requiring service staff to have a three yearly enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check, arrangements have been put in place to implement this step change.

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY SERVICE

Business Continuity Audit

The Emergency Planning and Business Continuity team are responsible for co-ordinating the completion of suitable risk assessments and plans for LCC critical functions to ensure mitigation of service disruption and recovery from any business continuity incidents.

Internal Audit will be carrying out a full audit of LCC business continuity preparedness commencing the end of October. The objective is to assess the effectiveness and readiness of the council's business continuity management and delivery. The audit aims to identify strengths, weaknesses and any areas for improvement. It will focus on looking at delivery,

training, assessment and plans across different services. As this is a corporate risk, it gets a high profile with the Audit Committee and is due for completion by the end of November.

We are audited every three years and, last time, we received substantial assurance. In preparation for this, the team are working towards ensuring that all area plans have been recently updated and validated through a series of tabletop exercises, an area highlighted during the last audit for some improvement.

Scampton

The team are also involved in planning for the arrival of asylum seekers at the former RAF Scampton site. Members of the team have been attending a range of planning meetings and liaising with other council departments and wider partners.

In the absence of any site emergency plans for the site, the team were asked to design and facilitate an exercise to test a range of scenarios that are deemed foreseeable risks. This exercise took place on 10 August and was attended by partners from the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF), our own departments and the Home Office were also in attendance.

Training and Exercises

The new LRF training prospectus, designed and delivered by the team, has now been published for the next twelve months. All council strategic and tactical commanders have access to this training and will be contacted when they are due for refresh, or if they require training – for example – because of promotion to a different post or are new to the organisation. Our officers all have their training records stored on a new training database.

Exercise Mighty Oak took place in March which involved both Nettleham HQ and the County Emergency Centre (CEC). The exercise had huge implications for both LRF partners and the council especially from a business continuity perspective. Debriefs have taken place and learning is being incorporated into plans and procedures. The final exercise report was presented to the LRF Programme Management Board in August, all recommendations have been accepted and added to relevant workstreams.

Preparations are under way for the planning of next year's LRF multi-agency exercise. It is hoped to test our developing plans for the recovery from a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, (CBRN) incident. The team will be leading this piece of work and bringing the planning group together. In total, another nine relevant plans will also be tested as part of this exercise.

It is worth noting that the rest centre registration project has found an alternative way to take forward digital registration for evacuees, including the ability to share this information securely with police casualty bureaus and similar during times of emergency. These new procedures will be tested during exercise Ezra taking place on 4 October at the Embassy Centre in Skegness. The exercise will also involve local community groups established and trained by the team.

Following the highly successful LRF continuing professional development days at the Showroom in Lincoln in early 2023, the team are working on putting together next year's CPD

events. The events are designed for strategic and tactical commanders to ensure that their portfolios are kept up to date and all LCC commanders receive an invite. The location for the events next year is Bishop Grosseteste University and speakers already confirmed are Jonathan Van Tam and Figen Murray, who lost her son during the Manchester Arena attack and who has campaigned for better venue planning, which resulted in Martyn's Law.

Drone Project

The drone project is now operational, and two drones have been purchased, with the first three pilots from the team having passed both their theory and practical Civil Aviation Authority exams. The drones allow us to conduct pre-emergency planning and survey work but can be used alongside police drones during large scale incidents, if necessary. Surveys of Lincoln Castle and Lincoln City Football Club have already been carried out and used as training exercises. This has resulted in 3D modelling which has been shared with these locations.

LRF Strategy and Business Plan

The team have been working on the new LRF strategy and business plan which will be in place for the next three years. The new plan reflects the UK Government Resilience Framework, (UKGRF), the stronger LRFs programme and pillars of reform. It also reflects its new structure and innovation projects which have been made possible by central government's pilot funding scheme.

LRF Winter Campaign

Emergency Planning act as chair of the LRF Warning and Forming group and will be putting together the usual advice to the public regarding severe weather and flooding as we approach the autumn and winter. This year's campaign will be enhanced by the launch of the LRF's new website which will take place during September. The website has been designed to be very user friendly and residents can enter their postcodes to find out more information about risks in their area. During times of emergency, separate maps will be published which will give out more information regarding any flooded areas or road closures. It is hoped that, as part of the promotion, residents will use the site as a trusted source of information both in peacetime and during emergencies.

CULTURE

Heritage

King Charles III visits the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight

King Charles III visited the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, based at RAF Coningsby, in July where he met World War Two veterans, volunteers and staff at the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and the Visitor Centre operated by Lincolnshire County Council's Heritage Service.

Lincoln Castle makes list of top national attractions

VisitEngland has named Lincoln Castle grounds one of the top 20 most visited free attractions in 2022. With over 660,000 visitors last year, the castle joins a prestigious list of tourism heavyweights like the Natural History Museum, British Library and Tate Modern.

In a crowded field of museums and art galleries, Lincoln stands out as the only castle grounds to make the list. The huge increase in visitors last year was undoubtedly helped by a certain friendly fire-breather who took up residence in the grounds in April - Lucy the Dragon. These are reassuring figures against a national trend that demonstrate how the sites' post covid recovery is going from strength to strength.

Mind bending digital exhibitions at Lincoln Museum

Our family friendly, mind bending digitally interactive exhibition 'Coded: Digital Art that Defies Definition' opened at Lincoln Museum in July, alongside a fascinating exhibition about Lincolnshire's own George Boole. These two exhibitions complement each other, where the visitor can interact with a spectacular, coded environment that reacts to noise, movement, and touch; visitors will also be inspired by the life and legacy of the Lincolnshire-born mathematician George Boole, who devised Boolean algebra, on which much of our computer language is based today.

Incredible things can happen when you open up the doors to new voices

The Community Choice exhibition launched at the Usher Gallery in June. The wide array of artwork has been selected by five incredible community groups, who each work with Lincoln Museum and Usher Gallery in different ways to showcase the quality and breadth of the work in our collection and as a celebration of the many amazing community connections that we have.

Charles Sharpe's Victoria Cross

The Museum of Lincolnshire Life has acquired, on a five-year renewable loan agreement, Charles Sharpe's medal set, including his Victoria Cross. The medals belong to South Kesteven District Council and, for some years, were on display in the Mayor's Parlour in Grantham. At present they are with our Preservation Officer awaiting condition checking and remounting for display and we hope to have them on display in the Regimental Galleries shortly.

Lincolnshire sheep heads to Norway

The painting, 'Mr Healey's Sheep', which is usually displayed in the Parlour Room set at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, is currently on loan to the National Museum of Norway in Oslo, for inclusion in their exhibition 'Oltra Terra: Why Wool Matters', which runs until October 2023. The exhibition explores the development of sheep farming and wool production.

The painting depicts gentleman sheep-breeder, Mr Healey of Scunthorpe feeding turnips to his sheep. In 1834, Mr Healey challenged the sheep breeders of Britain to a weigh-in on the Market Place in Brigg. William beat the competition hands down weighing in at 31 stones!

Unfortunately, poor William was then slaughtered to weigh his meat, but the competition raised the profile of the Lincolnshire Longwool breed across the country.

The painting returns to the Museum of Lincolnshire Life in October.

Libraries

Lincolnshire Libraries App

We have now launched our new libraries app on both Apple and Android phones and tablets, it is free to download and is proving to be a great success, making it even easier to check accounts, opening hours or reserve items.

Summer reading Challenge

This year's summer reading challenge focused on 'Ready, Set, Read', which is a teamwork and games themed challenge to inspire children to take part and have fun. The challenge motivates children to keep reading over the summer holidays to build their skills and confidence, with lots of activities delivered across the sites and prizes won. It is open to all primary school aged children and is designed for all reading abilities. There was also the mini challenge for children aged four and under, where they received a sticker for each book read and a bookmark if they completed six books.

Library improvements

Boston Library has undergone significant refurbishment including providing a new dedicated entrance to the library. Double glazing has been installed in the library atrium, and new LED lights have been put in throughout to make the library more energy efficient. The layout of the library has also been changed to improve the flow around the site from the new entrance.

The Business Bubbles at Lincoln and Spalding libraries are now completed and operational. They provide space for start-ups to meet with clients and benefit from the services within the sites, such as free WiFi, and printing from devices. Finally, we continue to grow from the pandemic, welcoming more customers and issues than last year.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

GROWTH SERVICES

Small Business Premises Portfolio

At the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone near Holbeach in South Holland, private sector investment continues to follow on from the Council's investment to support the growth of the agri-tech and food-tech sectors, and being at the centre of the UK Food Valley is creating an impact over a much wider area.

On phase I, a local food sector control and automation company has recently completed and is now occupying a bespoke facility, and a local developer is soon to start building speculative business accommodation on a further three plots. Interest in phase II also continues and we are in advanced discussions with an innovative farming inward investor.

In addition, the Council's new, three-storey innovation centre, 'The Hub', which opened in September on a sixth plot, now has six tenants over eight offices and two workshops.

At Kirton Distribution Park in Boston Borough, an investor/developer with significant job creation plans and a local business undertaking a strategic consolidation and expansion, continue to undertake their due diligence and await planning consent with a view to completing the purchase of phases II and III.

In East Lindsey, the Skegness Countryside Business Park extension, which Members will recall was completed in May 2021, will provide a much-needed opportunity for local employers to expand in sectors which will help to diversify the coastal economy. A local developer is now nearing completion of several industrial units on the first plot, which will be available for small local businesses to rent.

At the Eventus Business Centre in Market Deeping, South Kesteven, the spatial reconfiguration scheme is complete. The centre now offers grow-on space for expanding businesses and has responded to small businesses' new hybrid accommodation requirements by introducing agile/'co-working' space for flexible and collaborative working for existing tenants and other local businesses. A successful 're-launch' event was held on 19th July.

Across the county, we continue to support our small business tenants, which total around 150, in our five business centres, innovation centre and industrial and commercial units, which cover 25 separate estates/locations in 18 towns. Occupancy levels remain buoyant with a healthy mix of lease renewals and new tenants.

Energy for Growth

The Council's leadership role in the countywide energy for growth agenda continues with developing relationships with electricity Distribution Network Operators to understand their

plans across Lincolnshire to assist growth in areas, especially where supply is volatile. This is complemented by a year-long 'Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire' study to identify energy constraints and promote local innovative solutions, which concluded in July, and the final report and next steps are due to be considered by the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee during this month's meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

At the Lincolnshire Show this year, I was delighted to sign the Local Leadership Partnership with Katrina Pierce from the Lincolnshire Federation of Small Businesses, on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. This recognises and celebrates the lead role we have taken as a council in working with others locally to support businesses.

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Team continue to be busy providing much needed support to local businesses. Between October and June, 725 businesses have been supported.

I am very pleased to highlight that our ongoing evaluation activities continue to confirm that our business support services are well received, with 93% of respondents either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the service, and 93% of respondents either very or somewhat likely to recommend the service they received/event they attended to a friend or colleague.

Our European funded business support programmes have now ended, and we are currently focussing on embedding the new business support delivery under the Business Lincolnshire UKSPF Shared Service programme. Six Local Authorities have opted into the new service and have committed funding from their UKSPF allocations – City of Lincoln, North Kesteven, South Kesteven and West Lindsey, alongside Rutland and North East Lincolnshire. Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland have opted out of the service and plan to deliver a local business support solution. A decision from North Lincolnshire is still pending.

Business Lincolnshire will continue to directly deliver a full breadth of advice services for many areas in Greater Lincolnshire, except for East Lindsey, South Holland, and Boston. In these areas, the Local Authority will directly deliver most business support services through a new service.

Business Lincolnshire is committed to using funds received from other sources – such as Lincolnshire County Council and central government funding outside of the Shared Prosperity Fund – to continue to provide all businesses across Greater Lincolnshire & Rutland with online self-service support tools, no matter where the business is located. This will include access to exclusive content on our website, such as podcasts, live chats (#BLlive), factsheets, guides and diagnostic tools – all focused on helping businesses to start and grow.

Geographies that are eligible for Business Lincolnshire direct services will have access to more in-depth support, including advisor support, access to business industry specialists, exclusive events, virtual workshops, specialist programmes - from starting up to scaling up, training and development.

In addition to the Shared Service, there are a number of additional programmes available for businesses to access, such as the Made Smarter programme specifically for manufacturers and the Create Growth programme which is aimed at supporting the growth of businesses within Greater Lincolnshire's vibrant Creative Sector. For digital sector businesses there is a diverse events calendar hosted through the Mosaic Digital Hub. This includes regular breakfast networking events – Mosaic Connects - alongside Lunch and Learn events – Mosaic Talks - which cover current and future technology trends. Mosaic Talk events are also Livestreamed on LinkedIn for any interested business to access.

Exporting support also continues to be a priority and Business Lincolnshire delivers two programmes that support businesses to enter exporting for the first time or to expand exporting in new markets. These include the Internationalising SMEs in International Trade Programme and the Exporting Peer Network and Roundtable programme. Planning is also underway for an Exporting conference later in the year. Details of all programmes and events are available on the Business Lincolnshire website.

PLACE AND INVESTMENT

Team Lincolnshire Activity

The 2023-2025 Inward Investment Plan was fully adopted from 01/04/2023. Areas of focus include supporting investment into the UK Food Valley, Humber Freeport, Decarbonisation, Defence and Security, and promoting our "Place" as an investment tool. Sector propositions continue to be written with Visitor Economy and Film Location propositions.

The Team Lincolnshire Ambassador programme continues with 145 members. During May 2023, Team Lincolnshire ran a very successful fringe event at the UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (REiiF) held in Leeds with over 160 attendees. Also, a successful Lincolnshire Show event promoting the UK Food valley strategy was attended by a high number of Ambassadors.

A planned annual conference is being held in October 2023, announcing further enhancement of the programme, adopting an industry aligned approach, and adding additional sector insight, relevance, and connectivity. Future ambassador events, both face to face and virtual will also adopt this approach, with Ambassadors able to select events in either their sector or relevant to businesses they would like to connect to or learn from.

Inward Investment and Foreign Direct Investment Key Account Management update

Eight sites were added to the Midlands Engine investment portfolio for wider UK promotion, including sites entered from all Lincolnshire districts. This was promoted on their web portal and showcased at UK REiiF in Leeds.

All Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Key Account management activities have been arranged into sector specific portfolios with named officers taking responsibility for inward investment enquiries and outbound support. This combines a uniform approach to sector relevance and knowledge, to add the most value to ongoing and future relationships. We

continue to support thirty-three FDI businesses as part of the Department of Business and Trade funded Key Account Management Programme. Year end 2022/2023 resulted in four successful locally supported investment projects being landed. These totalled circa £4.5m capex, creating fifty-nine new jobs in the Advanced Manufacturing/Engineering and Agri Food sectors.

Since December 2022, thirty-six inward investment enquiries have been received and serviced by the Place & Investment Team. Currently, fifty-four enquiries (across all financial years) are at an active status, with intensive support being given to support the companies' investment ambitions into the region. These are from a variety of sectors including twenty-one from agrifood, six from advanced manufacturing and five from the energy sector.

Visitor Economy:

Investment in www.visitlincolnshire.com continues with new content ensuring growing footfall to the site. The first six months of 2023 show good performance. Google searches for places like Stamford, Horncastle, Louth, Skegness, Mablethorpe, Market Rasen, Woodhall Spa and Boston result in the website appearing either top or second; search engine optimization is an ongoing effort to maintain this position.

- 243,062 website visits Jan-June 2023 (167,177 comparable period 2022) with 1,052,605 page views (780,611 comparable period 2022).
- A conversion rate to a booking or external link of 14.33%. Top 3 performers are Burghley House, Butlins Day Visits and Spa Trail (linking to download the map).
- In June alone there were 51.6k website visits and 220,737 page views, an 88% increase on 2022.

While the 2022 STEAM figures show a definite improvement on the 2021 figures, it is estimated that visitors to the area were still lower than pre-Covid levels.

In total there were 30.82m visits made to Greater Lincolnshire in 2022, 16.8% more than in 2021, but 7.8% lower than 2016 levels. The overall value of the visitor economy has increased to £2.62bn, up 28.9% on 2021. 1.16m visitors stayed in hotels and B&B's during 2022, below 2018 and 2019 levels, whilst 1.86m visitors stayed in self-catering accommodation. This fits with the national picture as clearly visitors, during the pandemic, felt more protected in self-contained accommodation.

