



County Offices  
Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1YL

22 November 2023

**Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held on **Thursday, 30 November 2023 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

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

Debbie Barnes OBE  
Chief Executive

**Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (11 Members of the Council and 3 Added Members)**

Councillors A N Stokes (Chairman), T J N Smith (Vice-Chairman), Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, I D Carrington, P M Dilks, R J Kendrick, K E Lee, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet and N H Pepper

**Added Members**

Church Representative: M Kyle

Parent Governor Representatives: Mrs M R Machin and Dr E van der Zee



**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD AGENDA  
THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2023**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1	<b>Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members</b>	
2	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
3	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2023</b>	7 - 14
4	<b>Consideration of Call-Ins</b>	
5	<b>Consideration of Councillor Calls for Action</b>	
6	<p><b>To Consider and Support a Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and Consultation Activities</b></p> <p><i>(To receive a report from Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director - Corporate, which invites the Board to consider a report which asks for approval of a Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and to commence consultation activities, which is due for decision by the Leader of the Council on 1 December 2023. The views of the Board will be passed on to the Council and the Leader of the Council as part of his consideration of this item)</i></p>	15 - 200
7	<p><b>Corporate Plan Success Framework 2023/24 - Quarter 2</b></p> <p><i>(To receive a report from Caroline Jackson, Head of Corporate Performance, which invites the Board to consider the Quarter 2 report for the Corporate Plan Success Framework 2023/24 which is due to be considered by the Executive on 5 December 2023. The views of the Board will be passed on to the Executive as part of its consideration of this item)</i></p>	201 - 254
8	<p><b>Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes</b></p> <p><i>(To receive a report which sets out the work programmes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Board's agreed programme)</i></p>	255 - 270
9	<p><b>Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 - Quarter 2</b></p> <p><i>(To receive a report from Michelle Grady, Assistant Director – Finance, which invites the Board to consider the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Quarter 2) which is due to be considered by the Executive on 5 December 2023. The views of the Board will be reported to the Executive as part of its consideration of this item)</i></p>	271 - 302

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| <b>10</b> | <b>Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Quarter 2)</b><br><i>(To receive a report from Michelle Grady, Assistant Director – Finance, which invites the Board to consider the Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Quarter 2) which is due to be considered by the Executive on 5 December 2023. The views of the Board will be reported to the Executive as part of its consideration of this item)</i> | 303 - 328 |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Treasury Management Performance 2023/24 -Quarter 2 to 30 September 2023</b><br><i>(To receive a report from Karen Tonge, Treasury Manager, which invites the Board to consider the performance of Treasury Management for Quarter 2 of 2023/24)</i>  | 329 - 362 |
| <b>12</b> | <b>People Management Update - Quarter 2</b><br><i>(To receive a report from Tony Kavanagh, Assistant Director – HR and Organisational Support, which provides an update on the People Management data for Quarter 2 of 2023-24)</i>   | 363 - 372 |
| <b>13</b> | <b>Health and Safety Annual Report 2022/23</b><br><i>(To receive a report from Fraser Shooter, Health and Safety Team Leader, which provides an overview of key achievements, activities and statistics related to Lincolnshire County Council's compliance and implementation of Health and Safety legislation and its statutory duties)</i>   | 373 - 390 |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Proposals for Scrutiny Review by Scrutiny Panel A</b><br><i>(To receive a report from Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer, which invites the Board to consider the proposals for a Scrutiny Review by Scrutiny Panel A)</i>   | 391 - 404 |

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

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| <b>15</b> | <b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme</b><br><i>(To receive a report which enables the Board to note the content of its work programme for the coming year)</i> | 405 - 416 |
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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 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on Thursday, 30th November, 2023, 10.00 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT  
BOARD  
26 OCTOBER 2023**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR A N STOKES (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors T J N Smith (Vice-Chairman), Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, I D Carrington, R J Kendrick, K E Lee, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet and N H Pepper

**Added Members**

Councillors: R D Butroid, M J Hill OBE attended the meeting as observers

Councillor M A Whittington also observed the meeting via Microsoft Teams

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Barnes OBE (Chief Executive), Andrew Crookham (Executive Director Resources), Nigel West (Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer), Emily Wilcox (Democratic Services Officer), Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Brendan Gallagher (Principal Planning Officer – Infrastructure), Andrew Hancy (Head of Business Support), Tony Kavanagh (Assistant Director – Human Resources and Organisational Support), Dave Pennington (Head of Property Development), Sophie Reeve (Assistant Director - Commercial), Sadie Rossington (Business World Project Manager) and Jayne Sowerby-Warrington (Assistant Director - Corporate Property)

**51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence had been received from Martin Kyle (Church Representative) and Emile Van der zee (Parent Governor Representative).

The Board also noted apologies from Councillor H Spratt (Executive Support Councillor for People Management, Legal and Corporate Property).

**52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD  
26 OCTOBER 2023**

53 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED:

That minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF OFFICERS

The Executive Councillor for People Management, Legal and Corporate Property expressed his gratitude to Fire and Rescue Colleagues, Lincolnshire County Council staff and volunteers who had worked hard over the previous days to support with flooding incidents across the County.

The Board echoed this and the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director – Resources also thanked that staff for their response and recovery efforts. The Board was advised that the Government had announced a Flood Recovery Framework and applications were open for immediate funding for Council's to support areas affected by flooding. Longer term reductions in Council Tax and Business Rates for individuals affected would also be made available. Updates would be provided when further information had been received.

55 CONSIDERATION OF CALL-INS

There were no Call-Ins to consider.

56 CONSIDERATION OF COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ACTION

There were no Councillor Calls for Actions to consider.

57 LCC LANGUAGE SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Business Support, which invited the Board to consider a report on the procurement of a new contract for the LCC Language Service, prior to a decision by the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor for Resources, Communication and Commissioning) between 30 October and 10 November 2023. The report to the Leader of the Council was set out at appendix A to the report.

The Board supported the recommendations to the Leader of the Council and during the discussion the following points were noted:

- It was possible that an increase in asylum seekers coming to Lincolnshire would increase demand for translation services. The Board was assured that the contract value for the procurement had been set slightly higher than current usage levels to anticipate the potential increase in volumes, providing the capacity to offer necessary services when required.



- Consideration had been given to the possibility of utilising internal staff within the Council who were proficient in various foreign languages, to further support the translation service. Although it was essential to balance this with their primary job responsibilities. This approach had been successfully implemented in other local authorities. Some concerns were raised in relation to safeguarding of individuals who required to use translation services in ensuring transparency and calling for accountability of any individuals acting as a translator. Officers agreed to review and mitigate these concerns accordingly.
- Translation services within the Children's Services Directorate were used for a variety of reasons, including to translate documents to court records when taking children into care, with specific requirements varying based on individual needs and the stage of service utilisation.
- The contract had been uplifted to accommodate potential increases in service requirements. Officers acknowledged the difficulty in predicting volumes but emphasised the need for a clear step-by-step process to determine when to use translation services or alternative options like Google Translate to ensure cost-effectiveness and guide staff appropriately.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations to the Leader of the Council be supported;
2. That a summary of the comments made be passed on to the Leader of the Council as part of his consideration of this item.

58 DELIVERY OF PAYROLL, PENSIONS AND HR ADMINISTRATION

Consideration was given to a report by the Assistant Director – HR and Organisational Support and the Assistant Director – Commercial, which invited the Board to consider a report on the Delivery of Payroll, Pensions and HR Administration prior to a decision by the Executive Councillor for People Management, Legal and Corporate Property between 6 and 30 November 2023. The report to the Executive Councillor was set out at appendix A to the report.

The Board supported the recommendations to the Executive Councillor and during the discussion the following points were noted:

- Members expressed concerns relating to ongoing issues within the payroll service, including late and incorrect payments to some members of staff. Officers assured Members that the Hoople system which went live in April 2023 was working well and that most challenges could be attributed to issues with individuals and managers not filling in forms correctly or meeting deadlines. This was an issue across all areas but schools and fire and rescue is more challenging due to the complexity of pay. These issues were being addressed through additional training and a focus on timely responses to form submissions as well as council process changes.

- The Leader of the Council emphasised the importance of not repeating past performance problems. It was stressed that proper system utilisation by both school staff and council personnel was essential for smooth operation.
- While there was complexity within the system, bringing it in-house was expected to give the council more control to streamline processes and improve the effectiveness of the payroll service, which was welcomed by Members.
- Members were pleased that action was being taken to mitigate risk, however concerns were raised over the contract negotiation process and why the contract with Hoople had not been fulfilled. Officers acknowledged that they had been working to a tight timescale throughout the process but were initially confident that timescales could be met. Despite commercial principles being met early within the process, contracts were unable to be agreed by both parties prior to September 2023 and risks were considered too high to continue with negotiations given the need for a transition by April 2024. Ultimately, tight timescales, contract management & staff absence had contributed to the decision to insource the contract.
- Transition costs were estimated to be around half a million pounds between October and April 2024.
- A question was raised as to why the contract hadn't been moved in house previously, given the advantages highlighted at 3.2 of the report. The Board was assured that the decision taken at the time was felt to be the most appropriate given market availability. The independent report carried out in 2022 was considered balanced and had concluded that the insourcing or transferring to Hoople were both reasonable.
- A suggestion to streamline employee contracts (particularly in Fire and Rescue and schools) to simplify the payroll system and save both time and money was acknowledged. However, there were limitations to this given that the Council were part of the National Pay Bargaining Scheme, constituting it challenging to make such changes to pay scales. This issue required a national resolution on behalf of the Local Government Association and the Leader of the Council had raised the outdated and unsustainable nature of the current system with the Local Government Association previously. The complexity of the payroll for part-time employees, particularly in Fire and Rescue and schools, also presented difficulties in streamlining the system.
- Leaving the National Pay Bargaining Scheme was not seen to be beneficial, as those local authorities that had chosen to depart from the scheme tended to align with national conditions to stay competitive.
- Members were assured that in relation to LCC LGPS Pension Scheme cost, the overall assessment had considered various factors, including the involvement of the Head of Pensions and relevant personnel, all of which had been factored into the decision-making process.
- It was clarified that the Council's role on Hoople's Board remained unchanged and they still held a 3% stake in the company. It was emphasised that the Council remained committed to this relationship, as it was important that the Council were part of discussions which contributed to the continued success and development of the system.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations to the Executive Councillor be supported;
2. That a summary of the comments made be passed on to the Executive Councillor as part of their consideration of this item.

59 DRAFT INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT

Consideration was given to a report by the Principal Planning Officer – Infrastructure, which invited the Board to consider a report on the Draft Infrastructure Funding Statement, prior to a decision by the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor for Resources, Communication and Commissioning) between 6 and 10 November 2023. The report to the Leader of the Council was set out at appendix A to the report.

The Board supported the recommendations to the Leader of the Council and during the discussion the following point was recorded:

- In relation Section 106 money allocated but not spent (table 1 of appendix A), Members were assured that legal agreements with corresponding timeframes ensured the proper spending of planning obligations funds, particularly in the context of education and school places, which further aligned with the development timeline and local community needs to ensure that the money came forward at the right time to benefit local communities.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations to the Leader of the Council be supported;
2. That a summary of the comments made be passed on to the Leader of the Council as part of his consideration of this item.

60 PEOPLE MANAGEMENT UPDATE - QUARTER 1

Consideration was given to an update by the Assistant Director – HR and Organisational Support which set out the performance of the HR service for Quarter 1 of 2023/24, as detailed in the report.

Consideration was given to the report and during the discussion the following points were noted:

- Attraction and retention premiums were used in the recruitment of high demand or specialist roles, which was proving successful in some areas. However, it was acknowledged that this was not appropriate as a long-term solution. In the long term, the Council continued to invest and support in apprenticeship programmes for hard to recruit areas, of which many included retention clauses to ensure a return on investment and support workforce planning. Other strategies were being considered

for the medium term, which included re-employing retired staff members on a part time basis to retain knowledge.

- Due to changes in the Council's Requirements, a focus on statutory work for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) pupils was necessary. The shift from a mix of non-statutory and statutory work to only statutory work was not favourable with many Educational Psychologists, resulting in a need to use agency staff, where a focus on statutory only work could be facilitated within contractual agreements. Specialist teacher teams were used to support schools with non-statutory work as well as supporting the statutory processes.
- Working in high pressure environments, needing a physical presence, and working with people vulnerable to illnesses were some of the reasons for a higher rate of sickness absence in the Adult Care and Community Wellbeing and Children's Directorates.
- The Chief Executive expressed concern about the proposed SEND reforms at a national level and felt that more radical change was needed across the system. Budgetary pressures surrounding SEND were an area of concern for many Councils and this issue had been raised with the County Council network as significant cost pressures were expected in coming years. There was a fundamental need for a reform of SEND support given the cost pressures faced by Council's.
- The Chief Executive was pleased that Lincolnshire County Council, as one of the only a few Council's operating within their budget for SEND, would be included in the policy review into SEND policies, meaning an opportunity to influence national policy, which was welcomed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and that assurances provided by Officers on performance elements be noted.

61 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMMES

Consideration was given to an update from the Chairman of the Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, which invited the Board to consider the recent work and the planned work programme of the Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, as detailed in the report.

Consideration was then given to an update from the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire which invited the Board to consider the recent work and the planned work programme of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire, as detailed in the report.

Consideration was given to both updates and during the discussion the following points were recorded:

- A question was raised around the level of information that could be shared with Councillors on a 'need to know' basis for people at immediate risk, particularly those

who were unable to consent to their details being shared. Officers agreed to investigate this issue further outside of the meeting.

- One Member suggested that the proposals for a change in opening hours for some services within North and North-East Lincolnshire seemed sensible given budget pressures and that people requiring an A&E service would be taken to an alternative larger hospital anyway. The ageing workforce within the NHS was also cause for concern.
- In response, the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire reiterated his concern for residents in North and North-East Lincolnshire in losing a 24-hour service and highlighted the use of triage through 111 or 999 as an effective tool to assess whether individuals needed to attend urgent treatment centres. He also expressed disappointment in the failing of the NHS to undertake a thorough and adequate consultation on these issues.

RESOLVED:

1. That satisfaction be recorded for the work undertaken by the Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire;
2. That the work programmes of the Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire be endorsed.

## 62 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Board was advised of two changes to the work programme:

- The addition of a report on Devolution to the to the work programme for the meeting on 30 November 2023.
- The deferral of the report on the Deepings Leisure Centre from the meeting on 30 November 2023 to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

## 63 CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that if they were present there could be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

64 PROPERTY RATIONALISATION

*11:56am – The meeting adjourned for a short break and Councillor Brockway, Carrington, Lee and Brockway left the meeting.*

*12:08pm – The meeting reconvened.*

Consideration was given to an exempt report by the Assistant Director – Corporate Property and the Head of Property Development which invited the Board to consider a report on Property Rationalisation.

The Board considered the report and supported the recommendations in the exempt report.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations in the exempt report be agreed.

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm



**Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes OBE, Chief Executive**

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>To Consider and Support a Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and Consultation Activities</b>

**Summary:**

This report invites the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider and support a report on:

- the terms of a proposed devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire,
- a draft proposal for the creation of a new Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority to give effect to the devolution deal and
- the carrying out of public consultation to inform a later decision whether the Council should submit a formal proposal to the Secretary of State under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 for the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority.

The report is due to be considered by the County Council on 1 December 2023 prior to a decision by the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning). The views of the Board will be reported to the County Council and to the Leader of the Council as part of their consideration of this item.

**Actions Required:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited to:-

- 1) consider the attached report and to determine whether the Board supports the recommendation(s) to the Leader of the Council as set out in the report.
- 2) agree any additional comments to be passed on to the County Council and the Leader of the Council in relation to this item.

## 1. Background

The Leader of the Council is due to consider a report that aims to

- progress the steps required to deliver on a historic devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire and to progress the process for creation of a Combined County Authority covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act as the only mechanism for delivering on that deal.
- ensure that appropriate consultation is undertaken, and comments are sought from stakeholders and are considered prior to consideration of approval of a final proposal for submission to Government.

Decision making to agree and to consult on the draft proposal is an executive function of the Council. In accordance with the process set out to Council in December 2022, the report will be considered at the meeting of the County Council on 1 December 2023, prior to any executive decision being taken.

The full report to the Leader of the Council is attached at Appendix A to this report.

## 2. Conclusion

Following consideration of the attached report, the Board is requested to consider whether it supports the recommendation(s) in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to inform the decision making process. The Board's views will be reported to the County Council and to the Leader of the Council.

## 3. Consultation

The Board is being consulted on the proposed decision of the Leader of the Council on 1 December 2023.

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Report to Leader of the Council 1 December 2023 - To consider and approve a Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and commence consultation activities, including the following appendices:
	A   Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire
	B   Draft proposal for a Greater Lincolnshire mayoral combined county authority and for devolution to Greater Lincolnshire
	C   Consultation on the draft proposal
D   Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	



## 5. Background Papers

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

<b>Background Paper</b>	<b>Where it can be viewed</b>
Report to Council December 2022 A Devolution Deal for Lincolnshire	<a href="#">Agenda for Council on Friday, 9th December, 2022, 10.30 am (moderngov.co.uk)</a>
Levelling Up White Paper	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom</a>
The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023	<a href="https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155">https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155</a>

This report was written by Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director - Corporate, who can be contacted on [Lee.Sirdifield@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.Sirdifield@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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**Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, OBE, Chief Executive**

Report to:	<b>Councillor M J Hill OBE, Leader of the Council, Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning</b>
Date:	<b>01 December 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>To consider and approve a Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and commence consultation activities</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I030594</b>
Key decision?	<b>Yes</b>

**Summary:**

This report asks the Leader of the Council to

- approve the terms of a proposed devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire,
- approve a draft proposal for the creation of a new Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority to give effect to the devolution deal and
- approve the carrying out of a public consultation on the proposal in accordance with the arrangements proposed in paragraphs 26 to 30 of the Report and in the Appendix C to inform a later decision whether the Council should submit a formal proposal to the Secretary of State under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 for the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Leader of the Council:

- 1) approves the devolution deal document attached at Appendix A;
- 2) approves the draft proposal for the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority attached at Appendix B ("the Proposal") for the purposes of public consultation in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023;
- 3) approves the carrying out of public consultation on the proposal in accordance with paragraphs 26 to 30 of the Report and the Consultation document at Appendix C; and
- 4) delegates authority to the Chief Executive to approve any minor amendments to the draft proposal or consultation arrangements. This delegation is to be exercised in consultation with the Leader of the Council and is conditional upon agreement to such amendments by the other Constituent Councils.

**Alternatives Considered:**

1. Not to approve the draft proposal.

This is not recommended because to allow for the maximum amount of devolved powers and funding (a “Level 3” deal), the legislation requires that a Mayoral Combined County Authority must be established in the area. There is no guarantee that a devolution deal and the associated funding would be available to the area in the same way in the future.

2. Not to consult upon the proposal or to delay consultation.

Neither of these options is recommended as failure to consult would mean that a key requirement of the Levelling up and Regeneration Act not being met and that the proposal could not be put forward to Government, preventing the delivery of the significant additional funding and powers that devolution and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority would bring.

The timeline to create a Mayoral Combined County Authority by Mayoral elections in May of 2025 requires a consultation on the proposal to be completed by early 2024. Any delay would not allow for the area to meet this timeline.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

The recommendations enable the council to:

- progress the steps required to deliver on a historic devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire and to progress the process for creation of a Combined County Authority covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act as the only mechanism for delivering on that deal.
- ensure that appropriate consultation is undertaken, and comments are sought from stakeholders and are considered prior to consideration of approval of a final proposal for submission to Government.

**1. Background**

- 1 Devolution provides an opportunity to seek the transfer of a range of powers and budgets from Government that can be targeted to local need, used to boost growth in the local economy and level up communities. It also provides the opportunity for some current local authority powers to be exercised on a wider footprint.
- 2 Across the country, devolution is moving important choices about local investment, infrastructure and training from Government to local decision makers. Significant devolution arrangements already exist in core cities like Manchester, Sheffield and Birmingham and more recently new devolution deals have been developed with neighbouring areas including Nottinghamshire, Norfolk, East Riding and Kingston upon Hull.

- 3 The levelling up white paper sets out the Government’s ambitions to expand devolution across England by 2030. It set out three levels of devolution, with the maximum levels of devolved power and funding only being available to areas that put in place the strongest governance and accountability arrangements.
- 4 The white paper has now been enshrined in legislation through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and provides a framework for devolving powers to local economic geographies.
- 5 Councils and businesses in Greater Lincolnshire have a strong history of working together and collaborating to tackle common challenges that can hold back growth. There are a multitude of projects already underway across Greater Lincolnshire and many of our communities have benefited from investment through the Towns Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Funding.
- 6 However short-term funding pots are not sufficient to achieve strategic change for the people that live and work in Greater Lincolnshire. Councils in Greater Lincolnshire have been working collaboratively to secure devolution for our area, to deliver the leadership required to address unique long-term challenges across Greater Lincolnshire, maximise the area’s opportunities to deliver future prosperity and to ensure that Greater Lincolnshire’s residents and businesses do not miss out or fall behind other areas.
- 7 In December 2022 the three upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, agreed to engage with government officials to secure a level 3 devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire on the basis of the devolution prospectus *Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Growth | Energy | Food*. The prospectus set out the Councils’ aspirations to achieve the greatest benefits of devolution for Greater Lincolnshire and options to enhance governance arrangements through the creation of a new organisation – a Combined County Authority, chaired by a directly elected Mayor.
- 8 Through extensive negotiations with government departments, the upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council secured an ambitious £750 million devolution deal with government on 22 November 2023.
- 9 The devolution deal sets out the areas of common ground between the ambitions in the Greater Lincolnshire Prospectus and the powers and budgets available for devolution from the Government at this time, this includes:
  - A Mayoral Investment Fund of £24 million per annum for 30 years to invest in infrastructure and skills development totalling £720m.
  - One off £28.4m capital investment in Greater Lincolnshire’s priorities.
  - £2m capacity funding over 3 years
  - £1m skills for job funding
  - Local control over the Adult Education Budget from 2026
  - A consolidated, multi-year transport fund, providing increased financial certainty

The Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal is attached as Appendix A to the report and the Leader of the Council is asked to approve the Deal by way of ratification to meet the government's expectations.

- 10 Following the conclusion of the devolution negotiations and in order to make the deal a reality it will be necessary for Greater Lincolnshire to initiate a statutory process to create a Combined County Authority to which the powers and funding identified in the deal will be devolved.
- 11 The first stage in this process is to develop a devolution proposal. The proposal document builds on the deal to set out how devolved powers and funding will be used to improve economic, social, and environmental wellbeing for some or all people who live and work in the area. The proposal document is a formal part of the statutory process for the creation of a Combined County Authority.
- 12 This document, would then be consulted on with the public in Greater Lincolnshire. Subject to the results of the consultation and a further decision by each of the upper tier councils, a finalised proposal document would be submitted to Government to initiate the process for the making of secondary legislation to establish the Combined County Authority and devolve the powers and funding to Greater Lincolnshire. The draft of a proposal for proposed consultation is attached at Appendix B to the report.

#### **A Proposal for a Combined County Authority and Devolution to Greater Lincolnshire**

- 13 The devolution proposal has been developed from an agreed policy backdrop. The 10 local councils across Greater Lincolnshire have a shared vision for the future, to realise the potential of the Greater Lincolnshire economy to benefit the people who live and work here.
- 14 The proposal would unlock significant long-term funding and give local leaders greater freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities for the people who live and work in Greater Lincolnshire.
- 15 The proposal sets out how local councils, business, government and education working together can address long term challenges and deliver on economic opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire through:
  - Local decisions and long term investment in infrastructure to turbo charge business growth and tackle low business productivity, particularly in key sectors that create high wage, high skills jobs that boost living standards
  - Long term strategic planning and investment to protect our environment and unlock high quality housing in our communities that meets the needs of a younger workforce and supports those in later life.
  - Local commissioning of high quality skills, training and pathways to attract and retain younger workers, meet the significant skills needs of our key industries and capitalise on economic opportunity through better alignment of skills, employment, and career opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire

- A stronger voice regionally and nationally to make the case for more investment on Greater Lincolnshire’s priorities including the UK Food Valley, energy, ports and logistics, delivering on the potential of the area from the Humber to The Wash.
  - Managing water as an asset, to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding, and meet the area’s unique demands for water to support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture.
- 16 Many of the areas benefitting from devolution have gone on to negotiate additional deals with the Government that build on their initial success. If the proposal is supported the upper tier councils would seek further devolution in the future and a number of additional areas where this could be achieved are set out in the proposal.

**Formalising how we work together – a combined county authority**

- 17 Local Councils already work collaboratively across Greater Lincolnshire. The proposal would see greater responsibility being passed from Government making it necessary to formalise these arrangements and to make them open and accessible.
- 18 This would be achieved through the creation of a Mayoral Combined County Authority in 2024 which would provide greater coordination, visibility and transparency for work across Greater Lincolnshire. It would enable focus on the things that will make the biggest difference to the lives of residents and the businesses within Greater Lincolnshire.
- 19 A mayor would be elected by residents in 2025 and work with the members of the proposed Combined County Authority to deliver the purpose and outcomes set out within the proposal. They would establish strong relationships with businesses, skills providers and other stakeholders to understand and address local challenges. They would also act as a champion for Greater Lincolnshire at regional and national levels, ensuring that our voice, and our needs are heard in Government.
- 20 Upper tier councils have worked collaboratively with the City, District and Borough councils and the two police and crime commissioners to develop governance arrangements for a proposed Combined County Authority. These arrangements would ensure transparency of decision making, effective collaboration between all parties and a strong local voice.
- 21 The majority of proposed powers and budgets would transfer to the Combined County Authority, with a small number of powers vested in the mayor. The proposed governance arrangements would see the three constituent (upper tier) authorities having voting rights on all matters, with an intention that representatives from City, District and Borough councils are given voting rights on most things.

- 22 Section 4 of the proposal document in Appendix B sets out the proposed governance arrangements in more detail and the proposal document also includes a powers table which is indicative of the functions that will be conferred on the Combined County Authority and how they will be exercised by the Combined County Authority.
- 23 Importantly the proposal is not about reorganising what is already in place and will not involve merging or reorganising local councils. The Combined County Authority would replace the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership. It would be a small strategic body overseeing the effective delivery of growth priorities, working collaboratively with local councils and other stakeholders to improve outcomes for Greater Lincolnshire and ensure joined up decision making.

### **Process for devolution to Greater Lincolnshire**

- 24 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 sets out the formal, legal process that must be followed in order to establish a Mayoral Combined County Authority and for powers and budgets to be devolved. This includes the Secretary of State assessing the proposal against a number of statutory tests before deciding whether to accept the proposal. These tests require that before making legislation that would establish the Combined County Authority, the Secretary of State must consider that:-
- to do so is likely to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of some or all of the people who live or work in the area,
  - to do so is appropriate having regard to the need (i) to secure effective and convenient local government, and (ii) to reflect the identities and interests of local communities, and
  - its establishment will achieve the purposes specified by the constituent councils in the proposal.

The proposal is considered to contain the necessary information to enable the Secretary of State to conclude that these tests have been met.

- 25 If the proposal is accepted it will form the basis from which the Secretary of State will develop a draft Statutory Instrument which will be submitted to the Council for approval before the Combined County Authority is established in law. The proposal document therefore differs from the deal document. While the deal document records the devolution offer the government has made to the constituent councils and the shared purposes of the constituent councils in agreeing that offer, the proposal document contains the detail on those matters covering the functions and powers to be conferred and the workings of the Combined County Authority which will be included in the Statutory Instrument. Further detail will be contained in the Combined County Authority's constitution which is a matter for the Combined County Authority.



- 26 As part of this statutory process a formal consultation must be undertaken on the devolution proposal. Subject to the necessary decisions being in place, it is intended that this activity will formally commence on 4 December 2023 for Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council and for North Lincolnshire Council at the point that their decision becomes effective in accordance with their Constitution. The consultation will end on 29 January 2024. The consultation questionnaire will be available both digitally and in paper format and be accessible from a range of partner locations. Easy read materials will also be available.
- 27 The opportunity for the public to have their say will be amplified throughout the consultation period through direct messaging, email, social media, and traditional media. Residents and businesses will be able to learn about the devolution proposal through a range of documents and associated press releases before filling in the survey. Consultation activity will include:
- 18 face to face public engagement sessions held across Greater Lincolnshire
  - A series of stakeholder engagement events with the education, voluntary and community sectors, business and partners
  - Targeted efforts to reach those with protected characteristics and/or seldom heard groups by working with representative organisations, groups and use of established forums.
  - Consultation literature and response forms available in libraries and other public buildings.
- 28 The consultation will be hosted on the Lincolnshire County Council Let's Talk consultation platform. This will enable the three upper tier councils to receive regular feedback on public opinion, and for consultation engagement plans to be reviewed on a regular basis to seek a representative response.
- 29 Following completion of the consultation period, Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council will review the consultation findings and consider appropriate amendments to the proposal document. This will be examined further through each council's governance arrangements before a decision is made for whether to ask the secretary of state to lay the statutory instrument to secure devolution for Greater Lincolnshire.

30 The case of. R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning [1985] 84 LGR 168 established the principles for a lawful consultation, namely:

- Proposals are still at a formative stage - A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers.
- There is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration' - The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response.
- There is adequate time for consideration and response- There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. In the absence of a prescribed statutory period, there is no set timeframe for consultation, though it is considered that the proposed consultation period is sufficient in this case. The adequacy of the length of time given for consultees to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation.
- 'Conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made. Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account.

Legal advice has been received that the consultation process and documents set out at Appendix C meet the requirements of a lawful consultation subject to conscientious consideration being given to the results before further decisions are taken.

## 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.

An initial draft equality impact assessment (EqIA) has been completed in respect of the proposal. It is attached as Appendix D and due regard must be given to the implications identified in it. The EqIA will continue to be evaluated and updated as necessary throughout and following conclusion of the public consultation.

The EqIA shows the wide and varied population of Greater Lincolnshire and that a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire can have a positive impact on a wide number of protected characteristics groups in a variety of ways including:

- The proposal will reduce barriers to upskill the local labour force across all age groups and reduce the productivity gap which GL faces nationally.
- The power to be able to innovatively use funding will open more possibilities to direct resources to tackle employment barriers for people with disabilities.
- The impact of being able to adapt and use innovative approaches to funding would mean we could target training to address any imbalance in the workforce in our local industries, as there will be increased opportunities to train.

- There is an opportunity through a more aligned careers service, led by industry, to ensure that there is a greater understanding of which sectors are actively trying to develop a representative workforce
- Improved digital infrastructure will also give people greater choice and flexibility over how they choose to work in the future and the jobs they can access.
- Improved transport infrastructure will provide GL residents with reliable means of getting from A to B, whether this be to school, work or socially, throughout the region.
- An improved transport system will also give the older generation greater access to healthcare, reduce isolation and improve independence.
- The ambition is to also improve accessibility to public transport for those who currently don't feel it meets their needs and requirements.

The EqIA also clearly identifies some possible negative implications which will need due consideration before full implementation of the changes that arise as a result of devolution in Greater Lincolnshire including:

- Across many areas, budgets and decisions will move from Government to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA. Within Employment and Skills for example, no specific decisions have yet been made about where investment will occur to generate employment opportunities or in education and improving skills. It is a possibility that this could inadvertently benefit one group over another. Therefore, due consideration and process must take place prior to implementation of any policy to ensure that this risk is reduced as much as possible.
- When striving to improve digital connectivity there is a risk that those who aren't currently confident with the technology could be left further behind and feel more excluded and subsequently increase the gap that is currently exists. Therefore, it is crucial that this is researched further so that skills gaps can be identified, and people can be signposted to programmes to help them improve their skills to enable people of all ages to realise the benefits of improved digital inclusion.

Public consultation will be used to seek a representative sample of responses to the plans set out within the devolution proposal. A wide range of engagement methods will be utilised to obtain views. This includes a series of public events, direct engagement with representative groups, and extensive information sharing through a wide range of media channels. The feedback from the consultation will be used to review the content of the EqIA and recommend amendments to the proposal where needed.

#### 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.

The devolution proposal does not include for the transfer of health powers or budgets but the proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA could address some of the determinants of poor health across the area in particular through new approaches to support the people that live and work here to train for and access high skill high wage jobs.

Through the devolution of wider powers a new Greater Lincolnshire MCCA would be able to support delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy including developing better access to services - in its role as local transport authority, - integrating physical activity into strategic planning, enabling provision of good quality, safe housing and addressing poor standards of housing and the level of appropriate housing required.

### Crime and Disorder

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

The devolution proposal does not include for the transfer of police and crime functions or community safety powers or budgets but recognises that safer communities are key to the Government's Levelling Up Missions.

The proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA provides membership for the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for Lincolnshire and Humberside to reflect their public safety role in the operation of the MCCA and the future prosperity of Greater Lincolnshire.

### **3. Conclusion**

In December 2022 the three upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, agreed to engage with government officials to secure a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire, agreed in principle for devolution to a mayoral county combined authority for Greater Lincolnshire and for continued engagement with key stakeholders to put Greater Lincolnshire in as strong a position as possible to secure a deal.

A devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire has now been secured. This report sets out the steps required to implement the deal and to progress the process for creation of a Combined County Authority covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act - as the only mechanism for delivering on that deal.

The recommendations enable the upper tier councils to progress the next stages of the process including ensuring that appropriate consultation is undertaken, and comments are sought from stakeholders and are considered prior to consideration of approval of a final proposal for submission to Government.

#### **4. Legal Comments:**

The Constituent Councils of Greater Lincolnshire have secured a devolution deal with the government. That deal is stated to be conditional on ratification by the Councils and the first recommendation if approved would meet that condition.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (“the Act”) provides the basis for the creation of new type of combined county authority. This is distinct from a combined authority that can be created under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Whilst the Council has agreed a devolution deal with Government, the creation of a new combined county authority is subject to public consultation, the submission by the Constituent Councils of a formal proposal to Government, the approval of the proposal by the Secretary of State and the making of secondary legislation.

The second and third recommendations set out in this Report initiate the first stage of this process by approving a proposal and the carrying out of the necessary public consultation. The decision is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Leader of the Council.

#### **5. Resource Comments:**

The creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority is expected to lead to substantial additional funding being made available to be spent within the combined county authority area on a range of different projects and schemes that will help promote economic growth and improve outcomes for the people who live and work across the region. Furthermore, securing a devolution agreement would mean the area is better placed to maximise any further devolution opportunities that may emerge in future, as has happened in other areas.

In the short-term, the devolution deal includes initial funding for 2024/25, which will be provided by Government towards the cost of establishing the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority as well as ongoing capacity funding in future years. The Council also makes a financial contribution to the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership. As these functions would be integrated into the Combined County Authority, it is envisaged that the County Council would continue to contribute via a different payment mechanism but within the current envelope (£0.452m).

It should also be noted that the Council’s funding base is directly linked to the economic performance of the area, therefore the achievement of stronger economic growth could lead to the generation of additional spending power through a stronger tax base over the long-term.

Supporting the recommendation will enable the three upper tier councils to consult on the proposal. This includes the provision of legal assurance and analysis of the consultation responses to inform future decision making which will be funded jointly and contained within existing budgets and using internal resources wherever possible.

## 6. Consultation

### a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

### b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

### c) Scrutiny Comments

This report will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 30 November 2023 and the comments of the Board will be reported to the Leader of the Council

### d) Risks and Impact Analysis

As detailed in the body of the report

## 7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report:	
Appendix A	Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire
Appendix B	Draft proposal for a Greater Lincolnshire mayoral combined county authority and for devolution to Greater Lincolnshire
Appendix C	Consultation on the draft proposal
Appendix D	Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

### 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 Council December 2022 A Devolution Deal for Lincolnshire	<a href="#">Agenda for Council on Friday, 9th December, 2022, 10.30 am (moderngov.co.uk)</a>
Levelling Up White Paper	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom</a>
The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023	<a href="https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155">https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155</a>

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# Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal

Subject to ratification of the deal by all partners and the statutory requirements referred to within this document, including, public consultation, the consent of councils affected, and parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of this Deal.



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities



**North  
Lincolnshire  
Council**





## **Signature Page**

**The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

**Jacob Young MP**

Minister for Levelling Up

**Cllr Martin Hill OBE**

Leader, Lincolnshire County Council

**Cllr Robert Waltham MBE**

Leader, North Lincolnshire Council

**Cllr Philip Jackson**

Leader, North East Lincolnshire Council

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## Introduction

1. Greater Lincolnshire holds an important place in the past and future of the UK. Comprising the traditional communities of Lindsey, Holland and Kesteven, it has been at the heart of major events throughout our history including the Roman occupation, the English Civil War, the founding of America, scientific discovery and invention. Known as 'Bomber County' during the Second World War, Greater Lincolnshire is proud of its RAF heritage.
2. The area's great natural assets and habitats, including miles of coast stretching from the Humber to the Wash and vast areas of productive agricultural land provides the opportunity for the area to make a significant contribution to the UK's future. From the world-leading offshore wind energy sector and manufacturers in the north to the centre of the UK's agricultural heartland in the south, Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of our nation as a source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities, and food security.
3. The Government has set itself a mission that, by 2030, every part of England that wants a devolution deal will have a devolution deal with powers at, or approaching, the highest level of devolution, with a simplified, long-term funding settlement. The 2022 Levelling Up White Paper makes clear the case for devolution as the engine room of improved productivity and reduced regional disparities. Devolution will be critical to delivering our twelve headline levelling up missions by strengthening local leadership to act more flexibly and innovatively to respond to local need, whether on transport, skills or regeneration.
4. In the Levelling Up White Paper, the Government published for the first time a devolution framework, which set out a clear menu of options for places in England that wish to unlock the benefits of devolution. This framework places a strong emphasis on the importance of high profile, directly elected local leadership, strong local governance, and joint working across sensible and coherent economic geographies. The most comprehensive package is a Level 3 deal, for areas with a single institution over a sensible geography, with the strongest and most accountable leadership, such as a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) or a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) covering a functional economic area or the whole county geography with a directly elected mayor. The Level 2 offer is for devolution to single local government institutions without a directly elected mayor, such as a combined authority or combined county authority covering a functional economic area or the whole county geography. The Level 1 offer is for local authorities with looser joint working arrangements, such as a joint committee model.

5. This document sets out the terms of an agreement for a Level 3 devolution deal between the Government and the local authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, and North Lincolnshire Council (hereafter “the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA” or “the MCCA”), subject to the coming into force of any relevant provisions in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (where necessary) (“the Act”), ratification of the deal by the Councils and the statutory requirements for making the secondary legislation implementing the deal. This document describes both the offer of functions and funding from the Government, and the reforms and measures that Greater Lincolnshire will need to deliver. Central to this is the election of a directly elected mayor across Greater Lincolnshire, to champion the area’s interests, deliver on local priorities, and be accountable to local people. The statutory requirements for implementing the deal include public consultation, the councils consenting to the secondary legislation implementing aspects of the deal, and Parliament approving it. Once this legislation is approved and made, the devolution deal will be confirmed.
6. Across Greater Lincolnshire, local councils have a shared vision of the future for Greater Lincolnshire’s 1.1 million residents where they have good lives, with independence, wealth and good health. Where communities are connected and working together make a vital contribution to the nation’s food security, supply chains and provide clean energy to power the UK’s homes and economy.
7. Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of the UK as a source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities, and food security. It has a vital role in global trade, securing the nation’s supply chains in key industries:
  - Food, fish, seafood and food manufacturing: Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley. It supplies 70% of seafood consumed in the UK, 30% of the nation's vegetables, and 18% of poultry. It has a total agricultural output of over £2 billion in 2019, with a seafood processing and trading cluster worth over £1.5 billion to the economy. Greater Lincolnshire will become a world leading food cluster. It has the potential to help the UK become a science superpower through its focus on new food chain automation and digital technology and innovation.
  - Energy, decarbonisation and net zero: Greater Lincolnshire is at the heart of the UK’s offshore renewable energy generation, and with at least 25% of the UK’s energy production it plays a crucial role in enabling the nation to become a net energy exporter by 2040. The low carbon economy and green energy production across Greater Lincolnshire are pivotal to the UK achieving net zero. They are already worth £1.2 billion per annum to the

economy, employing over 12,000 people. Greater Lincolnshire has a fundamental role leveraging investment in the North Sea expanding renewable capacity and innovate in carbon capture.

- Ports, logistics and supply chains: Greater Lincolnshire is the UK gateway to Europe for the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse. Benefiting from prime deep water locations, its ports and connectivity advantages have supported the growth of a UK-leading logistics cluster, serving industry sectors including renewables, advanced manufacturing, food manufacturing and energy. The UK economy is highly dependent on the maritime sector, with 95% of goods exports and imports moved by sea, including nearly half of the country's food supplies and a quarter of its energy supply. Greater Lincolnshire is supporting the next phase in the evolution of its ports and the competitiveness of its logistic sector that underpin trade and national supply chains.
8. Growth is fundamental to levelling up Greater Lincolnshire and delivering future prosperity. The public and private sectors in Greater Lincolnshire have a strong history of working together and are already collaborating to tackle common challenges that until now have held back growth. Further powers, funding and flexibility from Government will accelerate progress to address:
- the need to capitalise on economic opportunity through better alignment of skills, employment, and career opportunities;
  - low business productivity affecting investment and earning potential which can be addressed by raising skills level;
  - pockets of unemployment and economic inactivity;
  - the need to manage water as an asset, to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding, and meet the area's unique demands for water to support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture;
  - a population ageing above the national average which will lead to disproportionate demand for care and health services, and a reduced labour market;
  - the attraction and retention of younger workers to maintain a viable workforce for future growth;
  - the costs of rurality and the need to improve connectivity through road, rail, digital and energy distribution infrastructure.
9. The constituent councils of the proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and Government are hereby minded to agree a historic mayoral devolution deal which will provide powers and funding to enable the Greater Lincolnshire area to

unleash its full economic potential and in doing so level up, raise living standards for its communities and make a full contribution to the UK economy. The Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal shows how levelling up can be done in practice – with clear alignment to the headline Levelling Up missions and long-term, devolved funding underpinning it.

10. The Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal will unlock significant long-term funding and give local leaders greater freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities for the people who live and work there. The Government recognises that devolution is a journey, not a one-off event. This agreement is the first step in a process of further devolution. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to deepen their devolution arrangements over time on the same basis as existing Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs), subject to Government agreement.
11. The Government commits to using the platform of this deal to work with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in addressing key local challenges and opportunities, including the delivery of infrastructure and investment to boost growth and create high skill high wage jobs, tackling productivity and skills gaps to spread opportunity, unlocking transformative regeneration and housing opportunities, and working together to tackle climate change.
12. As an MCCA, Greater Lincolnshire will be a key partner of central government to drive regional growth and productivity, joining the existing MCAs in engagement with the Government from the date of this deal.

## **Summary of the Devolution Deal between Government and the Local Authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council**

The Government and Greater Lincolnshire are minded to agree a devolution deal which will provide the area with new powers and funding to increase opportunities and living standards through inclusive growth and productivity improvements.

A devolution agreement is contingent upon Greater Lincolnshire proceeding through the steps necessary to meet the governance criteria required for a Level 3 devolution deal.

This devolution agreement includes:

- The formation of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, and the election of a directly elected mayor to provide overall vision and leadership, seek the best value for taxpayer's money, be directly accountable to the area's electorate and to receive new powers on transport, housing and skills.
- Control of a £24 million per year allocation of investment funding for 30 years, 50% capital and 50% revenue, to be invested by the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to drive growth and take forward its priorities over the long term.
- £20 million capital funding to drive place-based economic regeneration in Greater Lincolnshire, to be allocated over the current spending review period, subject to a business case process.
- £2 million of Mayoral Capacity Funding to support the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in the early stages of this deal.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) planning and delivery at a strategic level from 2025/26, subject to funding, policy and delivery considerations at the next Spending Review.
- New powers to shape local skills provision to better meet the needs of the local economy and local people, including devolution of the core Adult Education Budget, as well as input into the new Local Skills Improvement Plans.
- New powers to drive the regeneration of the area and to build more affordable homes including compulsory purchase powers and the ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations subject to consent requirements.
- £8.36 million for the building of new homes on brownfield land and £228,000 capacity funding to bring forward a pipeline of housing projects, both in 2024/25 subject to a business case process.
- New powers to improve and better integrate local transport, including the ability to introduce bus franchising, control of appropriate local transport functions.

- The mayor will be responsible for a consolidated local transport settlement for the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, which Government will provide Greater Lincolnshire MCCA at the next Spending Review.
- Department for Transport will work in partnership with a new rural transport group to be established by the mayor of Greater Lincolnshire, to identify pilot projects to address rural connectivity and accessibility challenges.
- Government will support Greater Lincolnshire in seeking a new rail partnership with Great British Railways, once established, so their priorities can be taken into consideration in future decisions regarding their local network.
- Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero will provide observer representation on the Humber Energy Board, through which they will support the development of a Net Zero Strategy.
- Relevant government departments and their arm's length agencies will attend as full members of a new Coastal Partnership to ensure that the nature, culture and heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast are given a voice.
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will consider the role of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in ensuring an appropriate balance between sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes. They will meet annually with the UK Food Valley Programme Board and work with the MCCA to deepen engagement with SMEs in food and drink manufacturing.
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will endorse the creation of an Enhanced Partnership to pilot the development of a forum for flood resilience, adaptation and management of the water system in a whole systems approach.
- Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and a subset of Department for Culture, Media and Sport's arm's length bodies will establish a collaborative partnership to share expertise and insight across culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy.

More detail on these commitments is given in the main body of the document below. Further powers may be agreed over time and included in future legislation.



## **Governance**

### **Introduction**

13. Councils across Greater Lincolnshire have a long history of working together to tackle societal challenges and improve living standards and levels of prosperity. By working together, Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, together with the seven district councils across Greater Lincolnshire, business and key stakeholders have developed options for a devolution deal for the economic geography of Greater Lincolnshire. This has been informed by:
- a. Collaboration across all 10 councils in Greater Lincolnshire to develop a long-term vision for Greater Lincolnshire in order to deliver a better future for the communities, visitors, and businesses of Greater Lincolnshire.
  - b. Business Engagement through the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership to gauge the interest, understanding and desire for devolution from local business.
  - c. Involvement of all 10 councils in Greater Lincolnshire including discussions with council leaders and a series of meetings of chief executives to refine proposals for devolution to meet the needs of all parts of the historic county.
14. There is a strong partnership with all councils in Greater Lincolnshire who are clear that devolution will boost prosperity for people and businesses across the whole area.

### **Governance Model**

15. As part of this deal Greater Lincolnshire intends to adopt the Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) model which is provided for by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (the “Act”).
16. By pursuing an MCCA, Greater Lincolnshire unlocks the benefits of a level three devolution deal which brings a substantially greater level of additional powers, influence and funding to Greater Lincolnshire, to accelerate growth and improve prosperity.

17. A key advantage of a single institution, such as the MCCA model, across a functional economic geography is its joint governance arrangements for key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development, and regeneration, which allow for strategic prioritisation across its area and integrated policy development. In addition, a directly elected mayor provides greater leadership, local accountability and decision-making power, working in partnership with the combined county authority itself, local councils and other key stakeholders.
18. It is intended that the first mayoral election for the MCCA will be held in May 2025. The new mayor will be elected by the local government electors for the areas of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council (“the constituent councils”). Mayoral terms will last 4 years.
19. The MCCA institutional model includes upper tier authorities only as of right. Both the Government and the constituent councils place high importance on the MCCA working collaboratively with the seven district and borough councils across Greater Lincolnshire (“the district and borough councils”) and ensuring that they have a voice in the MCCA.
20. This document indicates how this is expected to work in some critical respects, while the constituent councils continue to work with the district and borough councils in the area to develop the detail of the arrangements for appropriate district and borough council input to the MCCA as its detailed constitution is developed.

### **Membership of the MCCA**

21. As the Act enables, the proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will comprise the following members with voting rights conferred by the Act.
- The elected mayor
  - 6 constituent members, consisting of a Lead Member for each constituent council (expected to be the Leader or their nominee), and one further member appointed by each of the three constituent councils from its elected members

In addition, the MCCA will be able to appoint non-constituent and associate members. The maximum number of non-constituent or associate members will not exceed the number of constituent members. It is intended that the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will appoint up to six non-constituent and associate members, which could see:

- 4 non-constituent Members, who will be elected members from the district and borough councils to be appointed by the MCCA following nomination in accordance with paragraph 23 below.
  - 1 non-constituent Member who will be one of the two Police and Crime Commissioners (“PCC”) for the area. They will be able to substitute for one another as appropriate.
  - 1 further non-constituent/associate member, to be appointed by the MCCA
22. Each constituent member and each non-constituent member from the district and borough councils will be able to have up to 2 substitute members who will have the same rights, including voting rights, as the members for whom they are the substitute.
23. The district and borough councils within Lincolnshire have an important role to play in levelling up Greater Lincolnshire and delivering the shared vision for the area. It is expected that a joint committee of these councils will be formed and that this joint committee will be designated by the MCCA as a nominating body for the purposes of nominating four non-constituent Members of the MCCA. The term of office for non-constituent members would be a matter for the MCCA constitution, but it is expected that non-constituent Members would be appointed annually, with membership rotated among the district and borough councils. The same joint committee could be used to nominate other elected members from the district and borough councils to other places on forums of the MCCA, including Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees.
24. The Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for Lincolnshire and Humberside have a valuable role to play in the operation of the MCCA and the future prosperity of Greater Lincolnshire. Safer communities are key to the Government’s Levelling Up Missions, and so the MCCA will ensure that it engages appropriately with both PCCs as the leaders elected to represent public safety in Greater Lincolnshire. With that in mind, it is expected that one PCC will at any given time be a non-constituent Member of the MCCA. PCCs will be able to nominate each other as the substitute member as appropriate, and both PCCs would be able to attend and participate in MCCA meetings and have access to all meeting papers.
25. To retain and build upon the mature public and private sector partnership working already taking place across Greater Lincolnshire, it is proposed that the remaining non-constituent/associate Member could be appointed by the MCCA from a sector that has strategic relevance to the powers devolved to the area. The MCCA may invite representatives from other sectors to attend (and speak) at any Mayoral Combined Authority meeting.

## **Voting rights**

26. Constituent Members of the MCCA and the mayor must have full voting rights. non-constituent members are non-voting unless the MCCA resolves to give them a vote on any issue, within the restrictions set out in the Act. It is expected that the non-constituent Members will be granted voting rights in accordance with paragraphs 27 and 28 below.
27. The MCCA constitution will specify a number of matters where voting will be reserved to constituent members and non-constituent members will not be granted a vote. Reserved matters are expected to include the mayoral budget and constitutional matters, matters relating to the current functions of the constituent councils and those transport functions that transfer to the MCCA. Other than on reserved matters it is expected that non-constituent members from the district and borough councils will be granted the right to vote where permissible.
28. Subject to appropriate constitutional arrangements, the PCC non-constituent member may be given a vote by the MCCA on non-reserved matters considered by the MCCA that relate to the PCC's remit.
29. As well as the voting rights described above, it is expected that certain decisions of the MCCA will have consent requirements attached to them in which district and borough councils' consent will be required as a condition of the decision. These expected consent requirements are described in paragraph 40 below.

## **Functions**

30. Functions contained in the deal document will be devolved to the MCCA by the Government, subject to Parliamentary approval. Some of these functions will be exercisable by the mayor and some by the MCCA.
31. No local authority functions are being removed from any local authority in the area, other than transport functions, as agreed with the constituent councils. Where other local authority functions are conferred on the MCCA they will be held concurrently with the local authorities in the area to ensure joined up decision making. Arrangements for the concurrent exercise of the functions will be a matter for agreement between the MCCA and the constituent councils as appropriate.
32. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be given powers in relation to:

- Economic development and regeneration functions, including the preparation of an economic assessment for the area; to embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions and to carry out strategic economic planning that clearly articulates the area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths.
- Adult education and skills functions;
- Transport functions, including responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan and to set up and coordinate a Key Route Network (KRN) on behalf of the mayor;
- Housing supply, regeneration and place-making functions, along with provision of housing and land, land acquisition and disposal and the development and regeneration of land functions;
- Power to borrow up to an agreed cap for all functions;
- Data sharing with the constituent councils in areas relating to the MCCA functions
- Power to establish joint arrangements
- A functional power of competence

33. The directly elected mayor for the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will autonomously exercise the functions set out below with personal accountability to the electorate, devolved from central government and set out in legislation. These functions will be:

- Functional power of competence
- Power to establish mayoral joint committee(s)
- Housing and regeneration:
  - Power to designate a Mayoral Development Area leading to the setting up of a Mayoral Development Corporation (subject to consent requirements below);
  - Housing and land acquisition powers (subject to consent requirements below) to support housing regeneration, infrastructure and community development and wellbeing, unlocking housing opportunities and accelerating business growth across Greater Lincolnshire.
- Finance:
  - Power for the mayor to set a precept on council tax to fund mayoral functions (resulting from the setting of the mayoral budget as set out below);
  - Power to charge business rate supplement (subject to ballot);
- Transport:
  - To draw up a local transport plan and strategies (subject to the consent requirements – see paragraph 38 below);
  - Bus franchising powers;
  - Ability to pay grants to bus service operators;

- Power of direction over the KRN.

### **Arrangements for exercise of mayoral functions**

34. The Act sets out how the mayor can exercise their functions.

35. The mayor must appoint a member of the MCCA as deputy mayor.

36. The mayor can arrange for the exercise of their functions by:

- The deputy mayor
- A constituent member of the MCCA
- Where regulations allow, a committee of the MCCA consisting of persons appointed by the mayor whether or not members of the MCCA.

37. The mayor may also choose to establish Advisory Boards to advise them on matters relating to the exercise of their functions.

### **Conditions on the exercise of mayoral functions**

38. The mayor will be required to consult the MCCA on their strategies and this will be subject to the following conditions:

- The MCCA will be able to amend the mayor's budget if 2/3rd of the constituent members (or substitute members) entitled to vote agree to do so or, if a 2/3 majority cannot be reached, if 3/6 constituent members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 Lead Members entitled to vote agree to do so.
- The MCCA will be able to amend the mayor's Transport Plan if 2/3rd of the constituent members (or substitute members) entitled to vote, agree to do so.

39. The following decisions will require the consent of the Lead Member (or a substitute member acting in their place), of any relevant constituent council, in whose area the decision will apply:

- a. Designation by the mayor of any area of land as a Mayoral Development Area leading to the establishment (by Order) of a Corporation (the consent of the relevant planning authority in whose area the decision will apply is also required as included in paragraph 40).
- b. Compulsory purchase of land or buildings by the mayor or the MCCA under any powers (the exercise of compulsory purchase powers will also require the consent of the relevant planning authority as included in paragraph 40).

- c. Any decision by the mayor that could lead to a financial liability falling directly upon that constituent council.
- d. Such other matters as may be contained in the MCCA constitution, including the adoption of policies and strategies.

40. As well as the requirement for lead member consent in accordance with paragraph 37 the following decisions will also require the consent of any local planning authority in whose area the decision will apply:-

- a. Designation by the mayor of any area of land as a Mayoral Development Area leading to the establishment (by Order) of a Corporation
- b. the exercise of compulsory purchase powers

41. The mayor and the other MCCA members will be required to work together. Specifically:

- a. The mayor will provide overall leadership and chair combined county authority meetings;
- b. Members of the MCCA may also act to support and advise the mayor in the exercise of mayoral functions;
- c. The MCCA may establish an independent remuneration panel to recommend allowances payable to the mayor.

### **Arrangements for exercise of MCCA functions**

42. Unless and until delegated through the MCCA's constitution all MCCA functions that are not mayoral functions will be exercised by the full MCCA and not by any board or committee on its behalf. This includes the adoption of all plans, policies and strategies other than those set out in paragraph 38.

### *Voting arrangements*

43. The allocation of voting rights is dealt with in paragraphs 26 to 29 above. Proposals for decisions by the MCCA may be put forward by the mayor or any MCCA constituent member. The mayor will have one vote as will other voting members of the MCCA. Any questions that are to be decided by the MCCA are to be decided by simple majority of the members present, entitled to vote and voting, unless otherwise stated in this document or provided for in legislation and that majority must include the vote of the mayor.

44. In addition, for the following decisions the majority of members must include the Lead Member (or substitute member) from each constituent council:

- a. Approving the MCCA's budget (excluding decisions which relate to the mayor's budget);
- b. Setting a levy

45. For a decision to carry out a regeneration scheme in an area of a constituent council(s) (with appropriate consultation of a district or borough council where relevant) the majority of members must include the Lead Member (or substitute member) from the relevant constituent council(s).

### *Delegation*

46. The delegation of decision-making within the MCCA will be a matter for the MCCA in approving its constitution. However, the upper tier councils recognise the value of widening involvement in the work of the MCCA and ensuring a range of voices are heard within the MCCA.

47. It is expected that the MCCA will establish a number of decision-making committees or boards aligned with different elements of the devolution deal. It is envisaged that the following committees or boards would be established:

- Transport
- Skills and Employment
- Business and Infrastructure

48. These committees would contain constituent Members, non-constituent Members and Associate Members of the MCCA or their substitutes, together with a number of co-opted members which could include other elected members of non-constituent councils.

49. In addition to decision-making boards/committees the MCCA will have the power to establish advisory boards/committees. It is envisaged that a Greater Lincolnshire Economic Advisory Group/Panel could be established as one means of ensuring a strong voice for business.

### **Accountability**



50. The MCCA must appoint at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee and one Audit Committee in line with requirements set in regulations including on membership and voting. The MCCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have the power to scrutinise decisions of and hold to account both the mayor and the MCCA. The membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) cannot include the mayor or a member of the MCCA.
51. For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) it is expected that 2 members will be nominated from each constituent council: In addition, there are expected to be a total of 4 members nominated collectively by the district and borough councils on each Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Further detail on the approach to nomination of those representatives will be developed in consultation with the district and borough councils in the area. The constituent councils will also consider whether and how best to ensure that the business voice and other relevant stakeholders are represented effectively on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s).
52. The chair and vice-chair of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be appointed by the MCCA following a proposal put to them by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in question. The chair shall not be a member of a registered political party of which the mayor is also a member.
53. The MCCA must arrange for the appointment of an Audit Committee, at least one member of which must be an independent person. Membership of the Committee taken as a whole will be required to be proportional by reference to the balance of political parties prevailing among members of the constituent councils taken together at the time the MCCA appoints the members to the Committee or such other requirements as are required by the regulations.
54. For the Audit Committee it is expected that two members will be nominated from each constituent council. Further members will be appointed to the Audit Committee based on appropriate best practice guidance such as that issued by CIPFA on the composition of audit committees. Further detail on the approach to nomination of further representatives will be developed in consultation with the district and borough councils in the area and included in the proposal to be consulted.
55. As a local government institution with devolved powers, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be subject to the English Devolution Accountability Framework ('the Framework'). The Framework applies to all English institutions with devolved powers. In line with the Framework, the Government, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and other areas with devolution deals will work together to put in place mechanisms

to ensure that local leaders and institutions are transparent and accountable, work closely with local businesses, seek the best value for taxpayers' money, and maintain strong ethical standards.

56. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA should also have regard for the Government's Scrutiny Protocol, which develops the standards and best practice to make sure that scrutiny committees in areas with devolution deals can meet this unique challenge. This is to empower local residents and provide them with the confidence that devolution is leading to improvements in their area.