Content improvement to the website includes new videos on Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and the Lincolnshire Archives, as it was felt that these attractions needed more explanation. There is a new packaged Experiences area on the website and support to businesses to encourage them to develop themed packages. Working with the countryside team, the whole walks area has been re-done; it is now more comprehensive and has better searchability. Walking is the most popular area of the website and in recent research, whilst it states that general sightseeing, eating out and shopping are the three most common activities for visitors, 35% mention walking. Working with local conservation bodies on Lincolnshire's excellent birding offer, the county was divided into four character areas. The new coastal birding area on the website has proved popular; the Wolds birding area will launch this month, and then the Fens and western Lincolnshire will follow.

There are several major countryside improvements in development; standouts are the developing nature reserves at Saltfleet and Sandilands, improvements to Viking Way and planned completion of the King Charles III England's Coastal Path (KCIIECP). Nature Tourism is a growth area for the website and we are working to set it up as an umbrella under which walking, cycling, birding, nature reserves and greener tourism businesses can sit, showcasing what Lincolnshire has to offer. Nature Tourism tends to be a year-round offer and it will contribute to our ambition of extending the season.

A King Charles III England Coastal Path toolkit is nearing completion and this, with accompanying workshops in the autumn, will be used to encourage businesses to make the most of the opportunity when the path completes in early 2025. The Hospitable Green course proved as successful as the previous Hospitable Boost courses and was highly rated by participants.

We have also been working with Creative England and the Filming in England Partnership to develop a Greater Lincolnshire Film Proposition, the aim of the proposition is to highlight what a fantastic offer we have within the County and to encourage the creative Film/TV sector to come here and use our unique location. We have been receiving a stream of enquiries, several of which have been successful, which I think demonstrates that we do have an appeal.

Most recently we have managed to secure filming of scenes for Sherwood Season 2 along the coast near Chapel St Leonard's and this was achieved by working closely with our Countryside Team and District Council colleagues. We have also managed to attract filming of Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild, Susan Calman's: Grand Week by the Sea, and parts of the Napoleon film features the inside of Lincoln Cathedral. The enquiries we receive vary in terms of scale from University students, to TV, and more recently Hollywood productions. We are proud to showcase our Lincolnshire assets to support sustain and promote our economy.

Finally, we have been working with Visit England, Destination Lincolnshire, Local Authority partners and the private sector to apply for Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) accreditation for Greater Lincolnshire, which will be a collaboration agreement with partners to jointly deliver an agreed destination management plan to enable a sustainable and resilient visitor economy in Lincolnshire, driving forward the industry and ensuring it continues to thrive.

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Flood Risk and Water Resources Management

The County Council recognises the major importance of the environmental and economic prosperity of the coast to the future of the county. Prosperity is also intrinsic to engagement with our partners to ensure appropriate strategies are developed to manage the risks of coastal flooding, both in the present day and into the future, to secure resilience for coastal communities against the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

The Adaptive & Resilient Coastal Communities Project has completed its evidence gathering of the risks to the coast from climate changes. Working with the University of Lincoln, project

partners have put together a jointly agreed, transparent evidence base so that authorities can start to plan how best to adapt to meet the challenges of climate change, continue to thrive, and realise its potential economic contribution to the region and the country through an investment strategy for the coast and its communities.

Similarly, the Humber 2100+ project has continued to formulate baseline data to understand tidal flood risk affecting the estuary and surrounding land. This data will be shared in the coming months, as the project moves toward developing a range of strategic options.

With regards to the Lincolnshire Reservoir project, our officers are in regular communication with Anglian Water who are putting together a community liaison group. This group will ensure that the opinions of residents local to the allocated area are heard, and that the concerns raised are measured against the opportunities the reservoir may bring. Officers will continue to push for the project to incorporate a wider range of benefits than just water storage and distribution to ensure that the economic, environmental and recreational benefits of the scheme are recognised.

The Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project, funded by Defra's national Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation programme, will provide the opportunity to develop understanding of a broad range of groundwater risks and opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire. This will lead to a range of practical actions delivered in partnership between now and 31 March 2027. It is intended that these actions should incorporate multiple benefits, such that environmental and social resilience are built into the approaches developed. The areas being reviewed as part of this project include:

- Improving understanding of groundwater flooding.
- Regional improvements to groundwater resilience.
- Improving groundwater flood resilience in Grimsby & Barton and Barrow-upon-Humber.
- Improving groundwater flood resilience in Scopwick & Bourne.

Sustainability and Natural Environment

The Council continues to deliver against its carbon emissions targets; compared to 1990, emissions have been reduced by 68%. It is recognised that more can still be done, and therefore Sustainability team have been working to ensure that the Council's 4th Carbon Management Plan will be completed in the coming quarter of the year. To achieve our end goals, it is important that all council services recognise the need to review their operations to ensure we are working in the most effective, efficient way to reduce carbon emissions.

The Council also recognises its role in influencing and aiding others in this drive and have continued to engage with local communities through the Net Zero Parishes scheme – projects delivered include: contributing towards new LED floodlights at North Somercotes, supporting the installation of solar panels on the Sports Pavilion at Nettleham and installing LED lights at the Reading Rooms in Holbeach. These schemes have reduced carbon emissions and running costs for these important community facilities. We have worked with colleagues in County Farms to recognise the potential for energy efficiency. This has culminated in the installation of 54-kilowatt solar array on a farm barn which will generate around 52,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually.

Naturally, I was pleased to welcome the King to the Coronation Nature Reserve at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe in July, where we had a brief opportunity to highlight the great work the Council is doing on the coastline, alongside other landowning partners and Natural England. The King was interested in the role of nature as an attraction for economy and tourism and was pleased that the Council was taking its role in nature recovery seriously. With a number of key milestones (the 75-year anniversary of the establishment of the Gibraltar Point reserve, the 50-year anniversary of the designation of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, and the 70-year anniversary of the devastating floods on the east coast), it was excellent to see His Majesty speak with those most closely involved in managing the coastline in a positive, environmentally beneficial way.

In the same vein, I am pleased to report that the Government has appointed Lincolnshire County Council as the Responsible Authority for the delivery of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Preparations are well underway, a governance structure has been agreed and we look forward to the completion of the strategy which will help identify, set priorities and advocate for the recovery of our most vulnerable habitats and to aid in the delivery of biodiversity net gain across the region.

The Council has also been successful in its bid to the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund which will help us create the capacity to develop and accelerate our tree planting ambitions. Two officers have been specifically engaged to identify opportunities and set in motion those ambitions.

Rights of Way & Access

Members may be aware that the Government has made the decision to repeal the cut-off date for recording historic rights of way, often known as “lost ways”, to the rights of way definitive map.

User groups and individuals have continued to research these missing routes in Lincolnshire. There is a significant case backlog, which has increased in volume within the last year; this now stands at over 400 cases. This is impacting the landowner community in the County, and I am pleased that officers have taken time to address members of the NFU on the matter at both a specific event, but also at the Lincolnshire Show during the summer. Whilst landowners remain understandably concerned regarding the influx of applications, they are pleased that they are able to approach the Council for professional advice about the process.

You will recall that I emailed all councillors to ask for suggestions to improve and enhance the public rights of way networks in their local areas. I am pleased to inform the Council that officers are working through these to assess them for feasibility and financial viability.

At the coast, I am pleased to announce that the now renamed King Charles III England Coast Path is being established around Lincolnshire, including the repair and improvement of the bridge over the River Steeping at Gibraltar Point.

Planning Services

The planning team continues to be extremely busy responding to the increasing number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) that are being promoted in the County, the majority of these relate to solar energy generation schemes but also include carbon capture and connection cables from off-shore wind farms. A number of these projects are at the examination stage and whilst the Council will seek as far as possible to reduce the impact of these projects on the affected communities, whilst also seeking to negotiate community benefit package from the promoters to compensate for the disruption that these large-scale projects will bring to the affected communities.

Work is on-going to develop a Council Position statement that sets out the expected engagement from NSIP developers with local communities during the pre-application stage and the community benefits that would be expected if the Development Consent Order is granted by the Secretary of State. It will also set out the issues that the Council can take into consideration when providing a formal response to the Secretary of State and the weight that the Council consider should be given to these issues.

With more NSIPs in the pipeline this activity shows no sign of easing as the County has the geographical and locational advantages that makes it attractive to energy generation promoters and close to the source of future renewable energy sources in respect of the off-shore wind farms.

The Councils core planning activity of mineral and waste applications is also particularly busy at the moment with especially significant interest in developing large Anerobic Digestion facilities across the County. Also, a resurgence in the national demand for raw materials, such as sand and gravel, has meant that Lincolnshire as one of the largest sources of sand and gravel, has seen the land bank of sand and gravel permissions being rapidly depleted and a number of applications for large sand and gravel extractions are expected to be submitted shortly.

The introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain legislation later this year will put additional burdens on the planning team which is looking to consolidate following the retirement of a number of long serving and experienced Officers this year.

The background work on the review of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is also continuing although at a slightly slower pace than anticipated. Again the retirement of an experienced Policy Officer and following the call for sites exercise resulting in a greater than expected number of sand and gravel sites and representations from a local community regarding one of these potential sites has delayed progress and is now expected that the public consultation on the review of the Plan will take place next Spring rather than early in 2024 which had been the initial ambition.

Historic Places Team

The Historic Places Team are also seeing significant pressure as the team absorbs staff resource issues with an ever-increasing workload. A great deal of the team's work is coming from NSIPs such as the numerous solar farms, and other infrastructure projects. One such

infrastructure project, the water supply pipeline currently being constructed across the length of the county by the Strategic Pipeline Alliance, has resulted in a number of significant finds.

Currently the Anglian Water team are excavating a significant site from the Roman period between Bracebridge Heath and Waddington. The full nature of the site is yet to be determined but is expected to contain a number of structures with stone foundations.

Members of the public continue to report objects to the Finds Liaison Officer (part of the national Portable Antiquities Scheme). We recently had a report of a Roman lead font being found. The landowner paid for both a geophysical survey and a small excavation to find out more. It seems this was a late Roman ritually deposited item. On 30th July 2023 the rules which define treasure were changed and now a much broader definition is in place.

The team continues to provide access wherever possible to the county's Historic Environment Record. We have had to restrict online access to the Lincolnshire Heritage Explorer website due to the impact that over-use by one user is having on our map licensing arrangements but expecting a resolution to this issue to be achieved shortly that will enable full access to be restored.

The team is working closely with colleagues across the authority on a number of projects aimed at promoting the wider benefits of engagement with and enjoyment of the historic environment.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Grantham Southern Relief Road

Phase 1 from the B1174 running towards the A1 was completed in 2016.

Phase 2, the new graded separated junction onto the A1, was completed in 2022.

Phase 3 is the project's final phase and is the largest and most complex to deliver. It comprises a five-span viaduct carrying the road over the East Coast Mainline railway and the River Witham. Works commenced in April 2021, and much of the project has progressed well, with sections already open. There have, however, been issues with the viaduct design regarding piling and embankment stability. As a result, the bridge has been lengthened by approximately seventy metres towards the East to avoid the area where the poor ground is situated. This has resulted in project delays, pushing the completion date to 2025. The project will also incur significant cost increases, which are being developed with the design solution. A full investigation is underway to understand how this has occurred and where the liability rests. Even so, the bridge has progressed with the pier foundations completed and the piers installed. Piling works for the extended bridge has also now commenced. Works are moving towards the next milestone; beams will be installed between the end of 2023 and Summer/Autumn 2024.

North Hykeham Relief Road

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

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

In December, LCC was informed that the project had achieved programme entry approval from the Department for Transport (Department for Transport), which also secured £110m towards the project from the Department for Transport. A pivotal decision to appoint Balfour Beatty as the Design and Build Contractor was approved on the 5th of April 2022, who in turn appointed a design consultant, Ramboll.

The project has completed most of the data acquisition and preliminary design before a planning application is submitted in October 2023. An initial public engagement event took place in September 2022 to inform the public of progress and to gain their views on developments. There have been two further engagement events in March and June 2023. Feedback has been generally positive, with good comments about how the project team have listened and enacted changes based on the public's opinions. Intrusive geophysical, ground investigation and ecology surveys are completed, which has allowed the team to model the

environmental impact and pose mitigation, such as bunding, landscaping, etc. These elements were shared with the public at the June engagement event. The next milestone is to present the project to the Executive for a key decision, allowing a planning application to be submitted in October 2023.

Spalding Western Relief Road (SWRR)

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

Works commenced in January 2022 with the construction of the two piling platforms to allow the c1600 number piles to be installed to support the bridge over the rail line. These piles are now complete, and so are the pile caps. In addition, the new roundabout on Spalding Road is complete and open to traffic. The works have now moved on to the bridge foundations and the vertical lightweight fill embankment installation. Works are programmed to be completed in Summer 2024.

Lincolnshire Coastal Highway

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

A Horncastle bypass concept paper was completed, which identified expected costs and benefits. Due to the Department for Transport scoring mechanism, the benefits are very low compared to the cost and, therefore, would not attract any central government funding. This project is currently not progressing but is included in the Council's pipeline of projects to consider in the future.

A Skegness Relief Road concept paper has also been completed, which indicates a route that attracts a poor/very poor 'Benefit to Cost Ratio' score, meaning that it is unlikely to attract third-party funding, should a funding opportunity be presented.

A feasibility of an Orby bypass has been completed, indicating a very poor 'Benefit to Cost Ratio' score, meaning that it's unlikely to attract third-party funding should a funding opportunity be presented.

Levelling Up Fund Projects (LUF)

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

- A16/A151 Springfield roundabout capacity improvement.
- A16 Greencell roundabout (Spalding Power Station) capacity improvement.

- A16 Kirton four-way signalised junction – with an associated small section of dual carriageway leading into and out of the junction along the A16 – *Now removed; see below.*
- A16 Marsh Lane Roundabout.
- Boston Active travel scheme.
- Spalding Active travel scheme.

In October 2021, it was announced that the bid had been successful. Since the announcement, the projects have all moved into the detailed design to start on-site in 2023 and be completed in 2025.

The local community raised concerns regarding the development of the Kirton signalised junction. In July, the project team attended a public meeting to answer questions and took away many views and thoughts for the proposed scheme. Following this meeting, discussions have been ongoing with the Department for Transport. Recently, they have announced that they are content with removing this scheme from the programme and to use those funds to offset the inflationary cost increases on the other five projects.

The first two projects, Marsh Lane Roundabout and Boston Active Travel commenced on site in May 2023 and are due to be completed by the end of the year.

Springfield and Greencell roundabout received positive views from the Highway and Scrutiny Committee in May 2023 and were presented to the Executive in June 2023 for a Key Decision. This decision was approved, and the project team are working towards commencing Springfield Road Roundabout by October 2023.

Grantham Future High Street Fund

South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) were successful with its Future High Street fund bid, which included two projects that impact the highway. These include Station Approach, the five-arm junction, and the Market Place. The Station Approach project entails improving the pedestrian facilities to make the pedestrian movement flow from the station into Grantham town centre a more pleasing experience. Now, it is very industrial; therefore, the project will remove barriers, improve the form of the pedestrian islands, and install conservation street furniture, amongst some more general maintenance elements. The Market Place project will lift the existing carriageway stone setts to be the same level as the existing footway stone setts. This, combined with the removal of street furniture, will allow for more events to be held in the marketplace while not impacting the stability of the carriageway.

Both projects are nearing the end of detailed design, with the next stage being procurement and gaining approval from SKDC to underwrite the costs. These projects have recently been put on hold to allow time for SKDC to review their funding position.

It should be stressed that these are not County Council projects; therefore, the risks sit with SKDC.

Sincil Bank

The City of Lincoln Council (CoLC) were successful with their Towns Fund Bid, which included, amongst other things, the Sincil Bank regeneration scheme. This project includes implementing a one-way system and residents' parking. The project also entails significant public realm improvement to enhance the townscape. There are concerns regarding the scheme's cost compared to the budget allowance when factoring in the accelerated construction inflation since the bid was successful. As such, the team are preparing for the project to be split into phases so that the County Council can ensure the scheme is within the funds held by the CoLC.

It should be stressed that this is not a County Council-led project, so the risks sit with CoLC.

Dolphin Lane

This joint-funded project between LCC and Boston Borough Council originated from the District's Heritage Lottery Fund. The project is a public realm scheme that will improve the pavement with new stone setts that are in keeping with the surrounding environment. This will connect directly to the Market Place, which has the same type of stone setts.

Works started in May 2023 and are progressing well.

Highways Maintenance Budget

Inflation within the construction sector continues to cause challenges for the Highway service, as it does for the broader cost of living challenge experienced by the residents of Lincolnshire. Whilst the dramatic rises witnessed in 2021 and 2022 have subsided, increases of 2.4% in the last five months have been experienced in road surfacing-related activities. These increases will commercially impact the Highway Service in April 2024, but it does indicate a potential future budget pressure unless it is matched by additional funding or further service efficiencies.

The additional LCC highway funding announced in the 2023 budget has ensured that the existing service levels can be maintained for the current financial year. The LCC funding was also increased by the Additional Pothole Funding, announced by the Department for Transport. The one-year funding of £6.8 million will help improve the Highway service. However, the funding level falls short of the inflation pressure on the Highways Maintenance Block allocation, which is due to remain static between April 2022 and 31st March 2025 under a three-year settlement. LCC Highways continues to lobby the Department for Transport via regional bodies concerning this ongoing pressure.

Carriageway Condition

The survey results for the Principal, Non-Principal and Unclassified roads all exceed the minimum agreed target levels in terms of the percentage of the network where maintenance should be considered.

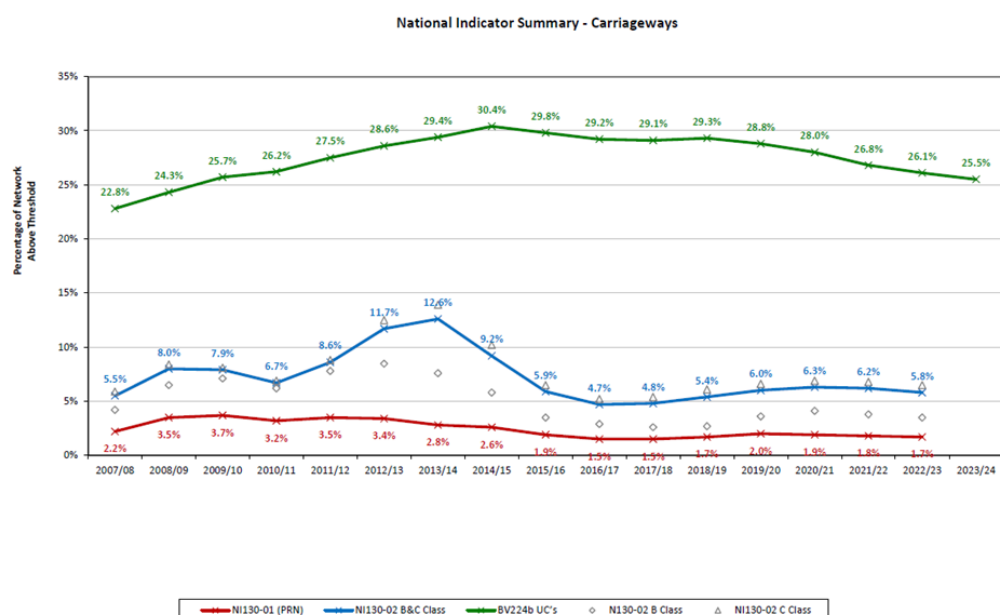
- PI 84 Condition of Principal Roads.
Actual: 2%
Target: 3%
- PI 85 Condition of Non Principal Roads.

Actual: 6%
Target: 7%

- PI 86 Condition of Unclassified Roads.
Actual: 26%
Target: 27%

Comparisons to other authorities demonstrate that the Principal road network in Lincolnshire is in a better state than the average rural authority. In contrast, the Non-Principal and Unclassified road networks are in a worse state than the average rural authority. LCC's Highways team continues to target improvement in these areas and maximising service efficiency so that the condition of the assets is maintained and, where possible, improved.

The current strategy of an accelerated improvement on the Unclassified network remains on track:



Contract Refresh

Following the individual contracts, the refresh procedure has commenced for the Highway Works, Professional Services and Traffic Signal contracts. The process requires the Client and the Contractor/Consultant to review service delivery and identify contract improvements should an offer of extension be made and accepted by the parties. Any extension to the contract will be made from 1 April 2026, with a minimum extension of two years and a maximum extension of six years being available.

The outcome of the contract refresh procedure will be returned to the Highways and Transportation Scrutiny Committee in October 2023.

Highways Works (Balfour Beatty)

The Highway service continues to focus on reactive service delivery. The scale of demand, resource requirements and commercial pressure within the contract are challenging, but all parties involved (including the supply chain) are making the required improvements. A series

of “Day in the Life” sessions with the operational reactive gangs have been held to help identify and implement further service improvements. These improvements will be implemented jointly between LCC and Balfour Beatty over the next three months.

Combined with this improvement activity, the Construction of a new Operational Control Hub within the LCC Highways office has recently commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of the month. The control hub will monitor live data of gang performance feedback on operational issues and be responsible for identifying service improvements. The control hub will be the focal point for any Highway incidents when broader team input and management decisions on the network are required.

Passenger Transport

Most of the service activity is focused on planning and arranging educational travel provisions for September, including a constant stream of applications for processing and multiple tendering events taking place throughout July and August.

The Educational Travel Transformation Programme remains a priority. However, it is being delivered as part of a service-wide transformation now that the new permanent staff structure is in place. The service-wide staff restructure was completed and went live on 1 February 2023, and recruitment continues to fill vacancies in the service. The focus has been on operational roles, and the remaining ten vacancies will be targeted over the coming months now that the summer peak period of work is concluding. As a temporary measure, three agency placements have been filled. We have advertised and interviewed for five further roles funded by the Department for Transport Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

The passenger transport industry faces numerous pressures from bus and taxi suppliers. The Council is finding taxi contract prices are starting to stabilise, but it is important to note they are staying the same. The national living wage increases took effect in April, and driver shortages continue across the industry, continuing the reduced resilience post-COVID in operators’ ability to respond to operational issues such as staff sickness. However, we see some improvements in these resilience levels, with passengers experiencing significantly fewer cancellations of services than in 2022, and the majority of operators are running 90% of scheduled mileage, which puts it on par with pre-COVID provision levels. TransportConnect Ltd, the Council-owned operator, experiences the same pressures as all operators and continues to support the Council in delivering CallConnect services and educational travel provision, alongside maintenance for the Council’s fleet of gritter vehicles.

The Council’s passenger transport supplier market continues to grow, albeit slowly and only with new taxi operators choosing to work with the Council instead of bus operators. We now have three hundred and thirty-two operators with whom we contract through our dynamic purchasing system.

We are reviewing the passenger travel supplier market in partnership with the Council’s Commercial Team. This will form an essential part of a passenger transport strategy for Lincolnshire, establishing clarity surrounding supply and demand and creating a vision and plan for the supplier market in collaboration with operators.

Public Transport Services

An annual report on public transport was taken through the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee in July 2023; the main points are highlighted below.

Since April 2020, the central government have provided funding for bus services directly to bus operators and the Local Transport Authority (LTA) to ensure bus services are viable, both through and following the pandemic. Such funding packages have been short-term, covering three to six months at a time, as the industry adapted to the changing public transport needs brought about by COVID-19. Ultimately, bus operators and LTAs are working in partnership to re-establish a sustainable public transport offer in an environment where passenger levels and travel habits have changed significantly. As part of this work, we are working with two bus operators to identify where school and college organised services may duplicate the commercial network to identify efficiencies and synergies to produce a proposal for schools and colleges. We aim to enable students to travel cost-effectively and in a way that supports the long-term sustainability of the commercial bus network.

In May 2023, the Government announced a two-year funding period entitled BSIP+ to support and develop bus services nationwide. Lincolnshire will receive £4.2m BSIP+ funding for the financial years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. We are engaging with bus operators to scope schemes to maximise the impact of this funding along the principles set out in the Lincolnshire Enhanced Partnership (EP).

For Lincolnshire's bus operators, a new funding stream from the Department for Transport replaces Bus Recovery Grant (BRG) funding, which ended on 30 June 2023. The allocation will be calculated based on fuel use and distance.

The Department for Transport has also announced it will provide up to £200 million to continue capping single bus fares at £2 outside London until the end of October 2023 and then at £2.50 until 30 November 2024, when the government will review their effectiveness and future bus fares. In Lincolnshire, four main bus operators have taken up this scheme and indicated they will continue. The Council will also implement this scheme on its demand-responsive CallConnect services.

The EP and scheme above were made on April 1, 2023. It is a legal arrangement between the LTA and bus operators, which sets out the county's obligations to advance bus services. Full details of the scheme can be found here: [Lincolnshire enhanced partnership scheme for buses](#).

Throughout the process of making the EP, LCC has progressed many of the obligations set out in the document, including:

- Provided bus priority measures at eight junctions.
- Audited all bus stop infrastructure in the county.
- Updated roadside information across 80% of the county, covering approximately 2,600 bus stops.
- Undertaken a countywide campaign encouraging English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) pass holders to use buses. This campaign has received

recognition from the Department for Transport and Transport Focus as an example of best practice.

The nature of the BSIP process requires us to update our plan annually with the next iteration of the document to be submitted to the Department for Transport by October 31 2023. The revised plan responds to feedback from the Department for Transport on our unsuccessful plan, focusing on smaller schemes and generating passenger growth through meaningful bus priority measures, improvements in bus infrastructure and bus service enhancements. The updated plan will be taken through the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee.

The County Council supports one hundred and forty-four local bus services. Some services are contracted directly by the Council (seventy-nine services currently), and others involve supporting specific parts of particular routes (sixty-five currently through this arrangement, entitled 'de minimise). Since July 2022, we have contracted two additional routes compared to the previous year; both services were previously commercial. However, the operator could no longer operate them on a financially viable basis. These services have been funded by utilising grant support from the Department for Transport and making the best use of the Council's public transport budget to ensure that we meet our statutory duty to our residents.

In September 2022, the Council contracted for a much-improved Spalding Into Town service by utilising funding from the Government's Better Bus Fund. The Service was expanded from an hourly off-peak (09:00-15:00) bus service to one that spans between 07:00-18:30 on a 45-minute frequency, taking in new locations such as Springfields, Morrisons, and The Johnson Community Hospital.

Bus service revenue is supported by reimbursement to operators for using ENCTS pass holders on their services. During 2023/2024, LCC reimburses this scheme at 100% of pre-covid levels. Such financial support provided much-needed stability for bus operators and allowed services to be planned based on guaranteed funding over twelve months.

Bus Passenger Travel

Government statistics show that in 2021/2022, bus operators provided 10.1 million journeys in Lincolnshire compared to 4.2 million the previous year, an increase of 240%. The national picture saw passenger numbers improve on average by 194%, demonstrating that passengers returned to public transport in Lincolnshire better than most regions.

We have run a marketing campaign targeting bus pass holders, and there has been an upward trend in the number of passengers travelling since June 2020 as the industry recovers; however, May 2023 saw 57,000 ENCTS passengers travel compared to 75,000 in November 2019.

Lincolnshire's Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service, Callconnect, has seen excellent levels of passengers returning to the service in the last twelve months across the thirty-five services in the county. On average, weekly patronage levels are 98-99% of pre-COVID levels, suggesting passengers have high confidence levels in the service. We have introduced an app-based booking system, and to date, approximately 45% of all bookings are now conducted through the app (VIA), showing good levels of channel shift from previous telephone-based

booking. The underlying platform has also brought about a more adaptive scheduling and monitoring mechanism that has improved punctuality significantly over the past eighteen months. The app is now being rolled out across the county, with a completion date of March 2024.

Bus Infrastructure and Roadside Information

In Lincolnshire, all bus stops are the responsibility of the County Council. However, bus shelters and all associated infrastructure relating to bus stops are treated differently. The County Council has responsibility for managing several bus shelters, usually on Interconnect routes, but others are the responsibility of the District, City and Borough or Town and Parish Councils.

We have undertaken an audit of bus stop infrastructure across the county, and we are reviewing which stops to improve across the network to enhance passenger experience on public transport.

Educational Travel

As with all local authorities in England, we continue to focus on managing the cost pressures in educational travel provision, arranging travel provision for 19,000+ pupils daily. Whilst we are seeing contract prices stabilise, they will not reduce, creating a new baseline in the industry and for the Council's budgets. This continues to be monitored, with a particular focus in November, when the position for 2023/2024 becomes clear, following the start of the new academic year – this creates new pupils with eligibility for travel provision, pupils leaving school and colleges, and requires new contracts with operators to be set up; all of which makes financial impacts, not embedded until November.

The cost pressures are not solely related to contract prices, however. We continue to experience high expectations of parents/carers and the complex needs of passengers, alongside more parents/carers applying for travel provision due to the cost implications for their households. Working closely with Children's Services, we are also experiencing school placement sufficiency issues, which has an impact on increasing the number of pupils eligible for travel provision.

An important impact of increased contract prices and high volumes of pupils requiring travel provision, the process of successfully contract with operators and adding passengers to contracts is now taking longer than it has previously. We currently have five working days to process an application and five working days to put provision in place. Other local authorities are moving to between fifteen and thirty days, excluding the processing of applications. We are reviewing this, primarily as it generates complaints from parents/carers due to our inability to meet the expected timeframes.

Mechanisms to avoid increased costs and make savings are being delivered as part of the three-year transformation programme and focus on the following:

- Implement a new Travel Options function, enabling and empowering pupils to use alternative travel modes to taxis, from travel training SEN pupils to maximising opportunities for sustainable travel. A development plan is being established now that all vacant posts in this team have been recruited. This includes collaborative work

with Adult Care and Community Wellbeing to support adults with independent travel training.

- Re-procurement of all contracts during the three years (2021-2024) in geographical areas using reverse auctions.
- Route optimisation activity is part of preparing for re-tendering all contracts, ensuring all possible efficiencies are maximised.

A management information dashboard is being created to manage and monitor key measures in educational travel, with significant support from corporate teams in data services and performance. The dashboard will be presented at the October meeting of the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee.

Policy Consultations

Several consultations from the Department for Transport are either live or have closed recently, proactive responses are developed on behalf of the authority, and where appropriate, a Greater Lincolnshire response is generated. Recent consultations include: “Shaping the Future of England’s Strategic Roads Report” and the “Future of Rail Station Ticket Offices”. Information is also provided to calls for evidence: Currently, information is being provided regarding freight, logistics, and the planning system.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

The Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund supports local authorities in England to work with the chargepoint industry to improve the rollout and commercialisation of local charging infrastructure. These public chargepoints will help residents who don’t have off-street parking and need to charge their electric vehicles (EVs).

In Lincolnshire, the initial funding will be used to deliver approximately one hundred standard and eight rapid charging points (each EV charger will provide a minimum of two charging points) across the county, with the majority of these being on-street chargers in residential areas with the remainder being placed in other council-owned land. A second, more significant funding allocation is also anticipated.

The final draft tender specification document has been received and is being reviewed by all consortium partners. The project is anticipated to go out to tender in late September. The next step will be to move forward with the appointed charge point operator to review and finalise the potential sites for electric vehicle charge points.

IMT SERVICES

LCC’s IT team have delivered substantial change in the past year, including through projects and governance improvements.

Updated governance arrangements have been implemented to ensure that the council’s senior officers have complete oversight, can prioritise the projects to be invested in, and that IT is involved in all projects with a technology component at the outset to help achieve

improved outcomes. The IT team have made strides in engaging with colleagues who will use the systems to ensure their needs are fully considered.

Office 365 is now in place in all but two departments, and replacing an out-of-date and expensive telephony system is complete. Plans to help colleagues leverage these investments' benefits are in place and will develop further throughout 2023.

A fresh IT Strategy that will underpin the LCC services is progressing through the Council's governance structures and will inform the approach to procuring our major IT services in April 2026.

Significant attention and effort are being applied to cyber security due to the evolving threat landscape and the need to maintain our defences to match.

We are progressing proposals for us in 2023/2024 to replace all personal computers (PCs) that are reaching or have reached the end of their everyday life to ensure that colleagues are equipped with tools that enable them to do their work efficiently. 2023/2024 will also see changes in our data networks.

LINCOLNSHIRE BROADBAND UPDATE

Contract 3 - Quickline

The contract between LCC/BDUK and Quickline is to upgrade 8K premises to Ultrafast broadband in rural areas prefixed by postcodes LN & DN. Currently, 5.2K premises have been upgraded to download speeds > 100Mb/s. Completion is due between December 2023 and 31 March 2024.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the addition of further available funding under an agreed contractual Change Control. This Change Control will be utilised to 'infill' areas that Project Gigabit will not cover, and any such deployment will run in tandem with Lots 10 and 23 of Project Gigabit (see following). Data down to property level is expected to be available towards the end of 2023.