### **Working with Others**

57. In order to fulfil its role in giving strategic direction to the Greater Lincolnshire area the mayor and the MCCA will work closely with stakeholders in the area including the constituent councils and borough and district councils. The mayor and MCCA will also have formal powers to delegate functions or exercise them formally with other local and public authorities.

58. Where existing functions or resources currently held by the constituent councils are to be exercised concurrently or jointly with the mayor or the MCCA the detail will be agreed between the mayor/MCCA and the constituent councils. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA may exercise functions in relation to its area and may exercise functions outside its area, subject to and in accordance with statutory provisions.

59. The MCCA will explore opportunities for further collaboration with its neighbouring councils, including and especially, any future Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (howsoever named) and pan-Humber working arrangements. The MCCA may invite representatives from other partner councils to attend (and speak) at any MCCA meeting.

### **Role of the LEP**

60. The Levelling Up White Paper announced the Government's intention to support the integration of Local Enterprise Partnership functions and roles into local democratic institutions. On 4 August 2023 Government confirmed its previous 'minded to' decision to withdraw central government support (core funding) for Local Enterprise Partnerships from April 2024 and transfer their functions to local and combined authorities. This deal confirms the integration of LEP functions into the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, subject to agreement of an integration plan by the constituent local authorities and its subsequent endorsement by Government.

61. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be supported to take on relevant functions and roles of the Local Enterprise Partnership in line with published guidance and any agreed interim arrangements. To date the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) has made a significant and valuable contribution to shaping the Greater Lincolnshire economy and the private sector which it represents. Building on these achievements and integrating these important functions into the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will create more integrated, better aligned and empowered local institutions with the tools they need to unlock economic growth and level up at a local level.

62. All parties will work together to ensure the strong, diverse and independent local business voice is maintained, with the business voice to be represented within the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, and with advisory boards representative of the geographies and composition of their local communities. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will ensure that any business advisory board or equivalent structure is meaningfully involved in local decision making, maintaining a culture of constructive challenge and scrutiny with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA assurance framework, and is representative of local business communities.

63. Government funding for integrating LEP functions will be subject to future spending decisions by individual departments and business planning.

### **Growth Hub**

64. The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub in Greater Lincolnshire plays an important role working with local authorities in the area to provide access to a range of grants, expert advice and programmes to support SMEs to grow and boost the local economy. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will continue to provide Growth Hub Services working in collaboration with businesses, local partners, stakeholders and local authorities across the county, subject to future funding from Government.

### **Implementation**

65. In line with the process set out in the Act, the constituent councils will produce a devolution proposal based on the deal. They will publicly consult on that proposal with local communities and business and any other interested stakeholders. They will consider the outcomes of the consultation before deciding whether to revise and/or submit the proposal, alongside a summary of the consultation responses to the Government, for consideration.

66. Implementation of the proposal is subject to the statutory requirements and process set out in the Act together with the Secretary of State being satisfied that the required statutory requirements have been met, the consent of each constituent council being provided, and parliamentary approval of the required secondary legislation.
67. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and Greater Lincolnshire will be able to deepen its devolution arrangements over time, subject to Government agreement and appropriate accountability arrangements. Councils in Greater Lincolnshire view these arrangements as a starting point for further devolution.
68. As part of deepening devolution, the trailblazer devolution deals recently concluded with Greater Manchester MCA and the West Midlands MCA include single funding settlements which give the flexibility and independence needed to deliver locally whilst providing assurance of MCA performance through a single outcomes-based accountability framework. The Government's ambition is to roll a single settlement funding model out to all areas in England with a devolution deal and a directly elected leader over time.

## Finance and investment

69. The constituent councils will create a fully devolved funding programme covering all budgets for devolved functions (the “Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund”), accountable to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA.
70. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will use the Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund to deliver a programme of transformational long-term investment. The Government agrees to allocate £24 million per annum for 30 years, 50% capital and 50% revenue, which will form part of the Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund. This will be subject to five-yearly gateway assessments to confirm that the investment has contributed to economic growth and levelling up. Once the Order is made conferring establishing the MCCA and the council has its Assurance Framework confirmed with the Government, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA may have access to the Investment Fund prior to the election of a directly elected mayor, subject to the agreement with the Government of suitable caps.
71. In recognition of the economic opportunities presented by Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, Government will make a further investment in Greater Lincolnshire to drive place-based economic regeneration through a £20 million capital funding pot to be allocated over the current spending review period, subject to a business case process. Priority schemes will cover highway and public transport improvements, green jobs, UK Food Valley, and water management.
72. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have the flexibility to secure private and public sector leverage. As per local government guidance, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also be able to use capital receipts from asset sales as revenue funding for public service transformational initiatives.
73. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be given powers to borrow for its new functions, which will allow it to invest in economically productive infrastructure, subject to an agreed cap with HM Treasury. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will agree overall debt limits with HM Treasury. These limits are subject to review as set out in the debt cap agreements. The MCCA will update HM Treasury about any deviation from its underlying borrowing plans in order to support HM Treasury in its duty to monitor and forecast changes in the fiscal aggregates. Debt The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also provide information, explanation and assistance to support the Office for Budget Responsibility in its duty to produce economic and fiscal forecasts for the UK economy.
74. The costs of establishing the MCCA will be met from the overall resources of the MCCA. To support the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in its early stages of this deal,

the Government will provide Mayoral Capacity Funding of £500,000 in 2024/25, £1 million in 2025/26, and £500,000 in 2026/27. This will be provided on the basis that the establishing legislation has been made and the Assurance Framework confirmed with the Government. Any future capacity funding will be subject to Spending Review, in line with arrangements for other devolution deals. Additional activities or capital allocations from Government will be supported by revenue allocated to the MCCA in line with practice for existing areas with a Level 3 devolution deal.

75. The elected mayor will have the power to issue a precept on local council tax bills to help pay for the mayor's work. This precept can only be raised for mayoral functions.
76. The elected mayor will have the power to introduce a supplement on business rates for expenditure on a project or projects that will promote economic development in the area, subject to a ballot of affected businesses.
77. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be the lead local authority for the planning and delivery of the UKSPF (or 'the Fund') from 2025/26 if there is a continuation of the Fund and the delivery geographies remains the same. The Greater Lincolnshire area's core UKSPF allocation will be subject to a future Spending Review and reconfirmation of overall UKSPF policy and delivery arrangements from 2025/26. If the delivery model remains the same as the previous Spending Review period, it is anticipated that the MCCA will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates in the area, with wide flexibility to invest and deliver according to local needs. In carrying out this role, it will need to engage constituent councils, district and borough councils and other local partners to ensure that the needs of residents can be effectively addressed.
78. The Government understands that Greater Lincolnshire currently has, and will in the future have, interest in applying for funding and other opportunities made available. This includes but is not limited to the Levelling Up Fund. This deal does not preclude participation in these processes where the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA meet the relevant criteria.

### UK Infrastructure Bank

79. The UK Infrastructure Bank ("the Bank") will increase infrastructure investment across the UK by partnering with the private sector and local government to help tackle climate change and support regional and local economic growth. The Bank can offer advice and support to local actors, including the Greater Lincolnshire

MCCA, to help deliver on their objectives, including driving investment into net zero infrastructure and innovative local projects. It can also act as a convenor, bringing together local actors for collaborative projects, and where appropriate identifying where projects can be aggregated to achieve greater impacts.

## Skills and Employment

80. Both the Government and constituent councils are committed to a whole system approach to employment and skills across Greater Lincolnshire, which helps everyone to be able to gain the job that they want and helps employers to raise productivity and create better jobs that are key to raising living standards.
81. The leading sectors in the Greater Lincolnshire economy have the potential to create high skill, high wage jobs that can level up Greater Lincolnshire. The Government and constituent councils are responsive to the needs of employers, recognising the requirements that employers have to operate productively. Through this deal they will support the provision of:
  - a. entry level training and support which helps people into employment.
  - b. access to the right training in the higher-level skills that Greater Lincolnshire's key business sectors need in order to build on their competitive advantage.
  - c. productivity and innovation support to Greater Lincolnshire's key business sectors so that they continue to create the jobs of the future.
82. This deal will support Greater Lincolnshire in ensuring that: there is a pipeline of motivated and competent employees who want to develop their career in the area; training meets the needs of employers; and support makes it as easy as possible for people to gain and remain in employment.

## Adult Education

83. Greater Lincolnshire has significant predicted economic growth across its key sectors. This is however set against a backdrop of significant rurality, declining adult participation (20% reduction between 2016 and 2021), lower level 4 attainment (34% of 25-34 year olds compared to 48% nationally), a cohort of the population with no qualifications and the risks (and opportunities) posed by the growth in automation. Thus, widening participation and attainment is Greater Lincolnshire's number one priority.
84. The Government will fully devolve the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to Greater Lincolnshire from academic year 2026-2027 subject to readiness conditions and Parliamentary approval of the required secondary legislation conferring the appropriate functions. Funding for Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) will also be devolved and will be ring-fenced.



85. Prior to full devolution taking place, the Government will work with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to support their preparations for taking on the relevant functions and will make implementation funding available for Greater Lincolnshire but this will be subject to the availability of appropriate central funding including in the next Spending Review.
86. Upon devolution of AEB, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be responsible for making allocations to providers in accordance with the conditions imposed on them, including ministerial directions, and the outcomes to be achieved. The Government will not seek to second guess these decisions, but it will set proportionate requirements about outcome information to be collected in order to allow students to make informed choices.
87. The Government will inform the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA on which basis the existing methodology operates to calculate the size of the grant to be paid to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA for the purpose of exercising the devolved adult education functions.
88. The Government will discuss with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, and other areas with, or which are planning to secure, devolved adult education functions, any proposed changes to its methodology for calculating devolved areas' grants. Any discussions will be undertaken in a timely manner and before decisions are made.
89. In order to proceed with devolution, the Government needs to be assured of the following readiness conditions:
  - a. The Secretary of State for Education and appropriate accounting officer are assured that Greater Lincolnshire MCCA is operationally ready to administer the adult education budget and is satisfied the required statutory tests have been met.
  - b. Parliament has legislated to enable transfer to Greater Lincolnshire MCCA of the current statutory duties on the Secretary of State to secure appropriate facilities for further education for adults from this budget and for provision to be free in certain circumstances.
  - c. Agreement to a memorandum of understanding between the Department for Education and Greater Lincolnshire MCCA that provides appropriate assurance that the named parties will work together to ensure the future financial stability of the provider base, including for sharing financial risk and managing provider failure.
  - d. Learner protection arrangements are agreed between parties.

90. The Department for Education will continue to work with Greater Lincolnshire to commission a local programme of Skills Bootcamps, to be informed by future spending agreements.

### Skills and employment

91. Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) will set out the current and future skills needs of the area and how local provision needs to change to help people develop the skills they need to get good jobs and increase their prospects. LSIPs will build a stronger and more dynamic partnership between employers and further education providers and allow provision to be more responsive to the skills needs of employers in local labour markets.

92. Working with the designated Employer Representative Body, and utilising and sharing the local labour market intelligence and analysis developed<sup>11</sup>, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will support and provide input into the LSIP for the area.

93. Greater Lincolnshire will work with the Department for Education to maximise the number of care leavers in employment. This will include encouraging local authorities and public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire to provide ring-fenced apprenticeships and work-experience opportunities for care leavers; working with DfE's delivery partner for the care leaver covenant (Spectra) and working with local businesses to encourage them to offer employment opportunities to care leavers.

94. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be considered alongside other areas with a Level 3 devolution deal at future Spending Reviews with regard to the devolution of skills funding.

### Labour Markets

95. The Government recognises the challenges facing Greater Lincolnshire with a coastal and rural economy experiencing a complex range of issues relating to digital coverage, productivity, upskilling, in-work progression, and connectivity.

96. There is a need to develop and deliver targeted local programmes through devolved funding streams such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Adult Education Budget to address the unique and diverse challenges across the region. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will continue to be expected to work in partnership with local Department for Work and Pensions Jobcentre Plus and

regional DWP Strategic Partnership Managers to develop local programmes that meet local needs and complement national employment provision.

97. The Government and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also work together to better target employment support by understanding and utilising publicly available local labour market intelligence and analysis. As part of the development of the economic framework, the Government is committed to working together on the Greater Lincolnshire's strategic priorities and supporting the development of the region's economic framework.
98. The Department for Work and Pensions and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work together on Greater Lincolnshire MCCA's strategic priorities for employment through:
  - enhanced engagement by way of membership of the joint Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Education Mayoral Combined Authority Advisory Group.
  - continuing regular engagement with DWP Strategic Partnership Managers, the regional Employer and Partnership team in Jobcentre Plus, and strategic labour market partnership teams.
99. The Department for Work and Pensions will also consider what role the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA could have in the design and delivery of future contracted employment programmes.

#### Career Education and Advice

100. The Government recognises the significant unique opportunities that are developing across Greater Lincolnshire and that, to ensure maximum benefit of the AEB allocation and the area's economic growth, a more place-based and industry led approach to careers education is developed for both adults and young people. Ensuring access to high quality careers, advice and guidance is a crucial element of the Government's long-term ambitions around social mobility, raising aspiration and securing the future workforce our economy needs.
101. In support of this objective, Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Local Authority partners have worked closely on the development of the Greater Lincolnshire's Career Hub. With the folding in of relevant LEP functions as announced in August 2023, the Government and partners within Greater Lincolnshire wish to ensure that there remains a shared focus on careers education and advice for young people. This is particularly crucial given the specific challenges faced in Greater Lincolnshire. This is particularly crucial given the ageing population of Greater

Lincolnshire and the need to increase awareness of new high skill high wage career opportunities across the area and the pathways available to residents to achieve a good quality career. The Department for Education will therefore seek to work with the Department for Levelling Up, Greater Lincolnshire and other relevant partners to support the continuity of activity within the Careers Hub.

102. To ensure a more place-based and joined-up approach to careers education locally, the Government supports Greater Lincolnshire to work with local stakeholders to align careers provision with devolved AEB activities.

## Housing and Land

103. Delivering sustainable growth requires development sites to get the right infrastructure at the right time and housing to be delivered at a pace which supports economic growth. Recruiting and retaining a younger workforce to offset the ageing population and deliver future growth requires Greater Lincolnshire to have the right housing in the right locations and access to high quality housing is important to improving the health outcomes and life chances of residents across Greater Lincolnshire.
104. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have broad powers to acquire and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to invest to deliver housing for the area.
105. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have land assembly and compulsory purchase powers, subject to the agreement of the constituent councils where the relevant land is located, and to the consent of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
106. The directly elected mayor will have the power to designate a Mayoral Development Area and to create Mayoral Development Corporations, which will support delivery on strategic sites in Greater Lincolnshire. Where relevant, this power may be exercised only with the consent of the constituent member(s) who represent the area in which the Development Corporation is to be established, and the consent of the local planning authority, if relevant. All members of the Combined County Authority appointed by the constituent councils, or substitute members acting in place of those members, whose local government area contains any part to be designated as a Mayoral Development Area and the consent of the relevant planning authority, including any national park planning authority if their area contains any part to be designated as a Mayoral Development Area.
107. The Government recognises the region's priority to transform town centres and the need to unlock underutilised brownfield land to create vibrant, exciting and connected urban neighbourhoods to support regeneration and address non-viability of sites. Greater Lincolnshire will be awarded £8.36 million of capital funding in 2024/25 to support the building of new homes on brownfield land, subject to sufficient eligible projects for funding being identified.

108. To support Greater Lincolnshire to identify and bring forward a pipeline of housing projects, Government will also provide £228,000 in capacity funding in 2024/25.
109. The devolution of locally-led brownfield funding to areas with a Level 3 deal is a part of the devolution framework. Subject to the agreement of appropriate Brownfield funding with HMT in the next SR, Greater Lincolnshire could expect devolution of locally-led brownfield funding into future years, in line with the position outlined in the devolution framework.

#### Working with Homes England

110. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and Homes England are committed, with the support of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), to working collaboratively – combining their skills and capacity – to unlock the barriers to affordable housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a pipeline for the region. This will be underpinned by a clear Action Plan setting out workstreams, timescales and milestones, as well as respective roles and responsibilities.
111. Homes England and the Government will explore the potential for investing in the delivery of this pipeline through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Housing Programme.
112. Homes England, DLUHC, and Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also collectively explore how wider measures – including viability assessments and the planning system – could better support Greater Lincolnshire MCCA's plans to increase much needed rural affordable housing supply, and in partnership test how Homes England through its strategic plan could assist in this.
113. Homes England will continue working in partnership with local planning authorities, including North East Lincolnshire Council, where Homes England and DLUHC will use the tools available to support the regeneration of and reuse of Brownfield land in Grimsby, through a place based approach focusing on housing delivery in the town centre and adjacent Alexandra Dock.

## Transport

114. Greater Lincolnshire is a large geography combining urban, rural and coastal areas. Whilst constituent councils have made significant investment in local infrastructure, the area has few motorways or dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality.
115. As an area vital to supply chains and specialising in logistics, investment in strategic infrastructure is critical to drive business confidence and to support residents to travel to new high skilled, high wage jobs.
116. Despite its geographical challenges, Greater Lincolnshire has been at the forefront of demand-responsive transport, developing innovative services that it intends to expand further to create a transport network which breaks the link between poor transport connectivity and the skills gap.
117. The Government and constituent councils recognise the vital role of rail across Greater Lincolnshire, especially for passengers to access work and skills, and for visitors to Greater Lincolnshire. Passenger services coexist with significant freight movements on the networks. Strong road and rail networks are essential enablers for business growth. The A1 and the Trans Midlands Trade Corridor alongside East-West movements by rail are recognised as vital connections for the growth of ports, in particular the Humber and East Midlands freeports.

### Network North

118. As set out in the recent Network North announcement:
- The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £4.7 billion announced as part of Network North to transform local transport in areas in the North and Midlands outside of the big city regions.
  - The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £1 billion funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North and Midlands.
  - The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £5.5 billion funding to fix potholes in the North and Midlands announced as part of Network North.

### Powers of the Local Transport Authority and Local Transport Plans

119. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will become the Local Transport Authority for the new combined county authority area and take on the associated responsibilities and local public transport powers.

120. As part of becoming the LTA, responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan (LTP) will be conferred on Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and exercised by the mayor. The Greater Lincolnshire MCA will develop a provisional area-wide LTP by March 2025 to be finalised by the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA once established. Spending Review is expected in 2024; in developing its case for local transport investment DfT will be engaging the local transport sector. As such, we will look to draw on any emerging evidence base and strategy Greater Lincolnshire is able to make available by that time. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be expected to ensure its LTP aligns with best practice in transport planning including any revised LTP guidance, and to update their LTP as necessary.

#### Local and Regional Partnership Working

121. Greater Lincolnshire's geography falls into two Sub-national Transport body areas – Transport for the North and Midlands Connect – the membership of which brings important benefits to the region. Greater Lincolnshire is seeking full membership of both Midlands Connect and Transport for the North. The Government is committed to working with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to explore membership options for both STBs by 2025, when the MCCA is established.

122. The Government recognises that local and regional level organisations are often best placed to make practical changes required to meet shared strategic objectives on local economic growth and decarbonisation, ensuring that local communities and businesses are engaged. Transport for the North and Midlands Connect will develop their Regional Centres of Excellence, which will offer bespoke capability support to all Local Transport Authorities in their STB areas. This provides the opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work with Midlands Connect and Transport for the North to establish if Greater Lincolnshire would benefit from capability support.

123. As set out in the National Electric Vehicle Strategy, the Government recognises the aspirations of Greater Lincolnshire to improve public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, which would increase the uptake of electric vehicles and reduce carbon emissions by supporting all motorists in making the switch. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA may also access support from STBs in the region, which have received Government funding to develop a regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure strategy. These EVCI strategies will provide a robust plan of charging needs in Greater Lincolnshire and can be used to underpin any public sector funding proposals including applications for the LEVI Capital Fund. They will also help local authorities in Greater Lincolnshire to develop their own strategies to scale up the rollout of public charge-points in their areas. The



constituent councils within Greater Lincolnshire have also received £7,976 million in capital funding from Government's Local EV Infrastructure Fund and a further £1,288 million revenue funding to increase their capability to plan and deliver public, on-street EV infrastructure. Through the LEVI Fund, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to utilise the LEVI support body for further assistance and upskilling of EV officers.

124. For Greater Lincolnshire, other alternative low carbon fuels, such as hydrogen, will play an important role, particularly for large vehicles that require longer ranges and faster refuelling. The constituent authorities will work with the Sub-national Transport Boards and the mayoral rural transport group to explore this.

#### Consolidated Local Transport Settlement

125. The directly elected mayor will be responsible for a multi-year consolidated local transport settlement for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA which Government will provide following the next Spending Review. Local transport funding will be consolidated in line with the principles set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and Funding Simplification Doctrine. The quantum of funding and the number/remit of individual funding lines will be agreed through the next Spending Review Process, however we anticipate this will build on the current Level 3 offer of consolidating highways maintenance funding and integrated transport block.

#### Local Highways Networks

126. Greater Lincolnshire will set up and coordinate a Key Route Network (KRN) on behalf of the mayor. This will allow the most important local roads to be managed in a strategic way to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and introduce traffic management measures to, for example, improve public transport, cycling and walking infrastructure across Greater Lincolnshire. The constituent councils will remain the highway authority for their area responsible for the management and operation of the local highway network. The mayor will hold a power of direction allowing them to direct member highway authorities in the exercise of their highway powers with regard to the KRN.
127. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to enter into agreements with Government, other Local Authorities and National Highways, including to determine shared priorities for its strategic route network roads and KRN.
128. The Government supports the aim for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work with National Highways and Midlands Connect on identifying priority interventions on the A1 and the western A46 around Lincoln:

- a. The A1 corridor is a nationally significant freight artery linking the North and Scotland with London and the South East. The route is particularly vital for connections to major ports on the East Coast, including Felixstowe, Grimsby, Immingham and then Dover (via the M25). The A1 corridor also has a key economic role within the East Midlands, particularly for agri-food, logistics, manufacturing, and tourism, with very significant levels of proposed housing (up to 100,000 units) and employment growth – in addition to the potential ‘Step Fusion’ Facility at the West Burton Power Station site in Nottinghamshire. The A1 through the East Midlands is a dual carriageway ‘A’ road characterised by sub-standard junctions and right turn movements, accident blackspots and a lack of resilience or alternative routes during closures.
  - b. The circulatory road around Lincoln is a recognised priority to serve the Humber Ports and East Coast visitor attractions. Significant local investment has been placed on resolving key areas on the eastern side of the city through the construction of the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and the emerging North Hykeham Relief Road. Strategic improvement works are required on the western side of the city between North Hykeham Roundabout and Carholme Road Roundabout. These required improvements consist of both capacity increases and Active Travel provisions to safely cross the A46 to connect outlying communities.
  - c. The Trans Midland Trade Corridor (A15/A46) north of Lincoln is of national significance as a strategic north-south transport and economic corridor connecting the Humber ports in the north to the wider network in the south via the A46 and A1 at Newark. The current performance of this corridor holds back productivity and is also a barrier to future growth. Delivery of upgrades and improvements to this key arterial route will enable faster, safer, reliable and resilient connectivity to regional, national and international markets.
129. Unless otherwise agreed locally, all operational responsibility for highways will remain with the constituent councils. However, where practical we would expect the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work towards streamlining contractual and delivery arrangements across the region. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA should consider how highways across the region are managed, which may include developing a single strategic assessment plan for local highways in the area, in partnership with constituent councils.

### Rural bus services

130. The mayor of Greater Lincolnshire will establish and chair a rural transport group alongside existing Level 3 combined authorities, that will lead the national debate on transport in mayoral rural areas. The group will champion innovation and work in partnership with the Department for Transport to identify pilot projects to address rural connectivity and accessibility challenges.
131. DfT and Greater Lincolnshire recognise the challenges that rural areas face in the delivery of high quality, sustainable bus services. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will develop a strategy and spending plan proposal to DfT in relation to future funding opportunities to develop a rural bus pilot that is intended to act as a policy test bed for other rural areas.

### Bus Enhanced Partnerships

132. As the Local Transport Authority, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be responsible for:
- Bus Service Improvement Plans
  - Enhanced Partnerships
  - Subsidised bus services
  - Concessionary fare schemes
- And will, where practical, streamline engagement with bus operators and seek efficiencies in their future contractual and delivery arrangements across the combined area.

### Bus Franchising

133. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be empowered to exercise franchising powers in the Transport Act 2000, including the power to consult on franchising without seeking permission from the Secretary of State.

### Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs)

134. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £1 billion funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North and Midlands.
135. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with constituent councils to deliver against the existing Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP). Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work towards integrating the existing BSIPs in the area.

## Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG)

136. In line with the commitment in the National Bus Strategy, the Government is working on the reform of BSOG. The Government will devolve powers for the payment of BSOG to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA.
137. As the Local Transport Authority Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have powers to run travel concession schemes. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will explore enhanced concessionary fares schemes, including elements for rail and young persons.

## Rail

138. Rail services provide vital connectivity for passengers with services connecting communities and growing economic opportunities. Rail freight is nationally significant, with a quarter of the UK's freight passing through Greater Lincolnshire. The Government will support Greater Lincolnshire in seeking a new rail partnership with Great British Railways, once established, so that their priorities can be taken into consideration in future decisions regarding their local network. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, alongside existing Level 3 combined authorities, will be considered a priority for these agreements which will provide the ability to influence the local rail offer. Local priorities will need to be coordinated and compatible with surrounding areas and the needs of the national network. Priorities locally include:
- d. Cleethorpes to Manchester (South Pennine Corridor) line speed improvements are a priority for Greater Lincolnshire. Transport for the North is supportive of the ambition. Further work involving Northern Rail and Trans-Pennine Express is required to develop the business case.
  - e. Cleethorpes to London service is a priority for Greater Lincolnshire, providing access to opportunities and supporting a growing economy. The Department for Transport is considering the case for direct London North East Railways services to and from both Cleethorpes and Grimsby to London, with an opportunity to implement them should the business case be value for money, and funding be available to address timetabling, infrastructure and operational factors.
  - f. DfT are aware that Midlands Connect have developed a business case for line speed improvements between Lincoln and Nottingham, which may realise the potential for journey time savings on the route.

139. The Government recognises the importance of rail freight across Greater Lincolnshire, enabling access to the ports and as part of the national network.

#### Active Travel

140. To ensure consistency in the quality and safety of schemes, Active Travel England (ATE) will provide support to ensure walking and cycling schemes are designed and delivered to high standards, including compliance with Local Transport Note 1/20 (LTN 1/20). The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with ATE to improve the design quality of all active travel schemes funded by Government and those that are locally funded. All cycling and walking schemes funded by Government must be approved by ATE as complying with LTN 1/20.

## Net Zero and Climate Change

141. As part of its Net Zero Strategy and Net Zero Growth Plan, the Government recognises that devolved and local government can play an essential role in meeting national net zero ambitions. Local leaders in the Greater Lincolnshire area and elsewhere are well placed to engage with all parts of their communities and to understand local policy, political, social, and economic nuances relevant to climate action. This is why the devolution framework grants places the opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to deliver action on climate change and the UK's net zero targets.
142. The Local Net Zero Forum, chaired by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and the Local Government Association, is cross-government and brings together national and local government senior officials. Through representative organisations on the forum such as the Local Government Association (LGA), Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), Core Cities and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) – Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will get the opportunity to discuss local net zero policy and delivery issues in the round.
143. Greater Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the UK's offshore energy production, hydrogen innovation and the development of decarbonisation for heavy industry but there is a need to ensure that this is supported by infrastructure such as the energy grid capacity and pipelines that are required to deliver growth. In the delivery of new infrastructure, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will balance environmental, social and economic considerations.
144. The UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021) set out a comprehensive approach to scaling up the hydrogen economy, and in the British Energy Security Strategy (2022) Government doubled its ambition to up to 10GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030. Greater Lincolnshire is committed to establishing one of the UK's first net zero carbon industrial clusters by 2040, which aims to capture and store carbon dioxide emissions as well as developing blue and green hydrogen infrastructure and production.

### Energy Networks

145. The Government recognises the need to increase Greater Lincolnshire's electricity network capacity to meet future electricity demand. We are committed to ensuring that local bodies such as combined authorities, including the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, have a meaningful role in planning our future energy system for net zero, alongside other local areas as appropriate.

146. The Government is considering the role of local energy plans, including their role in supporting strategic network investment, working closely with Ofgem as part of its ongoing governance review into local energy institutions and its proposals on regional energy system planning.

### Heat networks

147. The Government has confirmed its intention to establish heat network zoning in England. Under the zoning proposals, Zoning Coordinators within local government will be able to designate areas as heat network zones where heat networks are going to be the most cost-effective way to decarbonise heating and hot water within the zone. Local authorities will have powers to require certain buildings to connect to heat networks within the zones. This will enable the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to assume the role of heat network Zoning Coordinator for its locality and play a key role in the delivery of heat decarbonisation infrastructure. The Government is committed to have heat network zoning in place by 2025.

148. The Government will support the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA alongside other local authorities across England to take forward heat network zoning, including collaboration with the private sector on developing heat networks within zones and to help capitalise on unique local opportunities to utilise all available low carbon heat sources, including geothermal energy.

### Buildings

149. The Government commits to explore the potential benefits of and design options for a place-based approach to delivering retrofit measures, as part of the Government's commitment in the Net Zero Strategy to explore how we could simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level where this provides the best approach to tackling climate change.

150. This work will involve inviting the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work with the Government through the relevant representative organisations to consider if such an approach could accelerate the meeting of net zero goals and provide better value for money.

### Green Jobs

151. Through the Green Jobs Delivery Group, we are working to ensure that workers, businesses and local areas, including Greater Lincolnshire, are supported

through the net zero transition. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA now has the opportunity to deliver green skills interventions at a local level through having a greater role in delivering the Adult Education Budget and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

152. Greater Lincolnshire either incorporates or adjoins some of the greatest opportunities or threats to energy and natural resources this country possesses. It witnesses the largest polluting estuary in the UK (CO<sub>2</sub>), one of the most stretched natural water systems in the UK and possesses a portfolio of carbon-based power generation plants. However, it is also home to some of the most innovative thinking on carbon capture, nuclear fusion, water management and energy distribution.
153. Greater Lincolnshire offers opportunity to contribute to UK PLC explicitly through Carbon Capture Storage and Usage and potentially hosting a geological disposal facility; ensuring security of energy supply; reducing costs of energy creation and distribution; Creating Competitive Advantage for its indigenous businesses through new product development and business models.
154. The Government is aiming to reach a policy decision in 2023 on whether to support blending of up to 20% hydrogen by volume into the GB gas distribution networks. If the decision to proceed with blending is positive, Government will look to start the legislative and regulatory process to enable blending, as well as the process to make any physical changes to gas networks that are required. Given timelines, Government does not anticipate blending at a commercial scale to commence before 2025-2026 at the earliest.
155. To further contribute to Government's ambition of capturing and storing 20-30 MtCO<sub>2</sub> per year, Government will continue to develop the Track-1 and Track 2 clusters to increase the benefits they can deliver. Government will launch a process this year to begin further expansion of Track-1 clusters, beyond the initial deployment, identifying and selecting projects to fill the available storage and network capacity anticipated to be available in and around 2030. Additionally, Government has concluded that Viking transport and storage (T&S) system, based in Humber, along with the Acorn T&S based in Scotland, due to their maturity, remain best placed to deliver Government's objectives for Track-2, at this stage, subject to final decisions, due diligence, consenting, subsidy control, affordability, and value for money assessments. Government will set out the process by which capture projects for Track-2 will be selected in due course.
156. The Government is committed to the commissioning of studies to determine the infrastructure improvements that would be needed if a geological disposal facility



were to be sited in Greater Lincolnshire, including flood defences and transport links.

## Humber

157. The Humber is one of the UK's most significant industrial areas with several distinctive assets which play an important role for the UK economy. The economy has great potential built around clean energy generation, manufacturing, and globally strategic ports which play on the vital role of the Estuary as an international trading gateway and which benefit from Freeport status and the incentives that brings in supporting trading businesses, attracting inward investment and jobs, as well as wider economic activity to the area.
158. The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero will provide observer representation on the Humber Energy Board, through which they will support the development of a Net Zero Strategy to accelerate the green energy transition across the Humber industrial cluster. This Net Zero Strategy will inform a detailed investment plan for the region, underpinned by strong collaboration between public and private sector partners across the Humber.

## Environment, Food, Water and Climate Change

159. Greater Lincolnshire is the second largest county area in England, with a largely rural, low-lying landscape including nationally important natural treasures such as lime woods, chalk streams, saltmarsh, high grade farmland and the only AONB in the East Midlands covering the Lincolnshire Wolds. It is home to the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park and the new Lincolnshire Coronation Coast National Nature Reserve.
160. With coastal and low-lying regions, water management is a crucial aspect of climate resilience, and Greater Lincolnshire has ambitions to become a rural innovation testbed for energy and water management. Managing water as an asset, is important to the area's communities to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding across a low land area and also to meet unique demands for water that support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture.
161. Food production, processing and logistics accounts for a significant proportion of employment, and the location for two of the environmental land management schemes provides the area with a head start in the transition towards a successful nature recovery network.

### Environment

162. Lincolnshire County Council has been appointed by Defra SoS as the authority responsible for preparing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the Greater Lincolnshire area. LNRSs will agree priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing habitat for nature; and map proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals. Defra has confirmed total planned funding of £388,000 for financial years 23-24 and 24-25 to cover the costs of strategy preparation, including the required stakeholder engagement. The Government will work closely with responsible authorities to ensure they are supported in preparing their LNRS, including by making available Defra group expertise and data and agrees to consider the role of Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in the LNRS process following establishment of the new body.
163. The Government will ensure that over time locally identified environmental priorities are incorporated into new environmental land management schemes where appropriate.

164. Government encourages Greater Lincolnshire to play a leadership role in attracting private investment into nature's recovery within its area. Greater Lincolnshire will be invited to join a natural capital investment Community of Practice, providing access to information, best practice and learning from the Local Investment in Natural Capital programme, and networking opportunities to support building of local capability.
165. Government welcomes Greater Lincolnshire's ambitions in climate adaptation (in particular in developing (i) a Coastal partnership and (ii) a strategic approach to land use). Defra looks forward to further understanding Greater Lincolnshire's ambitions.

### Coastal Partnership

166. Government and partners in Greater Lincolnshire have held the ambition to form a strategic coastal partnership since the publication of a joint report in 2015. The MCCA will convene a Coastal Partnership which will ensure that the nature, culture and heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast are given a voice and consideration to ensure that tourism and economic development can take place in parallel with the restoration of the natural and historic environment. Relevant government departments and their arm's length agencies will attend as full members. The Coastal Partnership will run from the Wash into the Humber.
167. The remit of the Coastal Partnership will be to explore and develop solutions around:
- Using access to nature and cultural heritage as part of schemes to improve public health.
  - Climate Change Adaptation using the national Climate Change Risk Assessment to take a strategic approach to land use.
  - Interpretation, protection, enhancement and promotion of historic and archaeologically significant sites, structures, monuments, places, areas and both seascapes and landscapes, developing the local economic opportunities they provide, whilst maintaining their contribution to local identity and community.
  - Achieving local benefits for the key wildlife sites along the coast – maintaining their importance for tourism and the minimisation of the recreational disturbance of nature.
  - Monitoring and understanding national energy infrastructure along the Lincolnshire Coast (Hornsea 1 & 2, Viking Link, Theddlethorpe, LOR, Humber Freeport, etc) and co-ordinating advice to mitigate environmental

impacts.

168. This work will contribute towards developing Local Nature Recovery Strategies and growing the national Nature Recovery Network.

### Food

169. The Government recognises the nationally significant role that Greater Lincolnshire plays in maintaining food security. The region produces one eighth of England's food and has nationally significant clusters in food production, food processing, fresh produce and seafood processing. Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley an initiative which seeks to provide economic benefit to the area based on the food sector's strength whilst also strengthening domestic food supply. Through this deal the Government recognises the ambitions of the Food Valley and supports the benefits that it will bring.

170. Given the particular importance of food production from Greater Lincolnshire to UK food security, DEFRA agrees to consider the role of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in ensuring both sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes, including considering possible place-based research.

171. Government will work with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to deepen engagement with food and drink manufacturing SMEs in the region, to discuss growth opportunities for SMEs in the sector and share best practice.

### UK Food Valley programme board

172. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will convene a UK Food Valley Programme Board with senior level representation from organisations including the MCCA, the major food manufacturing businesses in Greater Lincolnshire, and academia. The board will produce a clear and measurable strategy for UK Food Valley. Defra will meet annually with the board to discuss key topics of value to its members.

173. The remit of the board will be to deliver the UK Food Valley strategy by exploring, developing, and commissioning solutions around:

- a. Giving domestic businesses and inward investors the confidence to invest, notably:
  - i. Identifying areas in which the UK is a big net importer of food where domestic production could be sustainably and competitively expanded.

- ii. Taking R&D out of the lab into the field or onto the factory floor, by supporting the innovation to commercialisation journey, increasing skills to adopt innovative technology in industry and by prioritising higher level skills activity in the sector.
- b. Ensuring that industry is supported to invest by addressing key enablers of business expansion, notably:
  - i. Supporting commercial investment in the industry to increase production volumes and modernisation through globally competitive investment incentives including agri-tech, food manufacture, and aquaculture.
  - ii. Supporting the industry with a positive planning framework and premises supply strategy to support businesses from start-ups looking for their first food grade unit, to multi-nationals investing in large scale sites. The MCCA will prepare and deliver an investment programme which provides the right combination of developable sites and ready-to-use business premises for the food sector in the area.
  - iii. Supporting food chain investment with modern infrastructure including access to sustainable energy and water supplies; high speed digital connectivity; and transport infrastructure. Defra will support the board in its aims by being an active champion of the sector across government.
  - iv. Provide specialist food chain innovation to accelerate technology innovation, commercialisation, and adoption. Defra will support this aim by providing updates and information around programmes and incentives for the agricultural sector to diversify into high value food production.

## Water

174. Defra will endorse the creation of an Enhanced Partnership, utilising the existing Lincolnshire Flood and Water Management Partnership framework, to pilot the development of a forum for flood resilience, adaptation and management of the water system across all sectors and in a whole systems approach. The enhanced partnership will help Greater Lincolnshire become a testbed to explore and develop options for how flood risk management from all sources, including relevant adaptation activities linked to water sustainability, can best be addressed and accelerated at the local level. This could include:

- Sharing of best practice approaches and learning on integrated water management to inform government reforms to local flood risk management planning.
- Ensuring commitments within the Enhanced Partnership Plan are agreed and signed up to by all partners, to drive the development of Enhanced

Partnership Schemes, within which obligations and delivery timescales on all partners will be agreed by the group, maximising the likelihood of successful delivery.

- Creating the enabling environment needed to develop a place-based flood risk and water sustainability strategy, provide the influence required to develop investment plans to fulfil that strategy, and ensure implementation of those plans, at the required timescales. This will not change the role and responsibilities of existing Risk Management Authorities or existing statutory duties to produce Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.
- Providing a single contact point for engagement with other groups such as agri-food, energy, manufacturing and transport, to facilitate a whole systems approach to utilities and infrastructure coordination and planning.

## Culture and Tourism

175. Greater Lincolnshire has a high-quality and varied visitor economy offered across city, coast and countryside. Up to 50 miles of coastline, an area of outstanding natural beauty, and hundreds of visitor attractions contributed to the overall value of £2.62 billion in 2022, supporting over 28,000 jobs.
176. Home to the Red Arrows, Lincoln Castle and Cathedral, rural landscapes including the Isle of Axholme and the Lincolnshire Wolds dotted with market towns and limestone villages, as well as the vibrant coastal resorts of Cleethorpes, Mablethorpe and Skegness – the UK's fourth most popular holiday resort – the area has a rich heritage, cultural and leisure offer. The growth of the visitor economy in Greater Lincolnshire has enormous potential to deliver local economic growth, create local jobs and help drive productivity.
177. Placemaking initiatives in locations like Grimsby, Lincoln, Boston and Grantham have shown the potential of ALBs to deliver transformative programmes in partnership with local authorities, businesses and the third sector. Grimsby's industrial maritime heritage has significant potential for investment and reuse as a new economic focus and source of pride in place, with a Heritage Action Zone providing a legacy of cultural activity from which to develop new initiatives. Lincoln's Cornhill Quarter development, has also showcased the impact of High Street Heritage Action Zones spring-boarding regeneration in partnership with business.

### Culture

178. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and a subset of DCMS ALBs will establish a collaborative partnership, supported by DCMS, to share expertise and insight across (some or all of) culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy (as applicable), in order to maximise the impact of funding and policy decisions taken within Greater Lincolnshire by members of the partnership.
179. A key area of focus for the partnership will be for the MCCA and ALBs to share information on their priorities and plans across the relevant policy areas. This will facilitate a shared understanding among the partnership of potential opportunities for alignment, recognising that culture, heritage, sport and the visitor economy all play a strong role in supporting places and communities to thrive – and that this effect is maximised when individual decisions take into account the wider context of other plans and decisions being made for an area.

180. All partnership members will retain their autonomy for individual decision-making. The partnership does not prejudice ALB decisions around national grant funding processes or their national priorities. ALBs will also seek to use the partnership to deliver their national priorities, which will remain paramount. The scale of each ALB's involvement in the partnership will be dependent on the specific context and degree of alignment identified between individual priorities. DCMS will be involved in discussions as appropriate.
181. The partnership will be reviewed annually, and subject to future capacity and appetite may be renewed up to a five-year period.

### Tourism

182. VisitEngland and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region to help further develop the region's visitor economy. This collaborative work, across those areas set out in the Government's Tourism Recovery Plan, could include harnessing the region's potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend, encouraging visits throughout the year rather than just during the traditional tourist season, and engaging with the work of the proposed Strategic Coastal Partnership for Greater Lincolnshire given the links between this and tourism development.



## Digital

183. The Government is committed to supporting Greater Lincolnshire's digital connectivity ambitions, including through the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy, which was published in April 2023 and sets out a strategic framework for the development, deployment and adoption of 5G and future networks. This includes working closely with places to encourage investment in advanced wireless connectivity and increase its adoption across the local economy and public services.
184. As set out in the National Cyber Strategy 2022, the Government is committed to strengthening the capability of local authorities such as Greater Lincolnshire to buy and use connected places technology securely. In May 2021, the National Cyber Security Centre published the Connected Places Cyber Security Principles, a foundational step in supporting the cyber security of the UK's connected places. Since then, the Government has continued to develop its support of local authorities deploying and managing connected places technologies and in 2022 the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology published the Secure Connected Places Playbook. The Playbook was designed in collaboration with local authorities and helps them to get their cyber security foundations right whilst setting a strong cyber security culture. The Government hopes to continue to work with local authorities such as the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to support the secure and sustainable adoption of connected places technologies. Bolstering the UK's Cyber Ecosystems remains a high priority for the Government.
185. The Government recognises that high quality digital connectivity is crucial for future economic growth and productivity in the region. The private sector will continue to lead on the rollout of broadband and mobile infrastructure, with DSIT supporting delivery in less commercially viable areas. The Government will engage with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA on a regular basis, on delivery plans in the region, particularly where they involve hard to reach rural areas. The Government is committed to achieving nationwide coverage of gigabit capable broadband by 2030 and to ensuring that rural areas are not left behind including in Greater Lincolnshire. Procurements covering Greater Lincolnshire are scheduled to launch in 2023, and regular Project Gigabit programme updates will be provided demonstrating progress in delivering for communities across the area.

## **Innovation, Trade and Investment**

186. The Government is committed to supporting places to realise their entrepreneurial and innovation potential, underpinned by ambitious measures set out in the Levelling Up White Paper.
187. Greater Lincolnshire has a long history of innovation and is known for nationally significant sectors in food-tech and agri-tech, defence and low carbon energy. However, productivity and levels of innovation in Greater Lincolnshire remain one of the lowest in the UK.
188. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA intends to build on existing structures to develop a new place-based Innovation Board, which will bring together local leaders with representatives from research organisations and industry to develop a clear innovation strategy for the MCCA and provide a single voice to strengthen engagement with government and its delivery bodies.
189. In addition, The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will work with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to explore opportunities for closer long-term collaboration in strengthening their local innovation capacity.
190. The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) will work closely with devolution deal areas, including Greater Lincolnshire, to make it easier for businesses to access the information, advice and support they need, drawing on DBT's global and sector offer.
191. DBT recognises Greater Lincolnshire's high ambition to leverage the opportunities presented by the food sector. Greater Lincolnshire will engage DBT early in the implementation of this devolution deal on matters that impact business growth.

## Public Service Reform

192. The Government supports the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in its ambition for public service reform, including a focus on creating safe, healthy, resilient communities. The Government commits to working with the region and partners to explore initiatives to improve delivery of public services, such as how best to support residents with multiple complex needs. Where appropriate, and as part of its levelling up agenda, the Government will also consider devolving further powers to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to support public service reform, in relation to the statutory duties held by its constituent councils.

## Data

193. Good quality data is essential for understanding local need and the place-specific issues affecting people in an area. As set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and the Government Statistical Service's Subnational Data Strategy, the Government is working to improve the dissemination of subnational statistics to empower local decision makers, including in Greater Lincolnshire, to use data-led evidence to respond to local priorities.
194. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with the Government to understand the existing barriers to data sharing and better use of data in their area, and explore where improvements to the quality of, or access to, data could support them in achieving Greater Lincolnshire's local ambitions. As part of this, the Spatial Data Unit (SDU) will work with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to help support data capability, including in data science, and will engage with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to further understand its needs and priorities.

## Relocation of public bodies

195. The Government is committed to relocating roles out of Greater London and closer to the policy issues they are addressing. Relocation will benefit communities across the UK, bringing more diversity of thought into policy making leading to better-informed policy, built on an understanding of the impacts across the UK and drawing on a more diverse range of experiences, skills and backgrounds. The Government will continue to work with departments to consider the potential for any future relocations of Civil Service roles to the Greater Lincolnshire region as part of the Levelling Up agenda.

## **Resilience and Public Safety**

196. Government, the local area and the PCCs have agreed for the PCCs to be a non-constituent member of the MCCA to ensure close collaboration and productive joint working on public safety between the MCCA and the PCCs.
197. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, in partnership with the Government, will work with the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority, and Fire and Rescue Service to agree an appropriate arrangement to ensure close collaboration and productive joint working on public safety between the elected mayor of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and the FRAs. In addition, the MCCA will work with local partners, including the FRAs, PCCs and the Home Office to identify the appropriate long term governance model for fire and rescue services in its area, which meet the principles of good governance set out in the Fire Reform White Paper.
198. The UK Government will work to significantly strengthen Local Resilience Forums by 2030, as described in the UK Government Resilience Framework. This will include a clear role for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and the mayor in local resilience and civil contingency planning, preparation and delivery.
199. This is subject to the conclusion and full consideration of the Stronger Local Resilience Forums pilot programme in 2025/26, and Greater Lincolnshire MCCA having a strong working relationship with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forum.

## Commitments Underpinning the Deal

200. The constituent councils will work with the Government to develop a full implementation plan, covering each policy and commitment agreed in this deal, to be completed ahead of implementation. This plan must be approved by the Government prior to delivery. Any issues of concern with the subsequent delivery of this deal will be escalated to ministers and leaders to resolve, in keeping with the letter and spirit of devolution.
  
201. Together with Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire councils to the north, Government and Greater Lincolnshire recognise that optimising the Humber's economic potential will require strong local leadership, and the public and private sector on both banks of the Estuary working together, with Government acting as a supportive partner. In the period from the signing of this deal and before the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA is formally established, Greater Lincolnshire's constituent authorities therefore commit to (i) reaching agreement with Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Government and appropriate local stakeholders on a strong and enduring approach for pan-Humber working, and (ii) ensuring that the levers in this deal, and more widely, support this. They also commit to working cross-Humber to produce a Humber Economic Plan and accompanying Investment Strategy, prior to the first inaugural election of the Greater Lincolnshire mayor. These strategies will establish a collective vision for the Humber economy and increased focus on specific priorities that will establish a new trajectory for growth. These priorities would include supporting the Green Energy Estuary transition, the establishment of a successful freeport, attracting greater private sector investment to the area, and ensuring communities across the Humber benefit from the proceeds of growth.
  
202. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be required to evaluate the impact of the Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and the Government will jointly commission an independent assessment of the economic benefits and economic impact of the investments made under the scheme, including whether the projects have been delivered on time and to budget. This assessment will be funded by the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, but will be agreed at the outset with DLUHC and HM Treasury, and will take place every five years. The next five-year tranche of funding will be unlocked if the Government is satisfied that the independent assessment shows the investment to have met the objectives and contributed to economic growth. The gateway assessment should be consistent with the HM Treasury Green Book, which sets out the framework for evaluation of all policies and programmes. The assessment should also take into account the latest developments in economic

evaluation methodology. The Government would expect the assessment to show that the activity funded through the scheme represents better value for money than comparable projects, defined in terms of a benefit-to-cost ratio and considered in the strategic context of local ambitions for inclusive growth across the whole geography.

203. As part of the implementation of the deal, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and Government will agree a process to manage local financial risk relating to the deal provisions.
204. Prior to the implementation of the deal, Government will work with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to give the public and stakeholders – including Parliament – a clear understanding of: the powers and funding that are being devolved to the combined authority, where accountability sits as a result of this deal; and how decisions are made.
205. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and its members will continue to adhere to their public sector equality duties, for both existing and newly devolved responsibilities.

# **GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY PROPOSAL**

November 2023



# Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Proposal

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Appendix A: Table of Powers/Functions

Defined terms

This document has been prepared by Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, working collaboratively with the City, District and Borough Councils in Lincolnshire.



# Our Proposal delivers for Greater Lincolnshire

## *More money, more say, better results for Greater Lincolnshire*

### **Investing in Greater Lincolnshire**

- £24 million per annum for 30 years to invest in infrastructure and skills development totalling £720m.
- Multi year transport budget with greater flexibility to spend the money on local priorities.
- Funding for adult education to prioritise spending on the needs of people and businesses rather than national priorities.
- One off £28.4m capital investment in Greater Lincolnshire's priorities.

### **A stronger voice for our area**

- A new Mayor, elected by residents to champion the needs of the area and to make a strong case to the Government for more investment and to pilot new ideas in Greater Lincolnshire.
- A Combined County Authority providing local accountability, transparency and capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills and economic development.
- Enhanced working relationships with government departments to protect our coastline, natural and historic environment and boost tourism.
- A new role leading the national debate on transport for rural communities to address challenges across ours and other areas.

### **Turbo charging business growth**

- Long term funding of the infrastructure that key local business needs to grow and create jobs.
- Identify and agree key route network to speed up the movement of goods and passengers through and around Greater Lincolnshire.
- Government, research and industry brought together to boost business innovation that leads to more high skill high wage jobs.
- A new approach to managing water that supports local business needs and protects communities and business from flooding.

### **Delivering our potential - Humber to the Wash**

- Decarbonise the UK's largest industrial estuary and deliver green jobs across Greater Lincolnshire in carbon capture and storage, nuclear fusion, water management and energy distribution
- National recognition for the UK Food Valley supporting a new generation of high skill jobs and businesses across the food chain.
- Maximising the potential of the Humber Freeport to create jobs.
- Improved transport links across Greater Lincolnshire and provide a trade corridor to the East Midlands freeport and beyond.

## High quality skills and jobs

- Careers support that showcases the great opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire and helps people to get a high skill high wage job here.
- Training in higher-level skills delivered in Greater Lincolnshire to boost access to high wage jobs in our growth sectors.
- The adult education budget invested in courses that help people to achieve a fulfilling future and deliver the skills that our local businesses need to innovate and expand.
- Provide extra help to those young people that need it the most, including help for care leavers to get a job.

## Unlocking housing through enhanced infrastructure

- Investing in high quality homes, locations and services to retain a younger workforce and support those in later life.
- Investment from Homes England to bring forward the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of local communities.
- Supporting regeneration of areas, providing sustainable and affordable housing solutions for our future workforce.
- A single Local Transport Authority to develop public transport improvements that connect people with homes, work, leisure and learning.

Invest in  
infrastructure

Boost business  
growth and  
innovation

More high skill  
high wage jobs  
in key sectors

Provide training  
for new jobs

Housing in the  
right place

Improve  
transport links

# Introduction

## Greater Lincolnshire's devolution deal is ambitious

The three upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council secured an ambitious £750 million devolution deal with government on 22 November 2023. The deal signifies unprecedented investment into the area and provides a catalyst for economic growth and improved outcomes for residents and people working in the area.

This is a time of considerable opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire and this Proposal is designed to unlock significant long-term funding and give local leaders greater freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities for residents and those who come to Greater Lincolnshire for work or leisure.

We are at the heart of delivering on vital national growth sectors – through the UK Food Valley, our Freeport and our market leader role in offshore renewables. At the same time, we have a clear focus on delivering against the Levelling Up agenda and transforming our city towns and resorts. Devolution is essential to complement those initiatives through local powers, influence and decision making.

The key sectors of our economy are of strategic importance to the UK. Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of the UK as a source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities, and food security. It has a vital role in global trade, securing the nation's supply chains in key industries:

- **Food, fish, seafood and food manufacturing:** Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley. It supplies 70% of seafood consumed in the UK, 30% of the nation's vegetables, and 18% of poultry. It had a total agricultural output of over £2bn in 2019, with a seafood processing and trading cluster worth over £1.5bn to the economy. Greater Lincolnshire will become a world leading food cluster. It has the potential to help the UK become a science superpower through its focus on new food chain automation and digital technology and innovation.
- **Energy, decarbonisation and net zero:** Greater Lincolnshire is at the heart of the UK's offshore renewable energy generation, and with at least 25% of the UK's energy production it plays a crucial role in enabling the nation to become a net energy exporter by 2040. The low carbon economy and green energy production across Greater Lincolnshire are pivotal to the UK achieving net zero. They are already worth £1.2bn per annum to the economy, employing over 12,000 people. Greater Lincolnshire has a fundamental role leveraging investment in the North Sea expanding renewable capacity and innovating in carbon capture.
- **Ports, logistics and supply chains:** Greater Lincolnshire is the UK gateway to Europe for the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse. Benefiting from prime deep water locations, its ports and connectivity advantages have supported the growth of a UK-leading logistics cluster, serving industry sectors including renewables, advanced manufacturing, food manufacturing and energy. The UK economy is highly dependent on the maritime sector, with 95% of goods exports and imports moved by sea, including nearly half of the country's food supplies and a quarter of its energy supply. Greater Lincolnshire is supporting the next phase in the evolution of its ports and the competitiveness of its logistic sector that underpin trade and national supply chains.

However, Greater Lincolnshire is not without its challenges. Public spending per head is below average when compared against the UK. The economy has an over-reliance on seasonal jobs, whether that is in tourism or agriculture. The area has carbon-rich heavy industry which is critical to the UK, but sees challenges in terms of the green agenda. Skill levels lag behind our neighbours and the rest of the UK with only 29% of our working age residents having a level 4 qualification or above. This is 32% lower than nationally. Whilst upper tier councils have made significant investment in local infrastructure, the area has few motorways or dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality. Costs are often higher and greater investment is required. Greater Lincolnshire also has an aging population which has increased 30% faster than the rest of the UK since 2020. There is a need to both attract and retain a younger workforce and residents to enable local economies to thrive.

Elsewhere in the UK devolution has helped to improve economic performance. Areas with devolution arrangements often have additional opportunities to access new funding and initiatives enabling them to outperform those areas who are yet to enter into devolved arrangements. Now is the time for Greater Lincolnshire to catch up with the most successful areas of the UK. This will be achieved through strong local leadership and a more targeted approach to skills and training, local transport, infrastructure development and regeneration.

Government has offered a range of different devolution models with the benefits reflecting the strength of local leadership. We believe that through a directly elected Mayor Greater Lincolnshire would demonstrate strong leadership and unlock the full benefits of devolution.

We propose creating a Combined County Authority with an elected Mayor to bring together key partners in a long-term arrangement to manage devolved powers and some existing local transport powers across Greater Lincolnshire. Through the proposed Combined County Authority senior councillors from Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council will work collaboratively with the City, District and Borough councils within Lincolnshire and a new Mayor elected directly by residents. Local business and the police and crime commissioners would be key partners at the table informing decision-making and ensuring the right choices are made for Greater Lincolnshire.

The Combined County Authority would direct long-term infrastructure investment, investment in local communities to help them to thrive and investment in green growth, delivering food and energy security to the UK and putting Greater Lincolnshire in a position where it can be at the forefront of renewable and clean energy technologies and production and be a world-leading provider of food, seafood and associated technological innovation. It would also support improvements in the nations supply chains and maximise the strategic advantages of our ports, transforming them into the most smart, clean and efficient port clusters in the world.

Establishing a Combined County Authority is a formal, legal step, allowing upper tier councils across the area to work more closely together on key priorities such as economic development, regeneration and transport. The proposed Combined County Authority would seek to:

- Increase employment opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire
- Improve business productivity
- Deliver efficient services and derive benefits from working at scale
- Build strong relationships with government to draw down more funding and powers in the future
- Greater control over public spending to achieve the maximum benefit
- Develop long term plans to enable faster decision-making and improved performance
- Speed up decision-making

The creation of a Combined County Authority would not result in the merger or take-over of councils in the area. They would continue to deliver valuable local services to Greater Lincolnshire residents with some powers used concurrently by local councils and the proposed Combined County Authority. Transport powers would be brought together with the proposed Combined County Authority becoming the Local Transport Authority for Greater Lincolnshire.

Under this Proposal the three upper tier councils, along with the city, district and borough councils in Greater Lincolnshire would continue to play an important role in relation to the powers and funding that is devolved to the area. These authorities will have specific consenting rights in respect to some of the powers held by the CCA and / or the Mayor, ensuring a strong local voice in decision making. The Police and Crime Commissioners for Lincolnshire and Humberside would also play an active role in the CCA, ensuring that the needs of local communities relating to public safety are represented.

Over the coming months local councils will be working with Government to bring forward a number of improvements for communities across Greater Lincolnshire. This will see investment in infrastructure to support travel and to create opportunities for businesses to grow and new jobs to be created.

## Delivering our ambitions

Greater Lincolnshire is a diverse area made up of rural land, urban centres of differing sizes, coastal communities, and market towns. The rurality can make it difficult for some of our communities to access service centres, presenting barriers to employment, health and wellbeing.

Urban centres such as Lincoln, Grantham and Boston provide significant employment opportunities and transport linkages, with around 325,000 people living in these centres. In these areas, 15% of children live in low income households, with 71% of people being economically active across sectors such as advanced manufacturing, food and logistics and public services. However, there are clusters of deprivation where residents suffer from fewer opportunities around work and health.

Our urban industrial centres such as Scunthorpe and Grimsby are built around heavy industry, including oil, gas, chemicals, steel, mining and renewables. Around 253,000 people live in these areas and face challenges in having the skills needed to take up employment in these and emerging industries, resulting in pronounced areas of economic activity and low social mobility. 29% of adults in Greater Lincolnshire's urban centres have no qualifications. Improved targeting of skills and education provision will help to close these gaps.

Greater Lincolnshire benefits from over 50 miles of coastline, with many coastal communities being home to around 29,000 people. The area is at risk of flooding, there is limited infrastructure and often poor-quality housing. These areas see low wage, low skill seasonal employment, high levels of deprivation and lower than average educational attainment levels but will benefit from the targeted investment that the devolution Proposals present.

Much of Greater Lincolnshire is sparsely populated with large areas of open countryside and farmland, interspersed with market towns and hamlets. Over 300,000 people live in rural settings across Greater Lincolnshire, which are often a long way from urban centres. These areas often have lower levels of deprivation but lack the infrastructure to connect them both digitally and physically. This is against a backdrop of younger people moving out of these areas, and older people moving in, placing pressure on service delivery.

Much like our places, the Greater Lincolnshire economy is diverse. It sees 48,735 businesses, with 25% of all employment being in microbusinesses. Greater Lincolnshire contributes £26bn to the UK economy and accounts for £1.36bn of exports. Greater Lincolnshire covers 7,997 sq. km and is more than six times the size of Greater Manchester City Region.

Greater Lincolnshire's low levels of productivity and shrinking working age population create challenges for economic growth and the supply of skilled workers into the economy. The area lags behind the national skills picture with only 25% of the resident population aged 16 plus holding qualifications at level 4 or higher in 2021, compared to 34% nationally. Access to both higher and further education is hampered by poor digital connectivity, limiting the development of the skill-base needed within the population.

The journey for Greater Lincolnshire is not from a standing start. Councils and business in Greater Lincolnshire have a strong history of working together and are already collaborating to tackle common challenges that until now have held back growth.

There are a multitude of projects already underway across Greater Lincolnshire and many of our communities have benefited from investment through the Towns Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Funding - both of which help to address levelling up challenges within Greater Lincolnshire.

However short-term funding pots are not sufficient to achieve the strategic level of change that Greater Lincolnshire needs to see. Our ambitions for devolution seek to deliver the leadership required to address unique long-term challenges across Greater Lincolnshire and maximise the area's opportunities to deliver future prosperity.

**The purpose of this Proposal is to provide the powers, funding and flexibilities required to accelerate progress to address long term challenges and opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire It supports levelling up across the area with a focus improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people who live and work in Greater Lincolnshire. It would see local decision makers creating the conditions for more high wage, high skill jobs, and provides a catalyst to improve learning, training, and pathways into those jobs, raising living standards and levelling up through:**

- Local decisions and long term **investment in infrastructure** to **turbo charge business growth** and tackle low business productivity, particularly in key sectors that create high wage, high skills jobs that boost living standards
- Long term strategic planning and investment to protect our environment and **unlock high quality housing in our communities** that meets the needs of younger workforce and supports those in later life
- Local commissioning of **high quality skills**, training and pathways to attract and retain younger workers, meet the significant skills needs of our key industries and capitalise on economic opportunity through better alignment of skills, employment, and career opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire
- **A stronger voice regionally and nationally** to make the case for more investment on Greater Lincolnshire's priorities including the **UK Food Valley, energy, ports and logistics, delivering on the potential of the area from the Humber to The Wash.**
- Managing water as an asset, to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding, and meet the area's unique demands for water to support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture.

Over the next 10 themes, we set out what we would seek to deliver across our key priority areas to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people who live and work in Greater Lincolnshire if this Proposal is approved.

# 1: Infrastructure which supports the movement of people, goods, and ideas

Greater Lincolnshire is a large geography combining urban, rural and coastal areas. Whilst constituent councils have made significant investment in local infrastructure a step change is needed to deliver the strategic infrastructure critical for growth and jobs.

To level up Greater Lincolnshire we will prioritise investment in infrastructure that can boost growth in key sectors of our local economy, this includes the UK Food Valley, Energy, Ports and logistics, all of which have been identified as priorities for the Greater Lincolnshire and wider UK economy.

As an area vital to supply chains and specialising in logistics, transport infrastructure is essential to maximise the benefit and growth of these sectors.

**Identify and agree new key route network to accelerate the movement of goods and passengers through and around Greater Lincolnshire and work with the Government to secure improvements to key priorities for growth identified within the network, including:**

- Regionally the Trans Midland Trade Corridor is recognised as a priority and north of Lincoln it is of national significance as a strategic north-south transport and economic corridor connecting the Humber ports in the north to the wider network in the south via the A46 and A1 at Newark. The current performance of this corridor holds back productivity and is also a barrier to future growth.
- The A1 corridor, and its links to the A16, A17 and A52, also has a key economic role within the East Midlands, particularly for agri-food, logistics, manufacturing and tourism, with very significant levels of proposed housing (up to 100,000 units) and employment growth – in addition to the potential ‘STEP Fusion’ Facility at the West Burton Power Station site growth.
- The circulatory road around Lincoln is also a recognised priority to serve the Humber Ports and east coast visitor attractions.

**A multi-year transport infrastructure settlement will provide greater funding certainty to deliver local priorities for road, rail, freight and public transport to boost growth in the Greater Lincolnshire economy and keep our residents moving. The settlement will enable us to plan for road maintenance and potholes over the longer term, with delivery of these functions provided by the constituent councils and funding distributed proportionate to existing budgets.**

Investment in both physical and digital infrastructure is critical to drive business confidence and green growth, but often relies on bids to government and its various agencies.

Bidding processes are frequently based upon nationally set priorities, there is limited certainty over future funding and locally determined priorities are not necessarily joined up or met.

**We will work with Midlands Connect and Transport for the North which received Government funding to develop a regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure strategy. For Greater Lincolnshire, other alternative low carbon fuels, such as hydrogen, will play an important role, particularly for large vehicles that require longer ranges and faster refuelling. We will work with the Sub-national Transport Boards and a new Mayoral rural transport group to explore this.**

**We will encourage further investment in digital infrastructure such as ultrafast broadband and 5G that the area needs for the future, ensuring rural areas are not left behind.**

## 2: Modern transport services that connect people to learning, business opportunity, jobs, and services

Greater Lincolnshire has few motorways, dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. These reduce the opportunities to travel to work, to learning and leisure, and contribute to greater inequality.

Despite the geographical challenges we face, Greater Lincolnshire has been at the forefront of demand responsive transport, developing innovative services that we intend to expand further as we create a transport network which breaks the link between poor transport connectivity and the skills gap.

**A rural transport group will be established that will lead the national debate on transport in Mayoral rural areas, chaired by the Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire. The group will bring together other rural combined authorities to champion innovation and work in partnership with the Department for Transport to identify pilot projects to address rural connectivity and accessibility.**

Locally our Proposal would create a single Local Transport Authority for Greater Lincolnshire. This would establish clear transport policies to guide future investment in all forms of transport including bus, cycling and walking to improve travel choices across the area.

**The Mayor and members of the combined county authority will work together across Greater Lincolnshire to develop a joined up local transport plan for our area that addresses our challenges and guides future transport investment through a consolidated transport budget.**

**Recognising the challenges that rural areas face in the delivery of high quality, sustainable bus services, we will develop a rural bus pilot to connect communities and residents to training and employment. Subject to a funding Proposal to Government the pilot will act as a policy test bed for other rural areas.**

**We will also work to integrate existing bus service improvement plans to streamline contractual and delivery arrangements for bus services across the area. We will explore bus franchising and provide local accountability for spending of the Bus Service Operators Grant.**

Rail freight is nationally significant, with a quarter of the UK's freight passing through Greater Lincolnshire. Increasing rail capacity is important to expanding businesses in Greater Lincolnshire and to avoid lack of capacity acting as a constraint on future growth.

Rail services provide vital connectivity for residents with services linking communities and providing access to higher education and leisure activities. Passenger services will, by the nature of our large and predominantly rural area, be less well used than in major urban areas and this could lead to decisions being taken by operators on the basis of simple market forces.

Greater Lincolnshire needs a much stronger voice to articulate the local context to influence and inform provision.



**We will seek a new rail partnership with Great British Railways, once established, so that our priorities for passengers and freight can be taken into consideration in future decisions regarding the rail network. The Government will consider Greater Lincolnshire alongside existing devolution areas as a priority for these agreements which will provide the ability to influence local rail services.**

Priorities locally include:

- Cleethorpes to Manchester (South Pennine Corridor) line speed improvements are a priority for Greater Lincolnshire. Transport for the North is supportive of the ambition. Further work involving Northern Rail and Trans-Pennine Express is required to develop the business case.
- Cleethorpes to London service is a priority for Greater Lincolnshire, providing access to opportunities and supporting a growing economy. The Department for Transport is considering the case for direct London North East Railways services to and from both Cleethorpes and Grimsby to London, with an opportunity to implement them should the business case be value for money, and funding be available to address timetabling, infrastructure and operational factors.
- Line speed improvements between Lincoln and Nottingham, to deliver journey time savings on the route are important for growth in our historic city and for the visitor economy along the east coast.

### 3: Investing in high quality homes and communities

The provision of high quality, affordable and well-connected housing is essential to meeting the current and future needs of Greater Lincolnshire residents, as well as the success of our economy.

We need to have the right housing in the right locations to recruit and retain the younger workforce that our businesses need to grow, to offset a shrinking labour pool and our significant ageing population. New and existing residents expect housing to be high quality and energy efficient and this is also important for improving health outcomes and life chances of residents, particularly in our coastal and more vulnerable communities.

Delivering new high-quality housing requires development sites to get the right infrastructure at the right time and requires a new approach which enables housing delivery at a pace linked to economic growth. It requires wider infrastructure investment such as from power suppliers whose plans do not always adapt quickly enough to local need and the commercial realities of site development whether for housing or other uses. We will strengthen communication between local areas and the energy providers.

**We will develop a meaningful role in planning our future energy system for net zero and explore how local energy plans could steer strategic network investment in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work with government to explore the potential benefits of and design options for a place-based approach to delivering retrofit measures, as part of the government's commitment in the Net Zero Strategy to explore how we could simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level where this provides the best approach to tackling climate change.**

The cost of delivering major housing schemes in Greater Lincolnshire, mitigating against risks of flooding and addressing gaps in utility supply, mean that there are numerous uneconomical/unviable sites and subsequently fewer homes are available for our communities. Funding is required to intervene, bridge, de-risk and accelerate housing and employment sites.

**We will work with Homes England to overcome viability challenges and the barriers to housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a pipeline for our area and a clear action plan for delivery. Homes England and the government will explore the potential for investing in the delivery of this pipeline through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Housing Programme.**

**With Homes England and the Government we will identify how wider measures - including viability assessments and the planning system - could better support Greater Lincolnshire plans to increase much needed rural affordable housing supply, and in partnership test how Homes England through its strategic plan could assist in this.**

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

**The directly elected Mayor will have the power to designate a Mayoral Development Area and to create Mayoral Development Corporations, which will support delivery on strategic sites in Greater Lincolnshire. The Mayor and combined authority will also be able to use powers of compulsory purchase to support development, where they have the consent of constituent councils and local planning authorities.**

**Where appropriate we will acquire and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration, including investing £8.4 million in brownfield developments.**

Culture, heritage, sport and the visitor economy all play a strong role in supporting places and communities to thrive – and this effect is maximised when individual decisions take into account the wider context of other plans and decisions being made for an area.

**We will establish a new collaborative partnership, supported by Government and VisitEngland, to share expertise and insight across culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy in order to maximise the impact of funding and policy decisions, supporting 28,000 workers in the culture and tourism industry.**

## 4: Raising awareness, inspiration and access to support our residents to train and upskill for the job they want

Greater Lincolnshire has a clear vision for our future where our residents benefit from the significant career opportunities presented across our geography and we are pivotal in providing food, energy and supply chain security for the UK.

There are fantastic career opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire, but often the pathways to achieve a good quality career are unclear.

In order to meet the significant skills demands predicted from our game changing sectors we will support our residents to understand, and access, a variety of pathways into these highly skilled career opportunities no matter their age or starting point.

We want to inspire young people in Greater Lincolnshire to seek a career here by raising awareness of the range of new industries and exciting opportunities which many of them do not know about.

We want all people living in Greater Lincolnshire to be able to access a high quality careers service so that they can receive information, advice and guidance to access training and development opportunities available to succeed in their career goals.

They are often unaware of what is available, finding the skills system difficult to navigate because of the inconsistent and the "stop start" nature of the funding, often from multiple pots and agencies. Having a single long-term strategic approach aimed at all ages will enable us to overcome those challenges and take people through these arrangements seamlessly.

**We will provide long term funding to the Greater Lincolnshire Career Hub to provides high quality, local industry led, face to face careers information, advice, and guidance for all ages.**

**We will work with the government and partners within Greater Lincolnshire to ensure a shared focus on careers education and advice for young people. This is particularly crucial given the ageing population of Greater Lincolnshire and the need to increase awareness of new high skill high wage career opportunities across the area and the pathways available to residents to achieve a good quality career locally.**

**We will convene local, regional and national stakeholders to bring business, careers and skills together and align careers provision with devolved adult education commissioning activities to ensure a more place-based and joined-up approach to careers education locally.**

## 5: Growing skills capacity for the future

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

We will reverse this trend by connecting learning to the career opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire, getting more young adults to develop the skills and qualifications that are needed most:

- Providing clean energy for UK homes through a multitude of decarbonisation projects and the growth of our world leading offshore wind farms will only be possible if we can develop a skilled workforce for the future
- We need a pipeline of young people and adults to drive forward the rapid technological innovation in the food sector; whether that be seafood, poultry or fresh produce
- Our ambition to secure the nation's supply chain through our ports and transport network can only be realised if our residents know about, and are able to access, the bespoke technical training required.

**We will take responsibility for the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) from academic year 2026-2027. This will provide the freedom to flex and focus funds on local skills and training priorities in a way which is difficult to achieve with regional or national commissioning.**

**Devolution of this funding will provide certainty to local providers when they take a risk to address local problems without being sure that there will be a long-term market for that provision. Devolution of AEB will also enable us to fund specialist providers, linking to key industries and being flexible to different opportunities (eg the construction phase of major investments will require different levels and skills of staff to the operational phase) and to ensure that learners have the building blocks needed to progress and succeed in higher level learning, leading to better paid jobs.**

**Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) offer level 3 qualifications designed to help improve job opportunities and could lead to applicants earning a higher wage. Funding for these courses will also be devolved as part of a local joined up approach to learning.**

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

**We will work with the Government, employers and education providers across Greater Lincolnshire to deliver on Local Skills Improvement Plans that sets out the current and future skills needs of employers and how local provision needs to change to help people develop the skills they need to get good jobs and increase their prospects.**

**As a member of the joint Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Education Mayoral Combined Authority Advisory Group we will work together on our strategic priorities for employment and develop the links between job centres and very local job opportunities.**

## 6. Investing to achieve net zero, to drive productivity and to grow jobs

Greater Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the UK's offshore energy production, hydrogen production and innovation and the development of decarbonisation for heavy industry. This offers significant opportunities for local businesses and supply chains to expand and create more high value jobs for Greater Lincolnshire's residents. Growth in these technologies and industries requires new infrastructure such as the energy grid capacity, water supply and pipelines.

**We will work with the government to commission studies for infrastructure improvements that would be needed across the whole of Greater Lincolnshire to support growth in green jobs, major energy production sites and a geological disposal facility if it were to be sited in Greater Lincolnshire, including flood defences and transport links.**

Greater Lincolnshire's energy and low carbon sectors are national leaders, and our geology provides significant opportunities for further growth. Taking advantage of these opportunities requires input from several different government departments and from global business, higher education, and local authorities.

**We will use a commitment from Government to bring these stakeholders together to agree a plan for developing the unique infrastructure required in Greater Lincolnshire to transform the energy intensive industries which are typically found in northern Lincolnshire, enable carbon capture and storage and other green growth as long as it is compatible with the natural environment. The Humber Energy Board would have a key role to play in this.**

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

Growth in green industries across Greater Lincolnshire is also dependent upon having a skilled workforce that can help business to innovate and expand, creating more high skill high wage jobs. As we establish the UK's first net zero carbon industrial cluster, we will provide residents with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to obtain new green jobs and be part of what has been described as the next industrial revolution.

**Through a greater role in delivering devolved funding streams and devolution of the Adult Education functions and administration of funding from 2026, we will train people at a local level in the skills needed to obtain green jobs.**

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

With coastal and low-lying regions, our diverse geography is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with high risks from flooding impacting on homes, communities and limiting coastal tourism to the warmer seasons. Inland our ambitions for the UK Food Valley, UK food security and growth in green industries are dependent upon the supply the water needed for agriculture and the growing demand for water for decarbonisation.

Water management is a crucial aspect of both climate resilience and economic growth for Greater Lincolnshire.

**We will establish a new enhanced partnership for water that works with Government and seeks to protect the country from food shortages caused by floods and droughts. Our partnership will co-commission flood prevention and water management programmes to support agriculture, tourism, green growth and new housing.**

The Greater Lincolnshire Coast is home to important nature reserves including the Lincolnshire Coronation Coast National Nature Reserve, the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park and a variety of sand dunes, saltmarsh, mudflats and freshwater marshes (some of which attract Site of Special Scientific Interest status), which support many breeding and wintering birds, natterjack toads, special plants and insects.

It is also an important energy centre – with the Prax Lindsey Oil Refinery, gas power stations at South Killingholme, Immingham and South Humber, the Viking Link interconnector with Denmark and the Orsted offshore windfarm hub which includes the Hornsea 1 & 2 sites. Hornsea 1 is the largest offshore wind farm in the world.

Government and partners in Greater Lincolnshire have long held the ambition to form a strategic coastal partnership to manage the relationship between nationally significant energy infrastructure and the protection of the natural environment and achieving local benefits for the key wildlife sites along the coast – maintaining their importance for tourism and the minimisation of the recreational disturbance of nature.

**We will convene a Coastal Partnership which will ensure that the nature, culture and heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast are given a voice and consideration to ensure that tourism and economic development can take place in parallel with the restoration of the natural and historic environment. Relevant government departments and their arm's length agencies will attend as full members. The Coastal Partnership will run from the Humber to The Wash.**

Greater Lincolnshire is a largely rural, low-lying landscape including nationally important natural treasures such as lime woods, chalk streams, saltmarsh and the only area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) in the East Midlands covering the Lincolnshire Wolds. Farmland forms an important part of our working rural landscape. Its protection for agricultural use is hugely important for a significant proportion of jobs in food production, processing and logistics across the area and our ambitions to deliver on UK food security.

**Devolution provides the opportunity to work even more closely with Government to identify environmental priorities that could be incorporated into new environmental land management schemes – such as protection for top grade farmland across the UK Food Valley in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work with DEFRA and the farming community to develop a new approach that ensures an appropriate balance between sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes, including considering possible place-based research.**

Our long-established and collaborative Local Nature Partnerships with a tradition of working co-operatively provide us with the opportunity to accelerate the drive towards nature recovery, to tackle both climate change and biodiversity loss.

**We will work with government and local partners to implement a local nature recovery strategy to promote a balance between biodiversity and growth, strategic natural flood prevention and enable creation of new habitats to offset developments and to attract private investment into nature's recovery within our area.**

## 8: Driving innovation, enterprise and adoption of new technologies

Greater Lincolnshire has a long history of innovation and is known for nationally significant sectors in food and agri-tech, defence and low carbon energy. We want to keep up the momentum of our advancement in renewables, robotics, digital logistics, seafood processing and food agri-tech by increasing the level of innovation, investing in our innovation eco system and by attracting and placing more graduates to work across our growing clusters and contribute to the UK's ambition to become a science superpower.

We want more businesses across Lincolnshire to access innovation programmes and be supported to compete for funding through streamlined processes that can unleash further creative innovation in our key sectors and places.

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

Innovation and growth in our game changing sectors of Food and agri-tech, low carbon energy and decarb, ports and logistics and Defence will add significant economic value to UK plc and the local area. However, Greater Lincolnshire has a high population of micro businesses, who whilst agile and entrepreneurial, often do not have the capacity to engage in innovation competitions and can find bidding for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and other innovation competitions restrictive and a constraint on innovation in fast moving industries.

Our analysis shows that there are significant business investments in innovation which in turn will often drive their supply chain's own investment in innovation. These investments are underpinned by programmes such as productivity Hub, Catapult, Made Smarter, and Freeport Innovation Partnerships. Businesses can also access research and development tax credits, and their motivation to innovate can be driven by legislative changes rather than by business leaders identifying productivity gains. The picture of innovation support and motivation is complicated.

**We will develop a new place-based Innovation Board, which will bring together local leaders with representatives from research organisations and industry to develop a clear innovation strategy, and provide a single voice to strengthen engagement with government and its delivery bodies, and ultimately improve access to support and explore opportunities for local businesses. This will develop closer long-term collaboration with The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and other Government agencies.**

The government recognises the nationally significant role that Greater Lincolnshire plays in maintaining food security. The region produces one eighth of England's food and has nationally significant clusters in food production, food processing, fresh produce and seafood processing. Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley an initiative which seeks to provide economic benefit to the area based on the food sector's strength whilst also strengthening domestic food supply.

Greater Lincolnshire is home to Europe's largest food agri-tech, automation and robotics research cluster, attracting businesses which are investing heavily in automation. Recognised by the Department for Business and Trade as a High Potential Opportunity (HPO), to design, manufacture and commercialise automation and robotics technologies, growth in these tools will reduce the need for hard to fill low wage seasonal jobs in agriculture and replace them with high skill high wage roles. The area is leading national efforts to reduce carbon emissions from food production and manufacturing, with a focus on how new technology and skills, new energy sources and production processes can be used to reduce the carbon emissions from production, processing, transport, and storage of food.

**We will support further growth in the agri-tech sector through an agricultural growth zone, creating a centre to support agriculture and developing a skills pipeline to attract the next generation into the industry. We will work with the Government to ensure an appropriate balance between sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes, including considering possible place-based research and to deepen engagement with food and drink manufacturing SMEs**

**We will establish a UK Food Valley Board focus to support the sector and attract the right skills needed to deliver new food chain automation and digital technology and wider innovation within the food valley that supports the UK's ambition to become a science superpower. The board will produce a clear and measurable strategy for UK Food Valley. Defra will meet annually with the board to discuss key topics of value to its members.**

## 9: Increasing employment opportunities through recruitment pathways and work-based training into higher skilled employment

We want to maximise the potential of all of our residents in Greater Lincolnshire supporting them whether they are leaving one sector to retrain in another, moving from economic inactivity into training or work, or to train to progress in their existing employment.

As society changes, we know that many jobs across Greater Lincolnshire will be affected in some way, either by being made obsolete, or by the role changing through the introduction of new technologies. It is vital that we develop pathways that help businesses and the workforce to overcome barriers to accessing the wide range of training that Greater Lincolnshire has to offer.

Unlocking the potential and harnessing the knowledge and experience of our residents who are not currently working can also help grow our economy. We need to offer more support to get those of working age to be economically active and provide an appropriately skilled and available labour pool.

**We will collaborate with the local Department for Work and Pensions Jobcentre Plus and regional DWP Strategic Partnership Managers to develop local programmes that meet local needs and complement national employment provision.**

We want the provision of skills in Greater Lincolnshire to be flexible and able to respond to gaps in the labour market, particularly where these restrain growth in our game changing sectors. To address some of our employment and skills issues and opportunities, we will commission activity which complements, but is not funded by, mainstream programmes.

**We will support Greater Lincolnshire businesses by providing Skills Bootcamps to quickly raise skills levels in those occupations which have hard to fill vacancies in critical roles.**

**We will develop and deliver targeted local programmes through devolved funding streams such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Adult Education Budget to address the unique and diverse challenges across the region.**

## 10: Creating a 'whole system' approach to getting more people into better paid work

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

The constituent councils in Greater Lincolnshire are responsible for caring for the most vulnerable in society, and evidence shows that young people who leave care and transition into good quality employment will often thrive successfully.

All public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire create jobs, and can support young people leaving care to achieve a positive start to their careers and adult life.

**We will work with the Department for Education to maximise the number of care leavers in employment. This will include encouraging public bodies across Greater Lincolnshire to provide ring-fenced apprenticeships and work-experience opportunities for care leavers. We will also work with DfE's delivery partner for the care leaver covenant (Spectra) and local businesses to encourage them to offer employment opportunities to care leavers.**



## Beyond the Deal

If our Proposal is supported, we will be only the second Mayoral Combined County Authority to be established in the UK and one of 11 Mayoral areas.

We will use this as a platform to broaden and deepen devolution opportunities for our area. We will seek additional powers, funding and influence to address identified and emerging challenges, maximising available opportunities that come our way, continually maintaining and building momentum.

The proposed Combined County Authority would work with government and partners across the Area to strengthen collaboration, improve outcomes for the people who live and work across Greater Lincolnshire and demonstrate the ability to take on further powers to deliver for residents and business. This includes seeking to become a rural testbed for future government policy, putting Greater Lincolnshire firmly at the front of the queue for investment that is tailored to our needs.

We will be seeking to work collaboratively with Government at the earliest opportunity to:

- Strengthen transport connectivity, building on the potential offered by Network North and the consolidation of the existing core local transport funding into a multi-year integrated settlement
- Strengthen the local visitor economy, creating an attractive and vibrant cultural and creative sector
- Accelerate the creation of a nationally recognised cluster of innovation-focused defence companies, making Greater Lincolnshire the first-choice destination for defence related industries
- Co-commission future investment plans with Government, National Grid, Western Power and Northern Power Grid that will underpin our strategy for growth
- Test alternative approaches to rural bus provision, enhancing access to services for residents and visitors
- Create further investment into green energy and decarbonisation activities, to maximise growth opportunities in these industries and capitalise on the strategic capabilities within the area
- Co-commission with Government and Innovate UK, activities to further enhance innovation capabilities and outcomes for businesses, protecting their competitive advantage and sustainability
- Seek further devolution of funds for programmes led by DWP, DfE, and other government sponsored training provision to a local level so that they can be commissioned and managed in line with our economic opportunities and are targeted on local need
- Develop a Greater Lincolnshire Skills Investment Revenue Fund and bespoke apprenticeship arrangements that tailor support to businesses to increase apprenticeships across Greater Lincolnshire and overcome barriers to engagement
- Seek new trailblazer powers where we can evidence their benefit to Greater Lincolnshire and a single long term funding settlement that is fair and supports levelling up.



## Governance and transparency

Local councils already work collaboratively across Greater Lincolnshire but through this Proposal would see greater responsibility being passed from Government making it necessary to formalise these arrangements and to make them open and accessible to those that live and work here.

Coming together as a Combined County Authority would provide greater visibility and transparency for this work across Greater Lincolnshire and give us the necessary capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development, and regeneration. It would enable focus on the things that will make the biggest difference to the lives of our residents and the businesses within Greater Lincolnshire.

The Constituent Councils have worked collaboratively with the City, District and Borough councils and the two police and crime commissioners to develop governance arrangements for a proposed Combined County Authority. These arrangements would ensure transparency of decision making, effective collaboration between all parties and a strong local voice in all that we do.

To secure all the powers and funding we need in Greater Lincolnshire would require the most robust level of local accountability and so the Combined County Authority will also include a Mayor elected by and accountable to all the residents of the area.

The Mayor would work with the members of the Combined County Authority to deliver the purpose and outcomes set out within this Proposal. They would establish a strong relationship with businesses, skills providers such as our universities and colleges, along with other stakeholders to understand and address local challenges. They would also be a champion for Greater Lincolnshire at regional and national levels, ensuring that our voice, and our needs are heard alongside those of the West Midlands, South Yorkshire and Hull and East Riding.

### **Name and area**

The Combined County Authority (CCA) would be formally known as the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA). It would cover the geographical areas of the Lincolnshire County, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Unitary Councils, which together would form the Constituent Councils of the CCA.

### **Membership of the CCA**

The Combined County Authority would have up to 13 Members in total, comprising:

- The directly elected Mayor;
- 6 Constituent Members (Members appointed by the Constituent Councils, with each Constituent Council appointing a Lead Member (expected to be the Leader or their nominee), and one further member from its elected members);
- 4 Non-Constituent Members nominated by the City, District and Borough Councils within the Area
- Up to 2 further Non-Constituent or Associate Members. One of these will be one of the police and crime commissioners for the area and the other is expected to come from a business background.

## **The Mayor**

The Combined County Authority would have a directly elected Mayor who will be elected by the electorate within the Area every four years. The Mayor would be a member of the Combined County Authority, as well as having a number of powers and functions which may be exercised exclusively by the Mayor (see below). The first Mayoral election is expected to take place in May 2025.

## **City, District and Borough Councils**

There are 7 City, District and Borough Councils within the area of the proposed Combined County Authority. The City, Districts and Boroughs would be empowered to nominate 4 individuals as non-constituent members of the Combined County Authority. The Constituent Councils have worked closely with the City, District and Borough Councils to agree that their nominations would be through the use of a joint committee of the City, District and Borough Councils. The City, District and Borough Councils will all be voting members of the Joint Committee and would nominate four Non-Constituent Members.

The joint committee will also be used as the mechanism for the City, District and Borough Councils to nominate additional individuals as substitutes and representatives on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Audit Committee, who may come from different Councils than the nominated Non Constituent Members.

The inclusion of a mechanism by which the City, District and Borough Councils can have a key role on the CCA ensures that the identities and interests of all of our local communities are fully reflected on the CCA. It is intended that Greater Lincolnshire's City, District and Borough councillors would have the greatest involvement of any Combined County Authority in the country.

## **Strong voice for local business**

The voice of business will be a critical component in the future Combined County Authority, given that a key area of focus will be economy, our key sectors, innovation and productivity. It is expected that the proposed Combined County Authority would consider appointing an Associate Member who can represent the views of business.

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP function would be integrated into the Combined County Authority. The Government guidance is that integration be achieved via the establishment of a business focussed Advisory Board. Whilst the Advisory Board would not be a formal committee of the Combined County Authority, it would be part of the formal governance arrangements and would exist to provide advice to the Combined County Authority on all issues of business and economy relevant to the Combined County Authority. The Combined County Authority could then appoint the Chair of that Advisory Group to the Combined County Authority as an Associate Member representing the views of business on the Combined County Authority.

## **Police and Crime**

The Proposals see the two Police and Crime Commissioners working closely with the Combined County Authority to ensure public safety is considered as part of policy development, and that where appropriate strategies, policies, and action plans can be aligned. The two Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Humberside and Lincolnshire) would be invited to nominate a Police and Crime Commissioners as a non-constituent member of the CCA and the other as a substitute.

## CCA Functions

The majority of the functions of the proposed Combined County Authority will be exercisable by the Combined County Authority as a whole.

The proposed functions, powers, consent and voting for the Combined County Authority are set out in full as an appendix to the Proposal. These would include:

The duty to set a budget for the CCA (including funding for the functions of the CCA);

- Economic development and regeneration functions, including the preparation of an economic assessment for the area; to embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions and to carry out strategic economic planning that clearly articulates the area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths.
- Adult education and skills functions;
- Transport functions, including to identify, agree, set up and coordinate a Key Route Network (KRN) on behalf of the Mayor, including traffic regulation, permit schemes and highway, bridge or transport works across the KRN;
- Housing supply, regeneration and place-making functions, along with provision of housing and land, land acquisition and disposal and the development and regeneration of land functions;
- Power to borrow up to an agreed cap for all functions;
- Data sharing with the Constituent Councils in areas relating to the MCCA functions
- Power to establish joint arrangements
- Incidental powers in relation to its functions (the power to do anything which is incidental to the exercise of its functions).
- A functional power of competence (this means that the CCA will have the power to do anything reasonably related to the exercise of their functions).

## CCA decision making and voting

The Members of the Combined County Authority would be the main decision-making group of the Combined County Authority. The Combined County Authority would have the power to establish committees to exercise Combined County Authority functions.

It is expected that the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority would establish three committees known as boards to develop policy, review performance and delivery, scrutinise Proposals and take decisions in relation to matters within their remit:

- Greater Lincolnshire Transport Board
- Greater Lincolnshire Skills and Employment Board
- Greater Lincolnshire Business and Infrastructure Board

It is expected that the membership of the Boards would include at least two members nominated from each Constituent Council and at least 4 members would be nominated by the City, District and Borough Councils. Only full Combined County Authority members of the Committee (and their substitutes) will have voting rights on the Committee.

Whilst the proposed Combined County Authority's Constitution will set out voting requirements for the CCA and its committees, the following principles will be applied:

- All of the Constituent Council Members and the Mayor have a single equal vote
- None of the Non-Constituent Members automatically have a vote, but the CCA is able to confer voting rights on Non-Constituent Members and the Constituent Councils are committed to the right to vote being available on some topics for Non-Constituent Members
- Associate Members do not have and cannot be given the right to vote
- Each member of the Combined County Authority will nominate two substitutes who will have the same voting rights as the member they are substituting for
- The quorum for meetings of the CCA will include the Mayor and one member from each of the constituent councils. The quorum for committees will be set in the Constitution
- The majority of decisions taken by the CCA will be subject to a requirement for a simple majority in favour, with the additional requirement that the Mayor must vote in favour
- Certain decisions will additionally require the Lead Member of the relevant Constituent Council to vote in favour, specifically this includes agreeing the CCA budget, agreeing any levy, any decision to compulsorily purchase land by the CCA, agreeing routes for inclusion in the KRN and any decision of the CCA which would lead to a financial liability falling directly on the Constituent Council. Further instances in which there will be a requirement for the Lead Member of each Constituent Council to vote in favour will be set out in the CCA Constitution. Where consent is required for a decision, this will be given at the meeting where the decision is to be taken
- The CCA can amend the Mayor's budget, if a 2/3 majority vote to do so or, if a 2/3 majority is not reached, if 3/6 Constituent Members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 lead members entitled to vote do so
- The CCA can amend the Mayor's transport strategy if a 2/3 majority vote to do so.

## **Mayoral Functions**

Some of the functions of the proposed Combined County Authority will only be able to be exercised by the elected Mayor, and this will be prescribed in the Establishment Order.

Functions, powers, consent and voting for the Mayor are set out in full as an appendix to the Proposal. The main Mayoral functions are as follows:

- Duty to set a Mayoral budget for the cost of exercising the Mayoral function and any Mayoral initiatives (subject to any CCA vote to amend the Mayor's budget).
- Power to impose a business rate supplement on non-domestic ratepayers in the Area to fund Mayoral functions/ initiatives as part of the Mayoral budget (subject to a ballot of business);
- Power to set a precept on council tax on behalf of the CCA (a precept is an amount added to council tax) to provide funding for Mayoral functions in the area;
- Power to provide relief from non-domestic rates in areas covered by a Mayoral Development Corporation;
- Power to pay bus service operator grants and to franchise bus services;
- Power to create a Mayoral Development Area, and to form a Mayoral Development Corporation to take responsibility for planning functions in the part/s of the Area covered by the Mayoral Development Area (the exercise of these functions is subject to the consent of the Constituent Councils and the Local Planning Authorities for the areas included);
- Housing and land acquisition powers to support housing and regeneration (the exercise of these functions is subject to the consent of the Constituent Councils and Local Planning Authorities for the areas included);
- Power to draw up a local transport plan (subject to any CCA vote to amend the local transport plan) and power to direct over KRN
- Functional power of competence (this means that the Mayor will have the power to do anything reasonably related to the exercise of their functions).

## **Mayoral decision making**

The elected Mayor would be required to appoint one of the Members of the CCA as their Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor must act in the place of the Mayor if for any reason the Mayor is unable to act, or the Office of the Mayor is vacant. The Mayor will draw advice from and be supported by members of the combined county authority, all of whom are supported by appropriate officers.

The Mayor is able to arrange for the exercise of any of their Mayoral functions by:

- The Deputy Mayor;
- Another Member or Officer of the CCA;
- A committee of the CCA, consisting of members appointed by the Mayor (which need not be Members of the CCA).

## **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF)**

The proposed Combined County Authority would be the lead authority for the planning and delivery of the UKSPF from 2025/26 if there is a continuation of the Fund and the delivery geographies remains the same. If the delivery model remains the same as the previous Spending Review period, it is anticipated that the CCA will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates in the area, with wide flexibility to invest and deliver according to local needs. In carrying out this role the Combined County Authority would engage Constituent Councils, city, district and borough councils and passport an allocation of funding to each based on the existing funding ratio.

### **Advisory panels**

Both the CCA and the Mayor, may choose to establish advisory panels. Advisory panels are formally constituted groups which form part of the operation of the CCA, but which have no decision-making power.

The Constituent Councils intend that the CCA should establish a Greater Lincolnshire Economy Advisory Panel to provide a strong business voice in decision making. The Combined County Authority would consider whether additional Advisory Panels focussed on other issues are required. The role of any advisory panel established would be to advise the CCA, and possibly also the Mayor, on the exercise of functions in their areas of expertise.

### **Member allowance**

The statutory instrument which would create the proposed Combined County Authority would set out the position on members allowances. It is proposed that no remuneration is to be payable by the Combined County Authority to its members, other than allowances for travel and subsistence paid in accordance with a scheme approved by the Combined County Authority.

The Combined County Authority may establish (or use an existing constituent council) independent remuneration panel to recommend a scheme to the Combined County Authority regarding the allowances payable to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor provided that the Deputy Mayor is not a leader or elected Mayor of a constituent council; and any independent persons who are members of the combined county authority or its committees.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The proposed Combined County Authority would be required to have at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be to monitor the decision making of the Mayor and members and officers of the CCA to ensure that the decision making is appropriately focussed on community needs, and that high quality delivery is taking place for the benefit of the Area.

In accordance with The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and given the role of the Committee its membership must involve different individuals than those who are Members of the CCA. The constituent councils, City, District and Borough Councils would be represented on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Combined County Authority would consider how and whether to represent other bodies on the Committee.

At least two members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be nominated from each Constituent Council of the Combined County Authority. At least 4 members would be nominated by the City, District and Borough Councils. Any members of the Committee not drawn from the Constituent Councils would not automatically have voting rights on the Committee but could be given voting rights by the CCA. The Constituent Councils are committed to the right to vote being available on some topics for Non-Constituent Members

There would be a requirement for political balance on the Committee so that members of the committee taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the Constituent Councils when taken together.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee must be chaired by a person who is independent of the CCA and the constituent councils or is not from the same political party as the Mayor or (if the Mayor is not a member of a political party) the party with the most constituent council representatives on the CCA.



## **Audit Committee**

The proposed Combined County Authority would be required to have an Audit Committee. The role of the Audit Committee is to support and monitor the authority in the areas of governance, risk management, external audit, internal audit, financial reporting, and other related areas to ensure that the financial and governance decision making position of the Combined County Authority and the Mayor is sound.

The Combined County Authority would ensure that the Audit Committee has the right people to ensure effective oversight of the adequacy of the CCAs overall assurance arrangements, and scrutiny of financial decision making by the Mayor and the CCA.

It is expected that two members would be nominated from each Constituent Council. Further members would be appointed to the Audit Committee based on appropriate best practice guidance such as that issued by CIPFA on the composition of audit committees.

Members of the Audit Committee must not be the same individuals as those representatives who are members of the CCA and there is a requirement that one member of the Audit Committee be an independent person.

Membership of the Committee taken as a whole would be required to be politically proportional by reference to the balance of political parties prevailing among members of the Constituent Councils taken together at the time the MCCA appoints the members to the Committee.

## **Joint arrangements for the Humber**

Strong, credible and effective governance arrangements including a clear business voice are integral to the success of Greater Lincolnshire and the development of evidence based Proposals for cross estuary working on clean growth, ports and the Humber Freeport.

The existing Humber Leadership Board (a joint committee of the four Humber Local Authorities) will be enhanced to include broader membership comprising of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor, the Leader and one Executive Councillor from Lincolnshire County Council as a Greater Lincolnshire constituent council, the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner on behalf of both the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner and the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and strengthened business representation.

The intention would be to see these collaborative working arrangements develop further to include similar Combined Authority membership from the north bank of the Humber, should a Devolution Deal be entered between the Government and Kingston upon Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire Councils.

# Creating a Combined County Authority

To deliver our ambitions for Greater Lincolnshire we will seek to organise our resources in the best possible way. We proposed to pool some resources into the combined county authority to enable delivery of its key functions for:

- Economic development and regeneration
- Adult education and skills
- Transport
- Housing supply, regeneration and place

This Proposal is not merging or reorganising local councils. Rather, by working at the right level, sharing data and insight, advancing joint ambitions, and focusing on the powers and functions that have been devolved to it, the proposed Combined County Authority has the ability to improve outcomes for Greater Lincolnshire and ensure joined up decision making.

Work is currently underway to define the 'Operating Model' for the proposed Combined County Authority which will describe how it would work, the functions, people, processes, systems and organisational structure.

The following principles will guide our development of the operating model.

**1. Efficient use of public resources:** The Combined County Authority would be a small strategic body overseeing the effective delivery of growth priorities, working collaboratively with Constituent Councils, non-Constituent Members and other stakeholders. The Combined County Authority would assume the functional powers outlined in the table at Appendix A and best value will be sought for residents in the delivery of these functions.

To discharge its functions effectively and legally, there would need to be sufficient capacity and resources. Funding has been secured as part of the deal from central Government towards the financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. The Mayor would have powers to bring in additional funding and the Combined County Authority would have powers to borrow. It is expected that the running costs of the authority will be met through future central Government support and equal funding from the Constituent Councils.

**2. Local Enterprise Partnership Integration:** Local councils currently invest in a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) that brings together local business and council leaders. As set out in the Devolution Deal, the functions of the LEP would be integrated into the Combined County Authority. These functions include business growth, innovation, skills strategy and regeneration. In addition there is also a commitment to include an independent business voice, as is currently represented through the LEP Board. Funding for the LEP would be pooled to support the operation of a combined county authority that delivers value for money and can gather the evidence base and business cases required to secure future investment in Greater Lincolnshire. The proposed Combined County Authority will require a high level of partnership working ensuring any arrangements are efficient and proportional and avoid unnecessary duplication. The operating model design will be built upon a foundation of partnership working and inclusion of a strong business voice.

**3. Drawing on constituent council expertise:** The proposed Combined County Authority will require a range of capabilities to discharge its functions effectively. This will include 3 groups of officers and may include the pooling of some roles from constituent councils to deliver those functions which will be led by the combined county authority.:

- The statutory officers which are legally required to operate a local authority: Head of Paid Service; Chief Finance Officer) and Monitoring Officer.
- Officers directly responsible for delivering the core functions (transport planning, regeneration etc).
- Officers responsible for supporting services, such as: commissioning and contracting, research, intelligence and policy development, finance, human resources, democratic governance and legal services, technology and data, and communications.

In developing the operating model we will not assume that these roles will be directly employed by a Combined County Authority. This will be an option considered alongside others including employment by partner organisations (including Constituent Councils) or contracting from third parties.

**4. Concurrent delivery through constituent councils:** Where powers are held concurrently with the Constituent Councils, the Combined County Authority will not seek to duplicate service delivery where existing arrangements are already in place. The Combined County Authority will distribute funding for any such functions - including highway maintenance and potholes - proportionate to existing allocations to enable continued delivery for Greater Lincolnshire's residents.

**5. A shadow Combined County Authority:** to prepare for the establishment of a Combined County Authority, transition arrangements would be set up in 2024. This would not be a legally constituted body, but instead individuals from existing bodies (largely Constituent Councils) will be selected by the Constituent Councils to work collectively. During this time, it will be important that specific individuals are accountable for delivery and have sufficient capacity and support to do so successfully, working with the political Leadership of the three Constituent Councils, as well as working alongside the three Chief Executives of the Constituent Councils.

The establishment of the formal Combined County Authority will be as seamless as possible, ensuring transition arrangements reflect as closely as possible the future structure of the fully established Combined County Authority. The constituent members will elect one of their number to chair the Combined County Authority until the first Mayor is elected in 2025.

A detailed design of the future operating model will be developed subsequently.

## The Deal

The Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal can be read in full:

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution)

[www.northlincs.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/devolution)

[www.nelincs.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/devolution)

## Next Steps

Delivering on our Proposal would involve the completion of a number of steps. Some of these will be managed from Greater Lincolnshire, others will require action from Government and Parliament.

We will consult on the Proposals from December 2023 to 29 January 2024.

Consideration of consultation responses and review of the Proposal to be completed by end of February 2024

Further formal decision making in the light of the consultation and if the final Proposal is approved, submission to Government in spring 2024

Consideration and approval by Government leading to the laying of an Establishment Order in summer 2024

Transition to a formal CCA would follow three stages:

- Stage 1: Establishing transitional arrangements, including those for transport functions which are expected to take no more than 18 months - by summer 2024
- Stage 2: Formal establishment of the CCA - late 2024
- Stage 3: Election of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayor - May 2025

It is important to note that transition to the CCA is dependent on a number of factors including this Proposal being approved and submitted to the Government following public consultation and the final Proposal then being accepted by Government.

## Required powers and functions

Set out below is a table of the powers which the Constituent Councils are proposing are available to the CCA and/or the Mayor. The powers are those which the Constituent Councils believe are needed to enable the CCA/Mayor to deliver the purposes outlined in this Proposal. In considering our Proposal the Government, and in particular, specialist legislative counsel, will review the table below and some of the detail set out may be subject to change as the establishment order is drafted.

# APPENDIX A: GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE POWERS TABLE

## FINANCE, INVESTMENT, INNOVATION AND TRADE

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent Required?	Voting
Business Rate Supplements Act 2009  Whole act, except s3(5)	Power to impose a supplementary levy on non-domestic ratepayers to raise money for expenditure on a project that promotes economic development in the area  Imposition of the levy is subject to approval in a ballot of non-domestic ratepayers	Local Authority  Greater London Authority (GLA) power  (though all Local Authorities also hold these powers)	No - exclusive exercise of the GLA power	Mayor	No	Mayoral power, no voting
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009  Section 69	Duty to prepare and a power to revise an assessment of the economic conditions of the area	Local Authority  Upper-tier councils	Yes - With upper tier councils	MCCA	No, but requirement in the section to consult and seek the participation of the district/boroughs	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Crime and Disorder Act 1998  Section 17A  Section 115	Duty in exercising functions to have regard to impact on and the need to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour. Misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, re-offending and serious violence in its area (s17A)  Designation of the MCCA as a relevant authority thereby authorising disclosures to be made to the MCCA for the purposes of the Act (section 115)	Local Authority	Yes - With upper tier and city/district/borough councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

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# FINANCE, INVESTMENT, INNOVATION AND TRADE *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent Required?	Voting
Local Government Act 1972  Sections 101(5), 113, 142(2), 144, 145 and 222	<p>Provision for the discharge of functions jointly with other authorities (s101(5))</p> <p>Power to place staff at the disposal of other local authorities (s113)</p> <p>Power to arrange for the publication of information as to the services available in the area provided by them or by other specified authorities (s142(2))</p> <p>Power to encourage visitors to the area and provide or encourage the provision of facilities for conferences, trade fairs or exhibitions (s144)</p> <p>Power to provide, arrange or contribute to the expense of providing entertainments, theatres, concert halls, bands, orchestras and the development and improvement of the arts (s145)</p> <p>Power to prosecute, defend or appear in legal proceedings and make representations at a public inquiry (s222)</p>	Local Authority	Yes - With upper tier and city/district/borough councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Local Government Act 1985  Section 88(1)(a) and 88(1)(b)	Power to carry out research and collect information relating to the area and make that research and information available to other authorities in that area, the government or the public	Local Authority  Greater London or Metropolitan Counties only	No - upper tier and city/district/borough councils do not have the power	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Local Government Act 2003  Section 1, 3  Section 23(8)(A)	<p>Power to borrow for any purpose relevant to its functions or for the purpose of the prudent management of its financial affairs (s1) and relevant to functions of the MCCA that are specified in regulations (s23(8)(A))</p> <p>Duty to determine and keep under review how much money it can afford to borrow (s3)</p>	Local Authority	Yes	MCCA          Mayoral	No          No	<p>CCA budget decisions require the Lead Members of the Constituent Council to vote in favour,</p> <p>Mayoral budget decisions can be amended, if a 2/3 majority vote to do so or, if a 2/3 majority is not reached, if 3/6 Constituent Members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 lead members entitled to vote do so</p>



# FINANCE, INVESTMENT, INNOVATION AND TRADE *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent Required?	Voting
Local Government Finance Act 1988  Section 74	The MCCA is identified as a levying body under the Act who can be empowered by Regulations to raise a levy against the constituent councils (s74)	Local Authority  Bodies identified under regulations	No - upper tier and city/district/borough councils do not have the power	MCCA	Consent from constituent councils for making of regulations  Consent of Lead Member of constituent councils for any decision of the CCA which would lead to a financial liability falling directly on the Constituent Council	CCA budget decisions require the Lead Members of the Constituent Council to vote in favour
Local Government Finance Act 1992  Section 39 and 40	Inclusion of the MCCA in the definition of major precepting authority (s39)  Power to issue precept but only in relation to expenditure incurred by the mayor in, or in connection with, the exercise of mayoral functions	Local Authority	No - Specific power to MCCA but the county council is also a major precepting authority	Mayoral	No	Mayoral budget decisions can be amended, if a 2/3 majority vote to do so or, if a 2/3 majority is not reached, if 3/6 Constituent Members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 lead members entitled to vote do so
Local Government and Housing Act 1989  Section 13	Members of a committee (other than an advisory committee) who are not members of the authority are to be non-voting members	Applies to any committee established by a relevant authority under s102(1) of the Local Government Act 1972	N/a - this relates to voting rights rather than exercise of powers	MCCA	No	N/a - no voting
Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013	Governs the basis on which scheme employers and individual employees are admitted to the Local Government Pension Scheme	N/a - makes provision for pension arrangements of employees of the MCCA	N/a - this is not a power but an administrative provision to provide for pension arrangements for MCCA employees. One of the Constituent Councils will be identified as Administering Authority for the scheme	N/a - this is not a power but an administrative provision to provide for pension arrangements for MCCA employees	No	N/a - no voting
Local Government Act 2003  Section 31	Power to pay a grant to a local authority in England towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred by it	Public Authority  Minister	Yes	Mayor	Where exercise results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required	Mayoral power so no voting

## SKILLS AND EDUCATION

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009</p> <p>Sections</p> <p>86 &amp; 87, 88, 90 and 100(1)</p>	<p>Duty to secure the provision of appropriate facilities for education and training suitable to the needs of persons aged 19 years or over (25 where an Education Health and Care Plan is in place) and persons subject to adult detention (s86).</p> <p>Duty to secure the provision of appropriate facilities for education and training suitable to the requirements of persons aged 19 years or over (25 where an Education Health and Care Plan is in place) and do not have a specified qualification including in numeracy and literacy (s87).</p> <p>Duty to secure that a course of study for a specified qualification delivered through facilities provided under section 97 is free to persons covered by s87 (s88)</p> <p>Duty to encourage participation of persons covered by s86 in education and training and to encourage employers to participate in and contribute to the costs of such education and training (s90)</p> <p>Power to make financial provision in relation to education and training provided under these sections (s100(1))</p>	<p>Public Authority</p> <p>Secretary of State functions</p>	<p>Section 86, 87 and 88 are transferred</p> <p>Sections 90 and 100(1) are exercised concurrently with Secretary of State</p>	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
<p>Education Act 1996</p> <p>s13A , 15ZA, 15ZB and 15ZC</p>	<p>Duty to secure that education and training functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards, securing fair access to opportunities and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential (s13A)</p> <p>Duty to secure enough suitable education and training for persons over compulsory school age but under 19 or over 19 and an Education Health and Care Plan is in place (s15ZA)</p> <p>Duty to co-operate with other authorities in the fulfilment of the s15ZA duty (s15ZB)</p> <p>Duty to encourage participation of persons covered by s15ZA and employers in such education and training (s15ZC)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier councils</p>	<p>Yes - With upper tier councils</p>	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

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## SKILLS AND EDUCATION *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Education and Skills Act 2008</p> <p>Sections 10, 12, 68, 70, 71 and 85</p>	<p>Duty to exercise functions so as to promote the effective participation in education and training of persons who are over compulsory school age but under 18 and have not achieved a level 3 qualification (s10)</p> <p>Duty to make arrangements to identify persons covered under section 10 who are not participating in education and training (s12)</p> <p>Duty to make available to young persons and relevant young adults for whom it is responsible services to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of those persons in education or training (s68)</p> <p>Power to enter into arrangements with other authorities to provide services or otherwise provide services to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of young persons or relevant young adults in education or training (s70)</p> <p>Power to provide the above services conditional on a learning and support agreement (s71)</p> <p>Duty to co-operate with other relevant partners in relation to the provision of 14-19 education and training (s85)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier councils</p>	<p>Yes - with upper tier councils</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>
<p>Further and Higher Education Act 1992</p> <p>Section 51A</p>	<p>Power to require a further education institution providing education to persons over compulsory school age but under 19 to provide education to specified individuals</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier councils</p>	<p>Yes - with upper tier councils</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

# HOUSING AND PLANNING

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent
<p>Localism Act 2011</p> <p>Sections 197, 199, 200, 202, 204, 214, 215, 216, 217, 219, 220, 221, and paras 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 of Schedule 21</p>	<p>Power to designate any area of land in the area as a Mayoral Development Area (MDA) leading to the establishment by the Secretary of State of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) (s197)</p> <p>Power to vary the boundaries of an MDA to exclude land (s199)</p> <p>Power to transfer property, rights and liabilities of specified bodies to an MDC (s200)</p> <p>Power to decide that an MDC will be the local planning authority for an area and to confer planning functions on the MDC (s202)</p> <p>Power to decide that a power conferred on an MDC under section 202 shall cease or be subject to restrictions (s204)</p> <p>Duty to review from time to time the continued existence of an MDC (s215)</p> <p>Power to make a transfer scheme to transfer property, rights and liabilities of an MDC to a permitted recipient (s216)</p> <p>Power to request revocation of an order establishing an MDC where no property rights or liabilities are vested in the MDC (s217)</p> <p>Power to give guidance to an MDC on the exercise of its functions and to revoke such guidance (s219)</p> <p>Power to give general or specific directions to an MDC as to the exercise of its functions and to revoke such directions (s220)</p> <p>Power to give vary or revoke consents (s221)</p> <p>Provisions governing membership, terms of appointment, staff, remuneration of staff, committees and proceedings and meetings of an MDC (paras 1,2,3,4, 6 and 8 of Schedule 21)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>London Mayor equivalent powers</p>	<p>Yes. With London Mayor only</p>	<p>Mayor</p>	<p>For s197(1), requires consent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lead member of the MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains any part of the area to be designated a mayoral development area;</li> <li>- Each district council whose area contains any part of the area to be designated as a mayoral development area</li> </ul> <p>S199(1) requires consent of Lead member of MCCA designated by A constituent council whose local government area contains any part of area to be designated a mayoral development area;</p> <p>S202(2) to (4) require consent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lead member of MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains any part of area to be designated a mayoral development area;</li> <li>- Each district council whose area contains any part of the area to be designated as a mayoral development area</li> </ul> <p>Where exercise results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required</p>

# HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990</p> <p>Sections 226, 227, 229, 230(1)(a), 232, 233, 235, 236, 238, 239, 241</p>	<p>Power to acquire compulsorily land in the area to facilitate development re-development or improvement of the land or necessary for the proper planning of an area in which the land is situated (s226)</p> <p>Power to acquire by agreement land that could be compulsorily acquired under s226 (s227)</p> <p>Power to appropriate common land or a fuel or field garden allotment (s229)</p> <p>Power to acquire land for the purposes of giving in exchange for land appropriated under s229(s230(1)(a))</p> <p>Power to appropriate land held for planning purposes to other purposes (s232)</p> <p>Power to dispose of land held for planning purposes to secure the best use of that or other land or building or works built or to be built on it or secure the carrying on it of building or works needed for the proper planning of the area of the authority (s233)</p> <p>Power to construct or carry out works on land held for planning purposes and repair, maintain and insure any building or works on such land (s235)</p> <p>Effects of compulsory acquisition on rights in respect of land so acquired (s236)</p> <p>Power to use consecrated land that has been the subject of a relevant acquisition (s238)</p> <p>Power to use burial ground land that has been the subject of a relevant acquisition (s239)</p> <p>Power to use common land, open space or fuel or field garden allotment land that has been the subject of a relevant acquisition (s241)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier and City/District/Borough Council powers</p>	<p>Yes - with upper tier and City/District/Borough Council powers</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>Use of section 226 requires consent of lead member of CCA designated by a constituent council whose area contains land subject to the acquisition, and of City/District/Borough councils in whose area the land subject to the acquisition is located</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

# HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Housing and Regeneration Act 2008</p> <p>Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (excluding 9(2)), 10, 11, 12, paragraphs 19 and 20 of Schedule 3 and paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 17 and 20 of Schedule 4</p>	<p>Power to provide or facilitate the provision of housing or other land (s5)</p> <p>Power to develop, regenerate or bring about the more effective use of land or facilitate them (s6)</p> <p>Power to provide and facilitate the provision of infrastructure (s7)</p> <p>Power to carry out or facilitate activities of acquiring, holding, improving, managing, reclaiming, repairing or disposing of housing or other land, plant machinery, equipment or property or carrying out building or other operations (s8)</p> <p>Power to acquire land by agreement (s9)</p> <p>Requirement to achieve the best consideration reasonably obtainable on disposal of land except by way of short tenancy or with Secretary of State consent (s10)</p> <p>Application of Schedule 3 to the exercise of land powers (s11)</p> <p>Application of Schedule 4 relating to Statutory undertakers (s12)</p> <p>Power to use burial ground land in accordance with planning permission (para 19 Schedule 3)</p> <p>Power to use consecrated land other than burial ground land in accordance with planning permission (para 20 Schedule 3)</p> <p>Power to give notice to extinguish rights or require the removal of apparatus of statutory undertakers (para 1 Schedule 4)</p> <p>Power of statutory undertakers to serve counter-notice and object to notice under para 1 above (para 2 Schedule 4)</p> <p>If no counter-notice is served rights are extinguished and apparatus can be removed (para 3 Schedule 4)</p> <p>If counter-notice is served the original notice can be withdrawn or application made to the Secretary of State to confirm the notice by order (para 4 Schedule 4)</p> <p>If order is made by the Secretary of State the rights are extinguished and/or the apparatus can be removed (para 6 Schedule 4)</p> <p>Power to serve counter-notice objecting to a notice from a statutory undertaking that development will require removal or re-siting of apparatus (para 10 (Schedule 4)</p> <p>Power to make representations on the extension or modification of functions of specific statutory undertakers (para 17 Schedule 4)</p> <p>Duty to publish a notice following representation made under paragraph 17 (para 20 Schedule 4)</p>	<p>Public Authority</p> <p>Powers corresponding to powers conferred on the Homes and Communities Agency (Homes England)</p>	<p>Yes - with the homes and communities agency</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

# HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
Housing and Regeneration Act 2008  Section 9(2)	Power to acquire land compulsorily	Public Authority  Powers corresponding to powers conferred on the Homes and Communities Agency (Homes England)	Yes	Mayor	Requires consent of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lead member of MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains any part of the relevant land;</li> <li>- Each city/district/borough council whose area contains any part of the relevant land.</li> </ul> Where exercise results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required	Mayoral power, so no voting
Housing Act 1985  Sections 8(1), 11, 12, 17 (excluding 17(3)) and 18	Duty to consider housing conditions and the needs of the area with respect to the provision of further housing accommodation (s8(1))  Power to provide board and laundry facilities in connection with the provision of housing accommodation (s11)  Power to provide shops, recreation grounds and other building having a beneficial purpose in connection with the provision of housing accommodation (s12)  Power to acquire land for housing purposes (s17)  Duty to ensure that buildings acquired that are houses or may be made suitable as a house are made suitable and used as housing accommodation (s18)	Local Authority  City Council and District/ Borough powers	Yes - with city/district/borough councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

## HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

<p>Housing Act 1985 Section 17(3)</p>	<p>Power to acquire land by agreement or compulsorily for housing purposes</p>	<p>Local Authority  City Council and District/ Borough powers</p>	<p>Yes - with city/district/borough councils</p>	<p>Mayoral</p>	<p>s17(3) (acquisition of land for housing purposes) requires consent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lead member of MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains the relevant land;</li> <li>- Each city/district/borough council whose area contains any part of the relevant area</li> </ul> <p>Where exercise of 17(3) results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required</p>	<p>Mayoral power, so no voting</p>
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# TRANSPORT

In the following Table references to the transition period are to a period, the length of which is to be determined between the making of the SI and the coming into effect of the full proposal in relation to powers

Legislative Provisions	Summary of provisions	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent required before MCCA or Mayoral exercise	Voting	When?
<b>Part II Transport Act 2000</b>							
Local transport plans and bus strategies (sections S108-113) (sections 110 to 11 repealed)	LA obligation to provide safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport options within their area. LAs must continue to review and replace their plan as they see fit. When developing their plan, LAs must take into consideration any guidance from the Government.	Local Authority  Upper tier councils	No - Transferred from upper tier councils	Mayor	None	S108-113 unanimous during transition period, otherwise 2/3 majority can amend the mayoral LTP	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.
Bus services: advanced quality partnership schemes (sections 113C to 113O)	These provisions relate to powers to make an advanced quality partnership scheme, the nature of such a scheme, the circumstances in which they can be made, the method by which they can be made, effect of schemes and powers to vary schemes.  The provisions also provide that regulations may be made by the Secretary of State in respect of schemes and that local transport authorities must have regard to any Secretary of State guidance in relation to carrying out their functions.	As above	Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils  Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.

# TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p>Bus services: franchising schemes (sections 123A to 123X)</p>	<p>A franchising authority or two or more such authorities acting jointly, may make a franchising scheme covering the whole or any part of its area. The arrangements are akin to the system operated by Transport for London.</p> <p>A franchising scheme is one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· under which the authority identifies the local services that it considers appropriate to be provided in an area under local service contracts;</li> <li>· by virtue of which those services may only be so provided in accordance with such contracts (subject to s.1230);</li> <li>· by virtue of which the authority may grant service permits for other local services which have a stopping place in that area (subject to s.123H(5)); and</li> <li>· under which it identifies additional facilities that it considers appropriate to provide in that area.</li> </ul> <p>If the authority decides to make a scheme it must make the scheme and publish it. It must specify the area to which it relates, the local services intended to be provided under local service contracts, the date on which the contracts may first be entered into and the minimum periods between the making of a contract and the provision of the service under it, it may specify sub-areas; the scheme may except specific services from regulation arising because of the scheme</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>Only exercisable with the consent from the affected constituent council</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>
<p>Bus services: advanced ticketing schemes (sections 134C to 134 G)</p>	<p>Details the provisions around using ticketing schemes on buses, consultations, notices and how to implement the scheme</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during the transition and continuing with upper tier councils</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

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## TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p>Bus services: enhanced partnership plans and schemes (sections 138A to 138S)</p>	<p>An enhanced partnership plan is a plan that: (a) specifies the area and the period to which the plan relates; (b) sets out an analysis of the local services provided in that area; (c) sets out policies relating to local services in that area; (d) sets out objectives as regards the quality and effectiveness of local services provided in that area by reference to that period; (e) describes how the related enhanced partnership scheme or schemes is or are intended to assist in implementing those policies and achieving those objectives; and (f) describes the intended effect of the related scheme or schemes on areas neighbouring the area to which the plan relates</p> <p>A plan or scheme must state whether it is to be reviewed and, if so, how and when this is to be completed. A plan must include a description of the authority's plans for consulting representatives of users of local services in order to seek their views on how well the plan and any related scheme are working</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>
<p>Bus services: provision of information (section 139 to 141A)</p>	<p>Each LA must provide the general public with information about their local bus services – like routes, timetabling, fares and information about concessions, facilities for disabled people etc</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>

# TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p>Bus services: miscellaneous (sections 142 to 143B)</p>	<p>Covers regulations on reducing or limiting pollution and requesting information about the services from local providers</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>
<p>Mandatory travel concessions for journeys not beginning on the London bus network (sections 145A to 150 (145 repealed))</p> <p>(except 145B and 147 (Wales only))</p>	<p>covers people travelling on a concession where their trip starts outside of London. This section gives details on what an eligible journey is. Further sections provide some definitions to help understand what people and journeys fit the criteria and how operators will be reimbursed</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during the transition period and continuing</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p>Financial and competition provisions (sections 152 to 159 (156 and 158 repealed) in so far as they contain functions of the constituent councils as local transport authorities</p>	<p>s.152 gives further details on the outsourcing of public transport detailed in s.89 onwards. S.153 deals with competition tests between LAs who have joined in ticketing schemes, quality partnership scheme etc. S.154 states the Secretary of State with the approval of the Treasury (as respects England) or the National Assembly for Wales (as respects Wales) may make grants to operators of eligible bus services towards their costs in operating those services. S.155 details sanctions that can be imposed on service providers for various infringements. S159 repeals s.3-5 transport act 1983</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during transition period</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>

# TRANSPORT *Continued*

Grants to bus service operators (s154)		Public Authority Secretary of State	Concurrent and continuing	Mayor	None	None	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Supplementary (Section 161 to 162)	Gives more guidance on statutory definitions, regulations and orders	Public Authority Secretary of State	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Chapters 2 and 3 of Part 3 (Workplace parking levy, General and supplementary) and Workplace Parking Levy (England Regulations 2009)		Local Authority  (charging authority which is the traffic authority (charging schemes can be made by a non-metropolitan local traffic authority (or jointly by more than one non-metropolitan local traffic authority), by an Integrated Transport Authority or combined authority and one or more eligible local traffic authorities, or the Secretary of State [or a strategic highways company]; a licencing authority or licencing authorities)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with the upper tier councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with consent of the affected constituent council	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis

# TRANSPORT *Continued*

<b>Highways Act 1980</b>							
Section 6 Highways Act 1980 (Delegation etc. of functions with respect to trunk roads etc)	This section deals with the highway authority's or minister's authority to delegate their functions to an LA for the maintenance and improvement of certain trunk roads. The delegation will be in agreement with the LA and the section expands on what cannot be delegated	Public Authority  Minister of Crown [or a strategic highway company]	Yes - with upper tier councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Sections 8 of the Highways Act 1980 (Agreements between local highway authorities [and strategic highways companies] for certain works)	Local highway authorities and strategic highways companies may enter into agreements with, for, or in relation to the construction, reconstruction, alteration, improvement or maintenance of a highway for which any party to the agreement are the highway authority	Local Authority  Local highway authorities [and strategic highway companies]	Yes - with upper tier councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.
<b>Part IV Transport Act 1985</b>							
<i>Passenger Transport Areas (section 57 to 62)</i>	Provisions relating to passenger transport areas  s.59 allows for PTEs to form a company in order to manage transport in the area but they'll need the approval of the SoS before this can take place. The SoS may also give direction on what the company should consider important in their strategy  Once a company has been formed the SoS may request that the PTE shall cease  s.61 and 62 provide more details on the running of the newly formed company, protection of employee benefits and division of the undertakings by the company	Local Authority  (In a non-metropolitan county in England and Wales, the county council, a non-metropolitan district council in England, Passenger Transport Executive for any integrated transport area, council operating a bus undertaking, public transport company or its controlling authority, a Passenger Transport Executive or a council or local authority)	Concurrent during the transition period with upper tier councils  Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period	MCCA		Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis

*Continued next page . . .*

# TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p><i>Passenger Transport in other areas (sections 63* to 71)</i></p>	<p>It is the duty of each county council to secure the provision of such passenger transport services as the council considers appropriate to secure to meet any public transport requirements within the county which would not in its view be met apart from any action taken by the council. Once the public transport requirements have been identified, the county council is entitled when deciding the appropriate level of public transport in its area to take into consideration the funds available and the source of the funds</p> <p>As soon as practicable after any occasion when they formulate new or altered policies for those purposes, any such council shall publish a statement of all policies so formulated by them</p> <p>Any non-metropolitan county or district council and Transport for London may enter an agreement with each other under which the council (or TfL) undertakes to contribute towards any expenditure incurred by the other party in providing subsidies for public passenger transport services</p> <p>s.66 removed the powers to run bus undertakings from non-metropolitan district councils in England or county or county borough councils in Wales specified in an order made by the Secretary of State, from a date stated in the order</p> <p>s.69 covers joint undertakings and transferring responsibilities to the company which has been formed under s.67 to run the council bus undertakings. Further sections explain some more of the regulations and exemptions with regard to council undertakings</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with upper tier councils</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>For s63-64, exercise of the MCCA's power is subject to the consent of the Constituent Councils</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>
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# TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p><i>Further Provisions (sections 72 to 79)</i></p>	<p>These provisions deal with the role of the controlling authority over the various transport companies that have been formed. It covers, who they should manage, how and for what purpose</p> <p>s.74 also provides rules on the directors of the public transport companies being elected as a council member</p> <p>s.75 deals with the power to acquire and dispose of shares in the companies which have been set up</p> <p>s.76 covers the auditing of the public transport companies – it's the duty of the controlling authority to arrange for this to happen</p> <p>s.78-79 covers entering into other agreements with other companies and the ability to guarantee loans</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with any relevant controlling authority</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>
<p><i>Miscellaneous (section 80* to 87)</i></p>	<p>Integrated Transport Authorities and Passenger Transport authorities must behave in a way that does not inhibit competition in the services of public transport sector.</p> <p>They must also provide adequate facilities so that buses can be properly maintained and that there are bus stations which are in their area.</p> <p>s.84 covers compensation for loss of employment.</p> <p>s.85 covers incorporation of passenger transport executives in authorities for their area. The SoS may by order make provision for the transfer of all functions, property, rights and liabilities of the Passenger Transport Executive for any integrated transport area or passenger transport area specified in the order to the Integrated Transport Authority or, as the case may be, the Passenger Transport Authority for that area</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during the transition period</p> <p>Transferred after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>

# TRANSPORT *Continued*

## Part 5 of the Transport Act 1985

<i>Expenditure on public passenger transport services (sections 88 to 92)</i>	<i>Refers to the spending on public passenger transport services and the ability to put these out to tender</i>	Local authority  (Any authority responsible for expenditure on public local transport, any local authority or any two or more local authorities acting jointly, Passenger Transport Executive, a county or district council operating any public passenger transport service, a parish council or community council, the Secretary of State)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	During the transition period, only exercisable with the consent of affected constituent councils	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
<i>Travel Concession Schemes (sections 93 to 101 (102 repealed))</i>	<i>Refers to any concessions the LA may want to introduce on public transport, the administration of these concessions working in conjunction with the service provider</i>	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of affected Constituent Councils.	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
<i>Travel concessions apart from schemes (sections 103 to 105)</i>	<i>Concessions which may fall outside of the schemes in the earlier section</i>	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of affected Constituent Councils.	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

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# TRANSPORT *Continued*

<b>Traffic Management Act 2004</b>						
Section 33	Relates to the bodies that can prepare and authorise a permit scheme	Local Authority (local highway authorities)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Section 33A	Details when a scheme can be put into action and who has authority to authorise a scheme	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Section 36	Details the different bodies which have the power to vary or revoke a permit scheme	As above	Concurrent and continuing	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Part 6 (Civil Enforcement of Traffic Contraventions) and paragraph 10 (designation of civil enforcement areas for moving traffic contraventions) of Schedule 8 (civil enforcement areas and enforcement authorities outside Greater London)	Details of what traffic infringements are able to be enforced	Local Authority (enforcement authority)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s)	Simple majority which includes the Mayor



# DEFINED TERMS

## **MCCA / CCA**

Mayoral Combined County Authority / Combined County Authority The proposed model of Governance for Greater Lincolnshire

## **Constituent Councils**

Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council

## **GLCCA**

Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

## **The Deal**

Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal signed on DD MM 2023

## **Functional Economic Area**

FEA – areas that share a number of similar economic factors with boundaries that ideally reflect the drivers of the local economy

Greater Lincolnshire is a FEA covering the communities and economy of Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire

## **GLA**

Greater London Authority

## **GLLEP**

Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership

## **GVA**

Gross Value Added – this is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in the area, industry or sector of an economy

## **MCA / CA**

Mayoral Combined Authority / Combined Authority - A similar model used in other areas such as North Yorkshire but not applicable in Greater Lincolnshire

## **The Area / CCA Area**

The Area covered by the proposed Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

## **LEP(s)**

Local Enterprise Partnership – partnerships between local authorities and businesses to help determine local economic priorities and undertake activities to drive economic growth and create local jobs

# **GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY PROPOSAL**

November 2023



# Have your say: Greater Lincolnshire Devolution

The consultation will run from 4 December 2023 until 5.00pm on 29 January 2024

**Across the country, devolution is moving important choices about local investment, infrastructure and training from government to local decision makers.**

Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council have secured a devolution deal with government worth over £750 million which, if progressed, means money and power can move from government to decision-makers in Greater Lincolnshire.

To seek this level of powers, money, and a say in how we spend it, local councils must produce a draft proposal and consult with you on it. The proposal sets out to government how devolution could work in Greater Lincolnshire including the creation of an independent body called a mayoral combined county authority.

The Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Proposal (the proposal), can be seen, in full at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution)

We are now seeking views before deciding whether to submit the proposal to government either in its current form or in an amended form. Whilst this consultation document summarises the proposal, **you should read the proposal in full before answering the questions.**

The proposal explains how we believe, if adopted, using powers and deciding how to spend money locally would improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people who live or work in our area through:

- improved local transport and roads
- improving training to ensure local people can take advantage of the new jobs
- help improve the environment and achieve net zero
- the provision of good quality housing
- boosting the economy by supporting local businesses to create new, high paid, high skilled jobs; and,
- enhanced digital services, like broadband

This initial proposal means:

- £24 million per annum for 30 years – worth £720m to level-up the whole of Greater Lincolnshire
- a stronger role in setting and delivering Greater Lincolnshire's priorities
- control over a range of powers and budgets currently administered by central government

- additional powers to tackle challenges and make the most of our economic potential so everyone who lives and works here benefits
- one-off £28.4m capital investment in Greater Lincolnshire's priorities
- a new mayor to give Greater Lincolnshire a louder voice, more influence, and a higher profile, locally, nationally and globally
- a combined county authority providing greater transparency and capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development and regeneration

The proposal would not mean removing or merging local councils. Each council would continue to exist and would still be responsible for most public services in the area. There will be no transfer of district and borough powers as part of the draft proposal.

## What do you think?

This consultation is an opportunity for everyone in the area to have their say about the devolution proposal. It is open to people who live or work in Greater Lincolnshire, businesses, community and voluntary groups, and other organisations in the area.

You can have your say by:

- Completing our online survey at [www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution)
- Completing this hard copy consultation document and returning to us in an envelope, to our freepost address by 29 January 2024

If you need support to take part, please contact 01522 555222.

At the end of the consultation all three councils will consider your views before deciding whether to agree our final proposal for submission to government. Following submission of the final proposal it will be considered by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. If the secretary of state is happy, laws are put in place so that the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority can be set up and start work with the election for a mayor in May 2025.

Your responses to this survey are intended to be anonymous. When completing open text responses, remember not to include personal or sensitive information.

## Section 1 – New jobs and business growth

The proposal, if adopted, would see decisions for infrastructure and economic growth projects in Greater Lincolnshire being taken locally. This would see some funding transferred to the area with investment locally prioritised to boost growth in key sectors of the local economy, including the UK Food Valley, Energy, Ports and logistics.

We believe that this will stimulate trade and economic growth, creating high skill jobs and improve living standards. The proposal includes:

- an investment fund of £24 million per annum over 30 years, worth £720m, which could speed up economic growth and innovation, and create opportunities for people, businesses, and communities
- a UK Food Valley Board to support the sector and attract new skills to deliver food chain automation and innovation

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal)

### Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to new jobs and business growth?

Please tick one box only

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree              | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know        |

---

## Section 2 – Education and training

The proposal, if adopted, will mean all the funding central government spends on adult skills and training in Greater Lincolnshire will be controlled and allocated locally.

If we have local control, we can work more closely with schools, colleges, universities, training providers and businesses.

The proposal details how doing this means in Greater Lincolnshire we could:

- develop work-focussed curriculums which give people access to the training local businesses need
- support residents to identify career opportunities and train or re-train so they have the skills they need to get good local jobs
- better meet local business needs by making sure Lincolnshire residents are equipped to take up exciting, new, skilled jobs
- encourage and provide mentoring, funding and other resources for entrepreneurs and small businesses
- work with public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire to support young people leaving care to achieve a positive start to their careers and adult life

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal)

### Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to education and training?

Please tick one box only

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree              | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know        |

## Section 3 – Roads, buses and transport

The proposal, if adopted, means the mayor and Greater Lincolnshire leaders could use their knowledge of the area to design a local transport plan which we believe would create better integrated road, rail and air travel for people, businesses and goods.

This could include improved walking and cycling options for residents, visitors and businesses and with the money and decision-making local, we believe the plan is more likely to become a reality.

The proposal includes plans for the combined county authority to become the local transport authority and address the matters residents tell us are important to them, for example:

- more affordable travel
- smart tickets on public transport to make moving around Greater Lincolnshire easier
- more reliable journeys, supported by investment in key routes across the area
- connecting people of all ages to family, friends, work, education, health, and leisure facilities
- improvement to transport in rural areas and improved services for rail passengers and freight

The proposal includes a multi-year transport budget that provides greater funding certainty to deliver local priorities, boost growth in the Greater Lincolnshire economy and keep people moving.

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal)

### **Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to roads, buses and transport?**

Please tick one box only

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree              | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know        |

---

## Section 4 – Homes and communities

The proposal, if adopted, means more local housing decisions could be made in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work with local authorities, Homes England, landowners, developers and the full range of housing providers to promote regeneration and create good quality housing options to meet current and future demand.

Local leaders would be able to bring forward investment in the infrastructure needed to unlock sites, support housing growth and develop housing projects that meet residents' needs and consider the area's environment and landscape.

It also explains plans to prioritise:

- working closely with planning authorities to identify, buy and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration
- the regeneration of areas and strategic sites through 'mayoral development areas' and 'mayoral development corporations'
- appropriate housing development to make sure residents can find suitable local homes
- new and existing homes that make sure sustainable building practices and green design standards are used to minimise environmental impact and promote energy efficiency
- a balance between development need, improved public transport and preserving green spaces and existing communities

The proposal includes £8.4m of funding, controlled locally to support and encourage new homes being built on brownfield land.

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal)

*Question 4 is on the next page >*

#### **Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to homes and communities?**

Please tick one box only

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree              | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know        |

---

## **Section 5 – Environment**

The proposal, if adopted, would support local leaders to balance economic development and the protection of the natural environment.

The proposal includes:

- plans for investment in conservation
- bringing together partners to agree and plan for the infrastructure required in Greater Lincolnshire that would support growth in green jobs
- a new partnership for water that focuses on flood prevention and water management programmes to support agriculture, tourism, green growth, communities and new housing
- a coastal partnership that promotes the natural and cultural heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast and tourism
- work with government to identify environmental priorities that could be incorporated into new environmental land management schemes - such as protection for top grade farmland across the UK Food Valley in Greater Lincolnshire
- implementing a local nature recovery strategy

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal)

#### **Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to the environment?**

Please tick one box only

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree              | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know        |

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## **Section 6 – Governance**

If the proposal is adopted, in order to get funding and powers to make the above ambitions a reality, something called a combined county authority (CCA) would be set up and a mayor would be directly elected by Greater Lincolnshire residents.

We believe this organisation would:

- receive the powers and money from central government and provide transparent local leadership
- simplify decision-making on strategic matters affecting Greater Lincolnshire
- promote Greater Lincolnshire and give us one, strong voice locally, nationally and internationally
- make it easier to work together locally and with central government
- secure even more long-term investment, including borrowing
- be able to generate revenue locally through a precept or levy, subject to certain conditions being met

- make sure things are done for the benefit of the whole of the Greater Lincolnshire area, representing residents, their communities and their interests

If the proposal is adopted, the CCA would be made up of:

- the mayor
- two representatives from each of North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, and Lincolnshire County Council who would have a vote on all matters
- four representatives from districts councils who would have a vote on some matters
- a police and crime commissioner
- a business leader

Some of the decisions would be made by the mayor with the majority being made by the CCA as a whole – the proposal sets out a number of safeguards that seek to manage the use of the new powers and funding and ensure the efficient and effective operation of the mayoral authority.

Section 4 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal)

**Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to governance?**

Please tick one box only

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree              | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know        |

**Q7. Please use this space to briefly share your comments or views about the Greater Lincolnshire devolution proposal or any of the questions above.**

Please write in the box below (please use additional paper if you need more space)

## About you

So that we can ensure we capture a diverse range of views through this consultation, it would be helpful if you could provide some information about yourself. This information is not compulsory, so please complete the questions where you feel comfortable.

### Q8. How are you responding to this consultation?

- I am responding on behalf of, or as a representative of, a business or organisation (go to question 9)
- I am a member of the public, giving my views as an individual (go to question 10)

Only answer question 9 if you are responding on behalf of a group or organisation

### Q9. Please select the sector that best describes your group or organisation:

Please tick one box only

- Local government
- Voluntary and community sector
- Elected representative
- Civil service or government
- Charity
- Academic
- Action group
- Transport
- Business (please answer Q9b-Q9d)
- Something else
- Prefer not to say

If 'something else' please state:

### Q9b. If you selected 'business' – please select the sector that best describes your business

Please tick one box only

- Manufacturing
- Food and drink manufacturing
- Creative and digital
- Health and life sciences
- Low carbon and environmental

*Options continue on next page >*



- Financial and professional services
- Something else
- Prefer not to say

If 'something else' please state:

**Q9c. What size organisation?**

Please tick one box only

- Large – a business with 250 or more employees
- Medium-sized – a business with 50 to 249 employees
- Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) - a business with 0 to 49 employees

**Q9d. Within which local authority area is your business located?**

Please tick one box only

- Boston Borough Council
- City of Lincoln Council
- East Lindsey District Council
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Kesteven District Council
- North Lincolnshire Council
- South Holland District Council
- South Kesteven District Council
- West Lindsey District Council
- Other/out of area, please state:

**If you have completed as a business or group this is the end of the survey.  
Please return your completed questionnaire to us in an envelope via our freepost  
address: Freepost GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION  
by 29 January 2024.**

Please complete the following questions only if you are responding as an individual.

**Q10. Please tell us in which local authority area you live (this is the council that collects your bins).**

Please tick one box only

- Boston Borough Council
- City of Lincoln Council
- East Lindsey District Council
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Kesteven District Council
- North Lincolnshire Council
- South Holland District Council
- South Kesteven District Council
- West Lindsey District Council
- Other/out of area, please state:

**Q11. How do you describe your gender identity?**

Please tick one box only

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to describe as, please state:

**Q12. How old are you?**

Please tick one box only

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+
- Prefer not to say

**Q13. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**

Please tick all that apply

- No
- Yes, a learning disability
- Yes, a mental health disability
- Yes, a sensory impairment (for example hearing or vision)
- Yes, a physical disability
- Prefer not to say

**Q14. What is your ethnic group identity?**

Please tick one box only

- White – English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White – Irish
- White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White – Roma
- White - Any other white background, please state:

- Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed – White and Black African
- Mixed – White and Asian
- Mixed – Any other Mixed background, please state:

- Asian or Asian British – Indian

*Options continue on next page >*

- Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British – Chinese
- Asian or Asian British – Any other Asian background, please state:

- Black or Black British – Caribbean
- Black or Black British – African
- Black or Black British – Any other Black background, please state:

- Other ethnic group, please state:

- Prefer not to say

**Q15. What is your religion?**

Please tick one box only

- None
- Christian (all denominations)
- Buddhist
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Jewish
- Hindu
- Any other religion
- Prefer not to say

**Q16. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?**

Please tick one box only

- Heterosexual or straight
- Gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to describe:

**Q17. Do you think the proposal could have a positive or negative impact on you or someone you care for, or support, with regard to any of the following?**

Please select all that apply.

	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	Don't know
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex (gender)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (ethnicity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have identified any potential impacts, please tell us more about it and include any suggestions about how any negative impacts could be reduced:

**Thank you. What you have told us will help decision makers choose what happens next. Please return your completed questionnaire to us in an envelope via our freepost address: Freepost GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION by 29 January 2024.**



SCAN



ME

# Equality Impact Analysis

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- (i) help decision makers fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and
- (ii) for you to evidence the positive and adverse impacts of the proposed change on people with protected characteristics and ways to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts.

## Using this form

This form must be updated and reviewed as your evidence evolves on proposals for a:

- project
- service change
- policy
- commissioning of a service
- decommissioning of a service

You must take into account any:

- consultation feedback
- significant changes to the proposals
- data to support impacts of the proposed changes

The key findings of the most up to date version of the Equality Impact Analysis must be explained in the report to the decision maker. The Equality Impact Analysis must be attached to the decision-making report.

**\*\*Please make sure you read the information below so that you understand what is required under the Equality Act 2010\*\***

## Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 applies to both our workforce and our customers. Under the Equality Act 2010, decision makers are under duty, to have due (that is proportionate) regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics.

## Protected characteristics

The protected characteristics under the Act are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

## **Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010**

Section 149 requires a public authority to 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 relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share those characteristics
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The purpose of Section 149 is to get decision makers to consider the impact their decisions may or will have on those with protected characteristics. By evidencing the impacts on people with protected characteristics decision makers should be able to demonstrate 'due regard'.

### **Decision makers duty under the Act**

Having had careful regard to the Equality Impact Analysis, and also the consultation responses, decision makers are under a duty to have due regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics (see above) and to:

- (i) consider and analyse how the decision is likely to affect those with protected characteristics, in practical terms.
- (ii) remove any unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other prohibited conduct.
- (iii) consider whether practical steps should be taken to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences that the decision is likely to have, for persons with protected characteristics and, indeed, to consider whether the decision should not be taken at all, in the interests of persons with protected characteristics.
- (iv) consider whether steps should be taken to advance equality, foster good relations and generally promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics, either by varying the recommended decision or by taking some other decision.

## **Conducting an impact analysis**

The Equality Impact Analysis is a process to identify the impact or likely impact a project, proposed service change, commissioning, decommissioning or policy will have on people with protected characteristics listed above. It should be considered at the beginning of the decision-making process.

### **The Lead Officer responsibility**

This is the person writing the report for the decision maker. It is the responsibility of the Lead Officer to make sure that the Equality Impact Analysis is robust and proportionate to the decision being taken.

### **Summary of findings**

You must provide a clear and concise summary of the key findings of this Equality Impact Analysis in the decision-making report and attach this Equality Impact Analysis to the report.



## Impact

**An impact is an intentional or unintentional lasting consequence or significant change to people's lives brought about by an action or series of actions.**

### **How much detail to include?**

The Equality Impact Analysis should be proportionate to the impact of proposed change. In deciding this ask simple questions:

- who might be affected by this decision?
- which protected characteristics might be affected?
- how might they be affected?

These questions will help you consider the extent to which you already have evidence, information and data. It will show where there are gaps that you will need to explore. Ensure the source and date of any existing data is referenced.

You must consider both obvious and any less obvious impacts. Engaging with people with the protected characteristics will help you to identify less obvious impacts as these groups share their perspectives with you.

A given proposal may have a positive impact on one or more protected characteristics and have an adverse impact on others. You must capture these differences in this form to help decision makers to decide where the balance of advantage or disadvantage lies. If an adverse impact is unavoidable, then it must be clearly justified and recorded as such. An explanation must be stated as to why no steps can be taken to avoid the impact. Consequences must be included.

### **Proposals for more than one option**

If more than one option is being proposed, you must ensure that the Equality Impact Analysis covers all options. Depending on the circumstances, it may be more appropriate to complete an Equality Impact Analysis for each option.

**The information you provide in this form must be sufficient to allow the decision maker to fulfil their role as above. You must include the latest version of the Equality Impact Analysis with the report to the decision maker. Please be aware that the information in this form must be able to stand up to legal challenge.**

## Background information

Details	Response
<b>Title of the policy, project or service being considered</b>	Devolution to a Greater Lincolnshire (GL) Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA).
<b>Service area</b>	Joint assessment by Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council (LCC, NELC & NLC respectively)
<b>Person or people completing the analysis</b>	Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) - Lee Sirdifield, Samantha Long, Matthew Garrard, Justin Brown, Daniel Larkin, Marie Mettam, Sarah Moody, Kate Sobstyl, and Samantha Hardy  North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) - Stephen McGrath, Ian Hollingsworth, Paul Ellis  North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) – Sophie Day
<b>Lead officer</b>	Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director for Corporate (LCC)
<b>Who is the decision maker?</b>	Three Upper Tier Councils/Executives (LCC, NELC and NLC)
<b>How was the Equality Impact Analysis undertaken?</b>	Kick off Meeting (22 May 2023) Workshop Meeting (06 June 2023) Review Meeting (04 July 2023) Review Meeting (20 September 2023) Review Meeting (16 October 2023) Other sessions as relevant After the consultation TBC  Analysis taken in conjunction with devolution deal asks and statistics from GL population.  This is a live document and will be reviewed throughout the process.
<b>Date of meeting when decision will be made</b>	The decision regarding whether to proceed with the devolution deal will be taken by mid-2024  We will review and update this document at all major milestones including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deal agreed</li> <li>• Proposal agreed</li> <li>• Consultation mid way point (January 2024)</li> <li>• Consultation results (February-March 2024)</li> <li>• Statutory Instrument passed through Parliament</li> </ul>

Details	Response
<b>Is this a proposed change to an existing policy, service, project or is it new?</b>	GL is proposing a new Deal with the Government for devolved powers across GL, managed by an MCCA.
<b>Version control</b>	v.1.2
<b>Is it LCC directly delivered, commissioned, recommissioned, or decommissioned?</b>	Joint assessment by Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council (LCC, NELC & NLC respectively)
<b>Describe the proposed change</b>	A proposal for the establishment of a GL (GL) Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). A proposal to devolve powers and budgets from the UK Government to GL to be managed by a new MCCA. The deal proposes changes in six key areas, as outlined in the Growth, Energy and Food vision document.

## Equality Impact Assessment Context

This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted in the context of the proposed GL Devolution Deal agreed between Central Government and the 3 Upper Tier Authorities of the region (Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council).

This deal will implement a transfer of funding and powers currently held at the level of central government and bring them closer to local people and controlled at a Greater Lincolnshire Level through a Mayoral Combined County Authority.

All 10 Local Authorities (Upper and Lower Tier) will see no change to their current structure and continue to have authority and responsibility over everything that they presently do, with the exception of transport powers which will transfer from the upper tier authorities to the Mayoral Combined County Authority. There will be no change to day-to-day practice. The GL MCCA if established, will consult with, and work alongside the Local Authorities in the GL area.

This EIA is a process to identify the impact or likely impact of this project upon the people of GL who are part of one of the protected characteristic groups listed above, and it seeks to consider a large variety of possible implications to ensure that it reflects and considers the diversity of GL.

The EIA will be updated following the public consultation, and additionally updated both at the mid-point of the consultation and following its conclusion to ensure that any additional impacts that are identified are given due consideration within this document.

## **Understanding those with an interest in the decision**

The EIA shows due consideration to those who have an interest in devolution to GL which covers a wide range of demographics. This emphasises the importance of making the entire process accessible and understandable for all within the region, and where negative implications have been identified it seeks to provide mitigations to limit any negative possible effects.

This EIA will sit alongside the public consultation process. The consultation will be open to all residents across GL and will seek their views on the devolution proposal that has been agreed with government, which will then be considered locally and nationally before moving forward.

The consultation will be available in a variety of forms, including but not limited to; online access, hard paper copies in public locations, easy read for those with any form of learning disabilities, and a British Sign Language (BSL) version. This will give due consideration to all groups of people within GL.

# Greater Lincolnshire Geography, Statistics and Challenges

## Summary

GL is a large geographical area combining urban, rural and coastal areas. GL has coastal and low-lying regions and our diverse geography is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with high risks from flooding impacting on homes, communities and limiting coastal tourism in the warmer seasons.

GL's population has grown by almost 55,000 people in the 10 years to 2021. Lincoln City area grew the most (11.1%) increasing by over 10,000 since the 2011 Census. North East Lincolnshire was the only area with a decreased population, dropping over 2,000 (-1.7%).

16% of the population (175,000) (as of the 2021 census) are aged under 15 years. There are more people in this age group compared with 2011. However, as a proportion of the overall population, the size of the group has decreased (170,000, 16.4% in 2011).

61.1% of the GL population in 2021 (669,000) were aged 15 to 64 years. There are more people in this age group compared with 2011 (when 664,000 were aged 15 to 64 years), but as a proportion of the overall population there has been a decrease in the size of this group (63.8% in 2011).

The ageing population trend has continued, with more people than ever before in the older age groups. 22.8%, (249,000) of the population in 2021 were aged 65 years and over, up from 19.8% (206,000) in 2011. The size of the population aged 90 years and over (11,100 or 1.0% of the population) has increased since 2011, when 8,800 or 0.8% were aged 90 and over. GL's ageing population has increased 30% faster than the rest of the UK since 2020.

More people in GL define themselves as being religious compared to those who do not. 596,727 said that they were affiliated to a form of religion. This is equal to approximately 54.5% of the entire population.

According to 2021 Census Data 10.4% (approximately 113,880) of the population belong to what would be identified as minority ethnic groups in GL which is less than the England figure of 18%.

GL has a higher rate of disability than the national figure, with a total of 211,250 people having a form of disability which either limits them a little or a lot. This equates to 19.3% of the population of the area and therefore above the national figure of 17.7%.

The 2021 Census information confirms that 24,207 people identified with an LGB+ orientation ("Gay or Lesbian", "Bisexual" or "Other sexual orientation"). This equates to 2.7% of those eligible to answer this question in GL, which is slightly lower than the England and Wales figure of 3.2%.

Census data analysis reveals that 62,648 people (approximately 6.3% of GL) don't have English as their main language.

GL faces increasing challenges which are not helped by the rurality and unique geography of the region. GL has few motorways, dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality. Costs are often higher and greater investment is required. Access to both higher and further education is

hampered by poor digital connectivity, limiting the development of the skill-base needed within the population.

There are also currently 149,700 people in GL (22.7%) that are economically inactive when compared to the UK figure of 21.3% which presents a wide challenge.

Public spending per head is below average when compared against the UK. The economy has an over-reliance on seasonal jobs, whether that is in tourism or agriculture. The area has carbon-rich heavy industry which is critical to the UK but sees challenges in terms of the green agenda. Education attainment lags behind our neighbours and the rest of the UK with only 29% of our working age residents having a Level 4 Qualification or above.

# Positive impacts

The proposed change may have the following positive impacts on persons with protected characteristics.

Protected characteristic	Response
Age	<p><b>Young People (0-25)</b></p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>In GL 16.0% of the population (175,000) are aged under 15 years according to the 2021 census<sup>1</sup>. This generation will see the greatest impact of climate change on the environment in their lifetime. GL is pivotal to the nation becoming a net energy exporter by 2040 and achieving net zero. Devolution to GL is a fundamental part of investing in the North Sea and the onshore infrastructure required to expand our renewable capacity and innovate in carbon capture.</p> <p>Through working towards net zero and investing in renewable energy in GL, younger people will benefit from a green future, cleaner air and opportunities for highly skilled jobs, allowing them to develop a career locally. Through devolution, we are asking for a more co-ordinated approach between relevant stakeholders to the environment and green growth. This will enhance the reputation of GL as a technology leader in renewable energy and carbon capture, attracting further investment and people to the area which will secure a strong future for young people.</p> <p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>The average increase in median age in 2021 when comparing to the 2011 census across GL was approximately 1.7 years<sup>2,3</sup>.</p> <p>West Lindsey, East Lindsey and South Kesteven all saw their median age increase by 3 years. The use of devolved funds for programmes led by DWP, DfE, and other government sponsored training provisions to a local level will enable support to be tailored to specific areas so that training can be commissioned and targeted on local need. The City of Lincoln was the only local authority area that saw a decrease in its median age, and this was by 1 year from 34 to 33.</p> <p>Over 45,500 children under the age of 16 in GL were living in relative low-income families in 2022, equating to an average figure across all local authorities of 25% in</p>

<sup>1</sup> Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

<sup>2</sup> 2011 Census: Key Statistics for Local Authorities in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>3</sup> Population and household estimates, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)



Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>GL. These figures were high across almost all areas, particularly Lincoln 30.5%, East Lindsey 31.4% and Boston 31.1%<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>The development of an industry-led GL Careers service will benefit people of all ages and will positively impact on those who may not currently be able to access career services.</p> <p>Given that all areas apart from the City of Lincoln district have shown increases in the average age of the population from the 2011 Census to 2021, this has the potential to impact greatly on the population of GL and it is important that our residents are aware of the wide range of opportunities available to them.</p> <p>The potential to innovate and adapt loans and allowances and funding rules to encourage more adults to train, will help support an increasingly older population, along with a devolved Adult Education Budget.</p> <p>The addition of the opportunity to work with Government to test and design viable solutions to the workforce challenges faced by further education and adult education, will support to remove those barriers faced by those who may be prepared to leave industries and teach the new generation of learners.</p> <p>The roll out of higher-level technical qualifications, working with the area's further education colleges in the area's priority economic sectors will support a more diverse range of ages through the range of educational opportunities. The use of Skills Bootcamps will help to raise skills levels in those occupations which have hard to fill vacancies in critical roles. The development of bespoke apprenticeship arrangements will further diversify the range of opportunities available to those who may have missed out on educational opportunities earlier in life.</p> <p>Of specific benefit to younger people is the proposal to establish a duty to co-operate to enable support for employment and training provisions for those leaving care, along with increased support to access apprenticeships. This will benefit vulnerable young people in their transition from care to training and career or job opportunities.</p> <p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>The environment is of great interest to young people. Woodland Trust research published in March 2023 found that 16-24s are more likely to be 'very worried' about climate change, so devolution plans to address environmental matters will help this passion to be harnessed<sup>5</sup>. Taking local control of environmental policy will</p>

<sup>4</sup> DWP Stat-Xplore, Children in Low Income Families, local authority by age and ONS Nomis, Population Estimates, local authority by age

<sup>5</sup> Young People's Climate Anxiety Soaring - Woodland Trust

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>help improve and accelerate green economy benefits, in which northern Lincolnshire is a global leader. Ultimately young people and future generations will benefit most from protected resources and investment.</p> <p>Nature is close to most of our residents. However, a survey by Natural England in 2019 found that GL had the second lowest level of residents in England spending time visiting a nature site over the previous month that was recorded<sup>6</sup>. Having a variety of accessible wildlife sites that are well promoted is important for improving the physical and mental health of our residents.</p> <p>It is important to promote nature sites and coastal resorts in order to encourage residents to take part in physical activity. GL has statistics comfortably above the national average when considering weight and obesity levels. According to the latest public health data (2021/22), South Holland and West Lindsey have the two largest percentages of adults classed as overweight or obese in England. South Holland with 77.6% and West Lindsey with 77.3%. North East Lincolnshire is 11th on the list with 73.5%<sup>10</sup>. All but two local authority areas in GL have a score of over 70% with South Kesteven and East Lindsey the only two below this level with scores of 64.3% and 68% respectively<sup>11</sup>.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>Of the 175,000 people aged under 15 years<sup>7</sup>, many rely heavily on public transport to get them to where they need to be and require an improved and reliable service which a devolution deal will allow GL to provide. The Campaign to Protect Rural England found 86% of the 16-25 year olds who want to leave rural areas surveyed cite infrequent and unreliable public transport as an important concern<sup>8</sup>.</p> <p>The devolution proposal put forward has requested a multi – year transport infrastructure settlement to be devolved to local leaders to support the delivery of a joint local transport plan which covers road, rail, freight, public transport, walking and cycling. The freedom of controlling these powers and funding locally will allow the resources to be directed into the areas that need them most and support many of the young people who need these services. GL MCCA is also requesting, a multi– year transport and travel settlement to be devolved to local leaders which is to include all funding for public transport and active travel, all of which are currently disparate.</p>

<sup>6</sup> Monitor\_Engagement\_Natural\_Environment\_2018\_2019\_v2.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>7</sup> Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

<sup>8</sup> Rural eastern England a public transport desert, MPs told - BBC News

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Additionally, a devolved and consolidated integrated local transport budget for GL, to provide long term certainty and commitment to transport will assist young people.</p> <p><b>Innovation and Trade</b></p> <p>The growth of the Innovation and Trade sector in GL will be extremely positive for young people. It is important that the area is seen as a good place to live and work when young people are working through school and obtaining qualifications. In the devolution proposal we have requested to pilot four centres of innovation targeting food technology (Holbeach), advanced manufacturing (Scunthorpe), decarbonisation (Stallingborough) and defence (Lincoln). These cover wide ranging sectors and offer variety to young people who are looking for possible careers in GL. GL also wants to see a Regional Defence and Security Cluster which will be a positive option for those young people looking to move into GL’s rich heritage of defence.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>More than three-quarters (76%) of young people who want to move away say that poor digital connectivity has influenced their desire to leave their rural area, according to research commissioned by the Campaign to Protect Rural England<sup>9</sup>. Speeding up access roll out as part of devolution could help slow this rate of departure and the resulting loss of skills.</p> <p>Through a devolution deal for GL, additional funding will allow for a planned approach to strategic and long-term investment in digital infrastructure that closes the gap with other areas of the UK. The positive impact of this for young people will be that businesses will have the confidence to invest and relocate to the area and it will enable existing businesses in the area to improve productivity. This will enable them to provide more opportunities for young people to access highly skilled jobs in the future and build careers locally.</p> <p>Improved digital infrastructure will also give young people greater choice and flexibility over how they choose to work in the future and the jobs they can access. Reliable high-speed connectivity and mobile signal opens up learning and job opportunities outside of the area that would otherwise mean relocation was necessary. Young people will also benefit from the improved connectivity in educational and social settings which will enrich their life experience. Parents being able to access highly skilled, high wage jobs in the GL will also benefit young people through growing up in an area with a thriving local economy which attracts investment and offers greater experiences and quality of life.</p>

<sup>9</sup> CPRE survey reveals the factors pushing young people out of the countryside - CPRE

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>National data shows how young people struggle to access housing in all areas, but especially rural places. Of the 16-25 year olds surveyed by YouGov (alongside The Countryside Charity) in 2021, 72% of those living in rural areas say affordable housing is their top concern. 84% of those who want to leave their rural homes say it is an important factor in making their decision. Investment as part of devolution will make affordable, decent homes available in the right places to address this challenge<sup>10</sup>.</p> <p><b>Working aged people</b></p> <p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>By devolving the Adult Education Budget, we aim to widen participation of adult learning, improving access to better paid employment and higher-level qualifications. This will enable GL to access improved Higher Education (HE) &amp; Further Education (FE) provisions through the devolution of the Adult Education Budget.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>61.1% of the GL population in 2021 (669,000) were aged 15 to 64 years<sup>11</sup>. The working age population in GL will benefit from the devolution asks mentioned above in similar ways to young people. In addition to these asks, devolution also presents opportunities to ensure that timely investment decisions can be achieved locally to enable new technologies to come to the market faster, this will benefit working age people in terms of the environmental benefits of these technologies as well as new job opportunities and access to greener, more secure forms of energy and water.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>GL is a large geography with limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality. There are 149,700 people in GL (22.7%) (<a href="#">Q3, 2022 data</a>) that are economically inactive when compared to the UK figure of 21.3%<sup>12</sup>. This has the possibility of being offset by the development of an improved and accessible transport offer, to encourage people to return to or remain in the workplace.</p>

<sup>10</sup> CPRE survey reveals the factors pushing young people out of the countryside - CPRE

<sup>11</sup> Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

<sup>12</sup> ONS Annual Population Survey, Q3 2022

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>GL is also requesting a devolved and consolidated integrated local transport budget, to provide long term certainty and a commitment to transport. This certainty and reliability is crucial for residents knowing that they can get from A to B without any concerns and this is what we strive to achieve through the freedom of devolution.</p> <p><b>Innovation and Trade</b></p> <p>Working Aged people will benefit extensively from a GL Devolution Deal. We believe that it will allow our key sectors to grow and become internationally competitive. GL is a High Potential Opportunity for industrial decarbonisation, and aquaculture. These sectors will continue to grow through devolution and produce skilled jobs for the population. Domestic and Foreign Investment will make GL a key player in these industries and will be hugely appealing to the working aged population.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>With greater digital skills and access, brought about by devolution supercharging, flexible working opportunities will be enhanced for this group, which demonstrably enhances quality of life.</p> <p>Working age people will benefit from the devolution asks around digital infrastructure and connectivity in a similar way to young people in terms of greater opportunities to access highly skilled and high wage jobs and the benefits of greater business productivity and investment in the area. Working age people will also benefit from GL having the ability to develop a more collaborative approach to smart cities, smart homes and connected places. Smart cities use data and technology to create efficiencies, improve sustainability, create economic development, and enhance quality of life factors for people living and working in the city, this can be achieved with access to modern digital infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>The devolution deal will see a partnership with Homes England and the agreement of a pipeline of housing development. This will include a focus on affordable housing which could be of particular benefit to young adults.</p> <p>GLs housing asks have the ambition of enabling the possibility of home ownership to reach as many people as possible. This comes through the development of more affordable housing through collaboration with the private sector.</p> <p><b>Older people</b></p> <p>There is an ageing population in GL, with more people than ever before in the older age groups. 22.8%, (249,000) of the population in 2021 were aged 65 years and over, up from 19.8% (206,000) in 2011. The size of the population aged 90 years and</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>over (11,100 or 1.0% of the population) has increased since 2011, when 8,800 or 0.8% were aged 90 and over.<sup>13</sup></p> <p><b>Employment and skills</b></p> <p>Older workers looking to regain employment or to progress their skills, will also benefit from the devolution of an adult education budget.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>Older people are known to be most at risk from climate related effects such as exposure to air pollution and overheating. In the past two decades, heat-related deaths among people aged 65 and above have almost doubled globally, reaching approximately 300,000 deaths in 2018. The 2022 European summer resulted in 9,226 heat-related deaths among people aged 65-79 years with an increase to 36,848 deaths for those aged 80 and over<sup>14</sup>. Devolution to GL and the opportunities this presents to expand our renewable energy capacity and develop carbon capture technology locally, will help to mitigate these effects and give older people a greener environment to help them live healthily for longer.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>In GL we want investment in public transport connectivity and infrastructure so that it no longer holds back our economy, with improvements reducing isolation and loneliness for our more vulnerable residents.</p> <p>The asks of the GL devolution deal want to see a planned approach to strategic and long-term investment for transport which will be achieved effectively with decision makers, funders and influencers and help deliver for all our residents including the older age group. Improved transport will also give greater access to healthcare, reduce isolation and improve independence for GL's older population.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>Older people are less likely to use or have skills to use the internet and therefore devolution investment in this area might enhance their skills to benefit their lives.</p> <p>Older people will also benefit from business sustainability and investment in GL, which will make it a place where people will continue to want to live and retire to. Access to reliable high-speed digital connections will have a positive impact on older</p>

<sup>13</sup>Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

<sup>14</sup> Why older people are some of those worst affected by climate change (theconversation.com) (Gary Haq Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>people since it will allow them to stay connected to friends and family. Improved digital connectivity allows for the development of more smart homes, with assistance around the home that will allow older people to stay and manage in their own homes for longer and avoid having to move into specialist facilities or care homes.</p> <p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>Innovation, net zero target control and energy security that form part of the proposal will reduce costs, helping those older people currently living in fuel poverty. In 2022, the Centre for Ageing Better reported that an estimated 2.5million over 60s would be in fuel poverty in 2023<sup>15</sup>.</p> <p>Excess winter deaths are highest among older people. Housing is a known wider determinant of health and therefore providing decent, efficient homes can improve health and reduce negative outcomes for this group in particular.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	<p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>A more comprehensive industry led approach to GL’s careers service will lead to a higher awareness of jobs that can be performed by those with different abilities. This is of particular importance within GL as there is a higher rate of disability than the national level, with GL having a total of 211,250 people having a form of disability which either limits them a little or a lot<sup>16</sup>. This equates to 19.3% of the population of the area and therefore above the national figure of 17.7%.</p> <p>Being able to innovatively use funding will open more possibilities to direct resources to tackle employment barriers for people with disabilities. East Lindsey is the area where the highest percentage of the population had a form of disability, with 22.2%, which translates to 31,591 people. South Kesteven saw the lowest figure in relation to this with 17.1% of the population or 24,521 residents<sup>17</sup>.</p> <p>Within the area of GL, all three upper tier local authorities have a higher than average figure for the disability employment gap in 2022/23. Lincolnshire at 28.2%, North Lincolnshire at 33.8% and North East Lincolnshire at 29% are all higher than the UK figure of 28%<sup>18</sup>.The devolution proposal to work with Government to test and design viable solutions to workforce challenges would provide significant benefit to those with a disability as they traditionally face greater workforce challenges. The pilot will include supporting those with a disability into the teaching</p>

<sup>15</sup> Ageing Better responds to new statistics showing 25% increase in fuel poverty among over 60s | Centre for Ageing Better (ageing-better.org.uk)

<sup>16</sup> [Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

<sup>17</sup> [Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

<sup>18</sup> [The employment of disabled people 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\) \(Table LMS008\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>workforce from industry. In addition, it could support carers of those with a disability to overcome workforce challenges.</p> <p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>Nature benefits everybody including people with disabilities. This is a simple and effective way of enhancing well-being. Increased promotion and accessibility of the Lincolnshire Coast and Humber Estuary, as well as natural assets across GL, benefit everyone. Natural England has already begun to investigate how to improve coastal access along a 53km stretch of the Norfolk and Lincolnshire coast between Hunstanton and Sutton Bridge<sup>19</sup>, in addition to a 92km stretch of the coast between Sutton Bridge and Skegness<sup>20</sup>.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>The devolution deal will positively impact those with disabilities in GL and help make their lives in terms of the journeys they make, as easy as possible. Devolution will present the ability to work with agencies and providers to improve the transport arrangements within Greater Lincolnshire over time, which will be of a significant benefit to those with disabilities.</p> <p>A multi-year transport infrastructure settlement devolved to local leaders will support the delivery of a joint local transport plan which covers road, rail, freight, public transport, walking and cycling and crucially help the large number of those in our area that are disadvantaged and help to make it as accessible as possible.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>People with disabilities will benefit from improved digital connectivity through increased reliability of access, allowing them to stay connected more easily. Improved digital connectivity could open up more employment opportunities for people with disabilities as it gives them more flexible working options including the ability to work from home full time if they desire.</p>

<sup>19</sup> King Charles III England Coast Path: Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

<sup>20</sup> King Charles III England Coast Path: Sutton Bridge to Skegness - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))



Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>People with any type of disability can also benefit from GL having further ability to develop more smart homes as a result of improved digital connectivity which will be supported by a devolution deal. For example, those with more minor care requirements could be aided by support through digital means, for instance where a carer may need to provide advisory help rather than physical assistance. This will also help to provide a more efficient care service and particularly help those with more complex needs.</p> <p>Digital improvements will allow people in some instances, to manage more easily around the home, have more choice over their living arrangements, and the ability to stay in their own homes for longer. This is particularly relevant in more isolated, rural areas where if digital connectivity can be improved and can be relied upon, help and assistance can more easily be provided but it will also ensure people can maintain independence for themselves.</p>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>There are 1,924 people in GL who have a gender identity that is different to birth. In addition, a total of 4,082 people across the region either have a different gender identity to birth, are Transgender, Non-Binary or other gender identities. There were 709 Trans Women in GL in 2021 and 732 Trans Men. 422 Identified as non-Binary and 295 identified as Other<sup>21</sup>.</p> <p>A high quality, industry led careers service as part of a devolution deal will help to encourage more diverse workforces and contribute to breaking down stereotypes which may exist in certain industries, therefore opening up more career prospects for all.</p> <p>The impact of being able to adapt and use innovative approaches to funding would mean we could target training to address any imbalance in the workforce in our local industries as there will be increased opportunities to train. This would be further supported by having flexibility with how the Adult Education Budget (AEB) is spent and would mean GL could target training to support adequate representation in relation to our local industries.</p> <p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>It is recognised that the positive impacts on wellbeing created by the availability of great natural environments is a benefit for all people.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p>

<sup>21</sup> Gender identity, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>An improved transport system through devolution makes the life of residents better. GL Devolution will allow funding and powers to be locally controlled and targeted at those areas and people who need help the most. It's important that any developments have a positive impact on this group and in GL there is creation of a transport system that is open to all and is more wide-ranging to cater for the needs of all groups, which a multi-year transport and travel settlement as well as an infrastructure settlement will allow GL to do.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposals will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p><b>Marriage and civil partnership</b></p>	<p>The proposal should benefit people across the area irrespective of their marital or civil partnership status.</p> <p>It will be beneficial to monitor this protected characteristic when carrying out the consultation which is planned, to build a stronger evidence base upon which to assess potential impacts on these individuals.</p> <p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits to all residents, it is unlikely that these proposals will see a particular impact for this protected group. However, this will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised.</p> <p>North Kesteven had the highest value of eligible people who had been either married or in a Civil Partnership with 50.6%. The City of Lincoln had the lowest number with 39.1% of the population falling into this category and incidentally had the highest number of those who had never been married or been in a civil partnership with 39.8% compared to the England and Wales figure of 37.9%<sup>22</sup>.</p>

<sup>22</sup> Marriage and civil partnership status in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>However, many jobs are focused in the City of Lincoln area and many residents of GL choose to commute. Therefore, these people need to be supported with simple access routes into the city. We want to see a devolved and consolidated integrated local transport budget for GL, to provide long term certainty and commitment to transport in GL which allows people to trust and rely on the system in place. We have requested a multi-year transport which will include all funding for public transport and active travel, all of which are currently disparate.</p>
<p><b>Pregnancy and maternity</b></p>	<p>GL as of 2021 has a birth rate of 1.62 children per woman. The England and Wales figure was 1.61<sup>23</sup>.</p> <p>A Government Equalities Office Report from 2019 showed that nationally, fewer than one-in-five of all new mothers, and 29 per cent of first-time mothers, return to full-time work in the first three years after maternity leave. This falls to 15 per cent after five years<sup>24</sup>. It is important that any devolution deal for GL helps to improve these figures and make the workplace accessible for those returning.</p> <p>The Proposal in relation to investment, employment and skills, may also benefit women who wish to re-enter employment after having a family. The availability of good and reliable public transport can be particularly important for families which have no access to their own vehicle or to single vehicle owning households, to enable them to access services. The improved choice and availability of housing will also offer more flexibility for extended families.</p> <p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>The use of devolved funds to shape and delivery a high quality, industry led GL careers service will provide more flexible opportunities and support for parents returning to work following a career break. Additionally, where retraining is needed for career switchers, innovative use of loans, allowances and funding rules along with the development of boot camps could support parents returning to work. This advantage will also be contributed to by flexible use of the Adult Education Budget (AEB).</p> <p>Working with Government to test and design viable solutions to the workforce challenges faced by further and adult education can help get residents moving from low value jobs that can be automated, into high value jobs.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>A multi – year transport infrastructure settlement will allow GL to make the improvements necessary to public transport to assist pregnant women and those on</p>

<sup>23</sup> Births in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>24</sup> How women's employment changes after having a child | Understanding Society

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>maternity leave with young children to access better transport facilities and receive an improved service.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>Although not a replacement for in-person pregnancy and maternity care, improved digital connectivity in GL will help expectant and new mothers to access services where they are offered online to support the midwife and hospital care they receive in-person. Health visitor activities (where appropriate) could be delivered through a digital means, for example roles where the Health Visitor is acting in an advisory or review capacity where they do not need to see the child in person. An improved digital offer through devolution will help to improve the efficiency of the service on offer.</p> <p>This can help prevent them from having to travel long distances to clinics, especially if they live in rural areas. Services like online forums to ask questions to midwives and health care professionals can be made easier for people to access with reliable, high-speed connections and improved mobile network coverage.</p>
<b>Race</b>	<p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>According to 2021 Census Data 10.4% (approximately 113,880) of the population belong to what would be identified as minority ethnic groups in GL which is much less than the England figure of 18%<sup>25</sup>.</p> <p>It is the ambition that the proposal will help to encourage more diverse workforces and open up more career prospects for all. There is an opportunity through a more aligned careers service, led by industry, to ensure that there is a greater understanding of which sectors are actively trying to increase their BAME representation. The opportunity to use devolved funds to work with DfE to shape and deliver a high-quality industry led careers service, will support this. This, in turn, has the opportunity to increase the diversity of the area.</p>

<sup>25</sup> Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>According to 2021 Census Data those who identified as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British across GL totalled 981,636 out of the total population of 1,095,000, a percentage of 89.6% in this group. Some areas have a distinctly higher representation of this group, with East Lindsey for example totalling 95.6% of its population. The lowest figure was seen in Boston with 74.5% of the population in this data set<sup>26</sup>.</p> <p>62,648 people (approximately 6.3% of GL) don't have English as their main language<sup>(OBS)</sup>. A better-connected transport system will allow people from all backgrounds to travel easier between areas of GL allowing different communities to connect in a simpler way.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>It is important that the engineering and other sectors within GL is made more diverse and accommodates all groups of people since currently this is not the case on a wide scale. The asks within the devolution deal particularly around the development of the infrastructure to enable carbon capture and storage innovation and the development of the renewable energy sector in GL, presents a unique opportunity to do this in a way which promotes accessibility for the long term. This will help to give people from minority ethnic groups more opportunities to forge a career in this sector.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p><b>Religion or belief</b></p>	<p>The Proposal should benefit people across the area irrespective of their religion or belief.</p> <p>When analysing religion, more people in GL define themselves as being religious compared to those who do not. 596,727 said that they were affiliated to a form of religion. This is equal to approximately 54.4% of the entire population<sup>27</sup>.</p>

<sup>26</sup> Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>27</sup> Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>The total of non-religious people was 432,787 which is 39.5% and is just above the England and Wales figure of 37.2%<sup>28</sup>.</p> <p>Christianity was the most prominent form of religion. 572,106 people were classed as Christian, which was 52.2% of the entire population and represents 95.9% of the entire religious community in GL<sup>29</sup>.</p> <p>Islam was the next most leading single religion in GL with 11,534 people, which is just under 1.1% of people, and this represents 1.9% of the overall religious population<sup>30</sup>. The largest number of Muslims reside in North Lincolnshire with 2.5% of the population in this area identifying as following Islam (36.4% of the entire GL Muslim population)<sup>31</sup>.</p> <p>Buddhists total 2,647 (0.2%), Hindus 3,337 (0.3%), Jewish Population 623 (0.1%), Sikhs 1,430 (0.1%). Other religions total 5,050 people (0.5%)<sup>32</sup>.</p> <p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>Although accepting that the proposal will help to encourage more diverse workforces and open more career prospects for all, it is believed unlikely that the proposal will result in any significant impacts with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>Improved transport would improve connectivity for different groups to their religious communities which a multi – year transport infrastructure settlement will be able to contribute to as we want this to cover road, rail, freight, public transport, walking and cycling, so that there is accessibility for all.</p> <p>Improved transport would improve connectivity to religious communities, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected</p>

<sup>28</sup> Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>29</sup> Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>30</sup> Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>31</sup> Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>32</sup> Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>The improved digital connectivity that will be made possible through the devolution asks could benefit people who practice a religion as it will give them the ability to connect more easily with people of the same faith both locally and further afield. The ability to do this is a positive benefit as not all people are able to attend a place of worship.</p> <p>Improved digital connectivity will also allow places of worship to connect with people and make them aware of community worship, events, without having to find the funds to do so as they will have the opportunity to spread their message at low cost online.</p>
<b>Sex</b>	<p>The gender pay gap within the East Midlands in 2022 stood at 11.6%. This is much lower than the levels of 1997 where the figure was 20.7% (full-time employees)<sup>33</sup>. This figure is higher than the 2022 UK figure of 8.3%<sup>34</sup>.</p> <p>A devolution deal has the potential to help aid the reduction of the gender pay gap through the availability of more skilled jobs, greater training opportunities and re-skilling. A place-based and joined-up approach to careers education locally will allow GL to further develop a specialised local offer which encourages all sexes into our key sectors (such as engineering and manufacturing). These sectors are in need of skilled individuals.</p> <p>These skills-based proposals will help to get more women into higher paid jobs in the long-term and help to reduce the pay gap locally.</p> <p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>Within GL, gender is almost evenly split, across the entire area the figures are 536,952 for Males and 558,058 for Females which is an approximate split of 49% Male and 51% Female which directly matches the national average for England and Wales<sup>35</sup>.</p> <p>A high quality, industry led careers service will help to encourage more diverse workforces and contribute to local industries as there will be increased</p>

<sup>33</sup> Gender pay gap in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>34</sup> Gender pay gap in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>35</sup> Sex - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>opportunities to train. This would be further supported by having flexibility with how the Adult Education Budget (AEB) is spent and would mean we could target training to support adequate representation in relation to our local industries.</p> <p>The use of Skills Bootcamps to target less represented groups will lead to more choice for our residents and therefore more fulfilling careers for all genders.</p> <p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>The GL devolution deal will help to protect the natural environment of our area for all who want to utilise it. Whilst there is no obvious additional impact on an individual sex in this area as a result of a devolution deal, undoubtedly the proposal will seek to keep the natural environment accessible and sustained for everyone.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>An improved transport offer through a GL devolution deal will benefit all those who currently have difficulty from getting to place to place within our large area. Additionally, further development of active travel will allow everyone to access healthy forms of travel to promote a more active lifestyle for all.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>A devolution deal can help deliver the skills which our area needs to sustain the environment not just regionally but nationally with the move to net zero. This will be delivered with the involvement of all residents from all backgrounds. This can be approached in a way which prioritises and embeds equality, diversity and inclusion for the long term, providing more opportunity for all to forge a career in this sector.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p><b>Sexual orientation</b></p>	<p>The Proposal should benefit people across the area irrespective of their sexual orientation.</p> <p>The Census 2021 information confirms that 24,207 people identified with an LGB+ orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or “Other sexual orientation”). This</p>



Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>equates to 2.7% of those eligible to answer this question in GL, which is slightly lower than the England and Wales figure of 3.2%<sup>36</sup>.</p> <p>815,857 people in GL who answered said that they were straight or heterosexual. This is the equivalent to 89.9% compared to the England and Wales figure of 89.4%. North Kesteven, South Kesteven and West Lindsey had the highest number of straight/heterosexual residents with 91.3%, 91.3% and 91.2% respectively. The City of Lincoln had the lowest figure with 84.7%<sup>37</sup>.</p> <p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>A devolution deal for GL will seek to upskill and offer a variety of new opportunities to people from across GL from all different backgrounds in order to help improve their quality of life and to give them every chance of success.</p> <p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>A GL devolution deal will help to protect the natural environment of our area for all who want to utilise it. Whilst there is no obvious impact on individual sexual orientation as a result of a devolution deal, undoubtedly the proposal will seek to keep the natural environment accessible and sustained for everyone.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>An improved transport offer through a GL devolution deal will benefit all those who currently have difficulty from getting to place to place within our large area. Additionally, further development of active travel will allow everyone to access healthy forms of travel to promote a more active lifestyle for all.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant positive impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be</p>

<sup>36</sup> Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>37</sup> Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.