Project Gigabit

Project Gigabit is the Government's (BDUK) project to deliver gigabit-capable broadband to rural areas deemed non-commercially viable to existing providers. Where Lincolnshire is concerned, the county has been divided into two 'Lots', Lots 10 and 23. Lot 10 went to tender in June 2023 and closed on 13 September 2023. The eligible premises count for Lincolnshire Lot 10 is 9.6K. Lot 23 is still being finalised regarding eligible premises at the time of writing this report.

'Supplier Engagement' concluded at the end of April, and we are awaiting details of interested suppliers from BDUK, but we are aware of two organisations that are keen to win this contract. At this point, the eligible premises count for Lincolnshire Lot 23 is 75.3K. We went to tender in late August 2023, and the contract will likely be awarded Feb/March 2024. The Broadband Team will work in a partnership agreement with BDUK to deliver both contracts.

Commercial Investment

Commercial investment is moving rapidly in West Lindsey and well above what we envisaged two years ago. Full Fibre (FTTP) is now 35%, Ultrafast (>100Mb/s) = 47%, Gigabit-capable = 46%. We expect more than 220K premises to be upgraded by commercial investment by the end of 2025.

BT/Openreach has just announced a technology enhancement that will be trialled in North Kelsey. South Reston and Honington Telephone Exchange areas and LCC are working closely with Openreach and have met with the communities to drive up interest and ask residents to sign up for BDUK vouchers for this trial that will provide total fibre to over eight hundred premises, subject to sufficient demand existing. At the time of writing this report, further meetings have been held at South Kelsey and Mareham le Fen to expand the scheme further. Circa 3K premises are included in the scope of these trials. North Kelsey, South Reston and Honington have reached the required level of community interest and are moving into the planning phase before deployment commencing in early Autumn, with an agreed completion date of within twelve months. This is excellent news and demonstrates the effectiveness of this scheme and how working with suppliers and communities can drive better broadband forward.

Rural Gigabit Voucher Schemes

Despite this scheme now being on hold temporarily in terms of new communities applying, there are a significant number of ongoing projects that BDUK has allowed to progress. Quickline is engaged in several schemes across West Lindsey and is actively deploying or planning to deploy full fibre to over 5K rural premises this calendar year. Openreach has seven ongoing projects at various stages of planning/completion.

We continue to work with communities to encourage their involvement in this scheme, and it is pleasing to note that several communities have successfully been upgraded. Current BDUK voucher values are now £4.5K for residential and business premises.

We are discussing with BDUK to understand how any non-upgraded areas under Project Gigabit might be picked up by a collaboration with LCC and providers utilising BDUK vouchers. Discussions are progressing well.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

TRADING STANDARDS

The Tobacco Control Officer has continued delivering the vaping workshop to children and young people. The workshop was developed with Public Health colleagues in response to recent vaping incidents resulting in hospitalisation and upon requests from schools. Sessions have been delivered to the Young Persons Learning Provision groups in Louth and Skegness and over forty workshops in schools.

Trading Standard Service have successfully prosecuted a business who sold a disposable vape to an underage volunteer. The shop had received advice on two prior occasions but had failed to introduce any preventative measures. The Magistrates found that the business had been given ample opportunity by Trading Standards to put a system in place to address underage sales and had failed to do. They were fined £1200, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £481 and costs of £1,621.81 making a total of £3,302.81.

In the New Year the Trading Standards Service launched a 25-minute film containing the most relevant food allergen advice detailing the importance of allergen management, food hypersensitivities and the potentially devastating consequences when things go wrong. The video was intended for promotion to Food Business Operators. Following requests, the Service has produced a second film aimed at providing this important advice specifically tailored for school meal providers, School caterers, outside school holiday clubs and Nurseries.

Trading Standards continues to target premises selling illicit tobacco products. A further four temporary closure orders have been issued by the court for the maximum period of three months. The applications are all based on evidence bundles compiled by trading standards officers who have attended court where the applications have been contested. The Service will continue to work with Police colleagues making use of these orders to disrupt this illegal trade.

Lincolnshire Trading Standards took part in this year's Operation Rogue Trader. Focussing on areas where intelligence about rogue businesses has been received, officers have carried out operations in Louth, Spalding, Bourne and Boston in May.

Residents in those areas had reported a range of problems including charging for unnecessary work, damaging property deliberately to obtain money, leaving work unfinished and using intimidating behaviour to extort money. The purpose of the visits was to make sure any businesses operating in the area were aware of the paperwork they are legally required to provide to their customers, and the customers' rights, including the fourteen day 'cooling-off' period.

Officers spoke to traders, who were advised on what paperwork they should be legally providing before conducting any work on a customer's home. Homeowners were also advised on what documentation they should legally receive before a tradesman conducts any work on their home.

WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

Waste Services faced some operational challenges earlier this year when the Household Waste Recycling Centres experienced disruption in the spring, due to a number of factors, including haulage difficulties. Unfortunately, this caused residents to be turned away from some sites when full containers couldn't be emptied quickly enough to keep up with demand which was understandably frustrating for the public. The vast majority of people were sympathetic to the problems, and we thank them for being so patient and understanding whilst the Waste team resolved the logistical issues. The team having sourced other local haulage trucks to supplement the service and resolved the issues within weeks. This will additionally enable us to provide better contingency to prevent such disruption again.

Whilst many local authorities around the country are reducing HWRC services we continue to maintain all eleven sites with a five-day opening. This obviously comes at a higher financial cost, but the service is so highly valued by the public that we took the decision early in the year to continue maintaining our current opening hours. This will continue to help the public to dispose of their waste in an environmentally friendly manner which is becoming increasingly important.

One initiative which we are exploring to improve recycling centres, is a re-use facility at Tattershall HWRC. This would allow residents to buy items which other residents want to dispose of at a minimal cost. We are hopeful that the income generated will cover the costs of running such a service and with the potential of expanding this facility across other sites. More importantly it will help to minimize the amount of material which needs disposing of which has a financial cost and a carbon impact.

Improvements continue to be made with kerbside collections as the rollout of the separate paper and card project has continued around the county and residents of North Kesteven, Boston Borough, East Lindsey and West Lindsey have all received their purple lidded bins. Work continues to widen this into South Kesteven when paper and card should be collected after Christmas.

The project continues to provide excellent material which can be recycled into the highest quality paper and has also produced an annual income in excess of £1m which will help to offset the initial investment of the project and provides financial support to budgets within Waste Services which have increased significantly in recent times. Part of this income supports the Engagement team who are visiting schools to discuss waste and the environment. There have been around two hundred workshops delivered this year and this will hopefully provide a significant benefit in the future as children learn the importance of waste and resources.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2022

Statement from: Councillor Mrs S Woolley, Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System and Registration and Coroners

NHS LIAISON AND INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

Visit to Washingborough School by the Princess Royal

In June, I had the immense pleasure of being invited by the headteacher of Washingborough School to attend the school for a visit by the Princess Royal. The school has developed a strong focus on food education along with good mental and physical wellbeing. The Princess was visiting in her capacity as President of the Healthy Eating Foundation. I was fortunate to meet the Princess and explain how healthy eating fits into the Healthy Weight priority in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS).

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Following the publication of the Lincolnshire's new [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#) in March, work is now underway to review the JHWS for Lincolnshire. An engagement exercise with partners took place during April and March looking at the evidence in the JSNA to assess if the current priorities in the JHWS are still relevant and to identify any further areas of concern. The outcome of this work, along with a series of recommendations, were considered by the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) in June.

The Board agreed to adopt a life course approach in the next iteration of the JHWS and to reduce the number of priorities from seven to five.

The priorities are now:

- Mental Health and Dementia.
- Homes for Independence.
- Physical Activity.
- Healthy Weight.
- Carers.

Further engagement with partners will take place over the autumn to develop the next strategy, with a view to have it ready for approval by the HWB in March 2024.

Integrated Care Strategy

The Integrated Care System (ICS) in Lincolnshire is well established and arrangements embedded. The Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), a joint committee between the county council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB), has been operating for a year with myself and John Turner, Chief Executive NHS Lincolnshire ICB, as chair and vice chair, respectively. The first iteration of the Integrated Care Strategy was published by the ICP in January 2023 and further work is underway to finalise the strategy based on wider engagement with partners. Also, since publishing the strategy there have been several developments that also need to be taken account of, most notably the new JSNA, the Lincolnshire NHS Five Year Forward Plan and the redevelopment of the JHWS.

Last year, the government announced it would be issuing refreshed guidance on Integrated Care Strategies in summer 2023. However, I have been informed that this is now delayed, and the new guidance is not expected until autumn 2023.

Considering this, work to finalise this strategy will take place over the coming months in tandem with the JHWS. This will ensure there is a clear read across so the plans acknowledge and complement each other and ensure a cohesive system approach.

Hewitt Review

At the end of 2022, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced an independent review into the oversight and governance of ICSs. The review was led by former Health Secretary, the Right Hon Patricia Hewitt. I welcomed the review and was part of the prevention and health management workstream. The [Hewitt Report](#) was published in April 2023 and the government's [response](#) was published in June 2023.

Department of Health and Social Care Visit

I am pleased to inform colleagues that the DHSC have asked to visit Lincolnshire in the autumn to learn more about how our ICS is working and how we are building positive working partnerships. They are particularly interested in finding out more about our experiences of working in a coterminous system with one ICB, one upper tier local authority, and several district councils.

ICS Assurance

Under the Health and Care Act 2022, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) were given new powers to assess the quality of care at a local authority level and integrated care system level. The CQC have indicated that they want to start to assess ICSs as soon as it is practical and meaningful to do so. They are currently working on what the approach will be and are expected to pilot the new assessment with Birmingham and Solihull ICS and Dorset ICS later this year. Inspection reports will be published but it is unclear if the two systems will be rated. Learning from the two pilots will feed into the final assessment framework and ratings which the Secretary of State will approve.

Full inspections and ratings for other ICSs are not expected until at least 2024/2025. It is expected that regulators will gather evidence under six headings: People's experience of health and care services, feedback from staff and leaders, feedback from partners, observations, processes, and outcomes.

REGISTRATION AND CORONERS

Coroners Service

The Coroners Service continues to focus on performance improvement and bringing down the number of older cases. The number of deaths reported to the coroner is expected to be over 3,000 this year and the service is on target to hear a record 600 coronial inquests.

In my May statement I was pleased to confirm the appointment of Paul Smith as HM Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire. We have now had approval from the Chief Coroner to fill the position of Area Coroner for Lincolnshire, once the selection exercise is complete and we have made the appointment the Coroners Service will be at full complement for the first time in nearly five years.

Our business case with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to create a Greater Lincolnshire Coroners Service is moving forward. A public consultation has now been completed and we await the Ministerial decision. If successful, the new Coroners Area could be formed as early as October this year and would become one of the largest in the country.

Registration Service

The Registration Service continues to develop its online offering. Excellent take up of online public bookings continues to be experienced, with over 80% of all birth death and notice appointments now being booked online via the Council website. The service has introduced online payments for weddings and civil partnership and is in the process of developing more online services. Later this year consumers will have the ability to pre order birth and death certificates when booking their appointment online.

The Registration Service has experienced another busy summer of weddings and civil partnership with nearly a thousand ceremonies taking place between June and August. Our ceremony offering continues to grow with more venues becoming licenced for weddings and civil partnership and the introduction of the private citizenship ceremony has been well received. Future developments will see online ceremony bookings, a new customer ceremony planner and the introduction of renewal of vows and baby naming ceremonies.



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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	15 September 2023
Subject:	Review of Financial Performance 2022/23

Summary:

This report:

- describes the Council's financial performance in 2022/23 and sets out the Executive's recommendations on budget carry forward arising from the underspends of £12.749m on Council budgets and £17.076m on Schools budgets, and seeks approval for those proposals not set out under Financial Regulations; and
- reports Prudential and Financial Performance Indicators for 2022/23.

Recommendation(s):

That the County Council:

1. Notes the carry forwards of underspends and transfers to reserves set out in paragraphs 1.16 to 1.18 of this report, which are made in line with the Council's Financial Regulations.
2. Approves:
 - (a) that the overspends under 1% in Place (£0.170m) and Fire and Rescue (£0.028m) referred to in paragraph 1.20 of this report are not carried forward but instead funded from the underspend above 1%; and
 - (b) that the proposals in paragraphs 1.21 and 1.22 and Table E, relating to the treatment of the underspend remaining after the carry forwards and transfers to reserves referred to in recommendation 1 and the funding of overspend referred to in recommendation 2(a), be approved.
3. Notes the performance against the Prudential Indicators as shown in Table D.
4. Notes the transfers to and from reserves carried out in 2022/23 and note the position of Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March 2023 as shown in Table F of this report.
5. Notes the position of the General Reserves as set out in paragraph 1.27 and Table G.

6. Notes the key financial performance measures in 2022/23 as set out in Table H.
7. Notes the proposed use of the £8.7m transferred to the development fund as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process generally for the purposes as set out in paragraph 1.23.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council set its spending plans for 2022/23 within a challenging operating context, which included the continuation of uncertainty around longer-term government funding, growing cost pressures from demand led services such as adult and children's social care, and the Council's responsibility to pay the National Living Wage. In developing the financial plan for the year, the Council considered all areas of current spending, levels of income and council tax to set a balanced budget. The budget proposals included an increase in council tax of 4.99%, which incorporated 3% for adult social care.
- 1.2 It is important to recognise that the change to the rate of inflation during 2022/23 amounts to a material change of circumstances to which the Council has had to react. In September 2021, the period when many of the financial planning assumptions for 2022/23 were fixed, the rate of consumer price inflation was 3.1%. By February 2022, the month when the Council set its budget for 2022/23, the rate had doubled to 6.2%. By October 2022, the rate had peaked at 11.1% which is the highest level ever recorded.
- 1.3 This has had a lasting impact on the cost base, with inflationary pressures being higher than initially planned for within service budgets. In addition, the pay award was agreed at a level in excess of the budgeted assumption. The Council reflected the emerging and increasing risk of higher inflation during the late stages of the 2022/23 financial planning process and increased the corporate contingency to £6.500m in direct response to the excessive inflationary increases around our supplies and services costs and utility costs. In addition, and as part of continued prudent financial management, the Council allocated a further £2.392m to help deal with wider inflationary pressures. Together, these measures have enabled the Council to more-than withstand inflationary pressures during 2022/23.

Financial Performance

2022/23 Revenue Spending and Funding

- 1.4 The Council spent £1,196m in 2022/23 on providing public services. This equated to approximately £1,555 for every person in Lincolnshire.
- 1.5 The revenue budget outturn for 2022/23 is summarised below:
- a) Total service spending, excluding schools, was underspent by £4.043m or 0.9%.
 - b) There was an underspend of £1.336m on other budgets or 1.3%.
 - c) The Council received £7.370m (or 1.4%) more general funding income than originally budgeted for

This gives the Council (excluding schools) an overall underspend of £12.749m.