**If you have identified positive impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.**

Positive impacts
<p><b>Business community</b></p> <p>The Proposal specifically aims to help generate and improve the area’s economy to attract financial investment, improve skills and address skills shortages. They will also seek to ensure that land and resources and transport are improved to support investment by the private sector in GL.</p> <p>This is intended to support the expansion and development of businesses and industry, modernising the area’s economy and making it more competitive. Dependent upon the different approaches which are taken, this could mean that individual businesses and sectors of the economy receive financial and other support as well as investment.</p> <p>This will also be the case for housing developers and contractors stemming from the housing related priorities.</p> <p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>The development of an industry led GL careers service will lead to people thriving in a career that is better for them and the area and will clearly lead to benefits for the local economy and business community.</p> <p>The connections between learning, training and employment will be enhanced and the requirements of the business community are much more likely to be met. Subsequently there will be increased potential to attract more business to the area as they will know that innovative approaches are being used to meet demand.</p> <p>With the economic difficulties faced within the area of GL at the same time as the exciting opportunities which exist moving forward, the proposals relating to employment and skills have the opportunity to drive a significant positive impact on the business community.</p> <p>Many of our key sectors are already struggling to recruit and the predicted growth in our game changing sectors means that that the gap will widen further. By having a GL careers service and greater AEB flexibility we can work with our businesses to develop talent pipelines.</p> <p>The opportunities outlined in our prospectus, in the energy sector, our ports and the UK Food Valley, have the potential, collectively, to create over 50,000 brand new jobs.</p>

## Positive impacts

- UK's Food Valley: ambition to deliver 11,000 jobs by 2030 (Local Skills Report 2022<sup>38</sup>)
- Humber Freeport: ambition to deliver on 7,000 jobs by 2040 (Local Skills Report 2022)
- Energy through maximising offshore wind, decarbonisation, and hydrogen opportunities, to create over 32,000 jobs by 2040 across the Humber (Offshore to create approx. 10,000 by 2030; taken from Humber Offshore Wind Cluster) (Decarbonisation 22,800 by 2040, from Humber Industrial Cluster Plan<sup>39</sup>).

Additionally, over this time, we will experience considerable growth of opportunity within the workforce.

Research shows that between now and 2035 around 250,000 jobs will need to be filled because of people retiring. (Local Skills Report 2022)

## Nature

The proposal to develop the Lincolnshire Food Security and Natural Capital Delivery Group will support biodiversity and agriculture in protected landscapes for a number of years. The new Environmental Land Management Scheme and Biodiversity Net Gain are opportunities to provide new funding in this area. This group will help ensure a strategic overview is achieved and best practice from the Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), informs projects across the rest of GL therefore serving to benefit the business community in GL.

The strengthening of partnerships between GL and government agencies is key to delivering more coherent and better outcomes and to assist in finding the right balance between economic growth and protecting and enhancing our natural assets.

## Environment

Around 45% of employment in GL is in businesses with fewer than 50 employees, far higher than the national figure<sup>40</sup>. The devolution deal looks to specifically help SME's (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) through piloting an investment model which incentivises the switch to low or non-carbon energy models, the cost of which could be prohibitive otherwise. The ability to switch to low or non-carbon energy models will have positive consequences for the environment and give SME's the ability to trade with larger organisations seeking green supply chains allowing them to grow, provide more jobs and invest in the future.

## Digital

Businesses in GL are currently hampered by poor digital connectivity and mobile phone signals, through devolution, this problem can be tackled in a much shorter timescale which will enable businesses to improve productivity. Greater availability of high-speed connectivity will also drive business growth, innovation, and sustainability which in turn, will attract businesses and skilled

<sup>38</sup> [Greater Lincolnshire Local Skills Report January 2022.pdf \(greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk\)](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Talkbook portrait template \(humberindustrialclusterplan.org\)](#)

<sup>40</sup> Analysis of enterprises in the UK by SME employment size band for specified unitary and local authorities in the East Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber regions and LEPS 2022 - Office for National Statistics

## Positive impacts

people to invest in the area as they will have access to excellent high speed digital technology. Improvements in digital infrastructure in GL will also contribute to improved movement of goods across the UK from the ports and field to support the UK economy as a whole which will bring wider benefits to businesses and communities.

### **Armed Forces Community (Veterans, reservists and those still serving)**

Approximately 59,500 GL residents have served in the armed forces (6.6% of the eligible population) as of 2021<sup>41</sup>; one of the highest figures in the UK and significantly higher than the UK number of 3.8%. Given the commitment of the constituent authorities to the Armed Forces Covenant and the recent introduction of the Armed Forces Public Duties, the MCCA will engage with this community and ensure that within its functions, it takes account of the duties, especially those relating to employment and housing.

### **Employment and Skills**

Traditionally there has always been Armed Forces presence in GL and there is a significant Armed Forces Community with specific needs to support them.

An industry led GL Careers service will lead to people thriving and will provide the Armed Forces community with more career options. This is particularly the case for those who are leaving the forces and will serve to open opportunities that may not have been available. In addition, the Adult Education Budget (AEB) will be of particular importance to adults from a variety of marginalised groups such as veterans and should make a significant impact on their choices and future development.

A number of proposals, including the availability of greater opportunities for accessing alternative high-level qualifications in the area's priority economic areas, as opposed to university, and the development of bespoke apprenticeship arrangements may be of particular value to the Armed Forces community. These proposals have the potential to create opportunities that otherwise might not be available to them by widening participation, access to training and subsequent highly skilled jobs that they may not have previously known about. Additionally, skills bootcamps will support further widening of participation and will support those adults without Level 3 qualifications to train in an in-demand sector.

Although the whole area has significant proportions classed as part of the Armed Forces Community, North Kesteven had the second highest figure for percentage of the population that had served in any of the UK Armed Forces nationwide, at 10.2% or 10,009 people<sup>42</sup>. Through devolved funds, the creation of skills programmes specific to local need with greater alignment between services, will benefit individuals that are unemployed where they currently have several service providers with similar offers.

<sup>41</sup> UK armed forces veterans, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>42</sup> UK armed forces veterans, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

## Positive impacts

### Nature

It is recognised that the positive impacts on wellbeing created by the availability of great natural environments could serve to benefit those groups known to suffer higher levels of distress and ill health. Having a variety of accessible wildlife sites that are well promoted is important for improving the wellbeing of all people.

### Deprived communities

In North East Lincolnshire, 19.0% of the population was income-deprived in 2019, this is approximately 29,800 residents. Of the 106 neighbourhoods in North East Lincolnshire, 42 were among the top 20% most income deprived in England. North East Lincolnshire overall ranks 26<sup>th</sup> most income deprived out of all the 316 local authority areas in England. Of the 57 neighbourhoods in the Lincoln local authority area, 19 of these were in the top 20% most income deprived in England and Lincoln overall ranked 66<sup>th</sup> most income deprived. East Lindsey also ranked highly on this list (56/316), meaning it has high levels of income deprivation<sup>43</sup>.

The proposal should specifically impact positively on people living in the area's poorest and deprived communities, and it would be expected that significant focus is placed, especially within skills related activities, transport, and housing on improving opportunities for people from these communities.

### Employment and Skills

There are significant areas of deprivation within the GL area and the importance of employment and skills to make a difference cannot be understated.

The greater alignment of a careers service which means better access to training and support to employment, can help to make a positive impact upon the levels of deprivation within GL. The Adult Education Budget (AEB) will be of particular importance to adults from a variety of marginalised groups, including those from deprived communities. The proposal works to provide greater opportunities for access to careers and to improve the availability of alternative high-level qualifications.

Those in deprived areas often lack qualifications and a range of proposals seek to address this including skills bootcamps, creating skills programmes specific to local need and widening participation in apprenticeships to those without Level 3 qualifications, will serve to greatly improve the life chances and options available. Additionally, a total of 45,500 children under the age of 16 in GL were living in relative low-income families in 2022 this equates to an average figure across all local authorities of 25% in GL. These figures were high across almost all areas, particularly Lincoln 30.5%, East Lindsey 31.4% and Boston 31.1%<sup>44</sup>.

<sup>43</sup> Exploring local income deprivation (ons.gov.uk)

<sup>44</sup> Children in low income families: local area statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

## **Positive impacts**

Specifically in relation to younger people, the improved access to training and support to employment will lead to those from deprived communities being able to access more flexible opportunities for their own development.

### **Nature**

Having a variety of accessible wildlife sites that are well promoted is important for improving the wellbeing of all people. Innovation and net zero targets that form part of the proposal will stabilise energy security and reduce costs, which will also likely impact families on lower incomes.

### **Digital**

In a similar way to businesses in GL, deprived communities are also hampered by poor digital connectivity and mobile phone signals. Deprived communities, particularly in rural areas will benefit from the many and varied improvements realised by faster fixed line and mobile connectivity. Through devolution, powers over infrastructure and resources could be held locally to create investment in infrastructure, accelerate growth and level up opportunities for all. Improved digital connectivity will open up opportunities for deprived communities through easier access to services to support them and improved opportunities to make their voices heard and collaborate on the things that will make the biggest difference to their lives.

### **Visitors**

Those visiting GL will be offered better public transport infrastructure and connectivity which will also benefit local businesses.

### **Digitally Excluded**

Most parts of GL are classified as rural. According to Quickline's spring update in 2023, they deployed ultrafast fixed wireless access broadband to 4000 rural premises in postcode areas prefixed by LN and DN. By the end of 2023, this number will rise to 8000 and devolution has the potential to accelerate this further<sup>45</sup>. It is also important to consider that older people are more likely to be digitally excluded. The proposal will encourage further investment in digital infrastructure in ultrafast broadband and 5G that GL needs for the future, ensuring that within the region, digital connectivity improves.

### **Employment and Skills**

The devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) aims to widen participation of those furthest from the labour market. This may include supporting those that are digitally excluded by flexing the funding rules to support people's access to digital training offers.

Digital skills are part of the core AEB entitlement offer and will remain free for adults to access.

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<sup>45</sup> Rural Broadband Update: Postcodes LN and DN Areas – Lincolnshire County Council

## Positive impacts

Having an open access careers service, that is face to face, rather than website based, will help to support those that are digitally excluded by having a contact that can support and signpost them to the training that they may need.

### Nature

People living with a disability have been identified as more likely to be digitally excluded and many of these people, including people with severe mental illness, already experience health inequalities.

In addition, there are many rural areas across GL that find it difficult to connect to the internet. Research from Ofcom (Digital Exclusion Review, 2022<sup>46</sup>) found that younger and less affluent groups were likely to have difficulty affording connectivity due to the cost. These individuals are having to find other activities to undertake at low or nil cost, such as walks and visits to the countryside in their locality.

### Coastal or rural communities

In 2021, the then Chief Medical Officer highlighted deprivation issues in coastal towns and the impact of this on physical and mental health. As well as experiencing poorer health, higher disability rates and shorter life expectancy, access to healthcare was also limited by a lack of skilled staff and services. There were 14.6% fewer postgraduate medical trainees, 15% fewer consultants and 7.4% fewer nurses per patient in coastal towns when compared with the national figures.<sup>47</sup>

### Employment and Skills

The devolution of the Adult Education Budget in conjunction with an aligned careers service, aims to ensure that those in our rural and coastal communities can benefit from the same learning and career opportunities as the rest of GL.

Some providers are unable to reach those in smaller communities due to the viability of funding small, remote classes. Devolution would enable the MCCA to flex the funding rules of certain courses or for certain geographies to ensure equality of provision.

The current fragmentation of the careers service means that the access to high quality careers guidance is limited for our rural and coastal residents, and aligning this service to a GL Careers service aims to increase access for these groups.

### Nature

The development of a Coastal Partnership for GL will bring together the many interest groups along the coast in GL and serve to benefit coastal communities within GL.

## Adverse or negative impacts

<sup>46</sup> [Digital exclusion: a review of Ofcom's research on digital exclusion among adults in the UK](#)

<sup>47</sup> Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2021 - Health in Coastal Communities  
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
Age	<p><b>Employment and skills</b></p> <p>Budgets and decisions will move from Government to the GL MCCA, which will focus on young and working-aged people. No specific decisions have yet been made about where investment will occur to generate employment opportunities or in education and improving skills, but it's likely that it could disproportionately benefit those under the state retirement age.</p> <p>Mitigation – Adult education will target all age groups. The additional income generated from higher pay and therefore higher taxes will benefit those who are over state retirement age by contributing to their services. The new MCCA will need to establish mechanisms for considering and ensuring that investment is appropriately distributed across all areas. These mechanisms will be reinforced and bolstered by the proposed governance arrangements and decision-making processes set out in the proposal.</p> <p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this. The different themes have interdependencies so investing in transport and roads will make access easier for younger and older people for example.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Innovation and Trade</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Housing</b></p>



Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Engagement</b></p> <p>Relying solely on digital engagement could reduce participation among young and older people. Surveys yield very low response numbers from young people and proportionally more from over 50s, which could lessen the young person’s voice and distort results.</p> <p>Approximately 11% of Lincolnshire county’s population is aged 15-24<sup>48</sup>. In strategic surveys undertaken on Let’s talk Lincolnshire in the last two years, the average proportion of responses from under 25s is 2%.</p> <p>Mitigation – The use of a range of engagement methods to include all stakeholders and undertake direct engagement with young people through services for them, education establishments, and partner promotions to encourage representative contributions.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>Whilst there are many benefits to greater digital connectivity, not all ages have the skills and confidence to use digital technology to its full advantage and those in older age groups may feel they are being left behind and feel more excluded. This needs to be researched further and understood so that skills gaps can be identified, and people can be signposted to programmes to help them improve their skills, to enable all ages to realise the benefits of improved digital inclusion.</p> <p>Younger and/or people on lower incomes may be adversely impacted due to the current cost-of living crisis resulting in them having difficulty affording the digital technology. This will need to be further researched and understood in terms of locations and scale of this problem.</p>

<sup>48</sup> Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS

Protected characteristic	Response
<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this. However, when more detailed decisions are taken, it's crucial that people with disabilities are seen as a priority group within the work and projects to support employment, skills, and qualifications.</p> <p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Innovation and Trade</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Engagement</b></p> <p>Some engagement methods make it harder for people with disabilities to take part.</p> <p>Mitigation – A range of engagement methods will be utilised such as, screen readers, accessible venues and tools, and telephone calls to include all stakeholders should they wish to be involved.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>People with disabilities are identified as more likely to be digitally excluded.</p> <p>Mitigation- This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p><b>Gender reassignment</b></p>	<p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>Continuing misunderstanding means that some may not wish to participate or feel able to benefit from devolution. YouGov data (working alongside the charity Stonewall) from 2018 shows that one in eight (12%) trans people had been attacked in work. Almost a third of non-binary people (31 per cent) and one in five trans people (18 per cent)<sup>49</sup> don't feel able to wear work attire representing their gender expression. There is a possibility that heterosexual people might benefit more from changes resulting from devolution.</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part in engagement on devolution. When more detailed decisions are taken, people whose gender is not the same as was assigned at birth are seen as a priority group within the work and projects to support employment, skills and qualifications.</p> <p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Innovation and Trade</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be</p>

<sup>49</sup> [lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_work\\_report.pdf \(stonewall.org.uk\)](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/reports/lgbt-in-britain-work-report.pdf)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p> <p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Engagement</b></p> <p>For the reasons highlighted by data in the employment and skills section above, some people might not feel comfortable taking part in face-to-face consultation.</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part in engagement on devolution. The use of inclusive, non-judgemental venues will ensure everyone feels welcome, and no one feels they will face ridicule or discrimination. An online engagement and telephone offer will also be available should people decided not to join face-to-face events so that everyone has the opportunity to express their views in their preferred way.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme areas, although we will monitor this during the consultation will help check this.</p>
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme areas, although we will monitor this during the consultation will help check this.</p>
<b>Race</b>	<p>Decisions are currently made centrally, based on national populations which are more diverse than Lincolnshire. Moving decision making closer to local people can benefit a majority, but misconceptions and lack of awareness/understanding could unintentionally disadvantage some cultures.</p> <p>Mitigation – To ensure all protected characteristics are considered when proposing and making key decisions and significant changes. This is already part of the pre-decision reports, and robust analysis of impacts will be vital.</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>A national CIPD report found that BAME employees are significantly more likely to say your identity or background can have an effect on the opportunities you're given than white British employees<sup>50</sup>, particularly those from an Indian/Pakistani/Bangladeshi background.</p> <p>Mitigation- To reach out to different communities so people feel more comfortable taking part. Face to face engagement should take place in a mix of welcoming, non-judgemental venue-types. An online engagement offer will also be available, should people decided not to join face-to-face events, so everyone can express their views in their preferred way.</p> <p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Innovation and Trade</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Engagement</b></p> <p>Census data analysis reveals that English proficiency for residents whose main language is not English is lower in Lincolnshire than in England. In England, 79.7% of</p>

<sup>50</sup> 36057 (peoplemanagement.co.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>people who speak a foreign language could speak English well or very well, compared to 77.5% on average for GL. Census data analysis reveals that 62,648 people (approximately 6.3% of GL) don't have English as their main language. 5.2% of the population in Boston cannot speak English and across GL the average figure is 3%. Subsequently, there are still significant numbers who will be excluded from understanding the technicalities if translations are not available<sup>51</sup>.</p> <p>Mitigation – A subscription to DA Languages services is in place so that key devolution information can be translated for those speaking the top languages in target areas. Accessible html pages can be added to the council website for easy translation and Let's talk Lincolnshire has an inbuilt translation tool so potential respondents can see text and questions in their chosen language. Working with representative bodies to reach non-digital audiences will be key.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p><b>Religion or belief</b></p>	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme area, although monitoring this during the consultation will help ensure this is still the case.</p> <p><b>Engagement</b></p> <p>Different religious and belief groups may not feel directly addressed by the specifics of the proposal, so it is important that they are involved and consulted throughout the process.</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to communities via leaders and organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part. Face to face engagement should take place in a mix of welcoming, non-judgemental venue-types. An online engagement offer will also be available, should people decided not to join face-to-face events, so everyone can express their views in their preferred way.</p>
<p><b>Sex</b></p>	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme area, although monitoring this during the consultation will help ensure this is still the case.</p>

<sup>51</sup> Language, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<p><b>Employment and Skills</b></p> <p>A 2018 Stonewall report showed that more than a third of LGBT staff (35%) have hidden or disguised that they are LGBT for fear of discrimination and nearly two in five bisexual people (38%) have not disclosed their sexuality to anyone at work. There is a possibility therefore that they might not benefit from employment and skills improvements to the same extent as their heterosexual colleagues<sup>52</sup>.</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part in engagement to identify the best methods to address the issue.</p> <p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Innovation and Trade</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Digital</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p><b>Engagement</b></p> <p>Continuing discrimination means that some may not wish to participate in open engagement.</p>

<sup>52</sup> [lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_work\\_report.pdf \(stonewall.org.uk\)](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/reports/lgbt-in-britain-work-report.pdf)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part. Use inclusive, non-judgemental venues so everyone feels welcome, and no one feels they will face ridicule or discrimination. An online and telephone engagement offer will also be available should people decided not to join face-to-face events so that everyone can express their views in their preferred way.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>

<b>Negative impacts</b>
<p>There is a risk that the exercise of certain functions by the GL MCCA will mean that decisions will be taken further from those groups and individuals who are most reliant upon the services provided by local government in the area.</p> <p>However, this risk will be mitigated by the safeguards set out in the proposal, which include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Constituent Councils’ membership of the GL MCCA</li> <li>• the role and participation of district and borough councils in the GL MCCA</li> <li>• the role and participation of other groups and voices in the GL MCCA</li> <li>• the GL MCCA’s proposed governance arrangements and decision-making processes, and the phased transfer of some powers to the GL MCCA over time</li> </ul> <p><b>Armed Forces Community (Veterans, reservists and those still serving)</b></p> <p>Those belonging to the Armed Forces Community may not feel that the proposal directly addresses their concerns. Therefore, sustained consultation with this group is essential in order to keep them informed.</p> <p>Mitigation – The MoD will continue to make operational decisions and support this community. All three upper tier councils are committed to the Armed Forces Covenant and the recently introduced Armed Forces Public Duties, so their needs will be considered at all stages of the deal, including a variety of ways to participate in engagement and test assumptions made in this EIA.</p> <p><b>Businesses</b></p> <p>None envisaged for businesses. They are already actively involved in stakeholder conversations.</p> <p><b>Environment</b></p>



## Negative impacts

It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on the business, armed forces, or deprived communities. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.

### Digital

Despite the overall positive impact that devolution will bring in terms of digital connectivity, there could still be people who are digitally excluded because their income level prevents them from being able to afford the digital technology they need to benefit from digital infrastructure improvements and full fibre roll out, leaving them feeling more excluded.

Mitigation-This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.

### Deprived Communities

There is potential for the MCCA to be formed and high-profile projects to be developed, but for the poorest and most deprived to miss out on the potential benefits as funding may be used in different areas, i.e. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The MCCA will need to ensure that this does not happen.

Mitigation – A range of plain English messages and engagement methods will be used to encourage participation in consultation to test this assumption.

### Visitors

Whilst improved transport will aid visitors in the long term, in the short-term travel disruption through road repairs & development will cause delays for those visiting GL.

Mitigation- To keep those who may be affected, informed of any changes.

### Digitally excluded communities/individuals

Moving to a digital first approach can prevent some people benefitting from devolution and participating in engagement about it.

Mitigation – A range of engagement methods will be used and promoted to ensure everyone can take part. For example, the spring 2023 County Views survey was included in County News, which is delivered to all households in the county of Lincolnshire. North and North East Lincolnshire have similar tools to do the same. Devolved budgets to enhance and speed up digital inclusion will themselves help to resolve issues of skills and access for many in the longer-term.

## Summary

This EIA shows clearly the wide and varied population of GL and the importance of keeping residents as informed as possible as devolution progresses. It is clear from the findings that a devolution deal for GL can have a positive impact on a wide number of protected characteristics groups in a variety of ways.

The proposal will reduce barriers to upskill the local labour force across all age groups and reduce the productivity gap which GL faces nationally. The power to be able to innovatively use funding will open more possibilities to direct resources to tackle employment barriers for people with disabilities. The impact of being able to adapt and use innovative approaches to funding would mean we could target training to address any imbalance in the workforce in our local industries, as there will be increased opportunities to train. There is an opportunity through a more aligned careers service, led by industry, to ensure that there is a greater understanding of which sectors are actively trying to develop a representative workforce.

Improved digital infrastructure will also give people greater choice and flexibility over how they choose to work in the future and the jobs they can access.

Improved transport infrastructure will provide GL residents with reliable means of getting from A to B, whether this be to school, work or socially, throughout the region. An improved transport system will also give the older generation greater access to healthcare, reduce isolation and improve independence. The ambition is to also improve accessibility to public transport for those who currently don't feel it meets their needs and requirements.

The EIA also clearly identifies some possible negative implications which will need due consideration before full implementation of the changes that arise as a result of devolution in GL.

Across many areas, budgets and decisions will move from Government to the GL MCCA. Within Employment and Skills for example, no specific decisions have yet been made about where investment will occur to generate employment opportunities or in education and improving skills. It is a possibility that this could inadvertently benefit one group over another. Therefore, due consideration and process must take place prior to implementation of any policy to ensure that this risk is reduced as much as possible.

When striving to improve digital connectivity there is a risk that those who aren't currently confident with the technology could be left further behind and feel more excluded and subsequently increase the gap that is currently exists. Therefore, it is crucial that this is researched further so that skills gaps can be identified, and people can be signposted to programmes to help them improve their skills to enable people of all ages to realise the benefits of improved digital inclusion.

Public consultation will be used to seek a representative sample of responses to the plans set out within the devolution proposal. A wide range of engagement methods will be utilised to obtain views. This includes a series of public events, direct engagement with representative groups, and extensive information sharing through a wide range of media channels. The feedback from the consultation will be used to review the content of this document and recommend amendments to the proposal where needed.

## **Stakeholders**

**Objective(s) of the EIA consultation or engagement activity**

This EIA has informed the devolution deal consultation stakeholder analysis.

To ensure everyone has a fair and open opportunity to share their views on the devolution deal.

To test assumptions made about potential impacts of devolution on the general population, but particularly those with protected characteristics and additional communities identified in this document or as part of stakeholder conversations.

Who was involved in the EIA consultation or engagement activity?

Detail any findings identified by the protected characteristic.

Protected characteristic	Response
Age	<i>To be added from consultation plan – do we need to repeat, or can this have a link to a different plan?</i>
Disability	
Gender reassignment	
Marriage and civil partnership	
Pregnancy and maternity	
Race	
Religion or belief	

Protected characteristic	Response
Sex	
Sexual orientation	
<p><b>Are you confident that everyone who should have been involved in producing this version of the Equality Impact Analysis has been involved in a meaningful way?</b></p> <p>The purpose is to make sure you have got the perspective of all the protected characteristics.</p>	
<p><b>Once the changes have been implemented how will you undertake evaluation of the benefits and how effective the actions to reduce adverse impacts have been?</b></p>	

## Further details

Personal data	Response
Are you handling personal data?	No
If yes, please give details	

Version	Description	Created or amended by	Date created or amended	Approved by	Date approved
V5	Cleaned up core version created after input from representatives from across GL.	Samantha Long & Equality Impact Analysis Team I	11/07/23		
V0.06	Review	Daniel Larkin	21/08/23		
V.0.7	Reviewed version in preparation for review meeting	Samantha Long	22/08/23		
V.0.8	Reviewed and partially cleaned up	Daniel Larkin	25/08/23		
V.0.9	Meeting to discuss the text for positive impacts	Samantha Long & Equality Impact	20/09/23		

Version	Description	Created or amended by	Date created or amended	Approved by	Date approved
		Analysis Team			
V.0.9	Reviewed and developed further	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	28/09/23 – 29/09/23		
V0.10	Legal comments considered and reviewed	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	04/10/23		
V0.10	Version further developed during meeting	Equality Impact Analysis Team	16/10/23		
V0.11	Questions from meeting addressed and meeting and cleaned up	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	18/10/23		
V1.0	Final cleaning up for version 1.0	Samantha Long	20/10/23		
V1.1	Amendments following legal review	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	14/11/23		
V1.2	Final editing and proofread	Daniel Larkin	17/11/23		



Version	Description	Created or amended by	Date created or amended	Approved by	Date approved





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

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Corporate Plan Success Framework 2023-24 - Quarter 2</b>

**Summary:**

This report invites the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to consider a report on the 2023-24 Corporate Plan performance for Quarter 2 (Appendix 1), which will be presented to the Executive on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The views of the Board will be reported as part of its consideration of this item.

There are no service level performance indicators within the remit of OSMB to review in 2023-24 Quarter 2.

Full service level reporting to all scrutiny committees can be found here: [Corporate plan – Performance data - Lincolnshire County Council](#)

**Actions required:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited to:-

- 1) Consider the attached report and to determine whether the Board supports the recommendation(s) to the Executive as set out in the report.
- 2) Agree any additional comments to be passed on to the Executive in relation to this item.
- 3) Review and comment on the performance information that is within the remit of the Board and highlight any recommendations or further actions for consideration.

## 1. Background

The Corporate Plan was approved by the County Council on 11 December 2019 and the Executive approved the initial Corporate Plan Success Framework (CPSF) 2020-21 on 6 October 2020, with subsequent reviews and developments made thereafter.

The Corporate Plan has been refreshed for 2023-24 and was approved by the County Council on 19 May 2023. In order to align to the refreshed Corporate Plan, all performance is reported against the revised CPSF.

The Framework contains performance indicators and key activities against which performance and progress will be reported in order to demonstrate whether the Council is achieving the four ambitions for Lincolnshire as set out in the [Corporate Plan](#).

1.1 The accompanying appendix details the report to the Executive (Appendix 1).

1.2 There are no Service level performance indicators within the remit of Overview Scrutiny and Management Board to review this quarter.

## 2. Conclusion

Following consideration of the attached report to the Executive, OSMB is requested to consider whether it supports the recommendation(s) in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to the Executive. Comments from OSMB will be reported to the Executive.

## 3. Consultation

### a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Any changes to services, policies and projects are subject to an Equality Impact Analysis. The considerations of the contents and subsequent decisions are all taken with regard to existing policies.

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix 1	Report on Performance reporting against the Corporate Plan Success Framework 2023-24 – Quarter 2, to be presented to the Executive at its meeting on 5 December 2023

## **5. Background Papers**

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

This report was written by Caroline Jackson – Head of Corporate Performance, who can be contacted by email at [caroline.jackson@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.jackson@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

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

Report to:	<b>Executive</b>
Date:	<b>5 December 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Corporate Plan Success Framework 2023-24 - Quarter 2</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I029357</b>
Key decision?	<b>No</b>

**Summary:**

This report presents an overview of performance against the Corporate Plan as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Detailed information on performance can be viewed on the Council's [website](#).

**Recommendation:**

That performance for Quarter 2 2023-24 as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be considered and noted.

**Alternatives Considered:**

No alternatives have been considered to recommendation 1 as it reflects factual information presented for noting and consideration.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

To provide the Executive with information about how the Council is performing against the Corporate Plan.

**1. Background**

1.1 The County Council's Corporate Plan (CP) 2020-2030 sets out our priorities for local residents and communities. The CP has been refreshed in order to recognise that additional or different actions are required during the life of the Plan to build on progress and to keep the Plan relevant to changing context and challenges. This refresh was agreed at the full Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and reflects:

- Progress on delivering the plan since 2019.

- Changes in the Council’s operating environments including local priorities, funding and changes in national policy.
- Changing lifestyles, needs and public service recovery from the coronavirus Pandemic.
- Further actions needed to deliver on the Council’s ambitions for Lincolnshire’s Residents.

1.2 The Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and Assistant Directors (ADs) have developed the Corporate Plan Success Framework (CPSF) which identifies the developmental activities and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that will be undertaken in order to achieve the four ambitions outlined in the CP. This framework has been revised to align with the refreshed plan and was agreed by the Executive on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

1.3 The **four ambitions** for the Council are:

- Support high aspirations
- Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full
- Create thriving environments
- Provide good value council services

1.4 All of the four ambitions are 'progressing as planned'. This is based on both the key activities and KPIs.

1.5 This report provides the Executive with highlights of performance of the revised CPSF. The full range of performance is hosted on the Council's [website](#).

## 2.0 Performance Reporting

2.1 For **Activities**, this includes those which are:-

- **Amber: “Progress is within agreed limits”** a current milestone is slightly behind but the Activity overall is still on plan.
- **Red: “Not progressing as planned”** the Activity is currently behind plan and work is being done to try to achieve the Objective or the Objective cannot be achieved.

Details of all activities reported in quarter 2, including those rated as **Amber: “Progress is within agreed limits”** and **Green: “Progressing as planned”** are available in **Appendix A** and on the Council's [website](#).

2.2 For **KPIs**, this report includes those where an ambition (target) has been set against the KPI and the **ambition** has either-

- Exceeded (performed better than target and tolerance levels set)
- Been achieved (within the ambition and tolerance levels set)
- Not been achieved (outside of ambition and tolerance levels set)

2.3 The CPSF includes contextual KPIs, where an ambition has not been set. These have been considered by Executive Directors as to our position:

- Relative to similar authorities or national comparators; and

- Relative to historic data or our expected position at this point in the reporting period.

Where it is considered appropriate to raise with the Executive, these have been highlighted in section 4.6

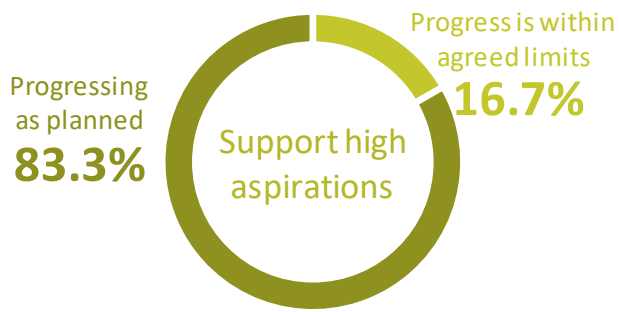
All KPIs can be found on the Council's [website](#).

### 3.0 **Headline performance – Key activities**

3.1 Services have provided key milestones for each activity for 2023-24. Progress is an objective judgement by the service against the milestones.

3.2 To summarise, of the **40 activities** with milestones due to be reported in quarter 2, **95%** are rated as **Progressing as planned**.

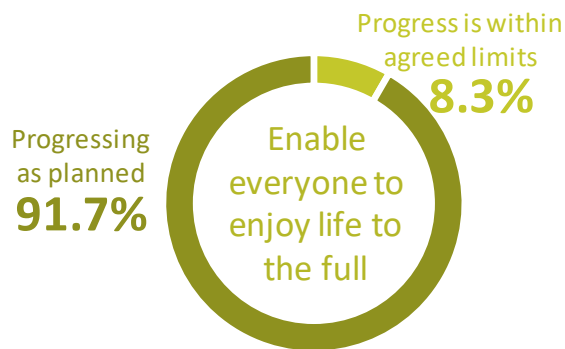
<b>38</b>	<b>Progressing as planned</b>	Current milestone achieved and activity overall is expected to be achieved either on time or ahead of timescales.
<b>2</b>	<b>Progress is within agreed limits</b>	A current milestone is slightly behind but the activity overall is still on plan.
<b>0</b>	<b>Not progressing as planned</b>	Activity is currently behind plan and work is being done to try to achieve the objective or the objective cannot be achieved.
<b>40</b>		<b>Overall performance of activities</b>



Activities

**6**

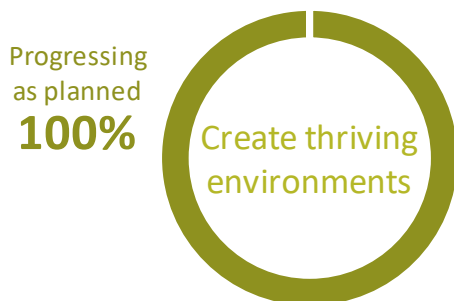
Ambition  
**Progressing as planned**



Activities

**12**

Ambition  
**Progressing as planned**



Activities

**11**

Ambition  
**Progressing as planned**



Activities

**11**

Ambition  
**Progressing as planned**

**3.3** There are 2 key activities that are rated as Amber (**Progress is within agreed limits**), none have been rated as Red (**Not progressing as planned**) this quarter. Those key activities that are Amber rated are still progressing within agreed limits however, one of the milestones may not have been achieved but the overall activity is still on track and therefore there is no cause for serious concern at this stage. These are:

### **3.3.1 Support high aspirations**

**A34 - We will continue to work with partners to enhance community safety, with a particular focus on prevention and early intervention. We will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery through building a sustainable financial and operating model for the Public Protection function, pooling budgets and undertaking joint commissioning activity.**

- **Completion of finance review for the statutory boards and recommendations for future pool funding opportunities. Completion of community safety performance framework. Identify cross over activity where the fire service can contribute to community safety. Develop and complete a partnership engagement strategy for internal and external audiences. Employment of Domestic Abuse (DA) Safe Accommodation Project Co-ordinator and associated Crime Reduction Tactical Advisor. Employment of x2 analysts in community safety hub.**

*The refurbishment of Myle Cross is proceeding as planned with a new community safety hub and conferencing facilities that will allow for joined up working space between police, LCC and other partners, enhancing opportunities for collaborative working. The target date for completion of this work is summer 2024. A finance task and finish subgroup of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership has been established. Contributions to the Partnership for the 2024/25 financial year have been agreed as have the reporting arrangements. Business Managers from the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board, Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership continue to meet regularly and are seeking to align financial requests to partners. The recruitment for the Safe Accommodation Project Co-ordinator and associated Crime Reduction Tactical Advisor is almost complete with the interviews for candidates planned for November. Two multi agency analytical pieces of work have commenced around adult safeguarding and serious violence. Numerous agencies are involved in this work including LCC, Police, Public Health, Fire and Rescue and Childrens services. This activity will help facilitate our objective of delivering preventative and early interventions. This work will run alongside the wider community analytical hub project which will see the recruitment of apprenticeship and senior analytical capability. The performance framework for our fraud activity and education activity is complete and the data dashboards created. Work continues on the crime prevention and domestic abuse dashboards.*

### **3.3.2 Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full**

**A13 - We will work with our districts and other partners in implementing the housing for independence strategy, to increase accommodation options for those wanting Extra Care, those**



with learning disabilities, mental illness or autism. We will also collaborate to deliver easy access to equipment / adaptations to homes that enable greater independence.

- During this Quarter, the Grange Farm scheme will be presented to the Adults and Community Wellbeing Committee for consideration. Following this, the scheme will seek Executive approval to enable the project and partnership to progress. In partnership with ACIS Group and West Lindsey District Council, this development will feature 10 one-bedroom apartments for Working Aged Adults with a disability within Market Rasen. Additionally in Quarter 2, it is anticipated listed building consent will be submitted to achieve the required approvals to commence construction on the Grange Farm scheme.

*During Quarter 2, the Grange Farm scheme was presented to Adults and Community Wellbeing Committee and received support to progress. On 14th April 2023, the Council's contribution to the Grange Farm scheme was subsequently approved by the Leader of the Council: Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning and the Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Public Health. Due to the complexities and risks of the site additional surveys and contract negotiations with ACIS' chosen contractor have taken longer than expected, therefore listed building consent has not been submitted during this quarter. It is anticipated this will be submitted during Quarter 4.*

*In addition, The Hoplands scheme (in Sleaford, which comprises of 40 extra care apartments and 12 one-bedroom apartments for Working Aged Adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and mental illness), in partnership with North Kesteven District Council obtained planning permission on 3rd October 2023 receiving unanimous support from the planning committee.*

#### 4.0 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

4.1 Of those KPIs where an ambition (target) has been set, 27 can be compared with an updated position for quarter 2 reporting. It is a very positive picture to see 93% of KPIs exceeding or achieving the ambition that was set:-

- **6 exceeded the ambition**
  - **PI 39** Household waste to landfill ☆
  - **PI 64** Customers' level of satisfaction ☆
  - **PI 74** Number of people accessing learning & skills ☆
  - **PI 75** Number of qualifications delivered ☆
  - **PI 78** Carers who have received a review of their needs ☆
  - **PI 93** Percentage of ultrafast broadband coverage in residential & business premises ☆

- **19 achieved the ambition**
  - **PI 4** Percentage of 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training ✓
  - **PI 10** Percentage of children with EHCPs in a mainstream setting ✓
  - **PI 14** Rate of children in care (per 10,000) ✓
  - **PI 15** Percentage of children in care living within a family environment ✓
  - **PI 16** Percentage of social care providers in Lincolnshire with a CQC inspection rating of 'good' or 'outstanding' ✓
  - **PI 17** The percentage of adults aged 18 to 64 in receipt of an adult care service who are receiving these in the community ✓
  - **PI 18** The percentage of adults aged 65 and over in receipt of an adult care service who are receiving these in the community ✓
  - **PI 25** For adults discharged from hospital, the percentage who remain at home 91 days after discharge ✓
  - **PI 36** Household waste collected ✓
  - **PI 38** Recycling at County Council owned Household Waste Recycling Centres ✓
  - **PI 43** Percentage of contacts resolved through early resolution ✓
  - **PI 44** Days lost to sickness absence per FTE ✓
  - **PI 67** Percentage of eligible 2-year-olds who are in receipt of their Early Years Entitlement ✓
  - **PI 68** Percentage of 3–4-year-olds who are taking up their universal entitlement ✓
  - **PI 72** Safeguarding cases supported by an advocate (where appropriate) ✓
  - **PI 73** Concluded safeguarding enquiries where the desired outcomes were achieved ✓
  - **PI 79** Proportion of Adults with a learning disability in paid employment ✓
  - **PI 80** Proportion of Adults with a learning disability in paid employment and volunteering ✓
  - **PI 82** Number of businesses supported ✓
  
- **2 did not achieve the ambition**
  - **PI 76** Carers supported in the last 12 months ✘
  - **PI 37** Recycling Rate (new national formula) ✘

## 4.2 Exceeded ambition

### 4.2.1 Support high aspirations

## PI 74 Number of people accessing learning & skills ☆

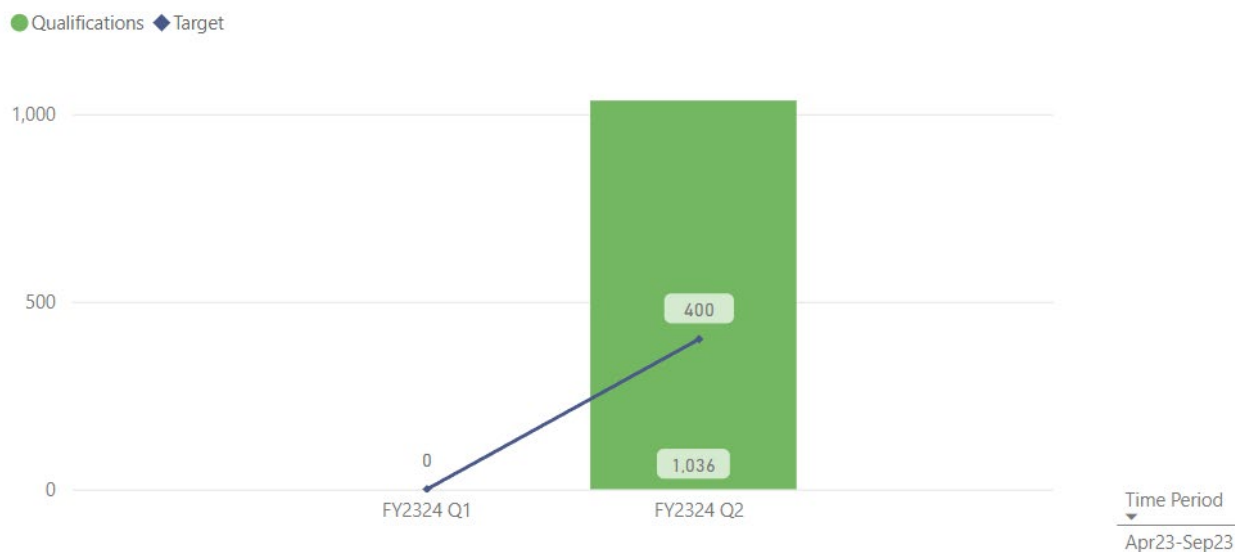


The number of adults accessing Learning and Skills at the end of Quarter 2 was 4,643 above the target of 4,120. This figure includes learners that attended Employment and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funded Adult Skills Budget qualifications and courses, as well as Department for Education (DfE) funded Multiply and Skills Bootcamp programmes.

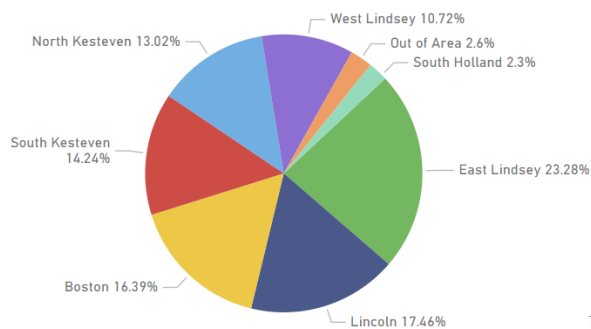
Amongst the 4,643 learners were 621 that attended Multiply programmes designed to increase levels of numeracy across the County; 280 that were studying a range of qualification programmes and a further 3,462 that were engaged on adult skills courses, including family learning programmes. Provision is planned, delivered and aimed at targeted learners with the effect that 72% of learners were unemployed, 48% of learners had no, or low level of qualifications, 46% were male learners, and 36% of learners had a learning difficulty or disability. Focusing on 'filling the gaps' in areas of deprivation across the County, 18% of all learners lived in Lincoln, 17% in West Lindsey, 16% in East Lindsey and 15% in South Kesteven. With a continued focus on widening participation and supporting employability, 64% of learners attended a range of courses designed to provide skills for work readiness, with 22% attending courses specifically relating to the health and care sectors and a further 14% to digitisation.

In relation to Skills Bootcamps (16-week course for the unemployed and employees seeking progression). 280 learners have reached milestone 1, in which they have received over 5 guided learning hours.

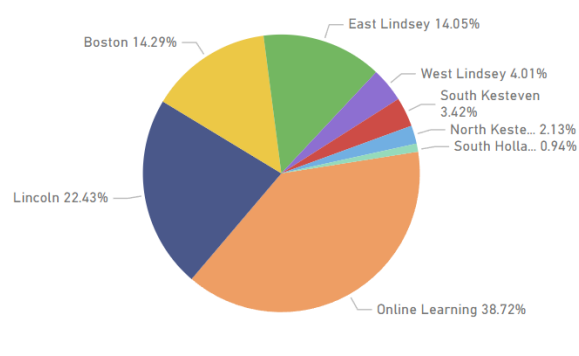
## PI 75 Number of qualifications delivered ★



Number of learners (based on learner postcode)



Number of enrolments (based on postcode location of the course)



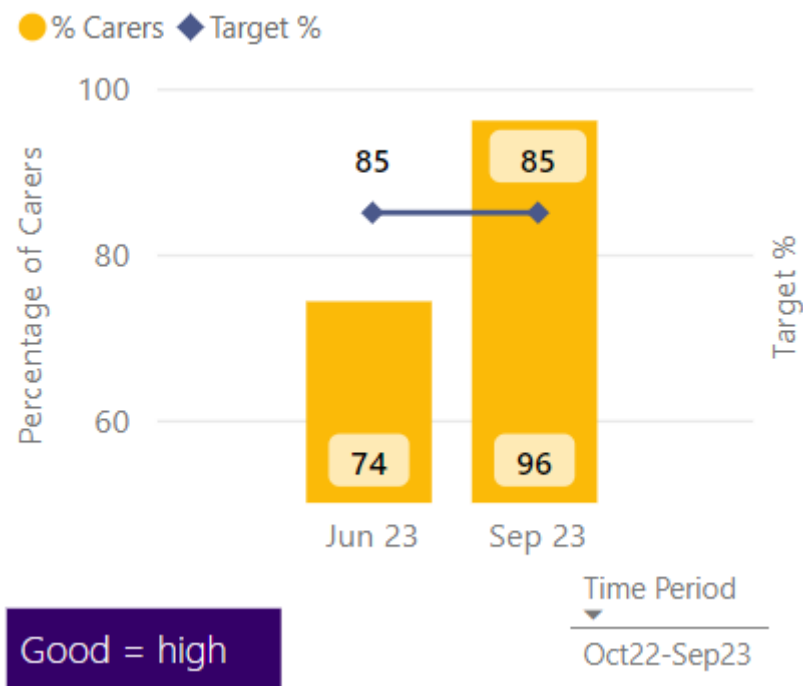
The number of qualifications achieved by adults at the end of Quarter 2 was 1,036, above the target of 400. This increase in performance is due to several factors including changes to demand in year which resulted in a significant number of courses being delivered that had multiple qualifications attached to them, as well as a general increase in learner engagement. Of the 1,036 qualifications that were achieved between April and September, 64% of them were delivered in classroom settings, with 36% delivered online.

Provision continues to be aimed at targeted learners with the effect that 56% of qualifications were achieved by male learners, 64% were achieved by unemployed learners and 33% by learners with no, or low levels of prior attainment. 54% of qualifications achieved were at Entry Level with 23% at Level 1 and 21% at Level 2.

With a continued focus on supporting employability, the range of qualifications was varied, including, GCSE's or functional skills in English or Maths as well as a host of other vocational qualifications. In support of Lincolnshire's priority employment sectors, 391 qualifications achieved related to the wider care sectors, 216 to construction, 141 to accountancy and business administration and 139 to hospitality.

#### 4.2.2 Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full

##### PI 78 Carers who have received a review of their needs ☆



The end of Quarter 2 figure is 96.1% (497 out of 517) which exceeds the target and evidences the effective work of the Carer's Service. It should be noted that the definition for this measure has changed since it was last reported at the end of Quarter 1 to ensure it accurately reflects the performance of the service. The measure takes all unpaid carers who receive a personal budget (a direct payment) and seeks to understand if their personal budget has been reviewed.

The definition used in previous reporting comprised data from 2 groups of carers:

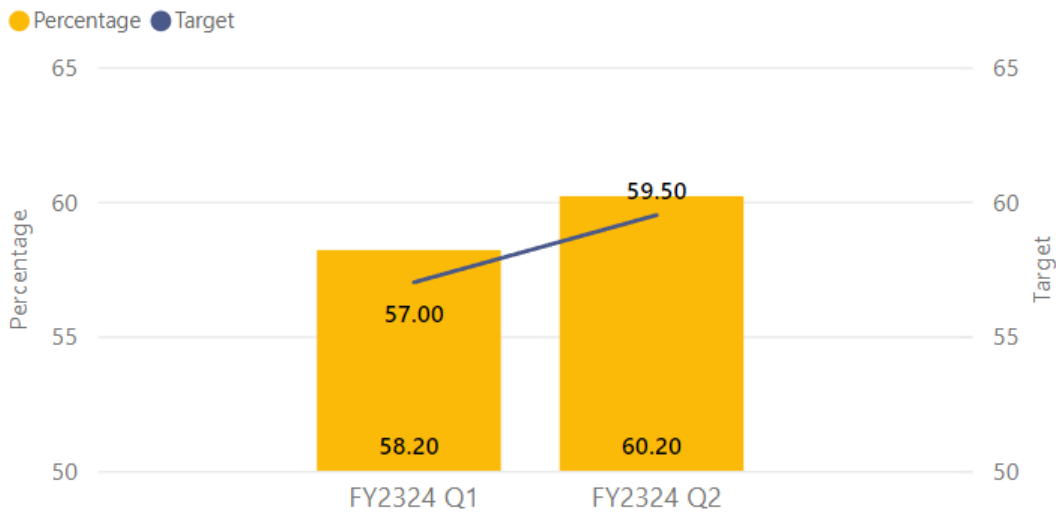
- 1) reviews of carers who receive direct payments; and
- 2) reviews of the cared-for person where they receive an ongoing direct payment for respite care.

Reviews undertaken for a cared-for-person are outside the remit and therefore control of the Carer's Service, so this group has now been removed from the measure. The definition for Quarter 2 onwards is now revised to include group one only - carers who receive a direct payment and reflects the performance of the Carer's Service.

#### 4.2.3 Create thriving environments

A summary of all Waste PIs is in section 4.5

##### PI 93 Percentage of ultrafast broadband coverage in residential & business premises ☆

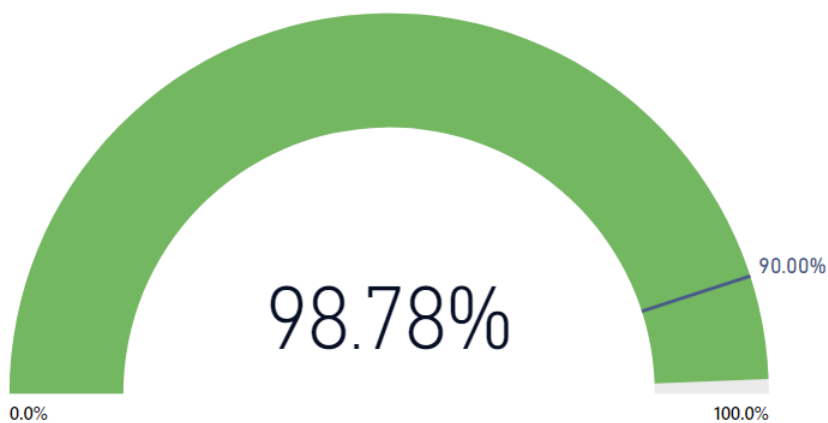


Good = high and achieving the ambition

Ultrafast deployment is moving well and current performance leads us to expect to arrive at target values at year end. The continuing evolution of 5G based Fixed Wireless Access supports enhanced ultrafast coverage

#### 4.2.4 Provide good value council services

##### PI 64 Customers' level of satisfaction ☆



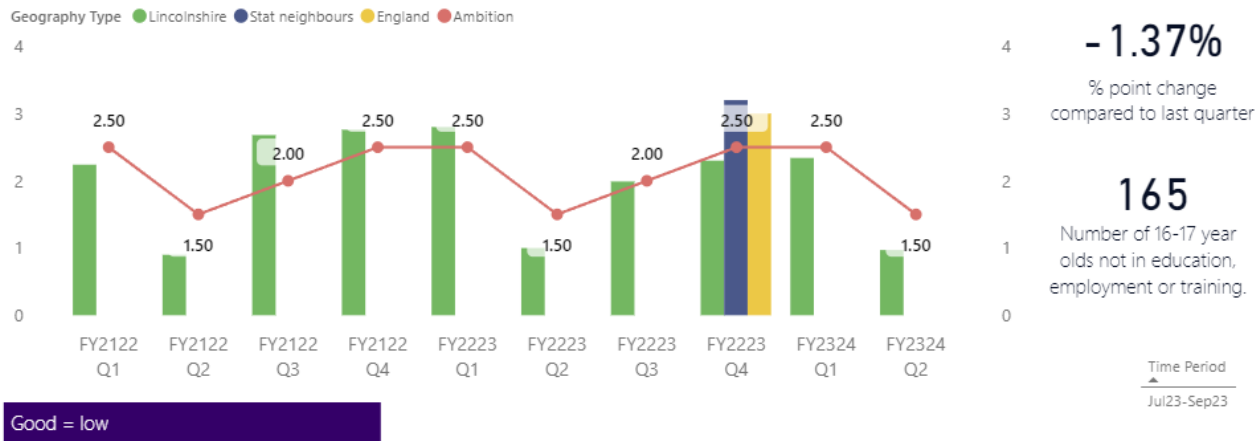
Good = high

This performance indicator has exceeded the target in Quarter 2. The Council moved to a new telephony system at the end of the previous quarter. Quarter 2 has been impacted as the Customer Service Centre adjusts its operational model to the new technology. This has led to some temporary challenges including an increased customer wait time, although it remains sufficiently low to ensure very high levels of customer experience.

### 4.3 Achieved ambition

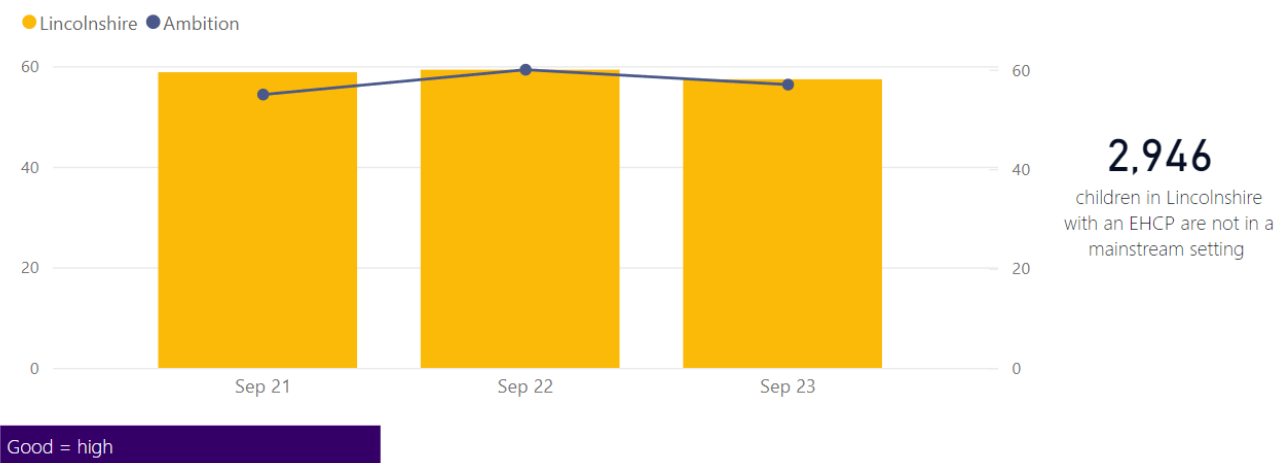
#### 4.3.1 Support high aspirations

#### PI 4 Percentage of 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training ✓



The Quarter 2 performance (0.97) is the last recorded position for this academic year and as expected the number of 16 and 17 year olds not in education, employment or training is on target.