- 1.6 In addition, there was an underspend of £17.076m relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring-fenced amount and will be automatically carried forward to use in 2023/24.
- 1.7 The revenue outturn position for 2022/23 is shown in TABLE A:

TABLE A – Revenue Budget Final Outturn 2022/23

	Revised Net Revenue Budget	Net Expenditure	Year End Variance	Actual Variance
	£m	£m	£m	%
SERVICE DELIVERY				
Children's Social Care	83.423	82.885	(0.538)	(0.6)
Children's Education	13.369	12.412	(0.957)	(7.2)
Children's Services	96.792	95.297	(1.494)	(1.5)
Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions	127.147	127.797	0.651	0.5
Adult Specialities	94.728	94.689	(0.039)	(0.0)
Public Health and Community Wellbeing	19.864	18.445	(1.419)	(7.1)
Public Health Grant Income	(34.847)	(34.847)	0.000	0.0
Better Care Funding	(54.336)	(54.303)	0.033	(0.1)
Public Protection	4.220	4.278	0.059	1.4
Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	156.774	156.059	(0.715)	(0.5)
Communities	87.153	86.988	(0.165)	(0.2)
Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership	0.507	0.544	0.037	7.3
Growth	2.361	2.324	(0.037)	(1.6)
Highways	26.543	26.878	0.335	1.3
Place	116.563	116.733	0.170	0.1
Fire & Rescue	23.552	23.580	0.028	0.1
Fire and Rescue	23.552	23.580	0.028	0.1
Corporate Property	13.759	14.210	0.451	3.3
Commercial	8.844	8.469	(0.375)	(4.2)
Finance	8.300	7.503	(0.798)	(9.6)
Information Management Technology	15.609	15.677	0.068	0.4
Governance Services	2.036	1.981	(0.055)	(2.7)
Organisational Support	16.524	15.431	(1.093)	(6.6)
Transformation	7.631	7.611	(0.020)	(0.3)
Resources	72.703	70.882	(1.821)	(2.5)
Corporate Services	3.125	2.914	(0.211)	(6.8)
Corporate Services	3.125	2.914	(0.211)	(6.8)
TOTAL SERVICE DELIVERY	469.509	465.465	(4.043)	(0.9)
OTHER BUDGETS				
Contingency	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0
Capital Financing Charges	76.563	76.563	(0.000)	(0.0)
Other	22.663	21.328	(1.336)	(5.9)
TOTAL OTHER BUDGETS	99.227	97.891	(1.336)	(1.3)
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE (EXC SCHOOLS)	568.735	563.356	(5.379)	(0.9)
MOVEMENT OF RESERVES				
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	(8.132)	(8.132)	0.000	0.0
Contribution to/from School Reserves	(15.183)	(15.183)	0.000	0.0
Contribution to Development Fund	(12.729)	(12.729)	0.000	0.0
Transfer to/from General Reserves	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0
TOTAL MOVEMENT OF RESERVES	(36.044)	(36.044)	0.000	0.0
MET FROM:				
Business Rates Local Retention	(122.595)	(129.200)	(6.605)	5.4
Revenue Support Grant	(21.220)	(21.220)	(0.000)	0.0
Other Non Specific Grants	(56.324)	(57.088)	(0.765)	1.4
County Precept	(344.872)	(344.872)	(0.000)	0.0
TOTAL MET FROM	(545.010)	(552.380)	(7.370)	1.4
TOTAL (EXCLUDING SCHOOLS)	(12.319)	(25.068)	(12.749)	
SCHOOL BUDGETS				
Schools Block	153.433	140.910	(12.523)	(8.2)
High Needs Block	98.223	94.762	(3.462)	(3.5)
Central School Services Block	3.132	3.013	(0.119)	(3.8)
Early Years Block	41.384	40.412	(0.973)	(2.4)
Dedicated Schools Grant	(284.164)	(284.164)	0.000	(0.0)
Schools Budget (Other Funding)	0.311	0.311	(0.000)	(0.0)
TOTAL SCHOOLS BUDGETS	12.319	(4.757)	(17.076)	(138.6)
TOTAL (INCLUDING SCHOOLS)	0.000	(29.825)	(29.825)	

2022/23 Capital Investment and Funding

- 1.8 The Council invested £196.279m on the County's major assets, in particular on road schemes and schools. The net capital spend was £101.566m, which was £49.819m less than planned.
- 1.9 Table B provides a summary breakdown of the Councils 2022/23 capital expenditure:

TABLE B – Capital Programme Summary Outturn 2022/23

	Gross Programme			Net Programme		
	Actuals £'000	Revised budget £'000	Gross Outturn Variance £'000	Actuals £'000	Revised budget £'000	Net Outturn Variance £'000
Adult Care & Community Wellbeing	7,270	8,294	(1,024)	293	1,317	(1,024)
Children's Services	38,863	39,926	(1,063)	13,777	14,840	(1,063)
Place	143,202	168,402	(25,200)	81,568	106,769	(25,200)
Fire and Rescue	636	1,566	(930)	546	1,476	(930)
Resources	6,308	9,575	(3,267)	6,290	9,557	(3,267)
Other Programmes	0	19,903	(19,903)	-908	17,427	(18,335)
	196,279	247,666	(51,387)	101,566	151,386	(49,819)

- 1.10 The capital programme comprises a series of schemes/projects which often span a number of years. Hence over/underspends cannot be related to time periods such as this financial year. Where a scheme/project is known to be exhibiting a material variance to its spending profile this will be described in the narrative associated with that service area.
- 1.11 The gross capital expenditure of £196.279m is funded from a number of different sources as set out in Table C below. The majority of expenditure is funded from Government grants and borrowing.

TABLE C - Capital Financing 2022/23

Sources of Capital Financing 2022/23	£'000
Revenue Contributions	16,063
Use of Reserves	18,843
Grants and Contributions	97,232
Capital Receipts	4,332
Borrowing	59,809
Total	196,279

- 1.12 The Council sets a voluntary limit on its total borrowing to ensure that it remains prudent and affordable over the longer term. This target is to ensure that the annual minimum revenue provision (MRP) charge plus interest on loans amount to no more than 10% of the Council's annual income. The MRP charge is the amount set aside by the Council each year as a provision to repay debt over the period when the assets purchased and built provide a benefit to the communities of Lincolnshire. The total cost of these capital financing charges for 2022/23 amounted to 4.58% of total income, however when the voluntary revenue provision (VRP) charge is included this total charge was 5.69% of total income.

Prudential indicators

- 1.13 The Local Government Act 2003 gave authorities freedom to borrow what they need to fund their capital programmes. The Act requires Local Authorities to comply with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Code provides a framework to ensure that Local Authorities' capital programmes are affordable, prudent and sustainable and that treasury management decisions are taken to support this.
- 1.14 In complying with the Code, the indicators for 2022/23 were approved by the Council on 18 February 2022 along with the budget and council tax for that year. In accordance with the Code, the Executive Director has been monitoring the actual performance against the targets set and there have been no issues of concern to be reported to members. The Council should also be informed of the actual position compared with that estimated for any given year after the year end. Table D provides details of this comparison for 2022/23. It shows that Prudential Indicators have not been exceeded during the year and there have been no breach of limits set by the Authority.

Table D – Prudential Indicators Actual Compared to Estimated 2022/23

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS ACTUAL COMPARED TO ESTIMATED 2022/23			
	2022/23		2022/23
Original Estimate	£000	Actuals	£000
Prudence Indicators:			
1) Capital Expenditure & Financing			
Net Capital Expenditure	114,552	Actual Net Capital Expenditure (Excl Sch RCCO & Leasing)	101,566
2) Capital Financing Requirement			
Capital Financing Requirement 31/3/2023	773,165	Actual Capital Financing Requirement 31/3/2023	677,199
Capital Financing Requirement Estimate at 31/3/2025	780,931	Capital Financing Requirement Estimate 31/3/2025	684,965
3) Authorised Limit for External Debt			
Actual external debt at 31/3/2023			
Borrowing	659,512	Long Term LCC	467,768
Other Long Term Liabilities	11,017	Long Term Schools	567
Total Authorised Limit	670,529	Salix	696
		Temporary(Home Office)	0
4) Operational Boundary for External Debt			
Borrowing	644,521	Borrowing	469,031
Other Long Term Liabilities	9,017	Other Long Term Liabilities (Credit Arrangements)	6,932
Total Operational Boundary	653,538	Total Debt	475,963
5) Gross Borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement			
Gross External Borrowing	575,719	Actual Gross External Borrowing	469,031
Headroom Over CFR at 31/3/2025	205,212	Actual Headroom Over CFR at 31/3/2025	215,934
Affordability Indicators:			
6) Financing Costs & Net Revenue Stream			
Estimated Ratio of Financing Costs To Net Revenue Stream	5.05%	Actual Ratio of Financing Costs To Net Revenue Stream	5.26%
Estimated Ratio of MRP & Interest Costs To Net Revenue Stream	5.16%	Actual Ratio MRP & Interest Costs To Net Revenue Stream	5.69%
Limit 10%		Limit 10%	
Proportionality Indicators			
7) Income from Non Treasury Investments & Net Service Expenditure			
Estimated Proportion of Non-Treasury Investment Income to Net Revenue Stream -Limit 3%	0.27%	Actual Proportion of Non-Treasury Investment Income to Net Revenue Stream -Limit 3%	0.26%
8) Limit for Maximum Usable Reserves at Risk from Potential Loss of Investments			
Estimated Proportion of Usable Reserves at Risk from Potential Loss of Investments -Limit 10%	0.41%	Actual Proportion of Usable Reserves at Risk from Potential Loss of Investments -Limit 10%	0.18%
Treasury Indicators:			
9) Liability Benchmark			
Investment Liquidity Benchmark	100,000	Investment Liquidity Benchmark	100,000
Debt Liability Benchmark	386,360	Debt Liability Benchmark	325,406
Existing External Borrowing	469,030	Existing External Borrowing	469,030
Under / Over (-) Borrowed Position	-82,670	Under / Over (-) Borrowed Position	-143,624
10) Maturity Structure of borrowing			
Upper Limit for maturity structure of borrowing		Actual maturity structure of borrowing at 31 March 2023	
Under 12 months	25%	Under 12 months	2.30%
12 months and within 24 months	25%	12 months and within 24 months	1.80%
24 months and within 5 years	50%	24 months and within 5 years	9.50%
5 years and within 10 years	75%	5 years and within 10 years	5.70%
10 years and above	100%	10 years and above	80.70%
11) Total Principal Sums Invested			
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 365 days (per maturity date). Treasury and Non Treasury Investments.	40,000	Actual principal sums invested > 365 Day. Treasury and Non Treasury Investments.	1,260
12) Interest Rate Exposures (Variable)			
Upper limit for variable interest rate exposures		Actual variable interest rate exposure at 31 March 2023	
Borrowing	30%	Borrowing	0%
Investments	100%	Investments	26%
13) Borrowing in Advance of Need			
Estimated borrowing in advance of need limit equal to 25% of the expected increase in CFR over 3 year budget period	1,942	Actual borrowing taken in advance of need in 2022/23	0

Carry forward of over and underspends

- 1.15 The Council's policy as set out in its Financial Regulations is that all under and overspends on service revenue budgets of up to 1% will be carried forward without exception.
- 1.16 In 2022/23, the net service underspend was £4.0m. Of this underspend, £2.4m of service underspends and £0.2m of service overspends are required to be automatically carried forward. This would give a net underspend of £2.2m to be automatically carried forward. However, paragraph 1.20 contains an alternative recommendation for the treatment of these overspends and if approved £2.4m of service underspends will be carried forward. In respect of service carry forwards of underspend, planned usage and implementation in 2023/24 will be determined by the Executive Director in conjunction with portfolio holders.
- 1.17 All under and overspends on the dedicated schools' budget will be carried forward. In 2022/23 this net underspend totalled £17.076m.
- 1.18 In addition to the carry forward of up to 1% of budget under and overspends, there are two reserve transfers for "business as usual" items to note, totalling £0.314m:
- a) Civil parking enforcement and permitting income is ring-fenced for spending on specific works defined by legislation. This budget underspent by £0.221m in the year.
 - b) School sickness insurance income is ring-fenced to the activity it relates to, which presents as a modest £0.093m underspend.
- 1.19 The Council is required to consider the use of underspends above the level of 1% and outside of the "business as usual" transfers to reserves.
- 1.20 There are modest overspends below 1% of budget within Place (£0.170m) and Fire & Rescue (£0.028m), which are attributable to increased cost as a result of high levels of inflation considered elsewhere within this report. It is proposed that rather than these minor overspends being carried forward they are funded from underspends over 1% which is set out in recommendation 2(a). This is assumed and shown within Table E (see 1.21).
- 1.21 Table E below sets out the total underspend, confirms the transfers to reserves as set out above, and sets out a proposal for Council to decide how to allocate the remaining balance. The Table shows the position as it will be if Council approves recommendation 2(a) with £0.2m being taken from the "Balance remaining for

consideration" to eliminate the minor overspends. This is in accordance with Financial Regulations if Council approves recommendation 2(a).

TABLE E – Allocation of 2022/23 Underspend

Allocation of 2022/23 Underspend	£000's
Council Outturn Position	
Total Underspend for 2022/23	(29,825)
Amount to transfer to Schools reserves	17,076
Council Underspend for 2022/23 (excluding Schools)	(12,749)
Adjustments as per financial regulations (no decision):	
<u>Carry Forward outturn variance (up to 1% of budget)</u>	
- Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	663
- Children's Services	968
- Place (o/s)	(170)
- Fire and Rescue (o/s)	(28)
- Resources	727
- Corporate Services	31
Total	2,191
<u>Business As Usual Ringfenced items</u>	
- School Sickness Insurance	93
- Civil Parking Enforcement & Permitting	221
Total	314
Balance remaining for consideration	(10,243)
Proposed allocation of balance (subject to Council decision):	
- Fund Place overspend	170
- Fund Fire and Rescue overspend	28
- Transfer balance to Development Fund	10,045
Total allocation	10,243

- 1.22 As set out in Table E, the residual balance of the underspend is proposed to be allocated to the Development Fund so that it can be made available to support investment in emergent Council priorities.

Development Fund

- 1.23 During the budget setting process for 2023/24, the Council identified £8.7m of reserve balances which were re-allocated to the development fund following a comprehensive review of earmarked reserves. It is proposed that this be utilised to support investment in local highways schemes (£7m), highways lines and signage works (£1m) as well as investment in a series of smaller schemes incorporating minor infrastructure works, skills development and public rights of way. Where any

specific expenditure proposals require formal decision-making they will go through the appropriate constitutional procedures.

Reserves

- 1.24 TABLE F (see next page) shows the new balances on reserves following the transfers detailed in paragraph 1.18 and as it will be if approval is given to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 1.20 and 1.22 above. The residual underspend for 2022/23 which requires Council to approve its usage is shown within the line “Outturn adjustments requiring Council approval” line. The table also shows a variety of other transfers to or from other earmarked reserves reflecting actual expenditure and income in 2022/23.
- 1.25 The current balance of the Financial Volatility earmarked reserve is £46.922m. This reserve is not required to balance the budget in 2022/23, but it may be required to support the budget in the years beyond. Work on updating the medium-term financial plan as part of the next budget setting process is currently underway.
- 1.26 As part of a comprehensive review of earmarked reserves during the 2023/24 budget setting process, the Council identified £8.7m of reserve balances which were planned to be re-purposed into the development fund. This has notionally been shown in Table F to ensure the development fund balance reflects planned spend.
- 1.27 It is the Council’s policy on general reserves that these will be maintained within a range of 2.5% to 3.5% of the annual budget requirement. The General Reserve at 31 March 2023 stands at £16.400m or 3% of the budget requirement (**TABLE G**), and therefore does not need to be adjusted.

TABLE F – Transfers to and from Reserves in Year 2022/23

Reserve Statement	Restated Balance at 1 April 2022 £'000	Additions in Year £'000	Used in Year £'000	Outturn Adjustment (for noting) £'000	Outturn Adjustment (requires approval) £'000	Balance at 31 March 2023 £'000
School Reserves:						
Balances from dedicated schools budget	12,894	3,974	(840)			16,028
Balances for schools under a scheme of delegation	13,659	13,605	(14,144)			13,120
Total Schools	26,553	17,579	(14,984)	-	-	29,148
Other Earmarked Reserves:						
Carry Forwards & BAU items	13,582	-	(13,582)	2,506	198	2,704
Insurance	6,775	-	-			6,775
Schools Sickness Insurance	773	93	-			866
Shared Services (Legal and Procurement)	2,056	438	(326)			2,168
Financial Volatility	46,922	-	-			46,922
CSSC Transformation Including BW Rebuild and Development	1,957	-	(1,394)			563
Energy from Waste Lifecycles	4,721	1,286	(2,130)			3,877
Development Fund	23,451	5,000	(12,729)	8,658	10,045	34,425
Business Rates Volatility Reserve	6,152	-	-	(6,152)		-
Support To Businesses	3,303	-	(841)	(2,306)		156
Other Service Earmarked Reserves	7,956	2,281	(4,663)	(200)		5,374
Total Other Earmarked Reserves	117,648	9,098	(35,665)	2,506	10,243	103,830
Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied Reserves:						
Schools	8,893	7,980	(8,737)			8,136
Childrens Services	9,687	3,353	(1,446)			11,594
Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	65,140	14,450	(5,373)			74,217
Place	14,122	1,460	(6,610)			8,972
Other Budgets	1,628	-	-			1,628
Resources	212	-	-			212
Fire & Rescue	384	-	-			384
Total Revenue Grants and Contributions Reserves:	100,066	27,243	(22,166)	-	-	105,143
Total	244,267	53,920	(72,815)	2,506	10,243	238,121

TABLE G – General Reserves

GENERAL RESERVES	Balance at 31 March 2023 £'000
Balance at 1 April 2022	16,400
Contribution to / use in year	0
Proposed contribution to / use of reserves	0
Balance as at 31 March 2023	16,400
Balance as a percentage of total budget	3.00%

Key Financial Performance Measures: Financial Health and Performance

- 1.28 The County Council has identified a number of key indicators to monitor its Financial Health and Performance. The Council's actual performance against these key indicators for 2022/23 is shown in **TABLE H**.

TABLE H – Key Financial Health and Performance Measures

REF	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	MEDIUM TERM TARGET	2022/23 Estimate	2022/23 Actual
1	Council tax compared with other counties	In lowest quartile of all English county councils (out of 26 county councils)	Yes	Yes
2	Government grants	Lobby for annual increases in general government grants to be above the county average	N/A	N/A
3	Minimum Revenue Provision and Interest	MRP and Interest repayments not to exceed 10% of net income	5.16%	5.67%
4	Accounting	Unqualified external audit opinion	Yes	Yes
5	General Reserves	Maintained within the range of 2.5% to 3.5% of the annual budget requirement net of Dedicated Schools Grant	Within range 3.5%	Within range 3.5%
6	Internal control	None of the processes audited receive a "no assurance" opinion from internal audit	Yes	Yes
7	Expenditure - prompt payment	At least 90% of undisputed invoices paid within 30 days	90%	97%
8	Treasury management	Risk adjusted return comparison	Weighted Benchmark 0.27%	Weighted Benchmark 0.26%

Financial Resilience

- 1.29 A further iteration of the local authority Financial Resilience Index was published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) during the year. This is a measure of councils' ability to withstand unexpected financial shocks. The updated index once again demonstrates a positive position for the Council. This reflects a relatively high level of reserves, and it must be noted that the areas which are considered to be higher risk by CIPFA through the formulaic process (e.g. ratio

of fees and charges to net revenue expenditure) are not considered to represent a threat to the Council's financial resilience.

- 1.30 In addition, the Council commissioned an external and independent assessment of its financial management arrangements against the standards published by CIPFA. This review has confirmed that the Council is operating in line with the requirements across all the criteria regarding the substance of the arrangements and the spirit in which they are intended. The review also identified areas of good practice and confirmed our own assessment of areas for continued improvement, which will be implemented over the next period.
- 1.31 The Council remains generally in a sound financial position relative to many other councils over the short term. This is because of continued sound financial management, the provision of well led services and adequate earmarked reserves to support the continued volatility of funding, emerging cost pressures and demand on our services. The Council constantly monitors its longer-term financial position, and the medium-term Financial Strategy includes a Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which forecasts the Council's financial position over four years to March 2027. Inflationary, and other cost increases in the capital programmes, may impact on how much can be delivered or the speed of delivery. Future years of the plan consider known cost pressures, planned savings and use of reserves to produce a balanced budget. The MTFP predicts a budget shortfall and modest use of reserves over the period of the MTFP.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

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

- * Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- * Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- * Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

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

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

- * Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

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

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

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

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

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

These matters have been considered and there is not considered to be any direct impact of the decisions called for by this report on the Equality Act duty. The Council set its budget for 2022/23 in February 2022 having had regard to these matters. The treatment of underspends and overspends in this report do not impact on that budget or any individual decisions in relation to services. Those decisions will continue to have regard to Equality Act obligations as they are taken. This includes decisions on the use of carried forward underspends.

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

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

The JSNA and JHWS have been considered and there is not considered to be any direct impact of the decisions called for by this report on either the JSNA or JHWS. The Council set its budget for 2022/23 in February 2022 having had regard to these matters. The treatment of underspends and overspends in this report do not impact on that budget or any individual decisions in relation to services. Those decisions will continue to have regard to the JSNA and JHWS as they are taken. This includes decisions on the use of carried forward underspends.

Crime and Disorder

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

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been considered and there is not considered to be any direct impact of the decisions called for by this report on the obligations arising from this Act. The Council set its budget for 2022/23 in February 2022 having had regard to these matters. The treatment of underspends and overspends in this report do not impact on that budget or any individual decisions in relation to services. Those decisions will continue to have regard to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 obligations as they are taken. This includes decisions on the use of carried forward underspends.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The report provides details of the Council's financial performance for 2022/23. Net revenue spending amounted to £563.356m, excluding Schools Budgets. Net capital spending totalled £101.566m.
- 3.2 The carry forwards and transfers to and from earmarked reserves have been proposed in accordance with existing policy, or highlighted where the proposal is to take a different approach in respect of revenue overspends. General reserves currently stand at £16.400m with a further £46.922m in the Financial Volatility earmarked reserve which remain adequate relative to need.

4. Legal Comments:

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

With regard to recommendation 2(a), the Council's Financial Regulations provide that the use of all overspending on service budgets below 1% will be automatically carried forward. The proposal not to carry forward overspends below 1% in Place and Fire and Rescue must therefore be approved by full Council

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

Recommendations 4 to 6 enable the Executive to monitor performance against the Council's approved budget. Under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 the

Authority must determine and keep under review how much money it can afford to borrow. Reporting on the Prudential Indicators assists the Council in discharging this function.

Recommendation 7 relates to the expenditure of monies within the Development Fund which is a decision for the Executive.

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

5. Resource Comments:

This end of year financial performance report confirms that overall spending has been within budget. This continues the Council's record of strong financial management, which supports future financial resilience.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The proposals set out in this report were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 29 June 2023, and by the Executive on 4 July 2023.

d) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

7. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Executive Report - Review of Financial Performance 2022/23 - 4 July 2023	Council website

This report was written by Michelle Grady, who can be contacted on 01522 553235 or Michelle.grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk



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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	15 September 2023
Subject:	Political Proportionality and Allocation of Seats to Committees and Sub-Committees

Summary:

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

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

Recommendation(s):

That the Council approves the allocation of Committee seats (as detailed in Appendix A circulated in the Order of Proceedings) in accordance with the political balance rules.

1. Background

- 1.1 The County Council last agreed the overall proportionality figures and Appointments to Committees at its Annual Meeting in May 2023 for the ensuing municipal year.
- 1.2 The authority lost Councillor Robert Parker earlier this year due to his resignation, triggering a By-Election for the Lincoln Carholme Division. This will take place on Thursday 14th September 2023, the results of which will be announced at this meeting of Council.
- 1.3 The By-Election is being contested between candidates from five different political parties. If, immediately following the election the successful candidate notifies the proper officer of their wish to join the corresponding group on the Council, then

the Council will be under a duty to review the allocation of seats on the Committees of the Council as soon as practicable after notification is received.

- 1.4 The first practicable opportunity to review allocation will be at the meeting on 15th September and it is deemed too significant a delay to wait to report this to the forthcoming meeting of Council on 8th December 2023.
- 1.5 By virtue of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended) this report brings forward a review of the allocation of places to political groups on Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council. In order to achieve political proportionality as far as is reasonably practicable the 1989 Act requires the Council to apply certain principles as follows:
- not all the seats on the Committee are allocated to the same group;
 - the majority of seats on the Committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - the number of seats allocated to a political group on the Committees of the Council bears the same proportion to all the seats on such Committees as the membership of that group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole; and
 - the number of seats allocated to a political group on an individual Committee bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Committee as the membership of that group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole.

The membership of each group must be compared to the membership of the Council to establish the correct proportion to be used in the allocation of seats. Under Schedule 1 of the 1989 Act "membership" means the number of persons who are Members for the time being of the Authority. The number of Members at the time of this decision is 69.

- 1.6 Under Regulation 16 of the 1990 Regulations, where some of the Members of the relevant authority are members of one or more political groups and the others are not, the Council's obligations are as follows:
- i) to determine the proportion of the total membership of the Council who are members of one or more political groups and ensure that the same proportion of the total number of seats to be filled is allocated to each of the political groups in the proportion that the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the authority; and
 - ii) to ensure that Non-Aligned Members are allocated any seats which do not fall to be earmarked for a political group under the above requirement.

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

- 1.7 There are 130 Committee seats, and 14 seats on Sub-Committees that fall to be filled by the Council.
- 1.8 **Appendix A** (circulated in the OOP) sets out how the allocation of seats best meets the requirements of Section 15 of the 1989 Act and the requirements of the 1990 Regulations as far as is reasonably practicable.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

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

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are not any equalities impacts arising out of considering and approving the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees to political groups on the Council.

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

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

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

Crime and Disorder

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

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

3. Conclusion

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

4. Legal Comments:

Council is required to allocate seats on the Committees of the Council to political groups in accordance with the law relating to proportionality as set out in the report. The decision is within the remit of the Council.

5. Resource Comments:

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

6. Consultation**a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

N/A

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

N/A

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached within the Order of Proceedings:

Appendix A	Proportionality as at September 2023
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8. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Nicola Calver, who can be contacted on 07387 133755 or nicola.calver@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	15 September 2023
Subject:	Appointment of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to set out for consideration nominations for the positions of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees for the remainder of the municipal year.

Recommendation(s):

That the nominations for Chairmen and Vice-Chairman of Committees and Sub-Committees (as set out in the Order of Proceedings) be considered and the Council agree any necessary appointments.

1. Background

- 1.1 Each established Committee and Sub-Committee requires appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year. Following the resignation of Councillor Robert Parker, the Chairmanship of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board stands vacant.
- 1.2 Nominations received for this position, along with any other changes considered appropriate at this point, will be circulated within the Order of Proceedings (OOP).
- 1.3 Members are asked to give consideration to the nominations, and to agree appointments for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

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

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is no impact on equalities arising from the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

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

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

There are no implications for the JSNA or JHWS in relation to appointing Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

Crime and Disorder

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

There are no implications in relation to Crime and Disorder arising from the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

3. Conclusion

The Council's Constitution provides that it is for the Council to appoint the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees, excluding those whom are permitted to appoint their own as detailed within the Council's constitution.

4. Legal Comments:

The Council's Constitution provides for the Council to appoint the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees, (with the exception of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire, the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board, the Bourne Town Hall Trust Management Committee and the Corporate Parenting Panel).

5. Resource Comments:

Chairmen and Vice Chairmen are remunerated in accordance with the Members' Allowance Scheme which is agreed separately to the appointment to these positions. Therefore, there are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

N/A

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Appendices

These are listed below and will be attached within the Order of Proceedings	
Appendix A	Nominations for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Positions for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year

8. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Nicola Calver, who can be contacted on 07387 133755 or nicola.calver@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	15 September 2023
Subject:	Appointments to Outside Bodies

Summary:

This report requests that the Council reviews its appointments to Outside Bodies.

Recommendation(s):

That the Council makes the new appointments to the organisations as detailed (and highlighted) in Appendix A circulated within the Order of Proceedings.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution provides the Council with responsibility for making Member appointments to Outside Bodies except where the appointment is exercisable only by the Executive under Part 3 of the Constitution or has been delegated.
- 1.2 The Executive has responsibility to make appointments to all Outside Bodies except for Joint Committees (of one or more Local Authorities) or those Bodies where appointments should be politically balanced. This means that the majority of appointments can be made by the Executive.
- 1.3 This report details only the appointments to be made by Council to vacancies created by recent changes to Council membership – one conservative appointment to the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel, following the death of Councillor Ray Wootten, and one Labour appointment to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, following the resignation of Councillor Robert Parker. All other appointments stand until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2024.
- 1.4 Appendix A will be circulated within the Order of Proceedings on the day of Council and will set out the list of organisations to which the Council may make appointments and the nominations for each appointment referred to in paragraph 1.3 above for Council consideration and approval.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

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

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are no equalities implications in reviewing the appointments to Outside Bodies.

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

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

There are no implications for the JSNA or JHWS in relation to the review of Council appointments to Outside Bodies.

Crime and Disorder

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

There are no implications in relation to Crime and Disorder from the review of these appointments.

3. Conclusion

The appointments to Outside Bodies will assist Councillors participating strategically and in the wider community. It will also provide Councillors with additional knowledge and expertise which can be shared with fellow Councillors.

4. Legal Comments:

The making of appointments to the bodies set out in an appendix to the Order of Proceedings is within the remit of the Council.

5. Resource Comments:

There are no specific financial implications arising from the adoption of recommendations in this report.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

N/A

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Appendices

These are listed below and will be attached within the Order of Proceedings	
Appendix A	Nominations to Outside Bodies

8. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Nicola Calver, who can be contacted on 07387 133755 or nicola.calver@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Resources

Report to:	County Council
Date:	15 September 2023
Subject:	Appointment of Independent Persons

Summary:

This report seeks councillors' approval for the appointment of two Independent Persons.

Recommendation:

That the Council appoints Tracy Colman and Michael Barratt as Independent Persons.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 places a duty on the Council to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for elected and co-opted members. This includes a requirement for the Council to have a code of conduct with which all members must comply and have arrangements in place to deal with complaints regarding breaches of the code.
- 1.2 The Act provides that the Council must appoint at least one Independent Person to help with any such complaints.
- 1.3 The Independent Person has the following functions:
 - They must be consulted by the Council before it makes a finding as to whether a member has failed to comply with the code of conduct following investigation or decides on action to be taken in respect of that member;
 - They may be consulted by the Council in respect of a standards complaint at any other stage; and
 - They may be consulted by a member or a co-opted member of the Council against whom a complaint has been made.
- 1.4 Regulations also require the Council to establish a panel of at least two Independent Persons appointed by itself or another authority under the Act to advise it in considering a decision relating to the dismissal of any of its statutory

officers – i.e. the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer).

- 1.5 In order to be independent for these purposes an appointee must not:-
- be or have been in the previous five years a member, co-opted member or officer of the Council; or
 - a relative or close friend of such a person
- 1.6 A person cannot be appointed as an Independent Person unless the vacancy has been advertised, the person submitted an application to fill the vacancy and the person's appointment has been approved by a majority of the members of the Council.
- 1.7 Following the resignations of Independent Persons Dr Christopher Riley and Mr Alan Pickering the Council needs to appoint to the position of Independent Person. A recruitment exercise in compliance with the 2011 Act has been carried out, two applications were received, and interviews were conducted by the Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services in June 2023.
- 1.8 As a result, the Head of Democratic Services is in a position to recommend two people for the role of Independent Person and has put forward the names of Tracy Colman and Michael Barratt. Details of both are attached at Appendix A to this report.
- 1.9 The appointment of two Independent Persons will ensure that the Council is able to fulfil its responsibilities under both the Act and the Regulations and will provide resilience in the event of one of the Independent Persons being unavailable.
- 1.10 Although largely voluntary, in line with practice across the sector, the role of Independent Person carries with it an annual payment of £500 to reflect the need for appointees to maintain availability for ad hoc advice and to recognise the responsibilities of the role. This can be contained within current budgets. Under the 2011 Act the person's independence is not undermined by the fact that a payment is made.

2. Legal issues:

Equality Act 2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are no equality impacts arising out of the recommendations in this report.

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

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

There are no implications for the JSNA or JHWS in relation to the appointment of two

Independent Persons.

Crime and Disorder

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

There are no implications for the section 17 matters in relation to the appointment of two Independent Persons.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Council must appoint Independent Persons to support its arrangements for dealing with standards matters. There are currently two vacancies for this role.

4. Legal Comments:

The Council's statutory obligations in relation to the appointment of Independent Persons are set out in the Report.

The appointment of the two Independent Persons in accordance with the recommendation will ensure that the Council is compliant with its obligations

Appointment requires approval by a majority of the Council's members and therefore this is a decision for full Council.

5. Resource Comments:

There is no financial impact to consider due to the minor change being contained within existing budgets.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

c) Scrutiny Comments

This report has not been considered by scrutiny.

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

Covered in the body of the report.

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Brief details of those recommended for the position of Independent Person.

8. Background Papers

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

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Localism Act 2011	Localism Act 2011 (legislation.gov.uk)
The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015	The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (legislation.gov.uk)

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

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Appendix A

Tracy Colman

Tracy Colman is currently carrying out the role of Independent Person with Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council.

A former Director of Finance at the Aylsham Learning Federation in Norfolk, she is currently the Vice-Chairman of Governors at her local academy school.

Michael Barratt

A former bank manager, Michael Barratt is currently employed as Performance and Quality Officer for the Ministry of Justice.

Experienced in assessing evidence and ruling on disciplinary matters, he has a keen interest in local government.