#### PI 10 Percentage of children with EHCPs in a mainstream setting ✓

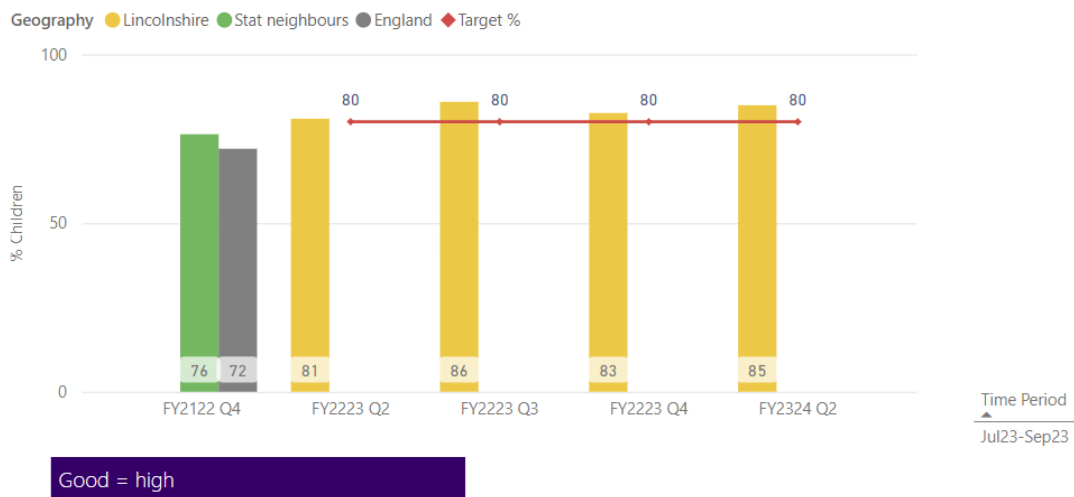


Due to a change in the way the SEN2 census is recorded, reporting has reverted to local data taken in January to calculate this measure using the categories outlined in the measure description. The historic data has been adjusted accordingly.

The number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who are in mainstream education is 57.4%. This has achieved the target (57%) and reflects the continued efforts by all those who support young people with special educational needs. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system has focused on ensuring that the mainstream

sector has practitioners with the skills and knowledge to be able to meet the wide range of needs of this cohort. This not only provides young people with SEND the opportunities to access a varied curriculum, but also provides capacity in specialist settings for those young people who require a higher level of support.

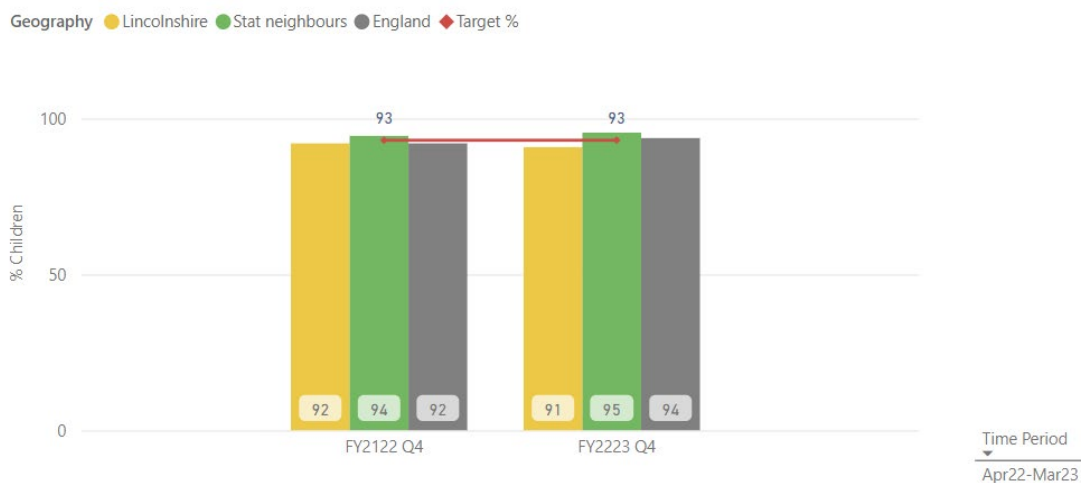
**PI 67 Percentage of eligible 2-year-olds who are in receipt of their Early Years Entitlement** ✓



In Quarter 2 the take up of those entitled to their 2-year-old early years entitlement was 84.9%, which achieved the target which is set at 80%. The Early Years and Childcare Support team continues to work in collaboration with locality teams, health visitors and a wide variety of partners to share data to encourage families to access their entitlement and improve take-up.

Our appointed outreach officer is also having a positive impact on this target, and at 84.9% Lincolnshire compares favourably to Statistical Neighbours (76.3%) and National data (72%).

**PI 68 Percentage of 3–4-year-olds who are taking up their universal entitlement** ✓

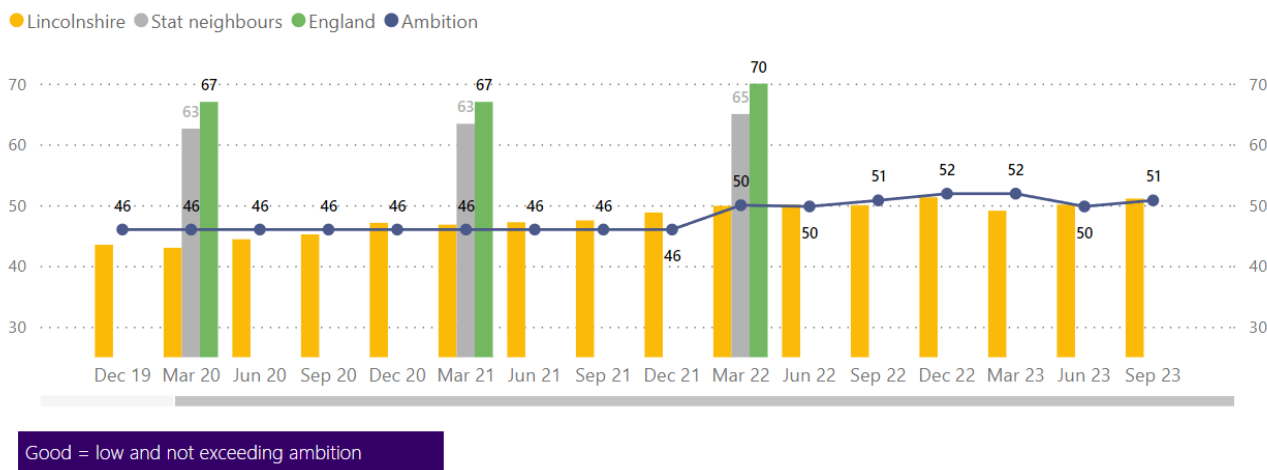




90.8% of children in Lincolnshire take up their 3- and 4-year-old universal entitlement, this has fallen slightly from 92% however, it is within our target tolerance. Target: 93%, tolerance: 89-95%. The Early Years and Childcare Support team continues to work in collaboration with locality teams, health visitors and a wide variety of partners to encourage families to access their entitlement and improve take-up. Our appointed outreach officer is also supporting this target.

### 4.3.2 Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full

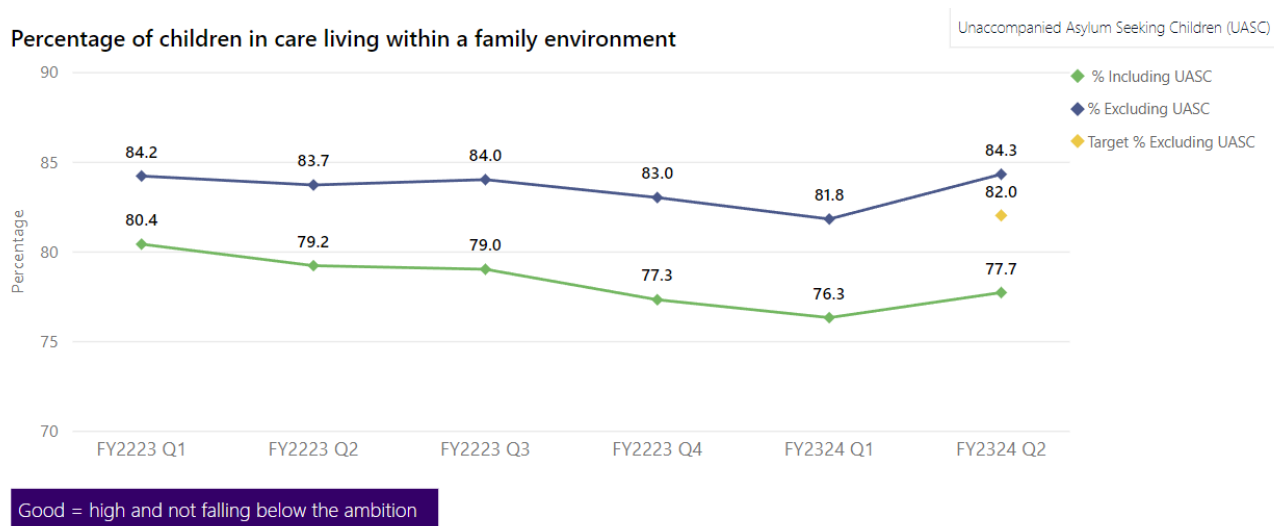
#### PI 14 Rate of children in care (per 10,000) ✓



At 51.1 per 10,000 children in care, this measure is slightly above target (50.8) but is within tolerance, so has therefore achieved this Quarter. This target has been revised upward in comparison to recent years to take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme and the number of children in care per 10,000 remains at a relatively high level compared to recent years. The recent growth in numbers is attributable to the council's safeguarding responsibilities and is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated National Transfer Scheme. The expectation is that Lincolnshire will take a maximum of 144 children which equates to 0.1% of the general child population and therefore there continues to be a likely impact of growth going forward.

Despite the recent growth and the potential for future increase there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children coming into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, even with the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care (CiC) per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (70 per 10,000 and 65 per 10,000 respectively as of 31st March 2022).

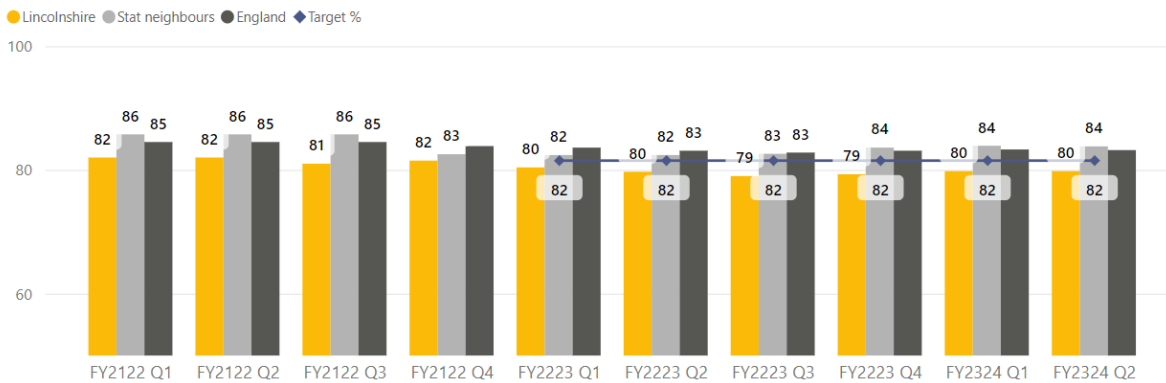
**PI 15 Percentage of children in care living within a family environment ✓**



Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) have a large impact on the total percentage of children in care living within a family environment as the majority of them are over 16 and are more suited to semi-independent living arrangements. The number of UASC has been rising steadily, making up around 9% of the total child in care population in Lincolnshire at the start of the 2023/24 business year. To illustrate the underlying level of children living within a family environment without the distortion of UASC, we are now providing figures both including and excluding UASC in the Corporate Plan, but this commentary will focus on excluding UASC, with an updated target of 82%.

At 84.3% in Quarter 2, this measure is performing above the target, but within target tolerance of 80-85%. It has increased markedly since Quarter 1, which had a figure of 81.8% (excluding UASC). Family placements are a continued focus for the Council as for many children in care, a family placement is deemed the most suitable means of offering care and maintaining children within their family networks. The Council continue to explore enabling children and young people to remain within their family or extended network if they cannot, for whatever reason, live with their parents.

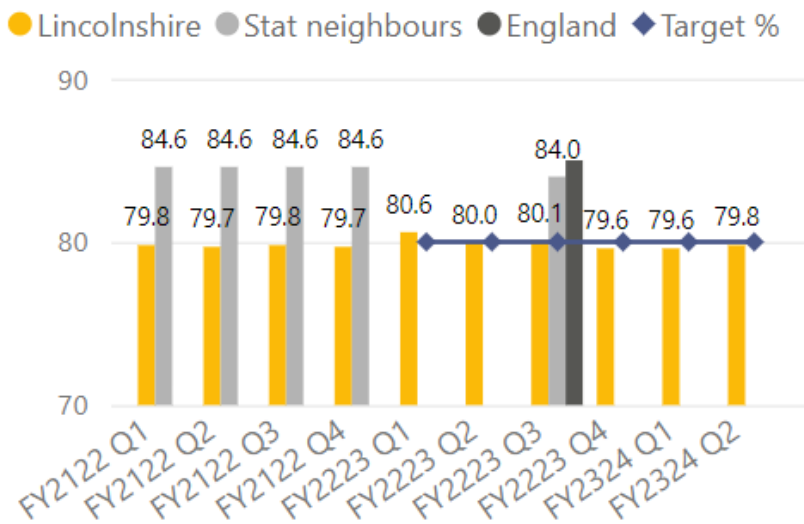
**PI 16 Percentage of social care providers in Lincolnshire with a CQC inspection rating of 'good' or 'outstanding' ✓**



Good = high

The percentage of social care providers in Lincolnshire with a CQC rating of good or outstanding remains the same in Quarter 2 (79.8%) compared to Quarter 1 against a target of 81.5%. Performance across our CIPFA group has decreased slightly to 83.8% compared to 83.9% last quarter and England has decreased slightly to 83.2% from 83.3%.

**PI 17 The percentage of adults aged 18 to 64 in receipt of an adult care service who are receiving these in the community ✓**



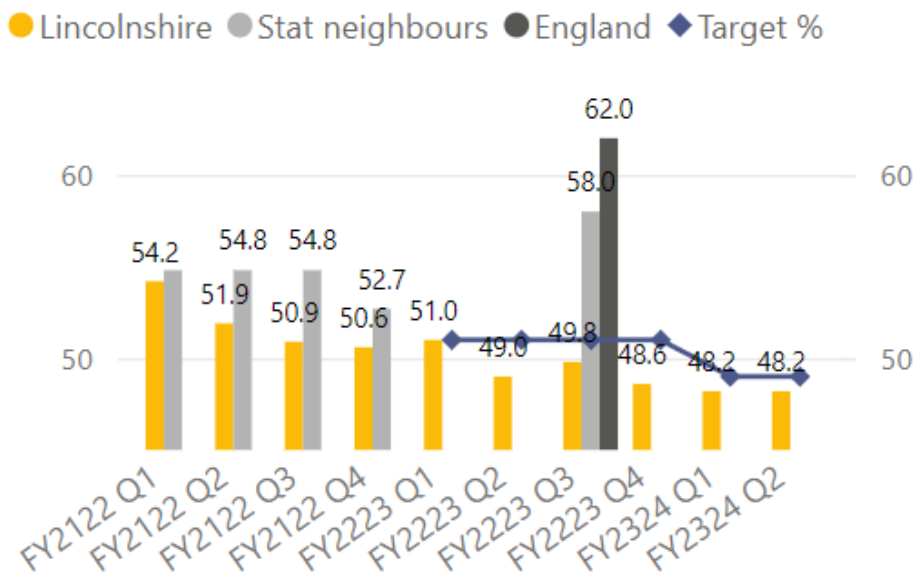
Good = high

The level of performance is slightly higher (79.8%) than at the end of Quarter 1 (79.6%), and the target (80%) has been achieved. 68% of the cohort are in Specialist Adult Services and 76.2% live in the community. 32% of the cohort are in Adult Frailty and Long-Term Services and in this group 87.5% live in the community.

Further improvement against this measure is largely dependent upon the development of additional community-based accommodation options suitable for a diverse range of needs. Whilst

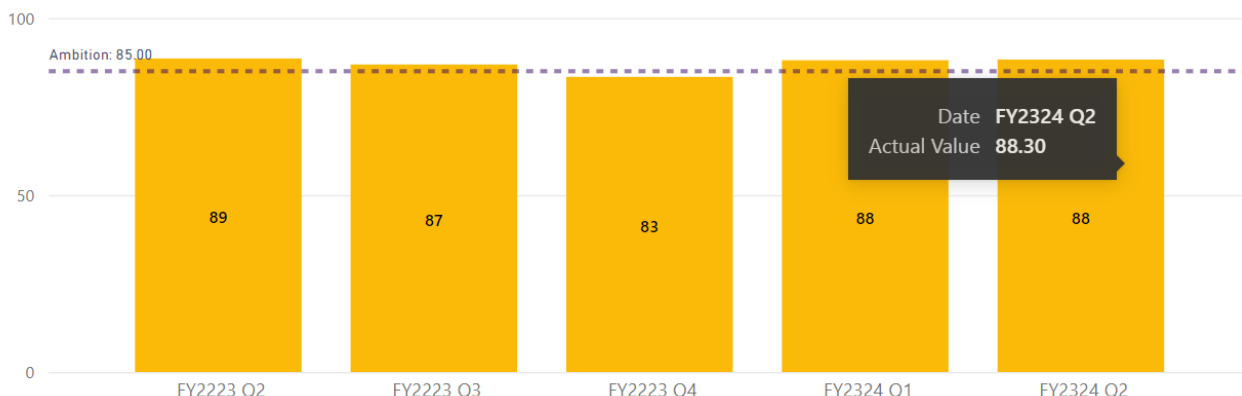
there is a significant investment in Extra Care housing for older people it is also important that a similar programme of investment is progressed for working age adults. This will help to maximise people’s independence and reduce reliance on residential and nursing care.

**PI 18 The percentage of adults aged 65 and over in receipt of an adult care service who are receiving these in the community ✓**



The level of performance is the same as the previous quarter (48.2% against a target of 49%). The number of older adults living in the community is impacted on by the large proportion of adults aged 85+ with physical support needs who need residential or nursing care.

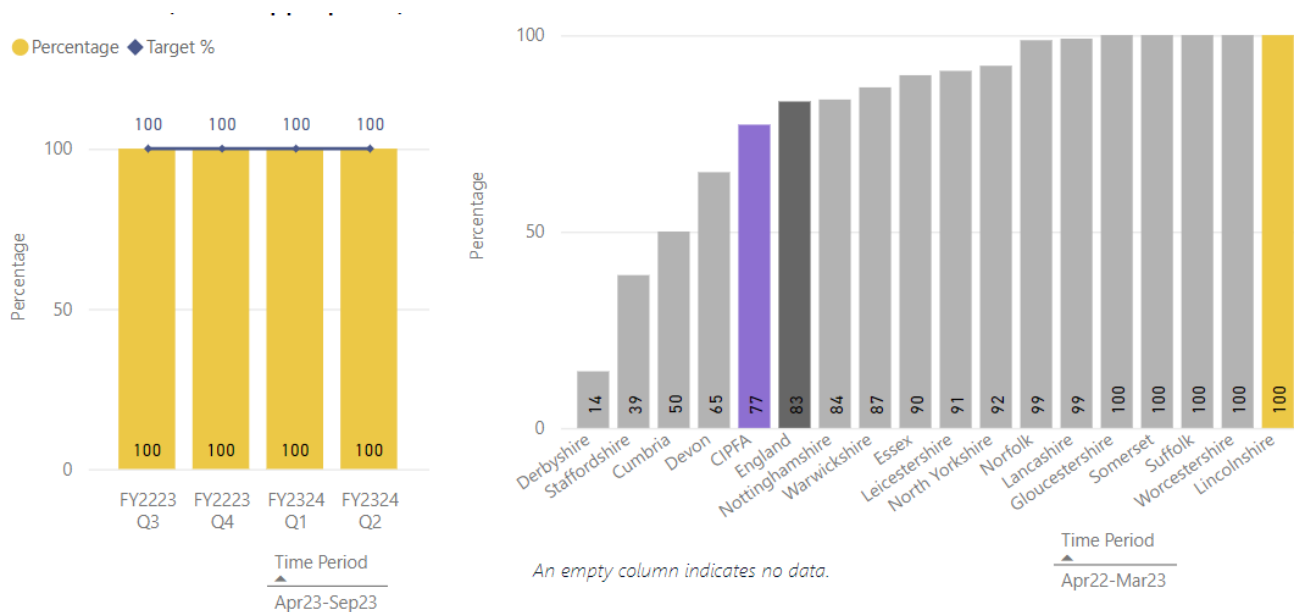
**PI 25 For adults discharged from hospital, the percentage who remain at home 91 days after discharge ✓**



Good = high and achieving the ambition

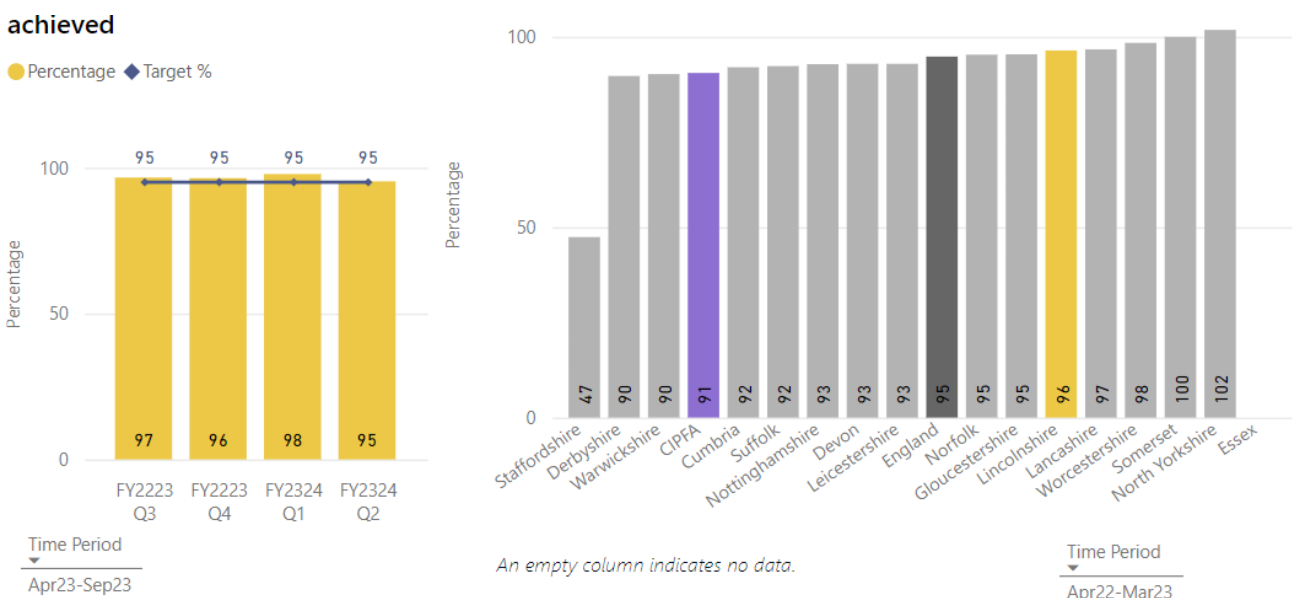
The target (85%) has been achieved which is positive, evidencing that people have received an appropriate assessment of their needs to ensure they remain at home following discharge from hospital. Of the 1,469 discharges that are at home after 91 days, 304 of these are at home receiving a long-term support service (e.g. home care). Of the 195 clients not at home on the 91st day, 114 of these are now in long-term residential care.

**PI 72 Safeguarding cases supported by an advocate (where appropriate) ✓**



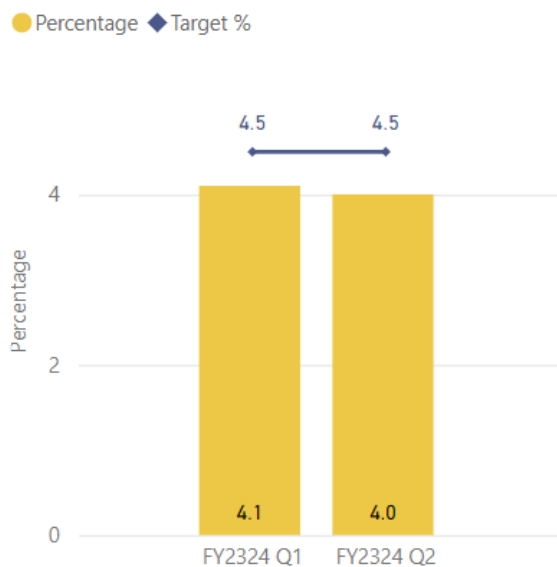
This measure is consistently met and demonstrates that individuals are provided with the necessary support to share their views and wishes.

**PI 73 Concluded safeguarding enquiries where the desired outcomes were achieved ✓**



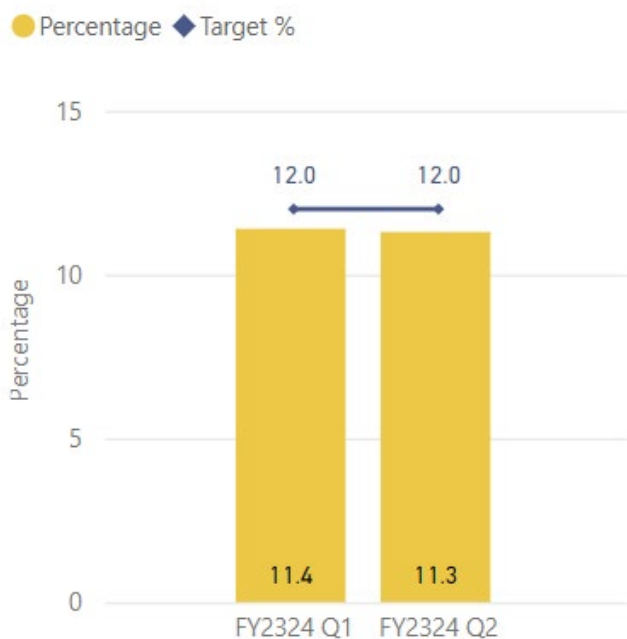
This target provides continued assurance that the adult concerned is always at the centre of adult safeguarding, that their wishes and views are sought and that a person-centred and outcome focused approach is taken.

### PI 79 Proportion of Adults with a learning disability in paid employment ✓



The figure for Quarter 2 is 4.0% (66 out of 1648) which is within the target tolerance. Out of the 66 clients in work, 12 are working more than 16 hours per week and 54 are working less than 16 hours per week. There is a lot of work undertaken to support clients with a learning disability to find work but this is challenging due to the complex needs of many of our clients and the work opportunities available in Lincolnshire. A lot of work takes place with the Maximum Independence Team and the new Job Coaches that have been set up to assist clients to explore the employment world. We expect the number accessing employment to increase over the year.

### PI 80 Proportion of Adults with a learning disability in paid employment and volunteering ✓



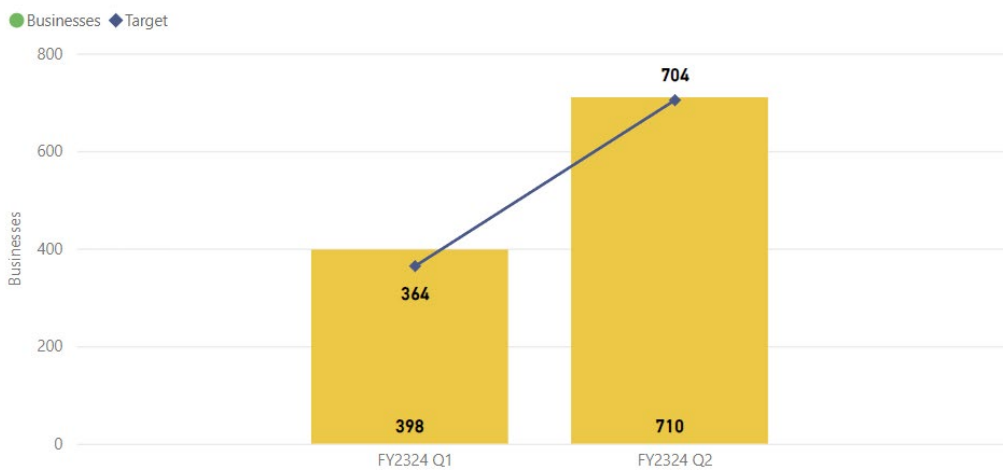
The figure for Quarter 2 is 11.3% which is within the target tolerance and reflects the work of the learning disability team to support clients to find volunteering opportunities. However, there has been a reduction in the proportion of individuals accessing work from the Quarter 1 percentage of 11.4%.

Please note the Quarter 1 data has been retrospectively updated (in line with the Quarter 2 cohort data) to exclude those who are fully funded continuing health care (CHC) clients as we manage these cases on behalf of the Integrated Care Board.

### 4.3.3 Create thriving environments

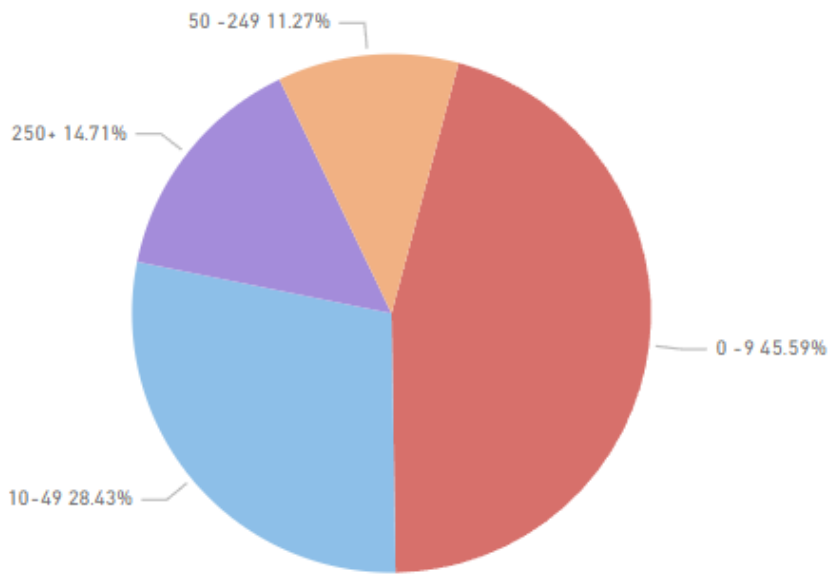
A summary of all Waste PIs is in section 4.5

#### PI 82 Number of businesses supported ✓

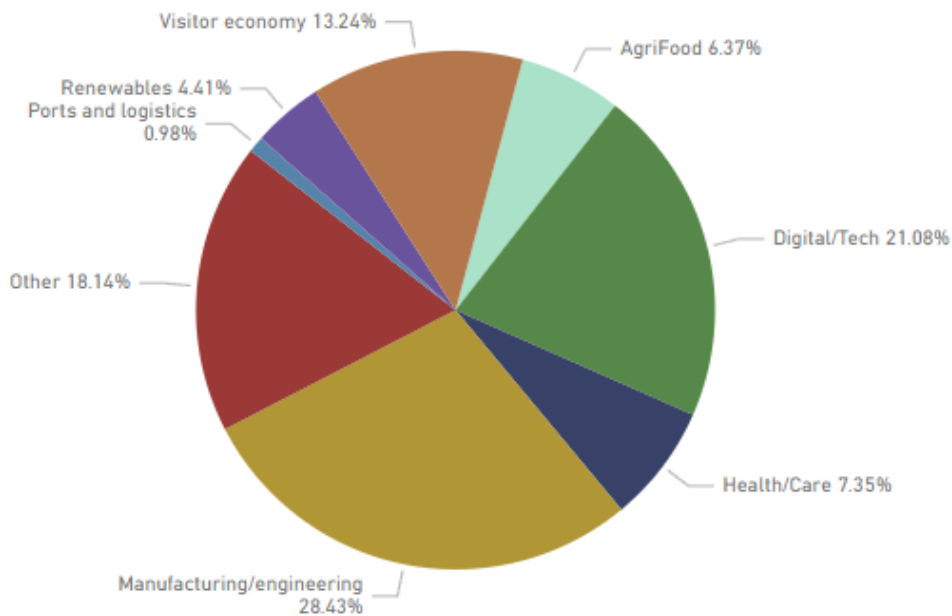




### Businesses Assisted by Priority Size



### Businesses Assisted by Priority Sectors



Performance for Quarter 2 has seen an additional 312 Businesses Supported bringing the total for 2023-24 to 710 – above the target of 704.

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub has supported 186 businesses in Quarter 2, with this being the first financial quarter of a new United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Shared Service model. This has seen several new services commissioned. The scope of delivery includes generalist and specialist support for Manufacturing, Low Carbon, Retail Leisure & Hospitality, Agriculture and Horticulture, Finance Readiness, and Digitalisation as well as Scale Up, Start-up and Social Economy.

There will also be a new events programme that incorporates online webinars, face-to-face workshops and larger conference events.

The Growth Hub also provides International Trade Support including the Export Peer Network, Roundtable and the Empowering Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in International Trade programmes. There is also funded activity through the Mosaic Digital Hub which focuses on the Growth of the Digital sector. In terms of Made Smarter (a Programme designed to champion the UK’s manufacturing revolution), 52 businesses on stage 1 of the Programme were engaged with – this involves data capture, assessment, progress options on the programme or signposting.

Our Inward Investment Service includes Team Lincolnshire (TL), Inward Investment enquiry handling and the account management of Foreign Owned Businesses. Through these services 70 Businesses were supported during Quarter 2. Support has included well-attended Team Lincolnshire Coffee Clubs focussing on Artificial Intelligence, and a number of Foreign Direct Investment meetings which attracted significant interest and enquiries.

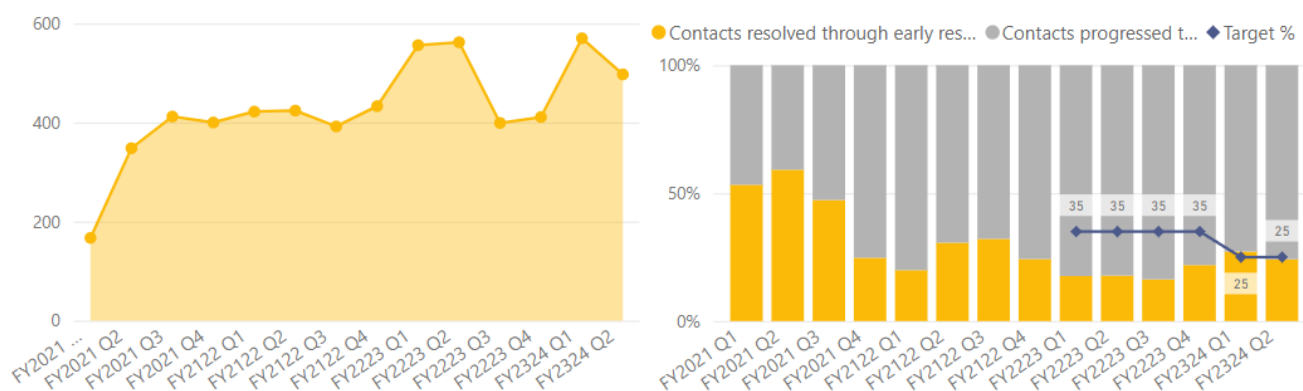
The Economic Infrastructure Business Accommodation Portfolio consists of leasehold units in six business centres, 48 industrial workshops and eight miscellaneous premises across 24 estates in 17 towns. The overarching aim of the service is to provide suitable premises and tenancies to support new and young small and medium businesses and enhance economic growth and job creation across Lincolnshire.

The Economic Infrastructure Portfolio team enhances that service level to its tenants, continuing to support them by nurturing through effective relationships and physical and financial support. The team also refers businesses to enable them access to advice, support, and potential upskilling from Business Lincolnshire to assist them and help them to grow.

In Quarter 2, 138 small business tenants received accommodation support alongside 3 public sector tenants, making 141 in total. However, some organisations leased more than one unit, resulting in 165 units being leased overall. As a result of enhanced relationship management 4 Businesses received additional support during the Quarter.

#### 4.3.4 Provide good value council services

##### PI 43 Percentage of contacts resolved through early resolution ✓



Good = low contacts with high early resolution

There were 497 contacts in Quarter 2, which is an overall decrease of 12.8% in comparison to the previous quarter (570 contacts).

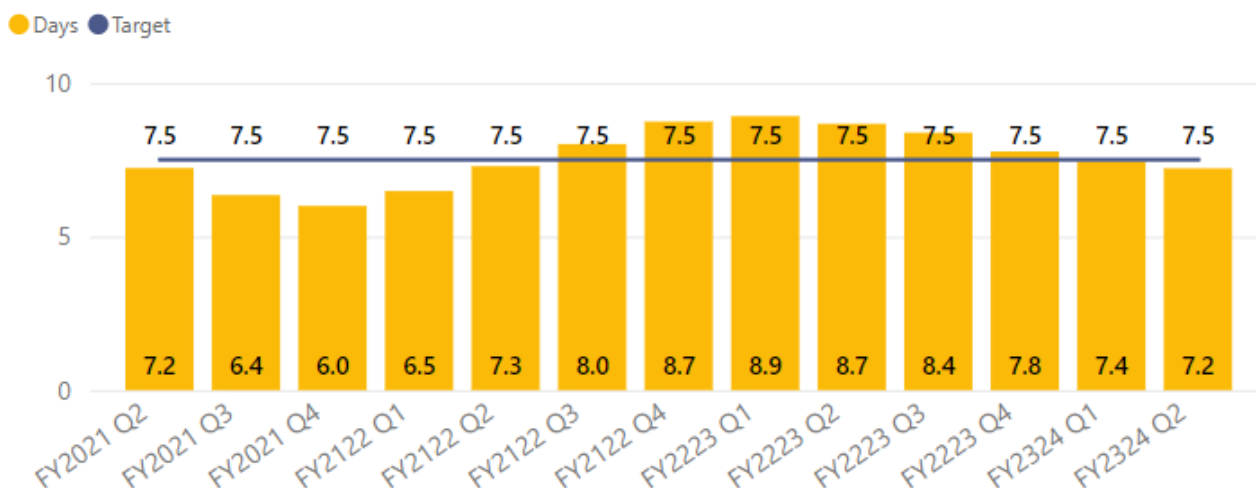
As with previous Quarters, the highest number of complaints received were in relation to Highways Services, with the largest area of concern being road maintenance and repairs. Whilst a large increase was expected in relation to Home to School Transport given the end of summer holidays, the complaints in this area remained low, with a total of 32 cases.

Overall 59% of all cases which entered the formal complaints process were in the Place directorate. Across all services 120 (24%) contacts were resolved informally in early resolution (target 25%), with 110 of these being within Place. Those cases resolved informally within Place account for 92% of all early resolutions achieved in Quarter 2.

Cases relating to Children's Services accounted for 23% of all complaints received in the Quarter, with Adult Care cases accounting for 16%. A decrease was seen in the number of cases relating to Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Annual Reviews in this quarter, reflective of the work completed to improve this area.

28% of cases (17) received in Adult Care related to the quality of services provided by 3rd parties, with 27% of cases (16) relating to financial assessments.

**PI 44 Days lost to sickness absence per FTE ✓**



Good = low sickness absence

Sickness absence has continued to reduce and is now 7.22 days per FTE. Quarter 2 of 2023/24 has seen a reduction to its lowest level for two years and is below the Council's target of 7.5 days per FTE.

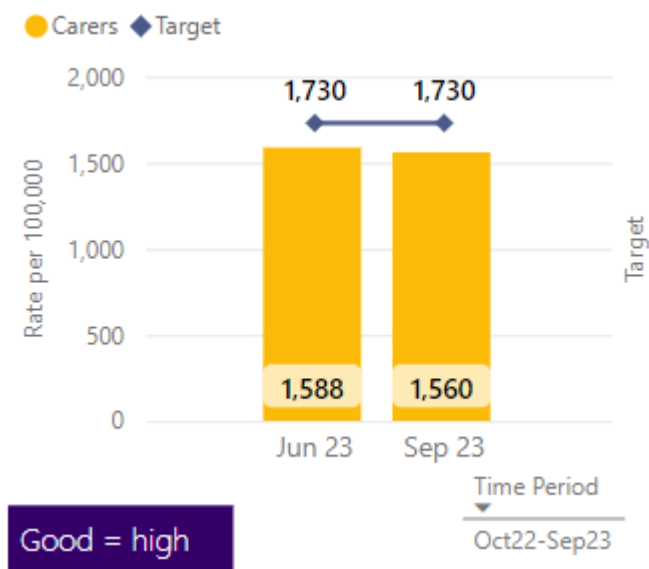
#### 4.4 Did not achieve ambition

##### 4.4.1 Support high aspirations

None in Quarter 2.

##### 4.4.2 Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full

#### PI 76 Carers supported in the last 12 months ✖



While the target has not been met, 11,859 unpaid carers were supported over the last 12 months, this comprised 9,221 adult carers of adults and 2,638 young carers. Of the 9,221 adult carers supported; 785 received a direct payment and 7,934 were offered information and advice as part of the Carer's Service. Outside of the service, 502 cared for persons received respite, providing indirect support to unpaid carers. The rate for Quarter 2 is lower than in Quarter 1. This was to be expected based on historical trends during the summer holidays, when there is less activity in this service.

The 1,730 per 100,000 population target for this measure was set several years ago and it is intended that this will be changed in Quarter 3 2023/24 to take into account the new Carer's Service model which went live on 1 October 2022. This would provide a realistic target which reflects the work of the Carer's Service in the context of other council services which support carers and are also included in this indicator.

##### 4.4.3 Create thriving environments

A summary of all Waste PIs is in section 4.5

#### 4.4.4 Provide good value council services

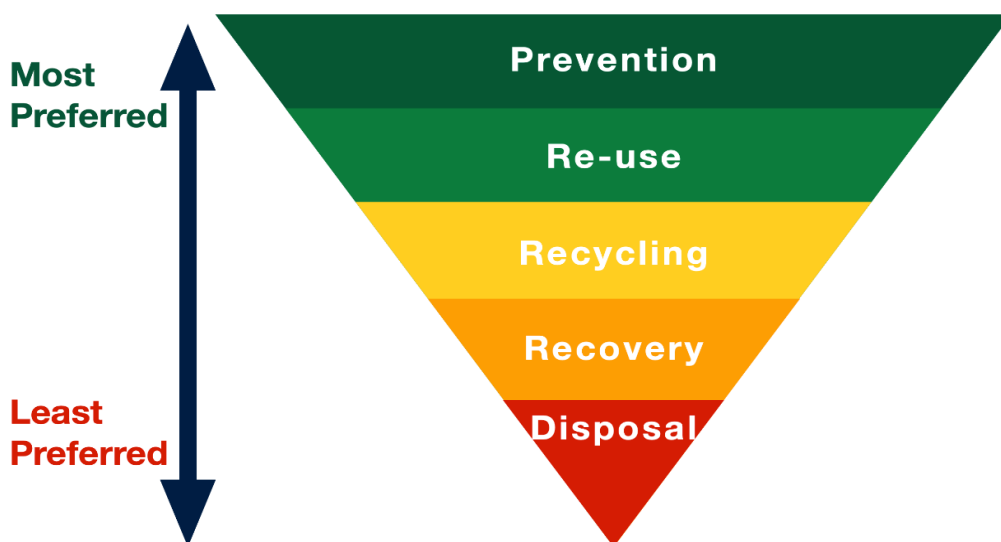
None in Quarter 2.

#### 4.5 Waste Pls

In order to assist the understanding of the different types of waste disposal, we have included the following.

##### 4.5.1 Glossary of terms of the waste hierarchy

All local authorities and businesses have a legal responsibility to apply the “waste hierarchy” in dealing with waste. The waste hierarchy is a simple ranking system used for the different waste management options according to which is the best for the environment. The most preferred option is to prevent waste, and the least preferred choice is disposal in landfill sites.



##### Prevention

Reducing the amount of waste which is produced in the first place is the highest priority as it helps sustain raw materials for longer which is a major objective of a Circular Economy. This can be achieved by using less material in design and manufacture and keeping products for longer. We have a KPI for the amount of “Household Waste Collected” in kilograms per household which has an annual target of 1000kg/HH. This can be affected by economic factors as people produce less waste if they spend less money but overall and is difficult to influence. However, it does show the trends in how much waste we produce.

##### Re-use

Preparing materials for re-use in their original form is the second best approach to dealing with waste. This can be achieved by checking, cleaning, repairing and refurbishing items. Using charity shops is a good method of reusing. In Lincolnshire we are planning to introduce a re-use process at

Household Waste Recycling Centres whereby residents can present materials which is then passed onto other residents without having to recycle or incinerate.

### **Recycling**

Recycling involves processing materials that would otherwise be sent to landfills and turning them into new products. It's the third step of the waste management hierarchy because of the extra energy and resources that go into creating a new product. We measure recycling rates for all material which is presented at Household Waste Recycling Centres where it is delivered by the public. We also measure the overall recycling rate which includes all materials including wheely bins at the kerbside and recycling centres. Treatment of food and organic waste by Anaerobic Digestion is classed as recycling which is why it is preferable to incineration.

### **Recovery**

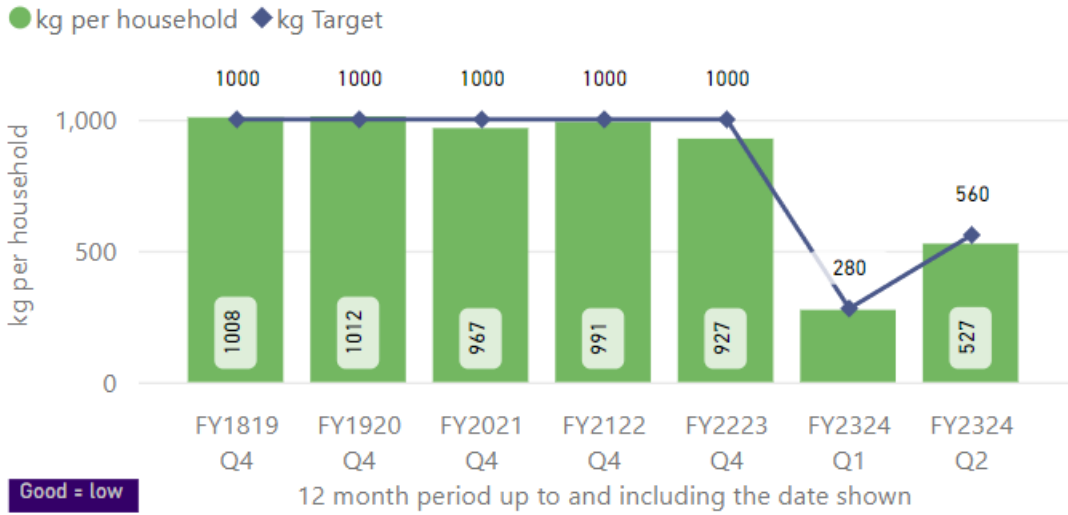
When further recycling is not practical or possible, waste can be treated through such processes as incineration to recover energy. In Lincolnshire we operate an Energy from Waste facility which turned 57% of our waste into energy in 2020/21 which was sold as electricity to the National Grid. Material for recovery is normally collected in the black bin at each household or can be collected at recycling centres. This is preferable to landfilling waste as there is less impact on the environment as greenhouse gases are reduced.

### **Disposal**

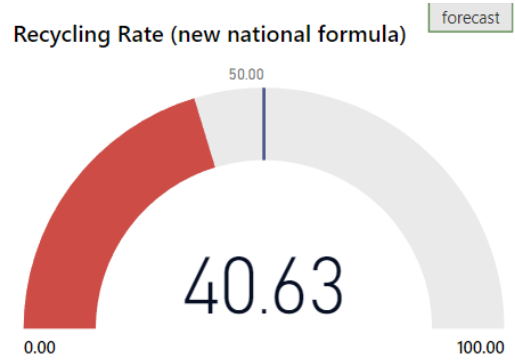
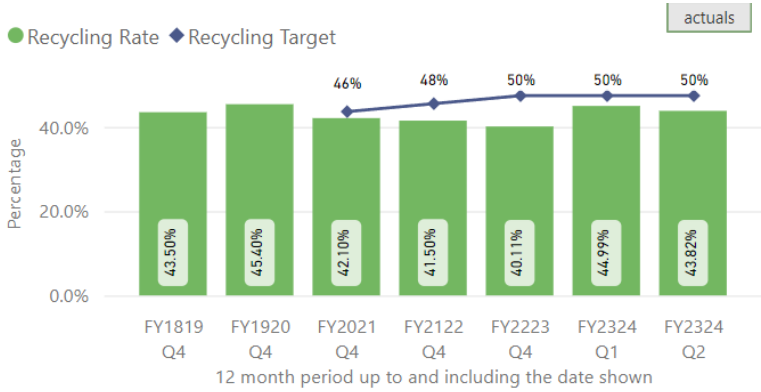
When all else fails, materials that cannot be reused, recycled or recovered for energy will be landfilled. This is an unsustainable method of waste management because waste that sits in landfills can continue to have a damaging environmental impact as such sites continuously release large amounts of damaging carbon into the atmosphere. In 2020/21 we sent 3% of our waste to landfill and such material includes hazardous waste which cannot be treated and certain inert materials such as soil and rubble. Landfills can also leak chemicals and toxic liquids that can contaminate the soil and groundwater.

## **4.5.2 Waste Performance as at Quarter 2**

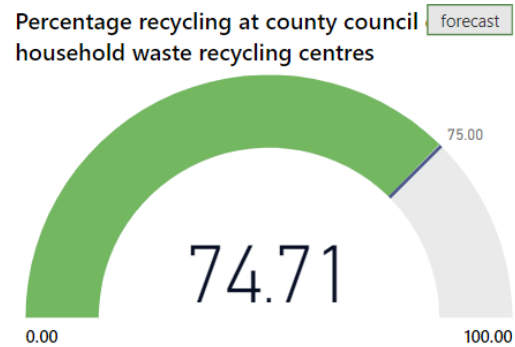
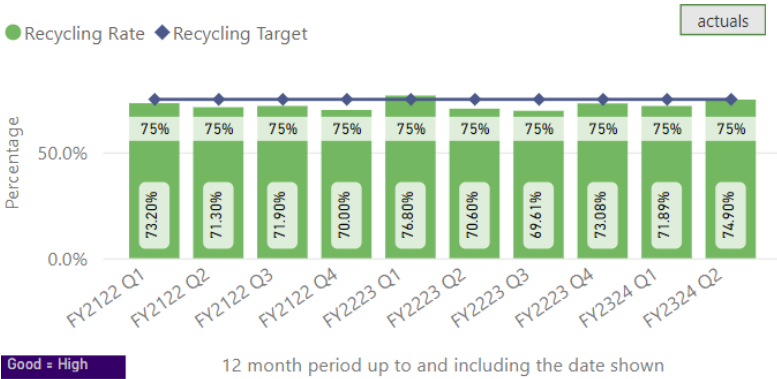
**PI 36 Household waste collected** ✓



**PI 37 Recycling Rate (new national formula)** ✗



**PI 38 Recycling at County Council owned Household Waste Recycling Centres** ✓



**PI 39 Household waste to landfill** ☆



### 4.5.3 Summary of Quarter 2 Waste performance

The household waste collected for Quarter 2 is 527kg per household and that is below the target of 560kg which is good news as prevention is the highest objective of the waste hierarchy. This means that less waste is being presented by the public with less haulage and processing needed.

The overall recycling rate for all waste streams is 43.82% which is below the target of 50%. It is impossible to understand why kerbside recycling continues to struggle but it is hoped that with the government's new guidelines for "Simpler Recycling", we will be able to considerably improve in this area, in particular the separate collection of food waste should provide an increase of approximately 7%.

The recycling rate at Household Waste Recycling Centres is 74.9% for Quarter 2 which is a big increase from Quarter 1 (71.89%). This is within tolerance of the 75% target and the increase could be due to a higher proportion of garden waste coupled with increased engagement on sites. We have new contractors operating sites and as a consequence we have found better engagement between staff and residents.

The performance indicator for landfill waste continues to be very low which is excellent news. The target for the full year is 5% but we are projecting an actual rate of 0.71%. Landfill has historically been used where we have unplanned outages at the Energy from Waste facility and is the last resort. However, we recently had several weeks of disruption where the Waste team secured alternative locations at short notice to prevent using landfill and this will continue in the future. We may never achieve 0% waste to landfill, but we will always strive towards that target.

#### National Context

The 4 performance indicators show good trends in how we manage waste and it should be noted that we are already meeting most of the government's planned changes. Simpler Recycling aims to minimise waste and drive up recycling rates to meet the targets of the Environment Act 2021. Nationally, between 2000 and 2022 there has been an increase of 11% in recycling rates to 42%. However, in recent years household recycling rates have plateaued at around 42% to 44% which reflects what has happened in Lincolnshire.

Simpler Recycling requires the following materials to be collected across all authorities:

- paper and card,
- plastic,
- glass,
- metal,
- food waste,
- garden waste

However, it should be noted that the government is concerned about the number of bins households may need and have therefore relaxed the approach to allow co-mingled recycled materials. Fortunately, Lincolnshire has successfully met this requirement for many years and therefore the only change we will have to make is to have separate food waste collections by April 2026. Separate food waste will require capital expenditure to our Waste Transfer Stations, but there should be significant revenue savings once collections of food begins. It is estimated that



Lincolnshire residents produce approximately 30,000 tonnes of food waste per year which is currently mixed with other material in residents' black bins and processed at the Energy from Waste facility at a cost of £65 - £99 per tonne. If we dispose of food waste at an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility the disposal cost will be significantly lower and may be net £0 which could provide an annual revenue income of £2m - £3m. This is similar to the recent approach with paper and card whereby the material is collected separately and recycled at a paper mill. The paper and card is much cleaner as it is uncontaminated and has much greater value which provides a constant income for the authority.

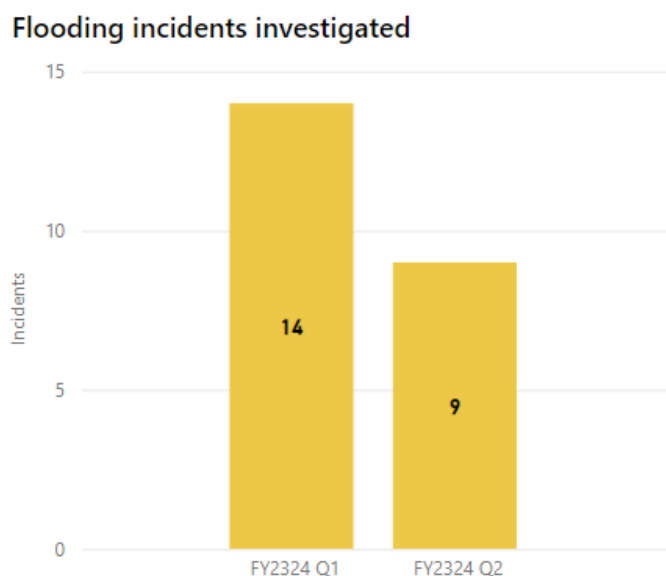
A second benefit of separate food waste disposal will be an improvement in our recycling rate. AD is classed as recycling which will move the food waste from Recovery to Recycling on the Waste Hierarchy and will provide an approximate 7% improvement in the overall recycling rate.

There is a great deal of government emphasis on improving recycling rates but waste prevention should always be our highest priority and disposal of material through landfilling should always be our last resort. Overall Lincolnshire has excellent services already in place but the Environment Act requirements represent a commercial opportunity which will further benefit the environment.

#### 4.6 Contextual KPIs

These KPIs do not have an ambition set but it has been agreed by the Executive Directors these should be highlighted to the Executive. All contextual KPIs can be found on the Council's [website](#).

#### PI 84 Flooding incidents investigated



There were 9 Section 19 Investigations started in Quarter 2 affecting 13 properties (10 residential and 3 commercial). As at the end of the Quarter 2 period (July to September 2023), there were a total 53 ongoing Section 19 reports being prepared as a result of investigations being undertaken, spanning from 2019 to present.

Work continues to complete investigations in a timely manner, noting that some are more detailed and complex than others, and the process undertaken by Lincolnshire County Council has been streamlined to address a backlog of investigations following exceptional numbers generated during a series of flooding events during 2019 and 2020.

As an authority we work closely with other Risk Management Authorities to make them aware of recommendations so that future works may be considered. Equally, where opportunities arise, Lincolnshire County Council work in collaboration with other organisations to seek joint solutions to flooding issues wherever possible.

On the weekend of 18-21 October Storm Babet caused significant damage and disruption throughout Lincolnshire. As of 14 November the County has had 609 properties reported as being affected by internal flooding with a further 491 properties suffering from external flooding of gardens or outbuildings. There were also 48 instances of a road needing to be closed alongside 98 further cases of highway flooding. There are a further 206 reports received from partners that require further investigation to establish if they are of internal or external flooding.

Thus far it is understood that 167 new Section 19 reports of varying complexity will be required to understand the causality of flooding at various locations, often affecting multiple households.

Details of all current Section 19 investigations, along with their status, can be found on the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee meeting page on the Lincolnshire County Council website - [Browse meetings - Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/scrutiny/committees/flood-and-water-management)

#### **4.7 Performance Indicators (PIs) that cannot be reported in Quarter 2**

##### **4.7.1 Data is not available for the following PIs and will be updated as soon as it is released**

**PI 19** Personal wellbeing estimates – *life satisfaction; happy; worthwhile*

**PI 23** Percentage of overweight or obese children

#### **4.8 Update on suggestion from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 24 August 2023 (Quarter 1 report) regarding PI 15 Percentage of children in care living within a family environment.**

In view of the impact unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) have on the number of non-family placements, the Board suggested that the number of asylum seeking children be reported separately from this indicator.

With effect from Quarter 2, unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) are shown separately within performance for the **Percentage of children in care (CiC) living within a family environment**. A new ambition of 82% has been set to show CiC excluding UASC and this is how this performance will now be reported. All historic ambition information has been removed as this included UASC. Details of Quarter 2 performance can be found in section 4.3.2.

## 2. Legal Issues:

### Equality Act 2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The report presents performance against the ambitions and objectives set out in the Corporate Plan, many of which relate to people with a protected characteristic including young people, older people and people with a disability. It is the responsibility of each service when it is considering making a change,

stopping, or starting a new service to make sure equality considerations are taken into account and an equality impact analysis completed.