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Open Report on behalf of David Coleman, Monitoring Officer

Report to:	County Council
Date:	15 September 2023
Subject:	Changes to the Constitution - Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board Membership

Summary:

In September 2022, the Council agreed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to take account of the formal introduction of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) from July 2022 as required by the Health and Care Act 2022.

As part of the ICS arrangements, the County Council and NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) are required to establish an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) as a joint committee. As Lincolnshire is a coterminous area, it was agreed to align, where possible, the HWB and ICP including mirroring the membership and review again, in 2023, as arrangements mature.

Approval is now being sought from the Council to proposed amendments to the HWB membership emerging from the review and for the necessary changes to be made in the Constitution.

Recommendation(s):

That the Council:

1. Approves the proposal put forward by the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board to change its membership:
 - a. to reduce the number of County Councillors by two
 - b. to reduce the number of NHS representatives by four
2. Approves the amendments to the Constitution set out in Appendix A.

1. Background

1.1 Under Section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, all upper tier and unitary authorities are required to have a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) for their authority's area. In 2013, the Lincolnshire HWB was formally established as a committee of Lincolnshire County Council. The functions of the HWB are set out in section 195 and 196 of the Act as follows:

- To encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health and social care services in the area to work in an integrated manner.
- To provide advice, assistance or other support, as it thinks appropriate, for the purpose of encouraging joint commissioning.
- To prepare and publish a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) on the local population.
- To prepare and publish a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

1.2 In addition to the statutory functions listed above, the Act also makes provision for the local authority to delegate any powers or functions exercisable by the authority to the HWB. No formal powers have to date been delegated.

1.3 In May 2021, the Council agreed to extend membership of the HWB to include both the chairs and chief executives of the NHS provider organisations. This formed part of arrangements to enable the HWB to fulfil the role for the area of an Integrated Care Partnership Board in preparation for the introduction of statutory Integrated Care Partnerships as part the formalisation of Integrated Care Systems.

1.4 From July 2022, the Health and Care Act 2022 required the establishment in each area in England of an Integrated Care System (ICS) including two new statutory bodies:

- An Integrated Care Board (ICB) (replacing Clinical Commissioning Groups) bringing the NHS together locally to improve population health and care.
- An Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) as a joint committee between the upper tier local authorities and the ICBs in the area with specific responsibility for preparing an integrated care strategy for the ICS footprint.

The Health and Care Act 2022 also requires the HWB to play a formal role as a consultee in certain matters within the remit of the ICB.

1.5 The Lincolnshire ICS boundary is coterminous with Lincolnshire County Council meaning in our local system there is one ICP and one HWB. Given this situation, the local ambition was to, where possible, align the HWB and ICP including having mirrored membership. The creation of the ICP as a joint committee of the Council was approved by full Council in September 2022. It was envisaged that the membership of the HWB would be reviewed again in 2023 as arrangements matured.

- 1.6 As part of the annual review of the HWB's terms of reference, NHS partners asked to reduce the number of NHS representatives on the HWB to ensure efficient use of capacity. As a consequence, at the HWB meeting on 13 June 2023 the Board endorsed proposals to reduce the number of county councillors on the HWB by two and the number of NHS representatives by four. If the Council approves the proposals, the Constitution will require amendment. The necessary amendments for approval are set out in Appendix A (The membership shown in Appendix A is limited to core membership. It does not include the associated members. The decision on whether or not to allow associate membership is a matter for the HWB itself).
- 1.7 The review also identified that representation from the care sector is a significant gap on both the HWB and ICP. Therefore, from September 2023 the HWB has offered associate membership (N.B associate members do not have voting rights at HWB meetings) to the Lincolnshire Care Association (LinCA). This addition will ensure the care sector is able to play an active part in supporting improvements and innovation across the health and care system to help deliver the priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Integrated Care Strategy.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

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

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As a formal change to the Council's governance arrangements, the proposals are not considered to have an adverse impact on people who share a protected characteristic compared to those who do not.

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

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

As a formal change to the Council's governance arrangements, the proposals are not considered to have any implications for the JSNA and JHWS.

Crime and Disorder

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

As a formal change to the Council's governance arrangements, the proposals are not considered to have any implications for crime and disorder.

3. Conclusion

The Council is invited to approve the proposals of the HWB to amend its membership and accordingly to approve the amendments to the Council's Constitution shown in Appendix A.

4. Legal Comments:

The Report seeks approval to amend the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board which is a committee of the County Council.

The recommendation is lawful and within the remit of the full Council.

5. Resource Comments:

It can be confirmed that there are no financial implications regarding the proposed changes to the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

This decision has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

No

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Extract from Part 2 of the Constitution (published 09 December 2022) – pages 2/45 – 2/46 with proposed amendments

8. Background Papers

The following background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Background Paper	Where it can be viewed
Report to full Council dated 21 May 2021 “Council Constitution – Changes to the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference and Membership to Incorporate the Functions of the Integrated Care Partnership Board”	Agenda for Council on Friday, 21st May, 2021, 10.30 am (moderngov.co.uk)
Report to full Council dated 27 September 2022 “Council Constitution - Changes to the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference”	Agenda for Council on Tuesday, 27th September, 2022, 10.00 am (moderngov.co.uk)
Report to Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board dated 13 June 2023 “Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference and Membership Review	Agenda for Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board on Tuesday, 13th June, 2023, 2.00 pm (moderngov.co.uk)

This report was written by Alison Christie, who can be contacted on alison.christie@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Extract from Part 2 of the Constitution (published 09 December 2022), Pages 2/45 – 2/46

Health and Wellbeing Board

There will be a Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board will comprise:

~~Eight Six~~ County Councillors appointed by the Leader of the Council

The Director of Public Health

The Executive Director – Children’s Services

The Executive Director – Adult Care and Community Wellbeing

Chair, NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

Chief Executive, NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

~~Chair~~~~Nominated representative~~, Primary Care Network Alliance

~~Chair, United Lincolnshire Hospital NHS Trust~~

~~Nominated~~ Chief Executive, ~~representing NHS Providers in Lincolnshire~~ ~~United Lincolnshire Hospital NHS Trust~~

~~Nominated~~ Chair, ~~representing NHS Providers in Lincolnshire~~ ~~Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation NHS Trust~~

~~Chief Executive, Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation NHS Trust~~

~~Chair, Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust~~

~~Chief Executive, Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust~~

One designated District Council representative

A designated representative of Healthwatch Lincolnshire

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Functions

- To encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health and social care services in the area to work in an integrated manner.
- To provide such advice, assistance or other support as it thinks appropriate for the purpose of encouraging joint commissioning.
- To prepare and publish a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- To prepare and publish a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- To produce the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) in accordance with the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013/349) and liaising with NHS England and Improvement (NHSEI) to ensure recommendations or gaps in services are addressed.
- To give its opinion to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) on whether the draft ICB 5 Year Plan takes proper account of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy under section 14Z54 of the National Health Service Act (2006).
- To determine whether to give to NHS England its opinion on whether the published ICB 5 year plan takes proper account of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy under section 14Z55 of the National Health Service Act (2006).
- To fulfil its role as a consultee in respect of the ICB’s annual review of the steps that the ICB has taken to implement the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy under section 14Z58 of the National Health Service Act (2006).
- To respond to consultation by NHS England on any steps that the ICB has taken to implement the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy as part of NHS England’s annual performance assessment of the ICB under section 14Z59 of the National Health Service Act (2006).

Quorum

One third of the membership of the Board to include an NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board representative, a Lincolnshire County Council Executive Councillor and either the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Frequency of Meetings

The Board shall meet no less than four times each year including an AGM.

Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Board shall elect its Chairman and Vice Chairman at its AGM.

Voting

Each member of the Board shall have one vote and decisions will be made by a simple majority. The Chairman will have a casting vote.

Substitutes

Each member of the Board can nominate a named substitute. Two working days advance notice that a substitute member can attend a meeting of the Board will be given to the Democratic Services Manager. Substitute members will have the same powers as Board members.



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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	15 September 2023
Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23

Summary:

This report invites the County Council to consider and approve the Annual Report for Overview and Scrutiny for 2022-23.

Recommendation(s):

To approve the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022-23.

1. Background

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022-23 is attached at Appendix A to this report.

The Annual Report is an opportunity to highlight the scrutiny work that has taken place throughout the last council year. The report focuses on the key successes and achievements of Overview and Scrutiny over the 12-month period May 2022 to May 2023.

2. Conclusion

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022-23 provides an opportunity to consider the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function and the County Council is invited to approve this year's report.

3. Legal Comments:

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

4. Resource Comments:

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

5. Consultation**a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

Not Applicable

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Not Applicable

c) Scrutiny Comments

On 24 August 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board endorsed the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022-23 for submission to the County Council.

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report

Appendix A	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23
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7. Background Papers

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

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

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23



FOREWORD

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to former county councillor Robert Parker, who as colleagues will know had to recently, sadly, stand down from his role. Rob was the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board from May 2017 to July 2023. He was named Scrutineer of the Year at the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) Councillor Achievement Awards in 2011 and has been instrumental in the development of scrutiny here at Lincolnshire County Council. It was a privilege to have served as his vice chairman for the last two years.

On behalf of all scrutiny councillors, I would like to thank Rob for all his support and commitment over the years and wish him well for the future.

Secondly, I am delighted to present the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022-23. The report looks at the key activities and successes for Overview and Scrutiny over the past year. The key aims of scrutiny work in the council are to:

- provide healthy and constructive challenge
- give voice to public concerns
- support improvement in services
- provide an independent review

The last year has been another busy year for overview and scrutiny. During 2022/23, 63 formal scrutiny committee meetings were held, and 79% of all formal decisions were considered by a scrutiny committee prior to them being made, which is up slightly from 78% last year. I am pleased to see that 95% of non-executive councillors have been engaged in overview and scrutiny during 2022-23, up from 92% in 2021-22. Key achievements where overview and scrutiny has made a significant contribution include:-

- recommending a course of action on the Boundary Commission's proposals;
- supporting the cost-of-living increase in allowances for foster carers;
- advising on the Energy for Growth - Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire;
- appraising GP provision in Lincolnshire to ensure the needs of patients are being met; and
- influencing the direction of the roll out of the Multiply Programme for adult numeracy.

Looking forward, in 2023/24 we will see the completion of the scrutiny reviews on Town Centre Improvements and Lincolnshire Agricultural Sector Support, with recommendations to the Executive on how these two important economic sectors can be supported further. This will be followed by the start of two new scrutiny reviews to examine other priority areas for the Council.

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

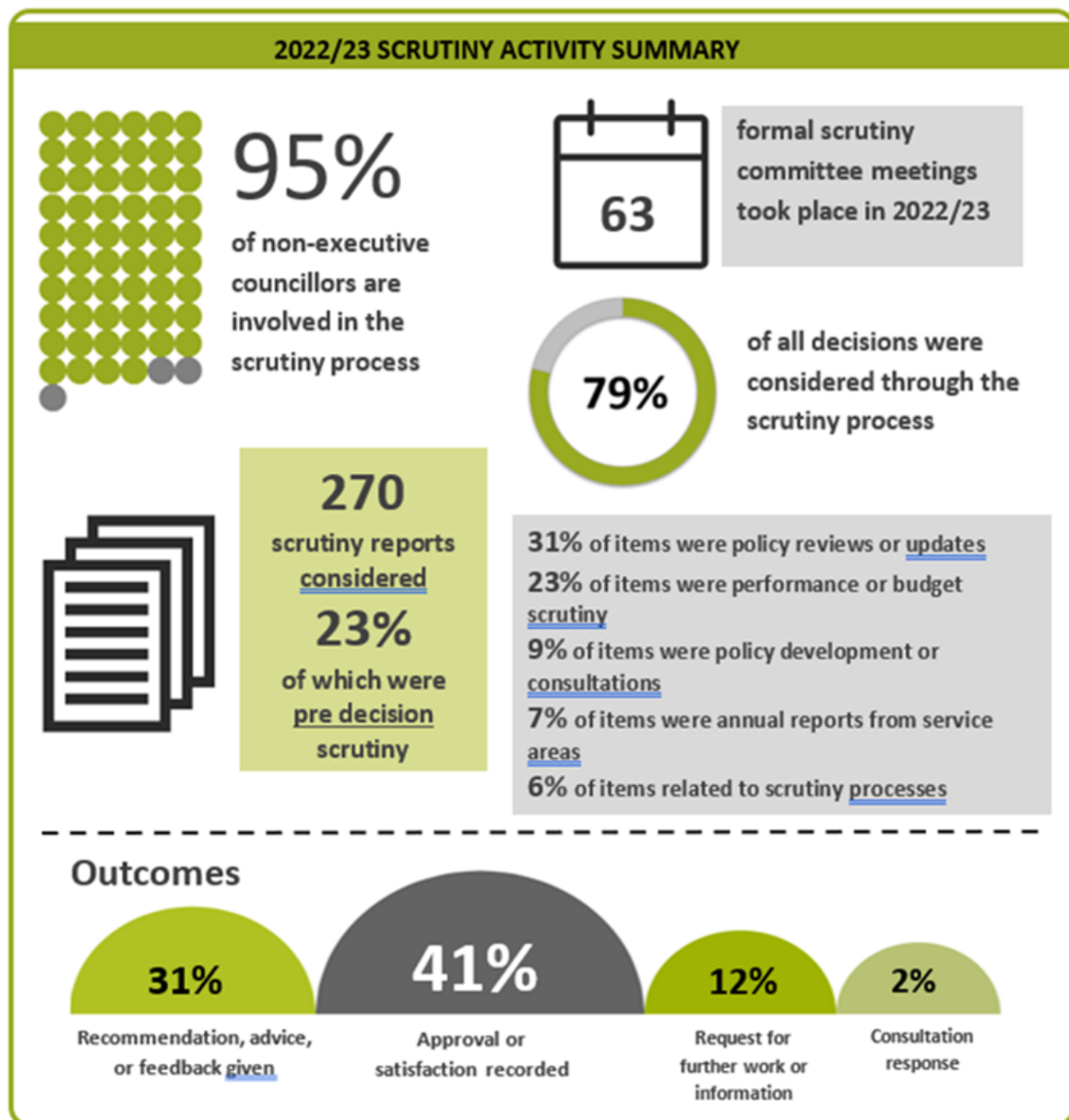
Thomas Smith

Councillor Tom Smith
Vice Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

INTRODUCTION TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

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

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



SCRUTINY BY NUMBERS

- The total length of the 63 formal scrutiny committee meetings in 2022/23 was **154 hours and 45 minutes**.
- The agenda and report packs for these 63 meetings totalled **7,578 pages**.
- On average, a typical meeting of an overview and scrutiny committee lasted **two hours and 27 minutes** and considered between **four and five agenda items**.
- The **Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee** had the highest average for the time taken to consider each item of substantive business, averaging 48 minutes for each agenda item.
- Nine of the 63 pre-decision items contained exempt information due to commercial sensitivities, and seven of these were considered by the **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**.
- The highest rate of attendance was at the **Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee** with 90%.
- The **Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee** is the largest scrutiny committee with 18 members.
- The **Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire** held the longest meeting at three hours and 46 minutes.
- The **Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee** had the highest average number of pages per agenda pack, averaging at 183 pages.
- The **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** was the busiest committee for pre-decision scrutiny, considering 25 of the 63 pre-decision scrutiny items (40%) during 2022/23.
- The **Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee** sat as the Crime and Disorder Committee on six occasions.



Hospital Discharge - Active Recovery Beds

Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

“Active recovery beds should be available on a permanent basis. Future developments could focus on the average length of stay and the effectiveness of the specialist services provided in support of patient reablement.” (Extract from statement from the committee to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Public Health - November 2022)

The safe and timely discharge of patients from hospitals is important both for the individuals themselves and for the health and care system as a whole. There are several schemes supported by the county council and NHS as part of the *Home First* approach, and most people move from hospital to home, with varying levels of support, such as a period of reablement. However, for some patients with complex needs, discharge directly to their home is not suitable and in November 2022, the **Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee** supported a proposal to commission sixty active recovery beds in residential homes across Lincolnshire, using NHS funding. These beds are aimed to minimise the future reliance on long term care, and ultimately enable people to live independently at home with reduced packages of care.

The primary benefit is for individuals themselves, but financial benefits include a reduction in the costs of care packages and a saving of over £300 per patient per night for the health and care system. The cost of a hospital bed averages £468 per night, and the cost of this service is approximately £127 per night. Outcomes indicate that 17.5% of people leaving the service subsequently returned home with no care needs and 35% receive a reablement or home care service package.