### 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 report presents performance against the ambitions and objectives set out in the Corporate Plan many of which relate directly to achievement of health and wellbeing objectives.

### Crime and Disorder

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

The Report presents performance against the outcomes and measures set out in the Corporate Plan some of which relate to crime and disorder issues.

## **3. Conclusion**

This report presents an overview of performance against the Corporate Plan as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. There is positive performance overall across all 4 corporate ambitions with both activities and KPIs performing well.

### **4. Legal Comments:**

The Executive is responsible for ensuring that the Executive functions are discharged in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework of which the Corporate Plan is a part. This report will assist the Executive in discharging this function.

The recommendations are therefore lawful and within the remit of the Executive.

## 5. Resource Comments:

Acceptance of the recommendation in this report has no direct financial consequences for the Council.

## 6. Consultation

### a) a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

### b) b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

N/A

### c) Scrutiny Comments

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) is due to consider this report on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Any comments of the Board will be reported to the Executive.

### d) Risks and Impact Analysis

Any changes to services, policies and projects are subject to an Equality Impact Analysis. The considerations of the contents and subsequent decisions are all taken with regard to existing policies.

## 7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Full list of 2023-24 Quarter 2 Corporate Plan Activities

## 8. Background Papers

The following Background Papers within section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this Report:

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Council report: Refresh of the Corporate Plan 19 May 2023	<a href="#">Agenda for Council on Friday, 19th May, 2023, 10.30 am (moderngov.co.uk)</a>
Executive report: Performance Reporting Against the Corporate Plan Success Framework 2022-	<a href="#">Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 4th July, 2023, 10.00 am (moderngov.co.uk)</a>

2023 - Quarter 4 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	
Executive report: Performance Reporting Against the Corporate Plan Success Framework 2023-2024 - Quarter 1 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	<a href="#">Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 5th September, 2023, 10.30 am (moderngov.co.uk)</a>

This report was written by Caroline Jackson, who can be contacted on [caroline.jackson@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.jackson@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

Ambition: Support high aspirations				
Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
A6	Champion educational excellence across Lincolnshire [7]	We will help schools to be skilled at supporting children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) in mainstream settings, through developing and delivering strategies and where an education, health and care plan is required, undertaking this assessment in a timely and creative way. Our SEND High Needs transformation programme will support improvement and delivery in this area.	To support schools to develop effective whole school systems which are vigilant to early indicators of children and young people who have severe difficulties in attending schools due to emotional factors that can result in prolonged absence and help settings to employ robust meaningful support to remove barriers and improve attendance. A revised and improved Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) Pathway will be launched by September 2023.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A7	Champion educational excellence across Lincolnshire [7]	We will continue to support schools to work effectively with a wide range of services and establish robust collaborative arrangements, in order to maximise expertise, and improve opportunities for all children - enhancing our Education Improvement Strategy within the Sector-led self-improving system of maintained schools and trusts.	The majority of schools receive appropriate support from our services which results in effective provision for pupils.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A1	Enhance the skills of our communities to meet the needs of our businesses and the economy [8]	We will transform how we raise skills levels, productivity, employability and apprenticeship numbers through developing and implementing an updated skills plan.	Promote the success of Lincolnshire Apprenticeship Awards 2023 via a communications plan, supported by Council, Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) and Business Lincolnshire communications resources. In August we will launch the 2023/24 Adult Learning programme to widen participation and work with those communities who will best benefit from our	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

**Ambition: Support high aspirations**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
			funding.	
A56	Have high aspirations for our county, promoting Greater Lincolnshire on the national stage and secure greater devolution of powers [11]	We will work with officials to secure a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire.	We will work with officials to negotiate and agree the content of a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire against timelines set out by government.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A63	Promote thriving voluntary community groups that enable active lifestyles, drive collaboration and community innovation [13]	Work proactively with our strategic partners and commissioned services to create an environment across the county in which voluntary community groups are sustainable and able to thrive in line with the Stronger Communities – Lincolnshire Community Strategy.	Map the formal boards and partnerships that can influence this activity and collectively identify any gaps across the county.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A34	Enhance the safety of local communities by working collaboratively with the police and ambulance services, sharing buildings and response arrangements [14]	We will continue to work with partners to enhance community safety, with a particular focus on prevention and early intervention. We will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery through building a sustainable financial and operating model for the Public Protection function, pooling budgets and undertaking joint commissioning activity.	Completion of finance review for the statutory boards and recommendations for future pool funding opportunities. Completion of community safety performance framework. Identify cross over activity where the fire service can contribute to community safety. Develop and complete a partnership engagement strategy for internal and external audiences. Employment of Domestic Abuse (DA) Safe Accommodation Project Co-ordinator and associated Crime Reduction Tactical Advisor. Employment of x2 analysts in community safety hub.	AMBER (Progress is within agreed limits)



**Ambition: Support high aspirations**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
			<p><b>Narrative:</b> <i>The refurbishment of Myle Cross is proceeding as planned with a new community safety hub and conferencing facilities that will allow for joined up working space between police, LCC and other partners, enhancing opportunities for collaborative working. The target date for completion of this work is summer 2024. A finance task and finish subgroup of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership has been established. Contributions to the Partnership for the 2024/25 financial year have been agreed as have the reporting arrangements. Business Managers from the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board, Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership continue to meet regularly and are seeking to align financial requests to partners. The recruitment for the Safe Accommodation Project Co-ordinator and associated Crime Reduction Tactical Advisor is almost complete with the interviews for candidates planned for November. Two multi agency analytical pieces of work have commenced around adult safeguarding and serious violence. Numerous agencies are involved in this work including LCC, Police, Public Health, Fire and Rescue and Childrens services. This activity will help facilitate our objective of delivering preventative and early interventions. This work will run alongside the wider community analytical hub project which will see the recruitment of apprenticeship and senior analytical capability. The</i></p>	

Ambition: Support high aspirations				
Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
			<i>performance framework for our fraud activity and education activity is complete and the data dashboards created. Work continues on the crime prevention and domestic abuse dashboards.</i>	

**Ambition: Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
A18	Deliver good quality children’s centres, which are at the heart of our communities supporting families, so their children thrive [7]	We will support families in their parenting role through continuing to deliver the healthy child programme, also evaluating the benefits of the Family Hub model with a specific focus on prevention and early intervention specifically around parental and infant mental health, breastfeeding and an enhanced antenatal offer.	We will develop a workforce and service plan which focuses on the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme and Family Hub models, specifically around integrated and collaborative approaches to service delivery. Resulting in a revised service delivery model for 0-19 services, whilst ensuring early intervention and prevention. Digital capability will result in blended delivery options aimed at meeting all children's needs whilst highlighting those who are most vulnerable. Integrated pathways will ensure families can navigate services with ease.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A51	Deliver good quality children’s centres, which are at the heart of our communities supporting families, so their children thrive [7]	Implementing a family hub approach. This is a system-wide model of providing joined-up, high-quality, whole-family support services from pregnancy, through the child’s early years and later childhood, and into early adulthood.	We will devise a training plan to incorporate the new evidence-based programmes and necessary workforce development. The training plan and workforce development is expected to offer opportunities to the wider sector to include voluntary, private, independent and faith groups. We will launch a further 5 hub sites. We will launch a small grants process to allow the wider workforce to train and deliver some of our evidence-based programmes, this will enable us to reach more children and families.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A15	Intervene effectively to keep vulnerable people safe, making sure children in care and care leavers get the best opportunities [8]	We will continue to improve how we support children in care and care leavers to thrive through the delivery of the children in care transformation programme. This will include the development of two new children homes	Complete all placements at Robin House. Progress Riverhead House through the full exterior build/weather tight, and continue with the staffing recruitment to the staff team. Commence Ofsted home and manager registration process.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

**Ambition: Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
		catering for children with more complex needs and enhancing housing solutions for care leavers.		
A13	Create further accommodation options for greater independence and wellbeing [9]	We will work with our districts and other partners in implementing the housing for independence strategy, to increase accommodation options for those wanting Extra Care, those with learning disabilities, mental illness or autism. We will also collaborate to deliver easy access to equipment / adaptations to homes that enable greater independence.	<p>During this quarter, the Grange Farm scheme will be presented to the Adults and Community Wellbeing Committee for consideration. Following this, the scheme will seek Executive approval to enable the project and partnership to progress. In partnership with ACIS Group and West Lindsey District Council, this development will feature 10 one-bedroom apartments for Working Aged Adults with a disability within Market Rasen. Additionally in Quarter 2, it is anticipated listed building consent will be submitted to achieve the required approvals to commence construction on the Grange Farm scheme.</p> <p><b>Narrative:</b> <i>During Quarter 2, the Grange Farm scheme was presented to Adults and Community Wellbeing Committee and received support to progress. On 14th April 2023, the Council's contribution to the Grange Farm scheme was subsequently approved by the Leader of the Council: Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning and the Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Public Health. Due to the complexities and risks of the site additional surveys and contract negotiations with ACIS' chosen contractor have taken longer than expected, therefore listed building consent has not been submitted during this Quarter. It is anticipated this will be submitted during Quarter</i></p>	AMBER (Progress is within agreed limits)

**Ambition: Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
			<p>4.</p> <p><i>In addition, The Hoplands scheme (in Sleaford, which comprises of 40 extra care apartments and 12 one-bedroom apartments for Working Aged Adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and mental illness), in partnership with North Kesteven District Council obtained planning permission on 3rd October 2023 receiving unanimous support from the planning committee.</i></p>	
A58	Enhance support for carers [10]	We will support unpaid carers to maintain their caring role by providing access to good quality information, advice and guidance using strength-based conversations which consider whole family needs.	Implement Strengths Based Approaches (SBA) in service delivery.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A59	Enhance support for carers [10]	We will provide information through a variety of channels, including digital options, to fit around the needs of busy carers.	Review the current use of digital resources for carers.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A60	Enhance support for carers [10]	We will ensure that carers who have an eligible need have access to personalised carers budgets to help them achieve their identified outcomes following assessment.	Establish a working group to look at development opportunities to encourage innovation and new ideas.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

**Ambition: Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
A61	Enhance support for carers [10]	We will proactively support unpaid carers to maintain or access employment, working with employers in local government, health and other sectors.	Create a platform to share resources and documents to support employers with looking after their workforce	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A20	Develop mature partnerships for the integration of care and health that tackle pressure on the system and improve outcomes for our residents [11]	We will support people to make healthy choices across all aspects of their lives, through continuing to commission and deliver effective preventative services, which also provide quality information so people are better informed. Our development of our ICS will continue and develop this approach.	Implement Public Health Commissioning Programme for 2023/24 1. Sexual Health and Substance Misuse recommissioning - Finalise governance processes and tender new services to the market. 2. Wellbeing Service recommissioning – Undertake market engagement and develop a service model options for a Commissioning plan. Implement Public Health Priority Work Programme for 2023/24 1. Technology Enabled Prevention and Care Pilot Options developed and approved. 2. To develop a health inequalities proof of concept toolkit that can be used across a range of service developments. Implement Public Health Protection Programme for 2023/24 1. Begin the proactive assurance programme for 2023/24, visiting the high-risk homes initially, before the medium risk homes. Confirm to all the low-risk homes they will not be visited this year. 2. Build evidence to address infectious diseases which are linked to health inequalities. 3. Engage with the health and care system to ensure Health Protection is embedded into the winter plan	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

**Ambition: Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
			for the local system.	
A21	Develop mature partnerships for the integration of care and health that tackle pressure on the system and improve outcomes for our residents [11]	We will now work with partners to roll out our new ICS, setting clear priorities for the next 3 years to improve health and wellbeing across Lincolnshire.	A commercial strategy will be developed (including procurement timetable and specification development where appropriate, focussing initially on bed-based care arrangements) and establish the pooled intermediate care budget with agreed funding principles. Operational colleagues will work together to deliver immediate operational 'quick wins' in line with the vision, such as the development of intermediate care coordination, streamlined assessment pathways and digital requirements.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A40	Develop mature partnerships for the integration of care and health that tackle pressure on the system and improve outcomes for our residents [11]	We will place the individual, their family and friends at the heart of their care plan through introducing and implementing strength based practice in Adult Care and Community Wellbeing.	Integrated delivery team to complete phase 7 of strengths-based approaches, behavioural science and Technology Enabled Care training to teams, focusing on re-visiting a minimum of 8 teams to ensure that the approach has been sustained by September 2023. Additional training to new starters across, Adult Care and Community Wellbeing, Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust, Serco and Carers First as part of induction will be delivered. Training to all teams across Adult Frailty Long Term Conditions, Learning Disability, Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust, Hospitals in the use of the new recording tools and workflows to be completed. Evaluation report with recommendations including for prime performance and agree scope of next phase of prime performance	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

**Ambition: Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
			roll out to by July 2023.	
A53	Develop mature partnerships for the integration of care and health that tackle pressure on the system and improve outcomes for our residents [11]	Working with strategic partners, we will support the delivery of Lincolnshire’s Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Alliance priorities. This includes joint ownership of the <a href="#">Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health</a> Action Plan, which takes a prevention-focused approach to mental health and wellbeing.	Provide public health advice to the system regarding public mental health, dementia, learning disabilities and autism. Agree Plan on a Page for Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health with Mental Health, Dementia, Learning Disability and Autism (MHD LDA) and agree system resources required to deliver the plan, including governance arrangements. Report progress on Suicide Prevention workstream.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)



<b>Ambition: Create thriving environments</b>				
<b>Activity No.</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Activity Milestone</b>	<b>RAG</b>
A8	Thriving businesses creating high skilled jobs and investing in technology [4]	We will support new and existing businesses to thrive, through delivering a strong, flexible and responsive Business Lincolnshire growth hub.	Launch new UK Shared Prosperity Funded (UKSPF) specialist programmes including support for Start Ups, Manufacturers, Retail Leisure and Hospitality Sector and Low Carbon measures.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A23	Thriving businesses creating high skilled jobs and investing in technology [4]	We will improve utility infrastructure in order to enhance growth through exploring and implementing plans to maximise the development of energy, water and sewage, and digital infrastructure.	Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire report to be delivered.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A4	Champion strategic road and rail improvements to improve local and regional travel and support economic growth [8]	We will produce local transport strategies which promote alternative modes of transport, through collaborative working with our district and local partners which will include the creation of local transport boards.	We will complete the draft of the transport strategy document.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A49	Champion strategic road and rail improvements to improve local and regional travel and support economic growth [8]	Long term investment strategy for highways infrastructure.	Continue to update and collate a list of aspirational projects for the county to submit for funding bids as and when they are announced. This includes ensuring the supportive data is relevant. Continue to input in to the Devolution works which could result in funding for investment in the highway infrastructure network.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

**Ambition: Create thriving environments**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
A27	Promote Lincolnshire as a destination of choice and deliver the recommendations of the Greater Lincolnshire Tourism Plan [10]	We will work with partners to attract tourists to Lincolnshire, leading the way in raising the profile of the county and enhancing collaboration across our councils to maximise what Lincolnshire has to offer.	Complete Birding in the Wolds and Place information on <a href="http://www.visitlincolnshire.com">www.visitlincolnshire.com</a> . Ensure cycling area is as good and as clear as the new walking content. Re-purpose existing video for use by businesses.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A26	Plan growth to benefit the whole community by connecting people, housing, employment, businesses, green spaces and the natural environment [11]	We will use our planning responsibilities to influence new residential and commercial growth so that it contributes to the community in which it is located.	We will work in partnership with all stakeholders, and will seek views of elected ward members, to ensure that development impact is mitigated, and provides community benefit where necessary.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A30	Plan growth to benefit the whole community by connecting people, housing, employment, businesses, green spaces and the natural environment [11]	We will prepare and manage an action plan arising from the strategic infrastructure delivery framework.	Action plan prepared for the first priority theme, through workshops with Infrastructure Group members	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A56	Seek devolution from the Government to unlock infrastructure investment needed to support local growth [13]	We will work with officials to secure a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire.	We will work with officials to negotiate and agree the content of a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire against timelines set out by government.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

**Ambition: Create thriving environments**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
A10	Manage local risks to our environment to protect our communities' natural and built resources for future generations [15]	We will achieve net zero carbon emissions as a council by 2050 or earlier through the development of the Green Masterplan. We will provide climate leadership in Lincolnshire and beyond. We will revise and update our Carbon Management Plan in 2023.	We will deliver the Carbon Report to Council for the period 2022-23 to establish new baselines and to indicate the position on the route to Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050. We will update the Green Masterplan - Action Plan to reflect the opportunities following the Carbon Report and to embed the new Environment Act 2021 requirements.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A11	Manage local risks to our environment to protect our communities' natural and built resources for future generations [15]	We will respond to our communities in a joined-up way and we will proactively coordinate with partners to develop and deliver better flood risk protection within the County.	We will prepare a package of flood investigation and drainage improvement schemes as part of the Development Fund Programme for communities across Lincolnshire. We will publish the 2023-24 Joint Action Plan (the Common Works Programme) as part of the Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Strategy in collaboration with other risk management authorities.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A12	Manage local risks to our environment to protect our communities' natural and built resources for future generations [15]	We will maximise the reuse and recycling potential of the county's waste, treating it as a resource. This will include exploring the opportunity for anaerobic digestion facilities across the County.	Develop the Specification and issue tenders for Anaerobic Digestion disposal.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

**Ambition: Provide good-value council services**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
A35	Implement our digital blueprint and customer services strategy to transform how we engage with communities and enable residents to pay for and access more services online [6]	Focus is on the first phase of the digital programme of work by encouraging greater use of online systems and greater take up of virtual engagement, by our customers. Opportunities for digitalisation or automation will be identified where appropriate following process review and optimisation.	Begin the pilot of guidance for the use of Virtual Meetings with our customers. Explore further opportunities for use of Virtual Meetings across other front line services. Agree changes to the digital implementation plan and begin prioritisation for future areas of process review and optimisation.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A47	Implement our digital blueprint and customer services strategy to transform how we engage with communities and enable residents to pay for and access more services online [6]	We will continue to transform the way we engage with customers through the implementation of our customer strategy. We will maximise technology solutions in the Customer Service Centre (CSC) to enable customers to do more online, including paying for services. Through our digital strategy we will be able to be more innovative so our customers can access us through multiple channels.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete customer feedback report for the Corporate Leadership Team.</li> <li>2. Launch Artificial Intelligence (AI) bot on website.</li> <li>3. Commence launch of AI bot on corporate CSC calls.</li> <li>4. Decision on future CSC provider.</li> </ol>	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A44	Ensure that public sector buildings and our shared public estate can be used flexibly to benefit communities as new ways of working and lifestyles develop post pandemic [7]	We will protect and enhance our heritage assets and we will maximise the use of our sites for customers, through delivering proposals for the iconic investment in The Lincoln Museum and Usher Gallery and other heritage sites.	Appoint contractor for installation audio visual infrastructure that will replace existing, outdated equipment with new, modern technology that will ensure future reliability.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

**Ambition: Provide good-value council services**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
A38	Work in partnership across the public sector in Greater Lincolnshire to exploit opportunities to join up services where they can improve outcomes for residents [8]	We will raise the county's profile nationally and internationally through the delivery of a focused investor promotion strategy and relationship-building, attracting business investment and using our partnership brand, Team Lincolnshire, to do this.	Research and development of a Place sector investor proposition.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A39	Work in partnership across the public sector in Greater Lincolnshire to exploit opportunities to join up services where they can improve outcomes for residents [8]	We will continue to raise the profile of Council Services through a range of strategies including national recruitment campaigns, national conferences and awards, continuing to support improvement in other Councils and advising government on national policy innovation. We will articulate a clear Lincolnshire pride narrative via our Joint Committee to support this activity.	Reporting on Directorates and Corporate Functions implementation of the Attraction & Retention Framework (link with A43).	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A50	Review our contracted services and recommission them to be fit for the future [9]	We will implement the recommendations of the corporate support services review.	Award contract for replacement Customer Service Centre Provider	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A52	Review our contracted services and recommission them to be fit for the future [9]	Implementation of the One Council commissioning priorities and outcomes.	Draft and submit an oversight report on the performance of, and risks associated with, the Councils key contracts. Continue working across the Council to embed the One Council Commissioning Framework in practice. Undertake a cross Council commissioning benchmarking exercise and submit the findings in line	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

**Ambition: Provide good-value council services**

Activity No.	Objective	Activity Name	Activity Milestone	RAG
			with our obligation. Publish the Council's first modern slavery statement in line with our new duty and commence work on the priorities for action.	
A41	Maximise opportunities from new technology to transform our services [10]	We will continue to deliver the priorities of our BI Strategy to ensure we have the right systems and processes in place to capture, store and visualise business intelligence in the most efficient way.	Gain agreement to the business case and further develop the project plan which will deliver the agreed data model.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A57	Maximise opportunities from new technology to transform our services [10]	To implement quality assurance controls to monitor and report on the effective use of the Business World system in order to embed best practice adoption and ensure the Council is able to realise the full benefits of the system.	Develop a framework of quality assurance controls and agree the governance model and reporting timelines with key stakeholders.	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A42	The Council is regarded by its workforce as a good employer, attracting and retaining the best [11]	We will refresh our Corporate People Strategy, reviewing culture, values and behaviours, and enabling our staff to be healthy and resilient so we can improve how we support our customers. Structures will be fit for purpose and facilitate our One Council approach.	Reporting on progress of the outcomes of the Year 3 People Strategy (2023-2024) Workplan	GREEN (Progressing as planned)
A43	The Council is regarded by its workforce as a good employer, attracting and retaining the best [11]	We will keep and attract talented people through implementing improved recruitment processes, increasing the number and range of apprenticeships, and developing graduate and work experience placements across the Council.	Reporting on Directorates and Corporate Functions implementation of the Attraction & Retention Framework (link with A39).	GREEN (Progressing as planned)

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

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes: -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b></li><li>• <b>Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee</b></li></ul>

**Summary:**

As set out in the Council's constitution, a key role for this Board is monitoring the work programmes of the other scrutiny committees. The role of the Board is to satisfy itself that it is content with each committee's work programme, rather than to discuss the detail of particular items listed in the work programme, as these discussions are appropriately held at the relevant meeting of the scrutiny committee.

This report focuses on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee and includes information on activity since 24 August 2023, when reports on these two committees were last considered by the Board.

**Actions Required:**

- (1) The Board is requested to determine whether it is satisfied with the activity undertaken since 24 August 2023 by:
  - (a) the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; and
  - (b) the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee.
  
- (2) The Board is requested to determine whether it is satisfied with the planned work programme of:
  - (a) the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; and
  - (b) the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

## 1. Background

The Council's constitution includes in this Board's terms of reference the following two clauses: -

- To agree and monitor the ongoing overview and scrutiny work programme, in particular holding the chairmen and/or vice chairmen to account for their committee's work programme on a quarterly basis.
- To monitor and guide the activities of the other overview and scrutiny committees.

### Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Since 24 August 2023, when a report was last submitted, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has met on 8 September 2023 and 20 October 2023. The Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee has met on 19 September 2023 and 31 October 2023.

The key activities since August 2023 and the planned work programme of each committee and are set out in Appendices A and B respectively. If members of the Board require further details on any item of previous activity, the full reports can be found on the County Council's website.

### Committee Reporting Timetable

The table below sets out the planned reporting timetable until June 2024: -

Scrutiny Committee	Monitoring Date	Monitoring Date	Monitoring Date
Adults and Community Wellbeing	26 Oct 23	25 Jan 24	25 Apr 24
Health			
Children and Young People	30 Nov 23	29 Feb 24	30 May 24
Public Protection and Communities			
Environment and Economy	25 Jan 24	28 Mar 24	27 June 24
Highways and Transport			
Flood and Water Management			



## 2. Conclusion

The Board is asked to consider whether it is satisfied with the previous activity and the planned work programmes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, and the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

## 3. Appendices

These are listed below: -

Appendix A	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Activity and Planned Work
Appendix B	Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee – Activity and Planned Work

## 4. 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 Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 07552 253814, or via [tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### ACTIVITY REPORT

Since its last report to the Board, the Committee has met on 8 September 2023 and 20 October 2023. Full details on all the items considered at these meetings are available on the County Council's website:

<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=124>

Set out below is a summary of the outcomes at these two meetings:

<b>8 September 2023</b>		
<i>Item</i>		<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
<b>1</b>	Lincolnshire Secure Children's Home – Land Purchase and Section 203	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive on 3 October 2023.
<b>2</b>	Recommissioning of the Portage Service	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration on 22 September 2023.
<b>3</b>	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 - Quarter 1	<p>The Committee was satisfied with the Children and Young People Service Level Performance for 2023-24 Quarter 1.</p> <p>Members raised concerns about the potential impact on Children's Services due to the possible arrival of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in Scampton later in the year, on top of the current 89 UASC already in Lincolnshire. Assurance was given that Children's Services and the Home Office were working to mitigate risks.</p> <p>Members considered the ramifications of the gradual increase of Children in Care (CiC) since 2021, which was compounded by national increased costs of placements for CiC since the pandemic, meaning a small increase of CiC could cause significant financial pressures. Assurance was provided that Children's Services prioritised early intervention to prevent young people from entering the care system, and CiC received an excellent service in Lincolnshire despite financial pressures.</p>

<b>8 September 2023</b>	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
<b>4</b> Holbeach William Stukeley CofE Primary School - Single classroom extension, hall and staffroom extension (EXEMPT)	The Committee supported the recommendations in the exempt report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Leader of the Council on 19 September 2023.

<b>20 October 2023</b>	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
<b>1</b> Recommissioning of Children and Young People's Online Mental Health Support Service	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration on 27 October 2023.
<b>2</b> The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration on 27 October 2023.
<b>3</b> Potential Topics for Scrutiny Review by Scrutiny Panel A	In response to the request from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for any suggestions for a potential scrutiny review by Scrutiny Panel A, the Committee agreed to put forward Young Carers; Workforce Recruitment and Retention; and Physical Exercise in Communities and Schools, for the Board's consideration.
<b>4</b> Education Provision Planning (EXEMPT)	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration on 27 October 2023.
<b>5</b> Expansion of Saxilby Church of England Primary School (EXEMPT)	The Committee supported the recommendations in the exempt report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Leader of the Council on 27 October 2023.

## PLANNED WORK

Set out below are the items planned for future meetings of the Committee:

<b>08 December 2023</b>			
<i>Item</i>		<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>1.</b>	Insourcing of the catering service at Lincolnshire Secure Unit	Mark Rainey, Strategic Commissioning Manager – Children's Services	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to an Executive Councillor decision between 8 – 22 December 2023.
<b>2.</b>	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 – Quarter 2	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help	This is the quarterly performance report.
<b>3.</b>	Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Report	Nicky Myers, Interim Head of Service Early Years and Childcare Support	The Childcare Act (2006) places a duty on Local Authorities to take reasonable steps to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment. This item will set out the availability and sufficiency of childcare in Lincolnshire.
<b>4.</b>	Myle Cross & Cherry Willingham Childrens Centres Refurbishment – Alternative Provision (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development Mark Rainey, Strategic Commissioning Manager – Children's Services	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to a Leader decision between 8 - 22 December 2023.

<b>12 January 2024</b>			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>	
<b>1.</b>	Children's Services Budget Proposals 2024/25	Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children's Services Mark Popplewell, Strategic Finance Lead – Children's Services	The views of the Committee will be sought on the budget proposals for Children's Services for 2024/25.
<b>2.</b>	Childcare Reforms	Nicky Myers, Interim Head of Service Early Years and Childcare Support	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to an Executive Councillor decision.
<b>3.</b>	Attendance in Schools, Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education Annual Report 2022/23	Jill Chandar-Nair, Inclusion and Attendance Manager	This is the annual report on school attendance, elective home education and children missing out on education.
<b>INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS</b>			
<b>4.</b>	Youth Offending Service – Progress against HMIP Inspection Recommendations	Andy Cook, Head of Service – Future4Me and Youth Offending	This item will provide a progress update on the implementation of the four recommendations from the HMIP inspection. This was requested by the Committee in April 2023.
<b>EXEMPT ITEMS</b>			
<b>5.</b>	Welton William Farr – New Sixth Form Block and Dining Remodelling (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to a Leader decision between 22 – 26 January 2024.
<b>6.</b>	Primary School Mobile Replacement Scheme (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to a Leader decision between 22 – 26 January 2024.

08 March 2024			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>	
1.	Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services - Improvement Plan	Andrew Morris, Head of Service - Leaving Care, Semi-Independent Living and Unaccompanied Children	This item will provide a progress update on the implementation of the two recommendations from the Ofsted inspection. This was requested by the Committee in July 2023.
2.	Lincolnshire School Performance 2022 - 23	Martin Smith, Assistant Director – Education Matt Spoons, Head of Service - School Standards Nicky Myers, Interim Head of Service Early Years and Childcare Support	This is the annual update report on school performance and Ofsted outcomes.
3.	Children's Services Annual Statutory Complaints Report 2022-23	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director - Early Help	This is an annual report which sets out the complaints received by Children's Services in relation to Children's Social Care.
4.	Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Success Framework 2023-24 Quarter 3	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help	This is the quarterly performance report.
5.	Lincolnshire Secure Children's Home (LSCH) (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development Matt Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency Dave Clarke, Service Lead - Secure Estate Rachel Freeman, Head of Service Children in Care and Residential Estates	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny.

08 March 2024			
	<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
6.	Gosberton House Academy - New Block Extension and External Works as part of the SEND Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy (EXEMPT)	Eileen McMorrow, Programme Manager SEND Strategy Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to a Leader Decision between 18 – 22 March 2024.

19 April 2024			
	<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1.	Children and Young People Mental Health Transformation Programme	Charlotte Gray, Head of Service – Children’s Strategic Commissioning	This item was requested by the Committee in April 2023 to provide an update on progress with the children and young people mental health transformation programme.
2.	Children in Care Transformation Programme Update	Matt Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency Tracey Robinson, Programme Manager – Sector Led Improvement & Children in Care Transformation Tara Jones, Assistant Director – Children’s Safeguarding	This item will provide an update on the progress made with the children in care transformation project.

## PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### ACTIVITY

Since its last report to the Board, the Committee has met on 19 September 2023 and 31 October 2023. Full detail on these items is available on the County Council's website:

<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=551>

Set out below is a summary of the outcomes at these meetings:

<b>19 September 2023</b>	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
<b>1</b> Registration and Celebratory Services Report	<p>The Committee was satisfied with the performance of the registration and celebratory services and requested a progress update in 12 months time.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed regarding the proposed registration of a death via the telephone and the implications of fraud. The Committee was advised that the new process was to be implemented by the Home Office and would meet public protection and fraud measures. Reassurance was given that with the National Medical Examiner Scheme, there would be even greater scrutiny of the cause of deaths.</p>
<b>2</b> Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020 - 2024 - Yearly Update	<p>The Committee was assured on the information contained in the end of year Integrated Risk Management Plan performance update.</p> <p>Members were advised of the arrangement the fire service had with the National Farmers Union concerning accessing water at rural farms. The service had been able to secure dedicated adapters for all fire appliances which provided the service access to water bowsers many farmers already had on their farms. This was also alongside a fire safety message on how farmers can help themselves in the event of a fire and how to prevent fires happening in the first place.</p>



**19 September 2023**

<i>Item</i>		<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
<b>3</b>	Trading Standards Impacts and Outcomes Annual Report 2022-2023	<p>The Committee received assurance on the performance and delivery of the Trading Standards Service in 2022/23.</p> <p>There was recognition that the 30% failure rate pertaining to the underage purchasing of vapes from 40 individual premises was disappointing. It was felt that the reason for this was due to a lack of education amongst businesses. To address this, over a hundred business advice packs had been sent to potential sellers. Where an underage individual case was identified, the individual business would be targeted.</p>
<b>4</b>	Service Level Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 - Quarter 1	<p>The Committee was satisfied with the Public Protection and Communities Service Level Performance for Quarter 1 of 2023/24. Some of the topics explored by Members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How success was being measured with regards to domestic abuse cases. It was confirmed that the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) was supporting 198 new cases and 85 repeat clients.</li> <li>• The effectiveness of three month closure orders. With a closure order, the premises would be closed for three months which prevented anyone trading from the premises for that period. Further closure orders could be applied for, following the initial three months, if it could be proven that further illegal activity was taking place.</li> </ul>
<b>SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>5</b>	Stay Safe Partnership Annual Update	<p>Support was extended by the Committee to the continued delivery of the Stay Safe Partnership project to schools in the proposed format.</p> <p>Since Covid-19, learning was now back in the classroom and the sessions were interactive, with different scenarios and topics. At the end of each session, a survey of the young people was also undertaken. From the surveys, young people had highlighted they were worried about older groups of teenagers in a park; they did not like litter or walking down a street where there was lots of pubs with people outside drinking and smoking; or dark spaces. The issues raised from the surveys were fed back into local neighbourhood policing teams, which showed the young people that their voices could make a difference.</p>

**31 October 2023**

*Item*

*Summary of Outcomes*

**SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE**

<b>1</b>	<p>Safer Lincolnshire Partnership - Fraud Update Report</p>	<p>Support was extended by the Committee to the continued delivery of the work of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership's Crime and Disorder Priority Group in the proposed format.</p> <p>Members explored how to access a call blocker through the Council's Scams Officer. There were no set criteria, but the person requiring the blocker needed to be vulnerable, or at risk of fraud and each individual case would be assessed by the Scams Officer. A call blocker could also be obtained via the National Trading Standards system, or could be purchased from Truecall, who were the industry leaders in this area. Officers agreed to provide further information for circulation to the Committee after the meeting.</p>
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**SITTING AS THE PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

<b>2</b>	<p>Re-procurement of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Fleet Maintenance Services</p>	<p>The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations are due to be approved by the Executive Councillor for Fire and Rescue and Cultural Services on 10 November 2023.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>Future Funding for Citizens Advice</p>	<p>The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive on 7 November 2023.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p>Potential Topics for Scrutiny Review by Scrutiny Panel A</p>	<p>In response to the request from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for any suggestions for a potential scrutiny review by Scrutiny Panel A, the Committee agreed to put forward Vapes for the Board's consideration.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p>LFR Control Programme (EXEMPT)</p>	<p>The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Leader of the Council and the Executive Councillor for Fire and Rescue and Cultural Services on 7 November 2023.</p>

## PLANNED WORK

Set out below are the items planned for future meetings of the Committee:

<b>12 DECEMBER 2023</b>			
<i>Item</i>		<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>1.</b>	LCC Coronial Toxicology Contract	Emma Golds, Senior Commercial and Procurement Officer	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to an Executive Councillor decision between 15 – 22 December.
<b>2.</b>	Outcomes of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspection of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue	Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer	The report is to inform the Committee of the outcomes from the HMICFRS inspection.
<b>3.</b>	Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2024-28 - Pre-consultation	Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer	The report is a pre-consultation activity with the Committee to gather views on the new CRMP.
<b>4.</b>	Multiply - Numeracy Programme Update – Year 2	Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager – Economic Development Rebecca Clark, Senior Project Officer (Multiply)	This report is an update on the Multiply - Numeracy Programme.
<b>5.</b>	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-2024 – Quarter 2	Nicole Hilton, Assistant Director - Communities Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director - Corporate Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer Steven Batchelor, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Senior Manager Mark Keal, Head of Trading Standards Clare Newborn, Head of Community Safety James Chapple, Head of Registration, Celebratory and Coroners Services	This is a quarterly report on performance of services.

<b>12 DECEMBER 2023</b>			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>	
<b>SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>			
<b>6.</b>	Serious Violence in Lincolnshire - A Partnership Response – Position Report	Clare Newborn, Head of Community Safety Zoe Walters, Business Manager, Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Angela Nauth, Serious Violence Coordinator, Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Angela Nauth, Community Safety Strategy Coordinator (Serious Violence)	This report is an annual position overview of activity undertaken and planned to tackle serious violence.

<b>30 JANUARY 2024</b>			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>	
<b>1.</b>	Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2024/25	Keith Noyland, Strategic Finance Lead - Place, Fire & Rescue	The views of the Committee will be sought on the budget proposals for the service areas for 2024/25.
<b>2.</b>	Local Resilience Form (LRF) Business Plan 2023-2026	Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer	This report will provide an overview of the LRF's strategic objectives and deliverables for the next three years.
<b>3.</b>	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) Attendance at Flooding Incidents - Annual Report on Performance	Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer	This is the annual position and activity overview report on LFR attendance at flooding incidents.
<b>4.</b>	Trading Standards Food Standards Enforcement	Mark Keal, Head of Trading Standards	This is an annual position report on food standards and enforcement across the county.
<b>SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>			
<b>5.</b>	Safer Lincolnshire Partnership - Annual Report Update	Zoe Walters, Business Manager, Safer Lincolnshire Partnership	This is an annual position report on the works of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership.

<b>19 March 2024</b>			
<i>Item</i>		<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>1.</b>	Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Annual Report	Steven Batchelor, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Senior Manager	This is the annual report from the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.
<b>2.</b>	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-2024 – Quarter 3	Nicole Hilton, Assistant Director - Communities Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director - Corporate Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer Steven Batchelor, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Senior Manager Mark Keal, Head of Trading Standards Clare Newborn, Head of Community Safety James Chapple, Head of Registration, Celebratory and Coroners Services	This is a quarterly report on performance of services.
<b>SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>			
<b>3.</b>	Drug and Alcohol Core Priority Group Report	Jemma Clarke, Community Safety Strategy Coordinator	This is the annual update on the Drug and Alcohol Core Priority Group.
<b>4.</b>	Domestic Abuse Strategy – Update Report 2023	Jade Thursby, Domestic Abuse Business Manager	This report updates the Committee on the delivery and outcomes of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

<b>14 May 2024</b>			
<i>Item</i>		<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>1.</b>	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue New Crewing Arrangements – Post Implementation Review	Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer	This report will set out the outcomes of the post implementation review of the new crewing arrangements.
<b>2.</b>	Citizens Advice Annual Report	Monica Stark, Chair CA Lincs	This is an annual report on Citizen’s Advice.

14 May 2024		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>3.</b>	Safer Together Partnership – Update Report	Clare Newborn, Head of Community Safety
		This is an update on the Safer Together Partnership.

**Potential Items to be Scheduled:**

- Community Safety and Public Trust in Police (Winter 2023/24)
- Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Progress Against the Recommendations on Culture by His Majesty's Inspectorate for Fire and Rescue Services (Winter 2023/24)
- Leverton Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Project (Summer 2024)



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,  
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24 - Quarter 2</b>

**Summary:**

This report invites the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider a report on Revenue Budget Monitoring, which is being presented to the Executive on 5 December 2023. The views of the Board will be reported to the Executive as part of its consideration of this item.

The Revenue Budget Monitoring Report compares the Council's projected expenditure with the approved budget for 2023/24 and provides explanations for any significant forecast over or under spending.

**Actions Required:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited to: -

- 1) Consider the attached report and to determine whether the Board supports the recommendation(s) to the Executive as set out in the report.
- 2) Agree any additional comments to be passed on to the Executive in relation to this item.

**1. Background**

1.1 The Executive is due to consider the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2024/24 Quarter 2 at its meeting on 5 December 2023.

1.2 The Executive report attached at Appendix A is the revenue budget monitoring report for the second quarter of financial year 2023/24. It compares projected expenditure for the year with the approved budget and provides explanations for any significant forecast over or under-spending.

1.3 Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be considered by the Executive alongside the report.

## 2. Conclusion

2.1 To enable the Executive to fully consider the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 Quarter 2, comments and feedback from this Board will be taken into account.

## 3. Consultation

The Board is being consulted on the proposed decision of the Executive on 5 December 2023.

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix 1	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 - Quarter 2 to be presented to the Executive at its meeting on 5 December 2023.

## 5. 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
Budget Book 2023/24	The details of the budget set for financial year 2023/24 is within the document Budget Book 2023/24, which can be found on the Council's website.  <a href="#">Agenda for Council on Friday, 17th February, 2023, 10.00 am (moderngov.co.uk)</a>

This report was written by Michelle Grady, who can be contacted on 01522 553235 or [Michelle.Grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Michelle.Grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk).



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,  
 Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	<b>Executive</b>
Date:	<b>05 December 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Quarter 2)</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I030088</b>
Key decision?	<b>No</b>

**Summary:**

- This report provides an update on revenue spending compared with budgets for the 2023/24 financial year.
- The tables in this report show the actual income and expenditure for the first six months of this financial year to 30 September 2023, along with the forecasts for spending and a comparison of the forecasts against the approved budgets for the year.
- The report gives an overview of the financial position for revenue, supported by detailed information available within the appendices.
- The revenue budget is forecast to underspend by £18.4m (equivalent to 3% of the net budget).
- The position is supported by a series of exceptional items amounting to £11.6m which are considered further in the report.
- The overall position gives rise to opportunities to pro-actively make best use of the windfall gain to support capital investment in Place infrastructure.
- If the recommendations are approved, the overall forecast underspend would be reduced to £9.6m (equivalent to 1.6% of the net budget).
- General reserves are forecast at the end of the year to remain within the target range of 2.5% to 3.5%.
- The impact of this revenue budget forecast on the Council's resilience has been assessed and the conclusion is that the Council's financial resilience remains relatively strong at this point in time and is supported by the forecasts set out in this report.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Executive:

- 1) Notes the current position on the revenue budget and decides on any corrective action necessary.
- 2) Approves the transfer of £8.8m from the Place Directorate revenue budget to the capital financing charges budget for the purpose of funding additional capital investment in Place Directorate infrastructure, as set out in paragraph 1.16 of the Report.

**Alternatives Considered:**

1. In respect of recommendation one, this report shows the actual revenue expenditure to 30 September 2023, and projected outturns for 2023/24, therefore no alternatives have been considered.
2. In respect of recommendation two, the Executive could decide to not approve the adjustment proposed and in which case this would lead to a bigger underspend at outturn, all else being equal, which would increase reserves prior to a decision on its usage.  
  
It could also be the case that the Executive decide to plan to invest the resource identified in a different way, although there are not any alternative proposals considered within this report.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

To maintain the Council's financial resilience.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 In February 2023, the Council approved plans for revenue spending to support delivery of the Council plan, achieve its strategic objectives and legal duties for the benefit of residents and businesses. The financial strategy guides this and provides the mechanisms to ensure the council is financially sustainable and resilient.
- 1.2 The economic environment has remained challenging since the budget was approved, with the rate of inflation remaining higher for longer than the Council's revised expectations in February. This has started to reduce due to prices now being measured against a permanently higher base, however the Bank of England do not expect the rate to fall below their 2% target until 2025. This has implications for the Council's financial planning, which will be reflected during the budget setting process for 2024/25.

- 1.3 Economic challenges impact nationally, and therefore are not specific to Lincolnshire. Nevertheless, this presents significant challenges for the Council, its workforce and the residents and businesses that live and operate in its area. The cost of services are likely to increase further in the medium term, over and above the assumptions set out in the medium term financial plan. This manifests through pay award pressures, higher costs charged by suppliers and the potential for heightened demand for services. Moreover, the Council is constrained in increasing its spending power to counteract pressures.
- 1.4 The Council is considered to be in a strong financial position relative to peers, which reflects the prudent approach that has been taken to financial management to date and which will continue to be required going forward, evident by the positive 2022/23 financial outturn and the monitoring position presented within this report. The Council has also demonstrated its ability to react to emergent crises and meet emergent need within available resources. It is also important to recognise that well-led services provided by the Council are better for our residents, and also lead to better financial outcomes.
- 1.5 In line with good financial management practices, the Council's use of resources is closely monitored and reported to the Executive. This report provides information on the current financial position and will inform the next stages of financial planning, taking account of the risks and opportunities in respect of financial sustainability.
- 1.6 Quarter two represents the half way point in the financial year, which means there has been six months to identify and better understand any changes from the approved financial plan, and six months remaining to continue taking any corrective action necessary. This approach helps to keep the Council in a strong financial position despite the volatile nature of the operating environment
- 1.7 The size and scale of the County Council – and the complexity of the services it provides – means that small percentage changes in assumptions can have large value changes, positive and negative. This is counteracted through the Council's prudent approach to the setting of reserves and contingencies, which ensures the Council has time to react to material changes to circumstances.
- 1.8 There are an increasing number of local authorities enduring situations whereby costs are escalating at a quicker rate than income, and with some issuing section 114 notices. The Council considers the circumstances of each case as part of strategic horizon scanning. In general, the first tranche of local authorities in financial distress are considered to be strongly linked to complications around commercial investments. The second tranche is considered to be more closely linked to escalating levels of need (e.g. social care, home to school transport), with cost increasing at a much quicker rate than income. The recent issues experienced by Birmingham are due to a combination of increasing need but are also due to substantial legacy equal pay claims.

- 1.9 The Office for Local Government have introduced a series of financial measures to compare the financial position of local authorities based on published information. The Government is intending to better understand the relative financial position of local authorities, which provides them with an opportunity to engage local authorities if they identify a cause for concern preferably prior to financial distress being reached. The budget setting report for 2024/25 will contain a fuller analysis of the measures identified, the assessment for Lincolnshire together with an assessment of how our measures may change as a result of the final budget proposal.
- 1.10 The Council's financial planning process which will result in the setting of budgets for 2024/25 is in progress. This contains strong links to the monitoring work ongoing, with references to budget setting made throughout this report.

#### Overall Financial Position – Revenue

- 1.11 The summary revenue forecast as at 30 September 2023 (end of quarter two) is as follows:

Revenue	Budget (£)	Forecast (£)	Variance (£)
<b>Investment in Directorates</b>			
Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	180,796,468	180,414,826	(381,642)
Children's Services	102,692,393	102,116,182	(576,211)
Place	125,514,575	116,069,575	(9,445,000)
Fire and Rescue	24,305,927	24,343,611	37,684
Resources & Corporate	83,054,409	81,853,920	(1,200,489)
<b>Total</b>	<b>516,363,772</b>	<b>504,798,114</b>	<b>(11,565,658)</b>
<b>Other Budgets</b>			
Contingency	15,924,019	15,924,019	-
Capital Financing Charges	66,969,693	66,969,693	-
Other Budgets	24,188,481	20,588,092	(3,600,389)
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,082,193</b>	<b>103,481,804</b>	<b>(3,600,389)</b>
School Budgets	17,759,847	17,664,565	(95,282)
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	(37,021,435)	(37,021,435)	-
<b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>604,184,377</b>	<b>588,923,048</b>	<b>(15,261,329)</b>
<b>Funding</b>			
County Precept	(365,554,704)	(365,554,704)	-
Business Rates	(142,258,973)	(145,258,973)	(3,000,000)
Revenue Support Grant	(23,391,916)	(23,391,916)	-
Other Grants	(72,978,784)	(73,138,284)	(159,500)
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(604,184,377)</b>	<b>(607,343,877)</b>	<b>(3,159,500)</b>
<b>RESIDUAL DEFICIT (+) / SURPLUS (-)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(18,420,829)</b>	<b>(18,420,829)</b>

- 1.12 Appendix A shows an expanded version of this summary table, in addition to further explanation on the variances within directorates as well as information on the delivery of planned cost base reductions, confirming that the vast majority of efficiency initiatives are on track to be delivered in full during this financial year.
- 1.13 The overall position is that the Council is forecasting to underspend against its budget limit by £18.4m. This comprises:
- Underspend within services (£11.6m or 2.2%)
  - Underspend within other budgets (£3.6m or 3.4%)
  - Over recovery of funding (£3.2m or 0.5%)
- 1.14 There are a series of exceptional factors which contribute £11.6m to towards the forecast £15.3m underspend within the cost base, and are not considered to reflect business as usual. These are considered in further detail within Appendix A, but specifically relate to lower than expected energy costs, additional income from the energy from waste plant and additional traffic regulation order income. These are considered in fuller detail within the Appendix.
- 1.15 The scale of the reported underspend provides an opportunity for the Council to increase investment within Place infrastructure, which will secure operational and financial benefits going forward. Further analysis of the proposed capital investment is contained within Appendix A.
- 1.16 To be specific, permission is sought through this report to utilise an element of the forecast underspend to fund additional capital investment as follows:
- £6.1m Waste Transfer Stations (funded by EfW windfall gain)
  - £1.2m Cross Keys Bridge electrification (extra TRO income funded)
  - £1.5m LED swap out (energy underspend funded)

This effectively means transferring £8.8m of revenue budget from Place directorate to the capital programme, for the schemes outlined above. If approval is given, this would reduce the forecast Council underspend to £9.6m. Under the Council's Financial Regulations a transfer from revenue to capital requires the approval of the section 151 Officer in writing as well as the approval of the Executive. The Executive Director – Resources as section 151 Officer in whose name this Report is written hereby gives that approval.

- 1.17 Whilst this report seeks approval to effect the budget transfers, it should be noted that permission to undertake the specific works identified in 1.16 will be sought via separate decision reports.
- 1.18 There could be further changes to the overall reported position in subsequent reports reflecting potential emerging risk, together with offsetting action to mitigate. At this stage it is likely that further underspends may emerge if identified risks can be contained to within contingency resources available.

### Earmarked Reserves

- 1.19 Appendix B shows the current balance on the Council's earmarked reserves, together with amounts forecast to be drawn down from reserves to cover expenditure in the current year. The total opening balance for reserves including earmarked reserves, grant reserves and school balances is £238.1m. It is currently forecast that £72m of this will be used in 2023/24 to support expenditure in accordance with the purposes of the reserves. Please note this is subject to change.

### Progress on Development Fund Initiatives

- 1.20 Appendix C shows a list of initiatives where the revenue and capital costs are to be funded by the Development Fund earmarked reserve. The latest forecast delivery profile can be seen within the appendix. Expenditure on Development Fund initiatives is currently forecast to be £27.8m in 2023/24, split between revenue (£12.9m) and capital (£14.9m).

### Assessment of Impact on Financial Resilience

- 1.21 The impact of the financial management update set out in this report on the Council's financial resilience has been assessed and it has been concluded that the Council's financial resilience remains relatively strong. The Council took steps in advance of the financial year to mitigate the emerging risk in respect of inflation, which included maintaining the balance of the revenue contingency at the level set in 2022/23.
- 1.22 The forecast set out in this report is for a revenue underspend, and if this remains through to outturn it would be further evidence of strong financial management when considering the wider economic context the Council has been operating within. It also provides assurance that the measures introduced within this budget to offset emergent risk have been successful, which provides a strong platform for the upcoming budget setting process
- 1.23 General reserves are forecast at the end of the year to remain within the target range of 2.5% to 3.5%. Based on our current forecast underspend there should be no requirement to draw down our Financial Volatility Reserve to support the 2023/24 budgetary position. The balance of the Financial Volatility Reserve currently stands at £46.9m.
- 1.24 The Council continues to maintain its financial resilience by:
- Proactive financial management in respect of the emergent financial position,
  - Taking action to mitigate issues as and when they arise,
  - Continuing to work with the Society of County Treasurers to ensure that the Government understands the particular issues faced by County Councils,
  - Refreshing and updating the medium term financial plan and financial strategy,

- Continued emphasis on transformation work, which enables significant reductions within the cost base.

### Reporting of Budget Virements

1.25 The Council's financial regulations require officers to report any budget virements made during the year to the Executive. A budget virement is where budget is moved from one service area to another and where the original purpose the budget was approved for has changed. A list of all such virements made in quarter two can be found in Appendix D.

## **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.

Insofar as this report simply reports on performance against the budget, there are no implications that need to be taken into account by the Executive. In respect of the infrastructure initiatives proposed to be funded from the money transferred to capital in accordance with recommendation 2 the Equality Act implications will be dealt with in the decision reports referred to in paragraph 1.17.

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

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

Insofar as this report simply reports on performance against the budget, there are no implications that need to be taken into account by the Executive. In respect of the infrastructure initiatives proposed to be funded from the money transferred to capital in accordance with recommendation 2 the JSNA and JHWS implications will be dealt with in the decision reports referred to in paragraph 1.17.

#### 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.

Insofar as this report simply reports on performance against the budget, there are no implications that need to be taken into account by the Executive. In respect of the infrastructure initiatives proposed to be funded from the money transferred to capital in accordance with recommendation 2 the Crime and Disorder Act implications will be dealt with in the decision reports referred to in paragraph 1.17.

### **3. Conclusion**



- 3.1 The Council's overall forecast revenue position is an underspend of £18.4m.
- 3.2 This provides an opportunity to undertake additional capital investment within Place infrastructure, subject to approval being given.
- 3.3 The position will continue to be monitored and reported throughout the year.

#### **4. Legal Comments:**

This report sets out an update on spending as at 30 September 2023 compared with the revenue budget for the financial year starting on 1 April 2023 to assist the Executive in monitoring the financial performance of the Council.

As to recommendation 2, under the Council's Financial Regulations approval of budget reallocations above £500,000 are within the remit of the Executive. For reallocations from revenue to capital there is an additional requirement that the section 151 Officer (Executive Director – Resources) approves the reallocation in writing. The section 151 Officer's approval is recorded in paragraph 1.16 of this Report.

The decision is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive.

#### **5. Resource Comments:**

This report indicates that the current year revenue budget is projected to be underspent, which partly reflects a series of exceptional items that contribute to the overall position.

The proposal to utilise part of the forecast underspend to invest additional capital in Place infrastructure would ensure necessary investment can take place without incurring ongoing borrowing requirements, preserving available capital resources for other capital priorities. It is also preferable to take action now, rather than wait until 2023/24 outturn completion in September 2024.

There are currently no other call on reserves expected to be required within the current financial year. Continued effort in monitoring is essential to ensure that emerging financial risk is identified and mitigated wherever possible throughout the year.

## 6. Consultation

### a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

### b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

### c) Scrutiny Comments

This report is due to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 30 November 2023. Any comments of the Board will be reported to the Executive.

### d) Risks and Impact Analysis

The impact of this reported financial position on the Council's overall financial resilience has been assessed and is reported on within this report.

## 7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Revenue Budget Monitoring Forecast Q2 2023/24
Appendix B	Earmarked Reserves
Appendix C	Monitoring of Development Fund
Appendix D	Budget Transfers (Quarter Two 2023/24)

## 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
Council Budget 2023/24	<a href="#">Council Budget 2023/24</a>
Budget Book 2023/24	<a href="#">Budget Book 2023/24</a>

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Revenue Budget Monitoring Forecast Q2 2023/24

APPENDIX A

Table A1: Budget Forecast by Budget Book Line

REVENUE BUDGETS (all figures in £ unless stated otherwise)	Revised Budget	Net Expenditure	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Forecast Variance (%)
<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>					
Children's Education	13,709,024	9,353,578	13,643,301	(65,723)	-0.5%
Children's Social Care	88,983,369	48,077,393	88,472,881	(510,488)	-0.6%
<b>ADULT CARE &amp; COMMUNITY WELLBEING</b>					
Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions	140,481,208	18,825,035	140,525,207	43,999	0.0%
Adult Specialities	102,467,480	66,667,943	102,290,480	(177,000)	-0.2%
Public Health & Community Wellbeing	29,564,351	8,910,066	29,430,710	(133,641)	-0.5%
Public Protection	5,679,720	1,362,774	5,564,720	(115,000)	-2.0%
Better Care Fund	(61,412,354)	(10,564,842)	(61,412,354)	-	0.0%
Public Health grant income	(35,983,937)	(17,991,969)	(35,983,937)	-	0.0%
<b>PLACE</b>					
Communities	86,672,906	21,423,342	80,977,906	(5,695,000)	-6.6%
Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership	451,567	(928,387)	451,567	-	0.0%
Growth	2,642,683	(638,683)	2,871,683	229,000	8.7%
Highways	35,747,419	3,736,187	31,768,419	(3,979,000)	-11.1%
<b>FIRE &amp; RESCUE</b>					
Fire & Rescue	24,305,927	11,506,387	24,343,611	37,684	0.2%
<b>RESOURCES</b>					
Finance	8,266,102	3,899,608	7,858,770	(407,332)	-4.9%
Organisational Support	16,273,040	10,524,400	16,107,619	(165,421)	-1.0%
Governance	2,918,999	2,611,726	2,930,159	11,160	0.4%
Corporate Property	19,828,644	9,621,690	18,383,421	(1,445,223)	-7.3%
Commercial	8,900,666	4,029,569	8,430,327	(470,339)	-5.3%
Transformation	6,351,454	3,641,423	6,572,449	220,995	3.5%
IMT	17,572,168	11,844,016	18,723,528	1,151,360	6.6%
Corporate Services	2,943,336	1,372,253	2,847,647	(95,689)	-3.3%
<b>SERVICE TOTAL</b>	<b>516,363,772</b>	<b>207,283,509</b>	<b>504,798,114</b>	<b>(11,565,658)</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
<b>OTHER BUDGETS</b>					
Contingency	15,924,019	-	15,924,019	-	0.0%
Capital Financing Charges	66,969,693	(3,947,211)	66,969,693	-	0.0%
Other Budgets	24,188,481	5,323,562	20,588,092	(3,600,389)	-14.9%
<b>OTHER BUDGETS TOTAL</b>	<b>107,082,193</b>	<b>1,376,351</b>	<b>103,481,804</b>	<b>(3,600,389)</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>
<b>SCHOOLS BUDGETS</b>					
Schools Block	159,049,307	57,782,598	159,044,851	(4,456)	0.0%
High Needs Block	106,298,815	50,827,656	106,205,901	(92,914)	-0.1%
Central School Services Block	3,223,169	432,143	3,238,584	15,415	0.5%
Early Years Block	43,187,242	21,161,324	43,173,915	(13,327)	0.0%
Dedicated Schools Grant	(301,604,930)	(156,820,278)	(301,604,930)	-	0.0%
Schools Budget (Other Funding)	7,606,244	(3,227,942)	7,606,244	-	0.0%
<b>SCHOOLS BUDGETS TOTAL</b>	<b>17,759,847</b>	<b>(29,844,499)</b>	<b>17,664,565</b>	<b>(95,282)</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
<b>BUDGET REQUIREMENT (pre-reserves)</b>	<b>641,205,812</b>	<b>178,815,361</b>	<b>625,944,483</b>	<b>(15,261,329)</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	(37,021,435)	(29,478,045)	(37,021,435)	-	0.0%
<b>BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>604,184,377</b>	<b>149,337,316</b>	<b>588,923,048</b>	<b>(15,261,329)</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>
<b>FUNDING</b>					
County Precept	(365,554,704)	(182,777,352)	(365,554,704)	-	0.0%
Business Rates	(142,258,973)	(73,081,454)	(145,258,973)	(3,000,000)	2.1%
Revenue Support Grant	(23,391,916)	(12,163,796)	(23,391,916)	-	0.0%
Other Grants	(72,978,784)	(37,235,237)	(73,138,284)	(159,500)	0.2%
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(604,184,377)</b>	<b>(305,257,839)</b>	<b>(607,343,877)</b>	<b>(3,159,500)</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>RESIDUAL DEFICIT (+) / SURPLUS (-)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(155,920,523)</b>	<b>(18,420,829)</b>	<b>(18,420,829)</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>

## Analysis of Revenue Forecast

### Operating Context

1. The Council's revenue budget requirement represents the day-to-day costs of council service delivery. The Council has a strong track record of managing financial risk, with continuous improvement and implementation of efficient delivery models. Given the continued economic challenges, specifically in respect of persistent high levels of inflation, it is essential that the Council can continue to adapt to an ever-changing operating environment. This is a fundamental prerequisite for financial sustainability over the long-term.
2. The Council conducts an organisation wide budget monitoring exercise that seeks to monitor and report progress against approved financial plans on a quarterly basis, with targeted monitoring occurring during intervening periods and focussing on high-risk areas. The position set out within this report and appendix is concerned with the best estimate at quarter two. Robust monitoring is especially important during a prolonged period of economic volatility.
3. In the quarter one update, the implementation of the Council's new financial system was referenced as a major undertaking which had partially disrupted access to reporting during the monitoring period. This was resolved prior to quarter two monitoring, with attention now focussing on adapting processes to the new system and developing reporting further to enhance the information output for budget and spend managers.
4. The complexities associated with the current system of Local Government finance, in addition to the measures being progressed by the Government to ensure better oversight of the relative financial position of local authorities has been set out in the report section.