In November 2022, the committee was advised that funding would only support this initiative until 31 March 2023, in line with the national NHS funding allocation. The Committee expressed the view that active recovery beds should be available on a permanent basis. Subsequently, the service has been commissioned until 31 March 2024, again with NHS funding. This represents a key element of the Lincolnshire health and care system response to pressures on hospital beds. Active recovery beds result in positive outcomes for users, reduce the pressure on hospitals by supporting discharge and result in reduced future care costs for those adults leaving the service.



Cost-of-Living Increase for Foster Carers

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

“That the committee supports the recommendation to the Executive Councillor for Children’s Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration to approve the increase of all Lincolnshire’s foster carer rates by 12.4% from April 2023 in line with the Government’s increase to the National Minimum Allowances.” (March 2023)

In Autumn 2022, the Government announced a 12.4% uplift to the National Minimum Allowance paid to foster carers to help cover the cost of caring for a child in care. This was in recognition of the increased costs being faced by fostering households in caring for a child looked after by the local authority and reinforced that all households should be supported financially, professionally and emotionally in the volunteering role they undertake.

As of 1 December 2022, there were 756 children in care in Lincolnshire, of which 520 (68.8%) were placed with 310 fostering households. Fostering plays a significant role in the council’s ability to care for young people for whom it is responsible. However, it remains a consistent challenge to attract and retain foster carers in sufficient numbers to meet the council’s requirements. Lincolnshire has a strong core offer of support to foster carers and currently sits in the top quartile for payments made to foster carers across the region.

The **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee** recognised the importance of the council’s foster carers and their value to the authority - that the significant numbers play a vital role in reducing the need for the council to have to rely on independent fostering agencies as much as some other local authorities might have to.

The committee unanimously supported the proposed 12.4% increase to fostering allowances, which would help to support foster carers with cost-of-living increases so that they could continue to foster. The committee was pleased that additional funding for the uplift was being provided through the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24 and recognised that this recommendation would secure the stability of the council’s own foster carer provision and make for an attractive offer to prospective new foster carers.

Energy for Growth (Utilities Provision in Greater Lincolnshire)

Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

"That the committee reviews and comments on the Interim Report on the Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire; that the committee is satisfied with the contents of this interim report; [and] that the comments from the debate be passed on to Rider Levett Bucknall." (April 2023)

In October 2022, the committee received an Energy for Growth (Utilities Provision in Greater Lincolnshire) report. This was followed by a further information report in 2023, that provided an update on the progress made and delved deeper into one of the intelligence work streams in the work programme (Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire study), along with an interim report prepared by the consultants.

The report contained a thorough examination of existing and proposed developments within the Greater Lincolnshire area to forecast future electricity demands. By mapping these demands onto the electricity network, potential areas with limited infrastructure capacity in the future were identified. This strategic approach allowed for early engagement with relevant Local Distribution Network Operators, as well as exploring innovative local solutions to foster *clean* growth. Moreover, the Greater Lincolnshire Energy Options Analysis facilitated collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and joint efforts among the three tier-1 and seven tier-2 local authorities in the Greater Lincolnshire region.

The **Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee** were actively involved in the process and discussions surrounding the valuable findings of these reports. It was noted that the interim report did not address the role of solar energy; instead, it concentrated on examining the short and medium-term impact of growth. However, it was emphasised that the final report would provide comprehensive details about solar energy and consideration of offshore facilities.

Furthermore, committee members raised concerns about the capacity of the power grid and potential limitations to the existing infrastructure. In response, the Head of Economic Infrastructure provided reassurance, stating that detailed maps had been created to analyse the supply and demand dynamics of the grid. These maps were well received by members as well as assurances around the grid capacity being a significant aspect examined in-depth in the final report. Members also expressed concerns relating to the need for more co-ordinated provision to bring offshore generated electricity ashore and fed to the grid. This focus on grid capacity as a key outcome in the final report reflects the importance of addressing and understanding the grid's capabilities and limitations in the context of future energy options and growth plans. The final report is anticipated in Autumn/Winter 2023/24 and members look forward with interest to assessing the way in which the wording addresses their concerns.

Project Groundwater (Greater Lincolnshire)

Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee

"That the report and presentation be received and that satisfaction on the detailed progress of schemes reported be recorded." (May 2023)

The flooding mechanism of groundwater remains one of the least understood aspects in Greater Lincolnshire. To address this knowledge gap, a project has been initiated to better understand groundwater behaviour and its effective management in relation to flood risk, as well as its potential as a valuable resource.

This specific project was among the 25 selected schemes to receive funding from Defra as part of the £200 million Flood and Coastal Innovation Programme 2020, with the objective to gain deeper insights into the impact of groundwater in the Greater Lincolnshire area. The project involves active collaboration between Lincolnshire County Council, communities in Bourne, Barton-upon-Humber, Barrow-upon-Humber, Grimsby, Scopwick, and the University of Lincoln.

Over forthcoming years, the project's findings are expected to play a crucial role in shaping future approaches to dealing with groundwater challenges, not only within the county but also on a broader scale. The comprehensive understanding from this exercise will prove valuable in informing the strategies and actions of various organisations in effectively managing groundwater-related issues.

The **Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee** commended the continuous collaborative efforts with the University of Lincoln on several projects. Committee members raised concerns about the groundwater issues faced in Grimsby, and it was acknowledged by officials that this problem had been persisting for a long time, with climate change exacerbating the situation. As a follow-up action, the committee is planning a site visit to a location where a project is currently in progress, scheduled to take place in Autumn 2023.



General Practice Provision in Lincolnshire

Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

"That the need for assurance be recorded that the ratio of appointments conducted by GPs, as opposed to other clinicians, such as clinical pharmacists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, is meeting the needs of Lincolnshire patients." (November 2022)

There are 81 GP practices in Lincolnshire, with 814,000 patient registrations, and ninety per cent of patient contact with the NHS is via general practice. The **Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire** regularly reviews general practice, focusing on workforce developments, the ease of access to appointments and the number of appointments provided, including those conducted in-person.

Since 2019, there has been an expansion in the clinical roles in general practice, which includes nurse practitioners, clinical pharmacists, and physiotherapists. The committee recognises that these clinicians support the overall offer in general practice and can free GPs to treat the patients requiring their expertise. However, national 'experimental' data has indicated that Lincolnshire has a lower ratio of appointments undertaken by GPs, when compared to the regional and national averages. A further concern for the committee has been the re-instatement of in-person appointments following the pandemic.

For many people, phoning a GP practice - the usual means of contact - has been difficult, with long waits and sometimes calls going unanswered. NHS England has launched its *Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to Primary Care*, which aims to reduce the number of people struggling to contact their practice, as well as advising patients on the day they call how their request will be managed.

During the course of 2022-23, three specific GP practices were rated *inadequate* by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and placed in special measures. The committee reviewed the support given to these practices by the NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board as the commissioner, such as advice on telephony, patient participation arrangements, and medicines management, with the aim to improve their rating. As a result, of the three practices, two are no longer rated *inadequate* and are no longer in special measures.

The committee will continue to monitor GP provision, both in terms of appointments provided by GPs, and the number of in-person appointments. It will also focus on the ease of access to GP services, including the local implementation of national initiatives, and continue to monitor support provided to practices, where the CQC has identified poor quality of care.



A16/Marsh Lane Roundabout Improvements Scheme & Active Travel Scheme, Boston

Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee

"That the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee recorded its unanimous support to the recommendations to the Leader of the Council - Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning, and the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT as set out in the report." (December 2022)

The A16/Marsh Lane Boston Roundabout improvements scheme and the Boston Active Travel improvements scheme were two of the six schemes in the overall Levelling Up Fund programme for Lincolnshire. These improvements are aimed at implementing works that enhance key arterial routes serving South Holland, Boston, and the Port of Boston, providing an essential distribution route for the agricultural, food and logistical sectors and carrying significant commuter flows. Adoption and implementation of the Active Travel Scheme introduced various benefits to the local infrastructure and improved the user experience for local businesses and communities, whilst reducing the risk for pedestrians and cyclists. Examples include a new shared footway/cycleway facility along London Road, A16 and Marsh Lane, new toucan crossings on the latter two, and a new layout on Wyberton Low Road enabling cyclist crossing. The committee was consulted on the recommendations made, which supported the development of a contract for the construction of the scheme to be initiated.

The **Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee** recorded its unanimous support for the recommended actions to be implemented. Members emphasised the importance of minimising any disruption to business activity and received assurances, in close liaison with the Boston Transport Board, that businesses would be informed so that they understood the schemes and could plan for the future. Members applauded the pedestrian and cycling recommendations for lit crossings. Overall, the positive response from members and the anticipated positive reception from the public indicated that the proposed measures could potentially lead to significant improvements in the area's infrastructure and transportation options.

The Boundary Commission for England: 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

“That the Board support the recommendations to the Leader of the Council to consider the proposals of the Boundary Commission with particular focus on the plans for Stamford and Rutland and make a decision as to whether Lincolnshire County Council should write to the Boundary Commission calling on it to return to the previous proposals for Stamford and Rutland.” (November 2022)

In 2021, the Boundary Commission for England initiated a review of the parliamentary constituency boundaries. The arrangements put forward in June 2021 would have seen the Stamford and Rutland constituency straddle two counties - Lincolnshire and Rutland, and one district – South Kesteven. However, the proposed changes put forward in the final consultation in 2022 were more complex and would have seen the Stamford and Rutland constituency cross three county boundaries and five local authorities, three of which were upper tiers. This would also have included crossing two Local Enterprise Partnerships which would create a more complex geography than any other Lincolnshire parliamentary constituency.

The **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** recommended that the Boundary Commission’s latest proposal for a parliamentary constituency to cover Stamford, Rutland and Harborough should not be supported, and should be reverted to the initial proposal for a parliamentary constituency to cover Stamford and Rutland. The Board raised concerns over the proposal to have one MP covering three county council areas, which was considered too much for them to effectively support their constituents.

The Board supported the remaining proposals for Lincolnshire’s parliamentary constituencies, in particular the revised proposals for the Boston and Skegness parliamentary constituency. Concerns were raised however, that the revised Boston and Skegness proposals would need to be altered if the proposals for Stamford and Rutland were amended. This was to ensure a balanced representation of electors, and the Board therefore requested that options were explored to minimise this impact as much as possible.

On 2 December 2022, the Leader of the Council decided that Lincolnshire County Council should write to the Boundary Commission calling on it to return to the previous proposals for Stamford and Rutland.

Multiply Adult Numeracy Programme in Lincolnshire

Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee

" That unanimous support be given to the recommendations in the Executive Councillor report [and that] comments from the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee be forwarded on to the Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning in relation to this item." (May 2022)

Lincolnshire County Council has been appointed as the lead body for the Multiply Adult Numeracy Programme. This appointment required the submission of an Investment Plan to the Department for Education on 30 June 2022, outlining how funding of up to £4 million was being allocated within the county to provide new numeracy provisions for residents aged 19 years and older who do not have a grade C/level 4 or above in GCSE maths. The plan aimed to address skills gaps in key sectors and cater to the needs of hard-to-reach groups and individuals in the county.

The **Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee** considered the business and individual benefits of this investment, the proposed interventions and the consultation and engagement efforts which aimed at developing an inclusive, compliant, and achievable three-year plan. Unanimous support was given to the Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning, to submit an Investment Plan for a Lincolnshire-wide Multiply Programme to aid Levelling Up in the county.

Members expressed satisfaction in learning that the plans encompassed strategies to engage individuals furthest from the labour market, as well as those who might hesitate to step forward due to negative social perceptions related to their numeracy skills. Collaboration with employers was highlighted as a means to address numeracy and literacy skills among employees through work-related activities such as money management, stock control, weighing and measuring, and cookery, all within safe workplace environments and using the external support of community organisations.

Furthermore, pilot activities funded through the council's UK Community Renewal Funding award would inform approaches to delivering the programme. One such example is Abbey Access Training, which leads a consortium of eight charities that work with hard-to-reach groups and individuals to give them access to learning support.

The committee recommended exploring collaboration with trade unions that already offer union-funded learning opportunities and courses, as well as working with union representatives to promote the Programme. Officers responded positively, expressing their eagerness to explore these opportunities.

OTHER SUCCESSES



Performance of the Fostering Service

Corporate Parenting Panel

"That the report be received, and satisfaction be given to the performance achieved by Fostering Service and the assurances provided around areas that require attention and improvement."

(March 2023)

A key area of focus for the **Corporate Parenting Panel** is the Fostering Service, to ensure that the council recruits and retains sufficient foster carers, and that they are well supported in looking after Lincolnshire's children in care. The Panel welcomed the proposed 12.43% increase in allowances for foster carers, approved in March 2023, and extended their appreciation for the dedicated efforts of these carers. The primary focus of this funding was to ensure that foster carers received the necessary support and felt genuinely valued.

The breakdown of foster placements was of particular interest and concern to Panel members. However, it was acknowledged that several factors contributed to these breakdowns, particularly issues concerning attachment. In response to data and information highlighting placement breakdowns and unplanned moves, additional courses have been carefully designed and scheduled to support foster carers. Among these planned courses is the therapeutic crisis intervention programme. Assurance was provided that every possible effort was being made to prevent such breakdowns in the future.

Furthermore, the Panel recognised and understood the challenges that foster carers faced at the end of or during a breakdown of placements, especially due to the changes in family dynamics. The Foster Carer representatives on the Panel stressed that at such challenging times, it was vital to have the support from the Fostering Service and the entire fostering community.

SCRUTINY REVIEW PANELS

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

In 2021 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board requested each scrutiny committee propose topics for in-depth reviews to be carried out in the new council term. The scrutiny committees put their individual proposals forward and following detailed examination of the priority level of each, it was agreed that the initial reviews allocated to Scrutiny Panels A and B were Town Centre Improvements and Lincolnshire Agricultural Sector Support.



Town Centre Improvements

Scrutiny Panel A

“High streets can be lively, dynamic, exciting and social places that give a sense of belonging and trust to a community” (The Portas Review, 2011)

The purpose of this review has been to consider how Lincolnshire County Council uses its leadership role to support Lincolnshire's town centres and high streets, so as to achieve economic sustainability, and to help stimulate a visitor economy as well as to support job creation.

Scrutiny Panel A has completed its evidence gathering and has been finalising its report, including recommendations for the consideration of the Executive on initiatives that the county council might take forward. Although the Panel has commissioned case studies on four town centres, its conclusions focus on actions that could support all town centres. The Panel has gathered a range of evidence, which includes the following:

- the role of the County Council in supporting town centres, including:
 - its existing policies and initiatives;
 - the differences between its role and the roles of district councils and the extent to which they complement each other;
- placemaking and identifying community assets - barriers and opportunities for high streets;
- heritage and the visitor economy;
- case studies on four towns: Caistor, Holbeach, Mablethorpe and Market Rasen;
- innovative uses of information technology and digital services;
- practical changes for specific town centres, such as the use of traffic regulation orders; and
- national policy initiatives, and their impact locally.

The review report is being finalised for consideration by the Executive in October 2023.



Lincolnshire Agricultural Sector Support

Scrutiny Panel B

“Despite the evolving landscape, the agricultural sector is poised to remain a vital component of Lincolnshire’s economy, playing a crucial role in both sustaining the nation’s food supply and contributing to international exports.” (Cllr Gary Taylor, Chairman of Scrutiny Panel B, May 2023)

“Our landmark Agriculture Act will transform the way we support farmers.” (George Eustice, Environment Secretary, 2020)

Despite the evolving landscape, the agricultural sector is poised to remain a vital component of the Lincolnshire economy, playing a crucial role in both sustaining the nation's food supply and contributing to international exports.

Additionally, the Panel set out to identify potential opportunities for Lincolnshire County Council to support meeting the unmet needs of farmers and agricultural workers. Their intention was to propose appropriate interventions to address these needs effectively.

Throughout their investigation, the Panel gathered recommendations, which were validated by industry experts, organisations, and businesses.

As part of their mandate, the Panel identified and analysed various challenges encountered by the agricultural sector. These challenges included shifts in government policies, labour shortages, adequacy of training provision, increased automation, spikes in Avian Influenza outbreaks and the pressing issue of poor mental health among farmers and agricultural workers.

The recommendations of this review are being considered by the Executive on 5 September 2023. Following consideration of these, the Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning will determine which recommendations to accept and work closely with lead officers to devise an action plan.

CONTACT US

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

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- Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
- Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

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

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

Email: Scrutiny@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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