### Council Summary

5. For 2023/24, the Council has a cash limit of £604.2m, otherwise known as its budget requirement. At quarter two, the Council is forecasting a total underspend against the budget limit of £18.4m (or 3.0%). This is shown in Table A1, and comprises an:
  - Underspend within services (£11.6m or 2.2%)
  - Underspend within other budgets (£3.6m or 3.4%)
  - Over recovery of funding (£3.2m or 0.5%)
6. The overall position reflects an amalgamation of identified over and underspends across the Council. The position for each directorate is considered further on in this section.
7. However, it is important to note that energy related windfall gains and reductions in cost account for approximately £9.1m of the £15.3m forecast service underspend. This relates to:

- the lag effect additional income from the energy from waste plant, reflecting the period of higher energy prices (£6.1m)
- energy costs across street lighting and property for 2023/24 not increasing to the same extent as had been expected (£3m)

In addition, there is forecast to be a significant increase in additional traffic regulation order income and permitting, in excess of the contractual cost and income share arrangement (£2.5m). Each are considered in further detail within the directorate section to which they relate.

8. It should also be noted that other local authorities have experienced lower than expected energy costs and higher than expected energy from waste income. This is due to similar assumptions in budget setting, with energy cost estimates provided by an external body to several local authorities. Therefore, the variances identified are not considered to be Lincolnshire specific.
9. The sum of the exceptional items considered in point 8 equates to approximately £11.6m, which is broadly similar to the total service underspend forecast shown in Table A1, albeit made up of differently and taking into account all reported variances across all services.
10. The budget setting process will consider in depth the permanency of the variances that have emerged during 2023/24. At this stage the energy costs are expected to be permanently lower than forecast, and the additional energy from waste income is expected to be temporary.

#### Place Directorate: Proposal for Additional Capital Investment

11. There is an opportunity for the Council to amend its financial plans and utilise the forecast underspend primarily caused by exceptional factors. Within the Place directorate, permission is being sought through this report to utilise their forecast underspend to fund additional capital investment as follows:
  - £6.1m Waste Transfer Stations (funded by EfW windfall gain)
  - £1.2m Cross Keys Bridge electrification (extra TRO income funded)
  - £1.5m LED swap out (energy underspend funded)
12. The summary of what each scheme entails is as follows:
  - a. Waste transfer stations – in order to meet the requirements of the Environment Act 2021, the Council needs to be able to separately collect and dispose of food waste from April 2025. This will necessitate changes to the existing five LCC waste transfer stations plus the construction of a new facility in the County to replace a rented facility which cannot be amended. Finally, the proposal is to also replace aging wheeled loading shovels to ensure the efficient operation of WTS sites. This investment is expected to enable significant revenue savings associated with food waste treatment which would be considered through the budget setting process if approved.

- b. Cross Keys Bridge electrification – the proposal is to replace the existing hydraulic systems with a fully electric system, with the bridge being operated via the use of electric motors. There are numerous benefits to making this change, including environmental, financial and resilience of the asset, with no disadvantages identified.
  - c. LED swap out – the proposal is to complete additional works in swapping out existing bulbs to LED light bulbs, which are considered to be more effective and efficient for the parts of the network that remain using older technology bulbs.
13. It should be noted that this report is not seeking permission to undertake the specific works identified in point 12, as this will be sought via separate decision reports. This report is formally seeking approval to make the budget adjustments necessary which would ensure resource availability to support the decision process to undertake the works.
14. The Council is currently working through a process to identify capital investment requirements over the medium and longer-term period, set against affordability limits. The proposal contained here would effectively reduce the need to borrow to fund these schemes, assuming they would be prioritised over competing schemes.
15. The proposal to transfer £8.8m of Place revenue to capital is a recommendation of this report. If this is approved, the following adjustments would be made:
- £8.8m revenue budget transferred from Place to capital financing charges
  - £8.8m additional cost forecast within capital financing charges (to reflect the additional use of revenue to support capital investment)
16. This would impact the Council summary quarter two forecast position as shown in Table A2:

Table A2: Budget Forecast by Directorate/Area (adjusted for proposal)

Revenue	Budget (£)	Forecast (£)	Variance (£)
<b>Investment in Directorates</b>			
Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	180,796,468	180,414,826	(381,642)
Children's Services	102,692,393	102,116,182	(576,211)
Place	116,714,575	116,069,575	(645,000)
Fire and Rescue	24,305,927	24,343,611	37,684
Resources & Corporate	83,054,409	81,853,920	(1,200,489)
<b>Total</b>	<b>507,563,772</b>	<b>504,798,114</b>	<b>(2,765,658)</b>
<b>Other Budgets</b>			
Contingency	15,924,019	15,924,019	-
Capital Financing Charges	75,769,693	75,769,693	-
Other Budgets	24,188,481	20,588,092	(3,600,389)
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,882,193</b>	<b>112,281,804</b>	<b>(3,600,389)</b>
School Budgets	17,759,847	17,664,565	(95,282)
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	(37,021,435)	(37,021,435)	-
<b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>604,184,377</b>	<b>597,723,048</b>	<b>(6,461,329)</b>
<b>Funding</b>			
County Precept	(365,554,704)	(365,554,704)	-
Business Rates	(142,258,973)	(145,258,973)	(3,000,000)
Revenue Support Grant	(23,391,916)	(23,391,916)	-
Other Grants	(72,978,784)	(73,138,284)	(159,500)
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(604,184,377)</b>	<b>(607,343,877)</b>	<b>(3,159,500)</b>
<b>RESIDUAL DEFICIT (+) / SURPLUS (-)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(9,620,829)</b>	<b>(9,620,829)</b>

17. This would have the effect of reducing the total forecast revenue underspend from £18.4m to £9.6m, and represent a 1.6% difference to the total budget limit.

18. If approval is not granted for the adjustment, the overall Council underspend would be £8.8m higher at the end of the financial year all else being equal. Its usage would then be determined through the financial outturn reporting process, which would be considered by Full Council in September 2024.

#### Variance by Directorate

19. Further analysis on the forecast revenue variance by service area is contained within this section.

20. Children's Services (£0.576m underspend):

- The Children's Education service is forecasting an underspend of £0.066m (or 0.5%), a reduction in the underspend from the prior quarter. The change in variance relates to increased Psychology service costs caused by an increase in the number of Education Health Care plans (£0.112m) and support costs relating to the processing of SEND annual reviews (£0.301m). This is largely offset by underspends in the Domiciliary Care contract (£0.290m or 48.5%) which

continues to be unable to access care resources and packages of support due to limited availability within the marketplace and a national shortage of carers for domiciliary care. As a result, there are a number of young people who are waiting for a domiciliary care service. Whilst access to the contract is the preferred option, if that is not possible then the direct payment route or spot purchase package are explored. The other main underspend relates to occupational therapy equipment.

- The number of Children in Care (CiC) has increased further to 747 at the end of August 2023 compared to 727 as at the end of March 2023. There is a continuing need for external placements, leading to overspends on residential placements (£0.294m or 4.2%) and out of county fostering placements (£0.547m or 25.2%). This includes three exceptional secure placements, for welfare reasons, which the revenue contingency is contributing towards (£0.980m), due to its exceptional nature and this cost is not budgeted for within Children's Services. In addition, the authority is seeing fee increases in the unfavourable external market, a situation which is also being experienced nationally and more complex and demanding young people being unable to be placed with our in-house foster carers. The CiC programme continues to have strong oversight and rigour of the budget position of these demand-led and volatile budgets. Within Fostering and Adoption, a forecast underspend on Family Assessments and Regulation 24 (£0.364m) have helped to partly offset these overspends.
- Social care legal costs are currently forecasting an underspend (£0.430m or 10.6%). This demand-led budget position should be treated with caution. A significant amount of work has taken place with key stakeholders to improve processes, however services are seeing higher numbers of children in need; child protection and CiC. The anticipated Children's Services 1% carry forward (£0.968m) from 2022/23 has not been specifically earmarked for particular activities, but rather for use in supporting increased spending on families in crisis, inflationary challenges and supporting emergency external placements.
- It is expected that the additional costs associated with the transport of children and families for family time initially identified in 2022/23, will continue in 2023/24. The Contact Team is forecast to overspend by £0.500m (or 32.1%). This cost will be assumed to be met from the 2023/24 centrally retained education transport budget, which was established to respond to the rising costs in transport delivery.
- Leaving Care and Supported Accommodation is forecasting to overspend by £1.086m (or 19.9%). The majority of this relates to Intense Needs Supported Accommodation (£0.922m or 184.5%) which provides more suitable placements for the young people concerned in addition to being more cost effective when compared to CiC external residential placements.
- The 0-19 children's health service continues to forecast an underspend of £0.700m (or 7.7%). This is mainly due to county-wide Health Visitor vacancies which are at a similar level to that experienced in 2022/23. Health Visitor



recruitment is a national issue, and workforce development and ongoing recruitment remains key priorities for the service.

21. Adult Care and Community Wellbeing (£0.382m underspend):

- ACCW forecast is £0.381m underspent. The key driver influencing this position continues to be the 6% vacancies (47FTE) across the Directorate. The reduction in forecast underspend from last quarter is driven by an increase in AF&LTC short term residential care placements, an increase in interim bed usage during September (26 as at 13/9/23) and a small number of complex physical disability packages of care. This poses a financial risk given the likelihood that these placements will become long term.
- During September, the government announced a second tranche of Market Sustainability and Improvement Funding. In addition to the £7.9m received at the start of the financial year, ACCW received a further £5.1m of funding which must be spent during 2023-24. The grant conditions specify this funding should be used to support one or more of adult social care workforce, reducing adult social care waiting times and/or market sustainability through provider rates. Based upon the market assessments completed across adult social care and the capacity and demand modelling, ACCW DLT is proposing to invest in mental health services to support the forecast increase in demand and cost of residential placements in particular, reablement services and initiatives to recruit and retain the adult social care workforce.

22. Place (£9.445m underspend\*):

- The 2023/24 Highways budget included an additional £3.833m for signals and street lighting energy based on the ESPO energy adviser's forecasts. With a smaller increase now forecast for the next contract year commencing October 2023, there is an expected budget saving for the current financial year of £1.5m.
- In respect of Communities, the income share from electricity generated at the EfW plant has now been agreed and invoiced to the plant operator with forecasts updated to reflect the additional income. This is partially offset by inflation and other contract pressures within the Communities service areas but still provides the opportunity for a substantial (£5m) contribution to the investment required in the county's waste infrastructure to enable operating savings and meet future statutory requirements.
- Growth is showing inflationary pressures arising on energy and insurance costs in the business units. This is exacerbated by income levels currently being affected by voids. As the overall budget variance equates to almost 9% of the service area's net budget, there is limited scope to absorb this pressure and it's expected to remain a challenge for the year.
- In respect of education transport, the Council set aside £9.4m into contingency during the 2023/24 budget setting process to reflect the higher cost base of

contracts and emerging risk within education transport. Drawdowns from the contingency will be made in-year, which will take into account the new academic year transport contract agreements. Whilst this work is ongoing, it remains the expectation that the contingency set aside remains sufficient to cover the pressures within this area.

\* The directorate are seeking permission to utilise the forecast underspend to fund additional capital investment in infrastructure.

23. Fire and Rescue (£0.038m overspend):

- At this stage in the financial year, the service is forecasting a modest overspend. It is likely that this will be contained by the end of the financial year.

24. Resources and Corporate (£1.200m underspend):

- The property budget included a cost pressure of £4.388m in respect of energy inflation, which were based on the ESPO energy adviser's forecasts. With a smaller increase now forecast for the next contract year commencing October 2023, there is an expected budget saving for the current financial year of £1.5m.
- There are a series of variances within IT which have emerged during the year. This part reflects additional interventions made to strengthen the operation of the service, in addition to other pressures proposed to be funded via carry forward. The net effect reflects a cost pressure, which primarily relates to new IT priority projects. There is the potential that the Council might not be able to progress priority areas in the timescales currently envisaged, and therefore the cost profile may require amending.
- There are forecast underspends across the directorate due to the continued financial impact of higher than budgeted vacancy levels. This has the potential to increase further if recruitment activity is not in line with current expectations.
- The cost of transactional financial services is forecast to be lower during 2023/24 due to lower contract volumes and a forecast reduction in cost of the move from net to gross.

25. Other Budgets (£3.600m underspend):

- Insurance liability premiums are forecast to be approximately £1m lower than budget. The insurance contract was reprocedured with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 with full details known after the conclusion of the budget setting process where inflationary increases had been assumed. This in part reflects that the Council increased its level of self-insurance, as well as recognising a reduction in the level of claims against the insurance budget. This is expected to be an ongoing gain and will be reflected through the budget setting process.

- During the 2023/24 budget setting process, a provision was made for the anticipated increase in pay and pension costs. The former was in recognition of an estimate of the pay award, and the latter was concerned with an adjustment to primary and secondary pension rates following the triennial review. The cost of the pay award is expected to be higher than the initial estimate, due to the offer being in excess of the level assumed. In respect of pension costs, the increase assumed did not materialise as had been expected, in part due to the recent triennial review reporting that the pension fund was assessed to be fully funded. Overall, the two pay related costs net to an in year saving of approximately £2.6m. There will be a short-term benefit in the medium term financial plan, with higher costs expected further into the plan based on a higher pay baseline and a higher primary pension contribution rate.
- The new financial system provides enhanced reporting capabilities in respect of the staffing establishment, which will support improvements to future forecasting when fully operational.
- In respect of capital financing charges, the Council is anticipating an in year underspend. This is due to a combination of factors:
  - o Slippage from the 2022/23 capital budget was higher than anticipated, which results in a lower than budgeted minimum revenue provision charge this year.
  - o In turn, this has reduced the short-term need for the Council to borrow simultaneously increasing the Council's cash balances.
  - o Higher interest rates reflecting economic volatility has given rise to a period of successive increases in the Bank of England base rate. This increases the cost of borrowing and the interest rate received. For the Council, it has not needed to borrow and has higher cash balances, which have incurred a higher rate of interest.
- The forecast underspend has not been built into the figures shown in Table A1. In line with the adopted policy, we are likely to implement a voluntary revenue provision at the end of this year equivalent to the underspend. The voluntary revenue provision can be used in future years to help manage any increases in capital financing charges.

#### 26. Schools (£0.095m underspend):

- In respect of the High Needs block, the Alternative Provision (AP) free school place funding is forecast to underspend by £1.443m. This is a temporary underspend assuming that the Department for Education will not fully recoup funding from the Local Authority for this financial year.
- There are several demand-led and volatile areas within the High Needs Block which are forecasting overspends. One of those areas relates to top up funding to mainstream schools for Lincolnshire children and young people with Education and Health Care (EHC) plans which is forecasting an overspend by

£1.513m (or 5.0%). This is due, once again, to increased demand, although Lincolnshire's is experiencing lower growth of 6.5% compared to 9% nationally (2021). The SEND transformation programme will continue to have a role in supporting the financial sustainability of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

- Non-Maintained Schools placements, independent mainstream placements and placements with other Local Authorities are overall forecasting an overspend (£0.478m or 2.4%). This is due to increased demand for those pupils with more complex needs, along with insufficient places within Lincolnshire special schools. The Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy is delivering an increase in the number of places within Lincolnshire to support the forecast trajectory of growth. These overspends are offset by available funding that remained earmarked for cost growth.

27. Funding (£3.159m over recovery of funding):

- The quarter two forecast is that the Council will over recover funding by circa £3.2m. This primarily relates to business rates funding, and reflects a higher than budgeted estimate of the Council's pooling gain. This is based on the factors that supported a better than expected 2022/23 outturn, and specifically assumes that business rate collection across Lincolnshire will continue to be higher than the baseline, and due to pooling this benefit will be retained and shared locally amongst the County and Districts. Enhanced modelling has been established for business rates to support the 2024/25 budget setting process.
- The other increase in funding relates to a higher than expected extended rights to free travel grant. This is held within funding, and is a net in year gain to the budget if transport costs can be contained within the limits set, which is currently the expectation.

Monitoring of Cost Base Reductions

28. When the Council approved its 2023/24 revenue budget in February, it approved total efficiency savings of £12.2m spread across the Council. As part of regular monitoring, services also measure progress of delivery against planned cost reductions. At quarter two, the planned saving per directorate and the revised estimate is shown in the table below:

Table A3: Monitoring of Planned Cost Reductions

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Planned Saving</b>	<b>Revised Estimate</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	3,862	3,862	-
Children's Services	1,331	1,147	(184)
Fire and Rescue	70	70	-
Other Budgets	2,430	2,430	-
Place	3,076	3,076	-
Resources	1,461	1,461	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,230</b>	<b>12,046</b>	<b>(184)</b>

29. There is currently one initiative that has been identified as not on-target. Whilst modest, this relates to the savings associated with the opening of two new children's homes, which have been delayed. The first of the home opened in September 2023 with second home expected to open in January 2024, therefore impacting the savings profile for 2023/24.

Impact on Reserves

30. The current forecast underspend for the Council would be expected to reduce reliance on reserves during 2023/24, with £7.5m having been assumed to support a balanced budget in 2023/24. The current reserve statement is shown in Appendix B.

Financial Planning Process

31. There is a causal relationship between the current year forecast and the potential impact on the Council's budget over the medium term. For instance, permanent cost pressures are likely to require a permanent solution during budget setting for 2024/25. The same applies for permanent cost reductions.

32. The Council is currently progressing its detailed review of budgets as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process. This process will consider a detailed review of service budgets, anticipated future need and price levels. It will also consider anticipated changes to the funding base, together with further transformation and efficiency opportunities as the Council works to maintain its strong financial position.

33. The Government have confirmed that the Autumn Statement will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, which is prior to the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The Autumn Statement will outline the national approach to Local Government financing in 2024/25 and hopefully beyond, although this remains uncertain. The Autumn Statement will set control totals for the Local Government finance settlement, which is the fiscal event where the Government translate national allocations into specific funding envelopes for individual local authorities. The settlement is not expected to be published until mid-to-late December. As Parliament is provisionally expected to rise for Christmas recess on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the settlement will need to be published prior to this.

34. At the Executive meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Members will have the opportunity to consider the budget proposal for 2024/25. This will then be taken forward for consultation and scrutiny during January, before the Executive re-consider an updated budget proposal on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024. This provides an opportunity for the Executive to recommend that the budget is taken forward to Full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 for the full budget setting meeting.

**Reserve Statement**

**APPENDIX B**

<b>RESERVE STATEMENT</b>	<b>2022/23 (Actual)</b>	<b>2023/24 (Estimate)</b>	<b>2024/25 (Estimate)</b>	<b>2025/26 (Estimate)</b>	<b>2026/27 (Estimate)</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>16,400</b>
<b>EARMARKED RESERVES:</b>					
<b>Corporate Reserves</b>					
Financial Volatility Reserve	46,922	46,922	48,076	44,341	39,357
Development Fund	34,426	6,607	1,504	1,504	1,504
Insurances	6,775	6,775	6,775	6,775	6,775
Other Services	2,390	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,513</b>	<b>60,305</b>	<b>56,355</b>	<b>52,619</b>	<b>47,635</b>
<b>Adult Care &amp; Community Wellbeing</b>					
Community Safety Reserve	50	50	50	50	50
Community Engagement Reserve	59	59	59	59	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Children's Services</b>					
Schools Sickness Insurance Scheme	958	593	593	593	593
Families Working Together	599	485	371	257	142
Music Service Reserve (carry forward)	281	84	-	-	-
All Other	151	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,989</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>735</b>
<b>Place</b>					
Energy from Waste Lifecycles	3,877	3,127	2,377	1,627	877
Traffic Management Reserve	1,713	1,713	1,713	1,713	1,713
Growth Reserve	1,037	962	962	962	962
Cultural Services Reserve	295	123	123	123	123
All Other	948	928	928	928	928
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,870</b>	<b>6,853</b>	<b>6,103</b>	<b>5,353</b>	<b>4,603</b>
<b>Resources</b>					
Procurement	1,357	1,042	714	374	-
Legal	811	811	811	811	811
CSSC Transformation	564	0	0	0	0
Purchase of Employee Leave Scheme Reserve	305	203	129	54	-
Elections	288	588	-	300	600
All Other	25	25	25	25	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,349</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>1,564</b>	<b>1,436</b>
<b>TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES</b>	<b>103,830</b>	<b>71,097</b>	<b>65,209</b>	<b>60,494</b>	<b>54,518</b>
<b>REVENUE GRANTS:</b>					
Children's Services	19,729	9,408	8,068	6,751	5,188
Place	8,972	7,191	6,191	6,191	6,191
ACCW	74,429	62,518	62,491	62,477	62,477
Other Budgets	1,628	1,628	1,628	1,628	1,628
Fire & Rescue	384	333	288	288	288
<b>TOTAL GRANT RESERVES</b>	<b>105,142</b>	<b>81,077</b>	<b>78,666</b>	<b>77,335</b>	<b>75,771</b>
<b>SCHOOL BALANCES</b>	<b>29,148</b>	<b>13,927</b>	<b>9,702</b>	<b>6,050</b>	<b>2,695</b>
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>254,520</b>	<b>182,501</b>	<b>169,977</b>	<b>160,279</b>	<b>149,384</b>

## Monitoring of Development Fund

## Appendix C

Revenue/ Capital	Directorate - Service	Project	Total Budget	2020/21 (Actual)	2021/22 (Actual Spend)	2022/23 (Actual Spend)	2023/24 (Planned Spend)	2024/25 (Planned Spend)	Residual Balance	Ref*
Revenue	Place - Environment	Green Masterplan	<b>350</b>	34	37	131	147	1	-	
Revenue	Place - Communities	Anaerobic digestion Facilities - Business Case Viability	<b>150</b>	12	63	-	75	0	-	
Revenue	Place - Highways and Growth	Highways Advance Design/Economic Development Pipeline Projects	<b>2,713</b>	484	105	693	500	931	-	1
Revenue	Place - Highways	Traffic signals - Wireless communications	<b>5</b>	-	-	-	5	-	-	
Revenue	Fire and Rescue	Research study - LFR prevention work	<b>10</b>	8	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	
Revenue	Resources - Transformation	Digital	<b>280</b>	167	-	-	113	-	-	
Revenue	Place - Growth	Broadband - 4G	<b>135</b>	-	-	-	-	135	-	
Revenue	Place - Highways	Drainage Investigation and Flood Repairs	<b>200</b>	30	135	-	35	(0)	-	
Revenue	Resources - Transformation	Transformation Programme	<b>7,394</b>	136	92	1,015	1,953	2,688	<b>1,510</b>	2
Revenue	Councilwide	Emergent council priorities	<b>10,045</b>	-	-	-	10,045	-	-	3
Capital	Place - Communities	Education Transport links to School (Route sustainability)	<b>440</b>	-	-	-	100	340	-	
Capital	Place - Highways	Community Maintenance Gangs	<b>3,981</b>	3,981	-	-	-	-	-	
Capital	Place - Highways	Drainage Investigation and Flood Repairs	<b>3,444</b>	646	561	890	1,347	(0)	-	4
Capital	Place - Highways	Works on B class roads and lower	<b>10,000</b>	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	
Capital	Fire and Rescue	Flood Management Pumps	<b>116</b>	116	-	-	-	-	-	
Capital	ACCW - Public Protection - Trading Standards	Replacement Trading standards Metrology equipment	<b>50</b>	-	-	-	50	-	-	



Revenue/ Capital	Directorate - Service	Project	Total Budget	2020/21 (Actual)	2021/22 (Actual Spend)	2022/23 (Actual Spend)	2023/24 (Planned Spend)	2024/25 (Planned Spend)	Residual Balance	Ref*
Capital	Place - Highways	Traffic signals - Wireless communications	80	80	-	-	-	-	-	
Capital	Place - Growth	Broadband - 4G	800	-	-	-	-	800	-	5
Capital	Place - Highways	Highways initiatives/works	12,000	-	-	-	12,000	-	-	6
Capital	Place - Highways	Lines and signage	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	7
Capital	Place - Various	Minor infrastructure works, skills development and public rights of way	658	-	-	-	448	210	-	8
			<b>53,851</b>	<b>5,696</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>12,729</b>	<b>27,819</b>	<b>5,104</b>	<b>1,512</b>	

\* further information provided on next page where number reference stated (i.e. to see further information in respect of item 1, please refer to point 1 on the following page)

## Analysis of Development Fund

The Development Fund has been utilised to support investment within Council priorities and includes transformation of the Council to a lower cost base. The Development Fund is specifically monitored to consider progress against approved investment.

The table on the previous page references numbers in the far right hand column, which correspond to the explanations set out below:

Ref	Project	Narrative
1	Highways Advance Design/Economic Development Pipeline Projects	<p>This funding is being utilised to supplement the Advance Design Block budget to accelerate development of Traffic Models, Transport Strategies and Feasibility Studies while still investing the previous level of revenue funding into developing detailed designs for highway based projects and capital funding bids to third parties (e.g. DfT, DLUHC, etc).</p> <p>In addition, it has enabled the development of a pipeline of Economic Infrastructure schemes to bid against emerging government, LCC and other funding opportunities. During 2022/23, 26 Transport Strategies, Models, Feasibilities and Highway Designs were progressed with oversight from the Capital Programme Steering Group. In 2020/21 and 2021/22, 7 Economic Infrastructure feasibility studies were completed and a further 4 progressed during 2022/23 including proposals at Sutton Bridge and Kirton Business Park.</p>
2	Transformation Programme	<p>The Transformation Programme is made up of highly complex programmes of change which require a new way of working. Existing projects and programmes help to drive financial savings, consider opportunities from optimisation and digitalisation within processes and systems, deliver good value services and improved outcomes for all, whilst demonstrating a return on investment.</p> <p>To date, investment has been spent on the delivery of the: Digital Programme, Smarter Working, Children in Care Transformation, Educational Travel, People Strategy, and Corporate Support Optimisation. Each project within the programme delivers a range of budget and cash savings, cost avoidance and non-cashable benefits.</p> <p>Over the past 3 years, recurrent budget savings in excess of £4m have been delivered, with plans for a further £7.2m over the next two years whilst also improving the experience for our customers.</p>
3	Emergent council priorities	<p>The £10.045m balance represents the residual underspend from 2022/23, which Full Council approved to be allocated to the Development Fund to get allocated to priority projects further on in the financial year.</p>

Ref	Project	Narrative
4	Drainage Investigation and Flood Repairs	<p>Schemes totalling £700k were commissioned in 2020/21 with an in-year spend of £646k. A further £561k was spent in 2021/22 with the remaining budget from the original £2m funding allocation spent in 2022/23 on schemes at Scothern and Kirton.</p> <p>Following the successful interventions made utilising this funding, Council approved a further allocation of £1.444m as part of the 2022/23 Budget to continue the programme for a further two years. £97k of this additional funding was used in 2022/23 to complete delivery of the Scothern and Kirton schemes. The remaining £1.347m is planned to be utilised in 2023/24 to deliver a larger scheme of flood alleviation works at Cherry Willingham and a programme of approximately 33 localised schemes / works packages to address localised flooding issues that have emerged as a result of recent rainfall events.</p>
5	Broadband - 4G	<p>We are working with Building Digital UK (BDUK) to understand the specific details of where they will invest in the next stage of the rural broadband programme. Once we fully understand that detail, which should be no later than autumn 2023, then we will assess whether there is the need for 4G and 5G fixed wireless access enabled broadband to augment BDUK's own investment or whether this expenditure should be adapted to meet the same objectives but through a different route.</p> <p>Our priorities are to foster business growth and to tackle the viability gap which deters communities and businesses from having the best possible digital services. This is a particular problem for our rural, farming, and tourism businesses.</p>
6	Highways initiatives/works	<p><u>Applicable to reference 6, 7 and 8:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Specific to reference 6:</u></p> <p>This is in addition to the previously approved £5m which is also to be spent on local highways work.</p>
7	Highways Lines and signage	Please see commentary for reference 6.
8	Minor infrastructure works, skills development and	Please see commentary for reference 6. This is planned to be spent against adult skills development (£0.250m), castle infrastructure and equipment (£0.200m), and public rights of way (£0.208m).

Ref	Project	Narrative
	public rights of way	

Revenue

SERVICE FROM	SERVICE TO	REASON	Approved by	AMOUNT
Highways	Growth	Virement - Highways to Growth for research study at Belton Lane / Newark Rd junction	Head of Highways Infrastructure and Laboratory Services	0.030m

Capital

SERVICE FROM	SERVICE TO	REASON	Approved by	AMOUNT
Corporate Property	Children's Education	Transfer of budget from Property Area Review to SEMH Schools for Myle Cross	Head of Property Strategy & Business Operations	0.300m

Revenue to Capital

SERVICE FROM	SERVICE TO	REASON	Approved by	AMOUNT
(Revenue) Highways	Chief Finance Officer - Capital Financing	To move Executive approved budget given to fund capitalised maintenance.	Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director of Resources	12.360m
(Capital) Capital Funding	Highways Asset Protection			
(Revenue) Highways	Chief Finance Officer - Capital Financing	Transfer budget for Salix national loan repayments 23/24	Head of Highway Design Services	0.161m
(Capital) Capital Funding	Highways Asset Protection			

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**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,  
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 December 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Quarter 2)</b>

**Summary:**

This report invites the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider a report on Capital Budget Monitoring, which is being presented to the Executive on 5 December 2023. The views of the Board will be reported to the Executive as part of its consideration of this item.

The Capital Budget Monitoring Report compares the Council's projected expenditure with the approved Capital Programme and highlights any forecast over or under spending.

**Actions Required:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited to: -

- 1) Consider the attached report and to determine whether the Board supports the recommendation to the Executive as set out in the report.
- 2) Agree any additional comments to be passed to the Executive in relation to this item.

**1. Background**

1.1 The Executive is due to consider the Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 - Quarter 2 at its meeting on 5 December 2023.

1.2 The Executive report attached at Appendix A is the capital budget monitoring report for the second quarter of financial year 2023/24 and has been prepared as at 30 September 2023. It compares projected expenditure for the year with the approved Capital Programme and highlights any forecast over or under-spending, together with any other key points to note.

1.3 Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be considered by the Executive alongside the report.

## 2. Conclusion

To enable the Executive to fully consider the Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Quarter 2), comments and feedback from this Board will be taken into account.

## 3. Consultation

The Board is being consulted on the proposed decision of the Executive on 5 December 2023.

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Quarter 2) to be presented to the Executive at its meeting on 5 December 2023.

## 5. 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
Budget Book 2023/24	The details of the Capital Programme set for the financial year 2023/24 and beyond is within the document Budget Book 2023/24, which can be found on the Council's website.  <a href="#">Budget Book 2023/24</a>

This report was written by Michelle Grady, Assistant Director – Finance, who can be contacted on 01522 553235 or [Michelle.Grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Michelle.Grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk).



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

Report to:	<b>Executive</b>
Date:	<b>05 December 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Quarter 2)</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I030089</b>
Key decision?	<b>No</b>

**Summary:**

- This report provides an update on capital investment compared with budgets for the 2023/24 financial year.
- The report presents the updated capital programme, reflecting any external funding or re-phasing adjustments that have been made during quarter two.
- The detailed programme can be seen within Appendix A, together with narrative on progress against key investment schemes.
- The current forecast is that there will be an in year underspend which will necessitate further re-phasing of the programme.
- The quarter two revenue report proposes additional capital investment in Place infrastructure, funded by revenue underspend. The effect of this, if approved, is demonstrated in Appendix B.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Executive:

- 1) Notes the position on the capital programme and decides on any corrective action necessary.
- 2) Notes the potential for the capital programme to change if separate approval is given for additional investment in Place infrastructure.

<b>Alternatives Considered:</b>	
1.	This report shows the projected outturn for 2023/24 based on information at a point in time, therefore no alternatives have been considered.

<b>Reasons for Recommendation:</b>
To maintain the Council's financial resilience.

## 1. Background

1.1 In February 2023, the Council approved a capital investment strategy in addition to a revised capital investment programme. Both strands support delivery of the Council plan, helping the Council to achieve its strategic objectives and legal duties for the benefit of residents and businesses that operate within its area.

1.2 The economic environment has remained challenging since the budget was approved, with the rate of inflation remaining higher for longer than the Council's revised expectations in February. This has started to reduce due to prices now being measured against a permanently higher base, however the Bank of England do not expect the rate to fall below their 2% target until 2025. This has implications for the Council's financial planning, which will be reflected during the budget setting process for 2024/25.

1.3 Economic challenges impact nationally, and therefore are not specific to Lincolnshire. Nevertheless, there are three known capital related elements which will need to be reconsidered as part of the 2024/25 financial planning process:

- The first is that the cost of capital investment has increased, because of the impact of inflation and other inflationary causes (e.g. cost of raw materials). This means that there is a diminished buying power for capital investment, relative to a few years ago.
- The second relates to the cost of capital financing, which has been on an upward trajectory because of continued increases in the Bank of England base rate intended to counteract the rate of inflation. The base rate has potentially now peaked. For the Council, it means that the cost of borrowing is now higher than it could be accessed for in prior years. This could have implications for the revenue budget over the longer-term, assuming that rates remain high at the time when the Council needs to borrow with internal borrowing currently prioritised and preferred.
- Conversely, this does also mean that slower than planned delivery of capital investment could result in higher interest receipts in the short-term. This has been considered within the revenue report considered as part of the same Executive meeting agenda.

- 1.4 The Council utilises capital investment to support investment within Council services, which helps to continuously achieve better service outcomes and better financial outcomes within revenue. There is a clear link between revenue and capital and therefore neither can be considered in isolation.
- 1.5 The Council categorises capital investment into projects and blocks. Capital blocks investment comprises schemes which maintain and/or replace the Council's existing assets (e.g. highways maintenance). Capital projects are specific schemes which represents specific investment within an area to create a new asset which will deliver additional benefit to Lincolnshire.
- 1.6 In line with good financial management practices, the Council's use of resources is closely monitored and reported to the Executive. This report provides information on the current financial position and will inform the next stages of financial planning, taking account of the risks and opportunities in respect of financial sustainability.
- 1.7 Quarter two represents the half way point in the financial year, which means there has been six months to identify and better understand any changes from the approved financial plan, and six months remaining to continue taking any corrective action necessary.
- 1.8 In the quarter one update, the implementation of the Council's new financial system was referenced as a major undertaking which had partially disrupted access to reporting during the monitoring period. A fuller suite of reporting is now available, and there is work ongoing to adapt data and processes to the different construct of the new system. This will ensure more effective reporting with reduced need for manual intervention.
- 1.9 The constraints at quarter one meant that the focus was on reporting an up to date capital programme, rather than providing alternative forecast figures. Therefore, quarter two represents a more comprehensive update to the Executive which is considerate of variances and their causes.
- 1.10 There is inherent risk within the capital programme for the reasons set out in this section. It is, however, important to note that the Council has acted to mitigate by adjusting the capital programme during the previous budget setting round to recognise that the cost of some schemes had increased. At this stage, the programme is expected to remain sufficient, although this could change. From a wider perspective, the Council takes a prudent approach to the setting of reserves and contingencies – including the new development capital contingency – which ensures the Council has time to react to material changes to circumstances.
- 1.11 The Council's financial planning process for 2024/25 is in progress. This will result in the production of a new capital investment strategy, as well as a revised capital investment programme reflecting new investment need and priorities, within

affordability limits. Extensive capital planning work has been taking place to support this process. This will complement the monitoring work ongoing, with clear links between the two areas of capital investment management.

### Overall Financial Position – Capital

- 1.12 The summary capital forecast for net investment as at 30 September 2023 (end of quarter two) is as follows:

<b>Investment Area</b>	<b>2023/24 Budget</b>	<b>2023/24 Forecast</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Better Care Fund	(0.000)	-	0.000
Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions	0.979	1.444	0.465
Children's Education	6.993	6.944	(0.050)
Children's Social Care	3.013	3.013	-
Commercial Services	0.310	0.310	-
Corporate Property	7.897	6.035	(1.862)
Fire & Rescue	2.403	2.374	(0.030)
Public Protection	0.045	0.045	-
Information Management	6.892	5.308	(1.584)
Chief Finance Officer - Other	18.294	-	(18.294)
Place - Communities	4.202	2.529	(1.673)
Growth	8.995	7.957	(1.038)
Highways	86.549	89.143	2.594
<b>Total</b>	<b>146.572</b>	<b>125.100</b>	<b>(21.472)</b>

- 1.13 Appendix A shows the summarised capital programme by directorate, in addition to the detailed capital programme post outturn. In addition, Appendix A shows further information in respect of the in year variances reported.
- 1.14 The overall forecast of a net underspend of circa £21.5m is heavily linked to the current assumption that the new developments capital contingency budget (£19.9m) will remain unspent through the remainder of the year, with its usage subject to a wider re-prioritisation exercise which will be proposed as part of the budget setting process.
- 1.15 There are a series of other in year variances, up and down, but the vast majority relate to timing of spend and will be corrected via future re-phasing.
- 1.16 The likelihood is that the Council will not spend £125.1m during 2023/24, and further re-phasing will be made during subsequent financial quarters. Therefore, the Council's in-year borrowing requirement is likely to reduce compared to the estimate at the start of the year. This position is also expected to contribute to a forecast underspend on capital financing charges which would provide a short-term benefit to the revenue budget. This is considered within the revenue quarter two update report.
- 1.17 The capital investment strategy will also be refreshed during the financial planning process.

## Assessment of Impact on Financial Resilience

1.18 The capital forecast reflects an in year forecast net underspend, which reflects current assumptions. There have not been any cost overspends reported that cannot be contained through re-phasing, albeit the programme remains large and exposed to risks around things like raw material prices. In terms of revenue cost of capital investment, there could be longer-term cost implications if higher interest rates persist over the long-term. This is not expected to cause a short-term issue although is one that will continue to be monitored. The Capital Investment Strategy 2023/24 requires the capital programme to be affordable over the longer term and the latest position remains in line with this position.

1.19 The Council continues to maintain its financial resilience by:

- Proactive financial management in respect of the emergent financial position
- Taking action to mitigate issues as and when they arise
- Continuing to work with the Society of County Treasurers to ensure that the Government understands the particular issues faced by County Councils, including within the context of capital investment and affordability
- Refreshing and updating the capital investment strategy and capital investment programme,
- Continued emphasis on investment which supports transformation and enables significant reductions within the revenue cost base.

## **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 this report simply reports on performance against the budget, there are no implications that need to be taken into account by the Executive.

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

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

As this report simply reports on performance against the budget, there are no implications that need to be taken into account by the Executive.

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 this report simply reports on performance against the budget, there are no implications that need to be taken into account by the Executive.

### **3. Conclusion**

1.20 The Council's current position on the capital programme is highlighted in this report for the Executive to note.

1.21 The position will continue to be monitored and reported throughout the year.

#### **4. Legal Comments:**

This report sets out an update on capital investment forecasts compared with the capital budget for the financial year starting on 1 April 2023 to assist the Executive to monitor the financial performance of the Council.

#### **5. Resource Comments:**

This report provides an updated capital investment programme in addition to current forecasts for 2023/24. It is likely that further re-phasing will be required during the remainder of the financial year to ensure the programme remains aligned to delivery timescales.

## 6. Consultation

### a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

### b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

### c) Scrutiny Comments

This report is due to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 30 November 2023. Any comments of the Board will be reported to the Executive.

### d) Risks and Impact Analysis

The impact of this reported financial position on the Council's overall financial resilience has been assessed and is reported on within this report.

## 7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Capital Investment Programme 2023/24 – 2032/33
Appendix B	Proposed Change to Capital Investment Programme

## 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
Council Budget 2023/24	<a href="#">Council Budget 2023/24</a>
Budget Book 2023/24	<a href="#">Budget Book 2023/24</a>

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Table A1: 2023/24 – 2032/33 Capital Investment Programme (Summary)

Capital	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 - 2032/33
<b>Investment in Blocks</b>				
Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	8,113,826	-	-	-
Children's Services	8,082,672	50,000	2,967,000	32,377,000
Place	73,884,876	46,259,488	3,088,337	20,275,000
Fire and Rescue	2,403,343	2,978,408	1,718,000	3,000,000
Resources & Corporate	13,377,312	7,000,000	7,000,000	39,500,000
Total	105,862,029	56,287,896	14,773,337	95,152,000
<b>Investment in Projects</b>				
Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	495,379	-	-	-
Children's Services	27,236,574	7,844,691	-	-
Place	78,385,641	20,088,340	17,667,569	182,403,727
Fire and Rescue	-	-	-	-
Resources & Corporate	1,721,148	900,000	300,000	1,800,000
Total	107,838,742	28,833,031	17,967,569	184,203,727
New Development Capital Contingency	19,861,646	5,000,000	5,000,000	30,000,000
<b>Total Capital Investment</b>	<b>233,562,417</b>	<b>90,120,927</b>	<b>37,740,906</b>	<b>309,355,727</b>
<b>Funding</b>				
External Funding	(86,990,799)	(45,157,176)	(11,881,612)	(95,434,529)
Borrowing	(117,658,404)	(39,763,006)	(20,660,973)	(178,560,834)
Capital Receipts	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(35,000,000)
Revenue	(23,913,214)	(200,745)	(198,321)	(360,364)
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(233,562,417)</b>	<b>(90,120,927)</b>	<b>(37,740,906)</b>	<b>(309,355,727)</b>

Table A2: 2023/24 – 2023/33 Capital Investment Programme (Detail)

		2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27 – 2032/33		
B/P	Scheme Name	Gross Budget	External Funding	Internal Funding	Gross Budget	External Funding	Internal Funding	Gross Budget	External Funding	Internal Funding	Gross Budget	External Funding	Internal Funding
	<b>Adult Care and Community Wellbeing</b>												
B	Adult Care	0.484	-	0.484	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	Safer Communities	0.025	-	0.025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	Registration Celebratory & Coroners Services	0.020	-	0.020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	Better Care Fund	7.585	7.585	(0.000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	Welton - Extra Care Housing	0.495	-	0.495	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Children's Services</b>												
B	Schools Maintenance Programme	4.888	4.888	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	Provision of School Places (Basic Need)	1.639	1.939	(0.300)	-	-	-	2.917	1.500	1.417	32.077	7.836	24.241
B	Devolved Capital	0.962	0.962	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	Foster Care	0.120	-	0.120	0.050	-	0.050	0.050	-	0.050	0.300	-	0.300
B	Other Children's Social care	0.009	-	0.009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	Connect the Classroom	0.465	0.471	(0.007)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	SEMH Schools - Expanding provision	0.300	-	0.300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	SEND Reorganisation	14.531	9.259	5.272	7.845	-	7.845	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	Children's Homes	2.011	0.412	1.599	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	Lincs Secure Unit	10.278	7.266	3.013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	Lincolnshire Secure Unit	0.116	0.116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Fire and Rescue</b>												
B	Fire Fleet and Equipment	2.374	-	2.374	2.978	-	2.978	1.718	-	1.718	3.000	-	3.000
B	Fire & Rescue and Emergency Planning	0.030	-	0.030	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Other Budgets</b>												
B	New Developments Contingency Fund	19.862	-	19.862	5.000	-	5.000	5.000	-	5.000	30.000	-	30.000
B	Capital Fund	-	1.568	(1.568)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-





		2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27 – 2032/33		
B/P	Scheme Name	Gross Budget	External Funding	Internal Funding	Gross Budget	External Funding	Internal Funding	Gross Budget	External Funding	Internal Funding	Gross Budget	External Funding	Internal Funding
	<b>Resources &amp; Corporate</b>												
B	Property	5.976	-	5.976	3.225	-	3.225	3.225	-	3.225	19.350	-	19.350
B	Improvement Transformation	4.000	-	4.000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	Infrastructure and Refresh Programme	2.733	-	2.733	3.500	-	3.500	3.500	-	3.500	18.500	-	18.500
B	County Farm Block	0.531	0.000	0.531	0.275	-	0.275	0.275	-	0.275	1.650	-	1.650
B	Replacement ERP Finance System	0.127	-	0.127	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	ICT Development Fund	0.013	-	0.013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B	Orchard House Repairs	(0.002)	-	(0.002)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	School Mobile Classroom Replacement	-	-	-	0.900	-	0.900	0.300	-	0.300	1.800	-	1.800
P	Property Area Review	0.067	-	0.067	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	Waddington Training Facility - Capital	0.378	-	0.378	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	Fire Door Replacement	0.478	-	0.478	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	Grantham Fire Project	0.469	-	0.469	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	2023 Device Replacement (Refresh)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	IMT (Cloud Navigator/Windows 10)	0.077	-	0.077	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	Care Management System (CMPP)	0.014	-	0.014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	Leverton Fire Station	0.310	-	0.310	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	Azure Data Migration Project	(0.072)	-	(0.072)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>233.56a2</b>	<b>86.991</b>	<b>146.572</b>	<b>90.121</b>	<b>45.157</b>	<b>44.964</b>	<b>37.741</b>	<b>11.882</b>	<b>25.859</b>	<b>309.356</b>	<b>95.435</b>	<b>213.921</b>

Table A3: 2023/24 Capital Investment Forecast (Summary)

Investment Area	Gross Forecast			External & Grant Forecast			Net Forecast		
	Budget	Forecast	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance
Better Care Fund	7.585	7.585	0.000	(7.585)	(7.585)	-	(0.000)	-	0.000
Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions	0.979	1.444	0.465	-	-	-	0.979	1.444	0.465
Children's Education	25.041	24.992	(0.050)	(18.048)	(18.048)	-	6.993	6.944	(0.050)
Children's Social Care	10.278	10.278	-	(7.266)	(7.266)	-	3.013	3.013	-
Commercial Services	0.310	0.310	-	-	-	-	0.310	0.310	-
Corporate Property	7.897	6.035	(1.862)	(0.000)	-	0.000	7.897	6.035	(1.862)
Fire & Rescue	2.403	2.374	(0.030)	-	-	-	2.403	2.374	(0.030)
Public Protection	0.045	0.045	-	-	-	-	0.045	0.045	-
Information Management	6.892	5.308	(1.584)	-	-	-	6.892	5.308	(1.584)
Chief Finance Officer - Other	19.862	-	(19.862)	(1.568)	-	1.568	18.294	-	(18.294)
Place - Communities	4.202	2.857	(1.345)	-	(0.328)	(0.328)	4.202	2.529	(1.673)
Growth	8.995	7.957	(1.038)	0.000	0.000	(0.000)	8.995	7.957	(1.038)
Highways	139.073	106.238	(32.836)	(52.524)	(17.095)	35.430	86.549	89.143	2.594
<b>Total</b>	<b>233.562</b>	<b>175.421</b>	<b>(58.141)</b>	<b>(86.991)</b>	<b>(50.321)</b>	<b>36.670</b>	<b>146.572</b>	<b>125.100</b>	<b>(21.472)</b>

Table A4: 2023/24 Capital Investment Forecast (Detail)

Scheme	Gross Forecast			External & Grant Forecast			Net Forecast		
	Budget	Forecast	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance
Better Care Fund	7.585	7.585	0.000	(7.585)	(7.585)	-	(0.000)	-	0.000
<b>Adult Frailty &amp; Long Term Conditions</b>									
Adult Care	0.484	0.484	-	-	-	-	0.484	0.484	-
Hoplands - Extra Care Housing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Welton - Extra Care Housing	0.495	0.960	0.465	-	-	-	0.495	0.960	0.465
<b>Children's Education</b>									
Early Help Services	0.009	0.009	-	-	-	-	0.009	0.009	-
Devolved Capital	0.962	0.962	-	(0.962)	(0.962)	-	-	-	-
Provision of School Places	1.639	1.639	-	(1.939)	(1.939)	-	(0.300)	(0.300)	0.000
School Modernisation/Condition	4.888	4.888	-	(4.888)	(4.888)	-	-	-	-
Other Education and SEND Services	0.465	0.465	-	(0.471)	(0.471)	-	(0.007)	(0.007)	-
Safeguarding	0.236	0.186	(0.050)	(0.116)	(0.116)	-	0.120	0.070	(0.050)
SEND Provision Capital funding for Pupils with EHC Plans	14.831	14.831	-	(9.259)	(9.259)	-	5.572	5.572	-
Children's Services - Children's Homes	2.011	2.011	-	(0.412)	(0.412)	-	1.599	1.599	-
<b>Children's Social Care</b>									
Residential Homes & Placements	10.278	10.278	-	(7.266)	(7.266)	-	3.013	3.013	-
<b>Commercial Services</b>									
Leverton Fire Station	0.310	0.310	-	-	-	-	0.310	0.310	-
<b>Corporate Property</b>									
Property	2.024	1.172	(0.852)	(0.000)	-	0.000	2.024	1.172	(0.852)
Property Maintenance	5.337	4.320	(1.017)	-	-	-	5.337	4.320	(1.017)
Property Rationalisation Programme	0.469	0.476	0.007	-	-	-	0.469	0.476	0.007
Property Area Review	0.067	0.067	-	-	-	-	0.067	0.067	-
Property Improvement Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Fire &amp; Rescue</b>									
Fire & Rescue and Emergency Planning	0.030	-	(0.030)	-	-	-	0.030	-	(0.030)
Fire Fleet Vehicles and Associated Equipment	2.374	2.374	-	-	-	-	2.374	2.374	-

Scheme	Gross Forecast			External & Grant Forecast			Net Forecast		
	Budget	Forecast	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance
<b>Public Protection</b>									
Safer Communities	0.025	0.025	-	-	-	-	0.025	0.025	-
Registration Celebratory & Coroners Services	0.020	0.020	-	-	-	-	0.020	0.020	-
<b>Information Management</b>									
Infrastructure and Refresh Programme	2.733	4.919	2.186	-	-	-	2.733	4.919	2.186
Improvement Transformation	4.000	0.350	(3.650)	-	-	-	4.000	0.350	(3.650)
Replacement ERP Finance System	0.127	0.039	(0.088)	-	-	-	0.127	0.039	(0.088)
Care Management System (CMPP)	0.014	-	(0.014)	-	-	-	0.014	-	(0.014)
IT Development Fund	0.013	-	(0.013)	-	-	-	0.013	-	(0.013)
Windows 10 Refresh 2018	0.077	-	(0.077)	-	-	-	0.077	-	(0.077)
Azure Data Migration Project	(0.072)	-	0.072	-	-	-	(0.072)	-	0.072
<b>Chief Finance Officer - Other</b>									
New Developments Contingency Fund	19.862	-	(19.862)	-	-	-	19.862	-	(19.862)
Capital Fund	-	-	-	(1.568)	-	1.568	(1.568)	-	1.568
<b>Place - Communities</b>									
Electronic Ticket Machines	(0.004)	(0.004)	-	-	-	-	(0.004)	(0.004)	-
Libraries	0.323	0.511	0.188	-	-	-	0.323	0.511	0.188
Heritage/archives	1.625	0.125	(1.500)	-	-	-	1.625	0.125	(1.500)
Other Environment & Planning	0.006	0.008	0.002	-	-	-	0.006	0.008	0.002
Flood & Water Risk Management	0.584	0.539	(0.045)	-	-	-	0.584	0.539	(0.045)
Countryside Rights of Way	0.045	0.045	-	-	-	-	0.045	0.045	-
Local Flood Defence Schemes	0.504	0.500	(0.004)	-	-	-	0.504	0.500	(0.004)
Equipment & Vehicles at Waste Transfer Stations	0.120	0.120	-	-	-	-	0.120	0.120	-
Waste - Fire Suppression at Waste Transfer Stations	0.028	0.028	-	-	-	-	0.028	0.028	-
HWRC Tattershall	(0.011)	(0.011)	-	-	-	-	(0.011)	(0.011)	-
Drainage Investigation and Flood Repairs	-	0.328	0.328	-	(0.328)	(0.328)	-	-	-
Waste - Separated Paper and Card Scheme	0.984	0.669	(0.315)	-	-	-	0.984	0.669	(0.315)
HWRC Skegness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Growth</b>									
Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership Contribution	1.536	-	(1.536)	-	-	-	1.536	-	(1.536)
LEP Skills Investment Programme	(0.000)	(0.000)	-	-	-	-	(0.000)	(0.000)	-



Scheme	Gross Forecast			External & Grant Forecast			Net Forecast		
	Budget	Forecast	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance
Head of Economic Infrastructure	(0.302)	(0.302)	-	-	-	-	(0.302)	(0.302)	-
Teal Park	(0.001)	(0.000)	0.001	-	-	-	(0.001)	(0.000)	0.001
South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone	(0.337)	0.045	0.382	-	-	-	(0.337)	0.045	0.382
Economic Development- Business Unit Development	0.191	0.006	(0.185)	-	-	-	0.191	0.006	(0.185)
Skegness Countryside Business Park	0.040	-	(0.040)	0.000	-	(0.000)	0.040	-	(0.040)
Economic Development - Horncastle Industrial Estate Extension	1.500	1.500	-	-	-	-	1.500	1.500	-
Assistant Director Growth	6.368	6.708	0.340	-	-	-	6.368	6.708	0.340
Local Electric Vehical Infrastructure	-	-	-	0.000	0.000	-	0.000	0.000	-
<b>Highways</b>									
Spalding Relief Road	20.159	20.159	-	-	-	-	20.159	20.159	-
Other Highways and Transportation	2.776	3.870	1.094	-	(1.094)	(1.094)	2.776	2.776	-
Integrated Transport	4.898	1.452	(3.445)	(3.337)	-	3.337	1.561	1.452	(0.108)
Energy Efficiency Street Lighting	0.224	0.161	(0.063)	-	-	-	0.224	0.161	(0.063)
Highways Asset Protection	56.296	20.073	(36.223)	(45.607)	(6.884)	38.723	10.689	13.189	2.500
Network Resilience	1.787	1.787	-	-	-	-	1.787	1.787	-
A1084 Safer Road Fund	(0.011)	(0.011)	-	-	-	-	(0.011)	(0.011)	-
A631 Middle Rasen to Bishops Bridge Safer Roads Fund	0.013	0.013	-	-	-	-	0.013	0.013	-
A631 Louth to Middle Rasen Safer Road Fund	0.700	0.700	-	-	-	-	0.700	0.700	-
A18 Safer Road Fund	(0.007)	(0.007)	-	-	-	-	(0.007)	(0.007)	-
Lincoln Eastern Bypass	4.596	4.596	-	-	-	-	4.596	4.596	-
Grantham Southern Relief Road	34.061	34.061	-	-	-	-	34.061	34.061	-
A16/A1073 Spalding to Eye Road Improvement	0.006	0.006	-	-	-	-	0.006	0.006	-
A46 Welton Roundabouts (Integrated Transport/NPIF)	0.225	0.225	-	-	-	-	0.225	0.225	-
Holdingham Roundabout	0.142	0.142	-	-	-	-	0.142	0.142	-
A46 Roundabouts	0.019	0.019	-	-	-	-	0.019	0.019	-
Corringham Road (development with WLDC)	(0.000)	(0.000)	-	-	-	-	(0.000)	(0.000)	-
Sleaford Rugby Club (Sleaford Growth Schemes)	(0.000)	(0.000)	-	-	-	-	(0.000)	(0.000)	-
A52 Skegness Roman Bank Reconstruction	0.903	0.903	-	-	-	-	0.903	0.903	-
Local Highways Improvements to support Coastal Routes	0.664	0.664	-	-	-	-	0.664	0.664	-
Boston Development Schemes	2.753	2.753	-	-	-	-	2.753	2.753	-
North Hykeham Relief Road	6.606	6.606	-	(3.580)	(3.580)	-	3.026	3.026	-
Rural Roads Fund	(0.926)	(0.926)	-	-	-	-	(0.926)	(0.926)	-
A16 Levelling Up Fund (LUF)	2.595	8.131	5.536	-	(5.536)	(5.536)	2.595	2.595	-
Boston Dolphin Lane	0.592	0.857	0.265	-	-	-	0.592	0.857	0.265
<b>Total</b>	<b>233.562</b>	<b>175.421</b>	<b>(58.141)</b>	<b>(86.991)</b>	<b>(50.321)</b>	<b>36.670</b>	<b>146.572</b>	<b>125.100</b>	<b>(21.472)</b>

## Analysis of Capital Investment

1. The Council plans to invest £670.8m of capital resource between 2023/24 and 2032/33 to support delivery of the Council plan. Investment in the County's highways network continues to be a key priority for the Council, in addition to investment in other priorities such as education and the Council's asset base.
2. The current version of the capital programme is shown in summary format (Table A1) and is also detailed by capital scheme (Table A2). Within Table A2, each capital scheme is categorised as either "B" or "P", which means block or project. A capital block refers to recurrent spend on assets (e.g. highway maintenance), whereas project spend specifically relates to a new capital project (e.g. new road).
3. In the quarter one update to the Executive, the implementation of the Council's new financial system was referenced as a major undertaking which had partially disrupted access to reporting during the monitoring period. Whilst this issue has been substantively resolved, there is further work to be undertaken in adapting processes to the new system and developing reporting further to enhance the information output for budget and spend managers. This specifically refers to updating coding of forecasts to reduce manual intervention. This work will be concluded in time for quarter three monitoring.
4. The Council undertakes regular monitoring of its capital investment programme, to ensure the programme remains realistic and invests in Council priorities. This is especially important given the size and scale of the capital programme, and its susceptibility to planning assumption changes (e.g. scope, price).
5. This report focusses on forecast investment in 2023/24, compared with the current budget. This is shown at a summary level (Table A3) and by scheme (Table A4). Prior to considering the detail any further, it should be noted that there have been significant changes made to the capital programme during quarter two in respect of re-phasing and incorporating additional external funding.
6. The Council currently plans to invest £233.6m in 2023/24, supported by £87.0m of external and grant funding, giving rise to a net planned investment of £146.6m. The revised forecast, shown in Table A3, shows gross investment is expected to be £175.4m, supported by £50.3m of external and grant funding, indicating a revised net investment estimate of £125.1m, therefore an in year net underspend of £21.5m.
7. Given the capital programme is delivered over a longer timescale, the vast majority of variances associated with the timing of spend, and therefore are not real cost pressures or savings. Trend analysis of prior year spend indicates that further re-phasing is likely to be required during the remainder of the 2023/24 financial year to ensure budgets are aligned with delivery timescales.
8. Considering the wider economic context, there is an increased risk that the programme will become more expensive if delivered over a longer timeframe, given the continued inflationary challenges and the potential for further increases in the Bank of England base

rate. The persistent high levels of inflation – of which construction specific indices have been subject to much higher increases – has meant that the cost of some capital schemes have increased already and could increase further.

9. In addition, the Bank of England has continued to increase the cost of capital as a result of successive increases to the base rate, which has now potentially peaked. The increase in the base rate has increased the cost of borrowing to the Council, in turn increasing the cost of capital financing. The Council does not set capital financing budgets based on historical low rates, however there is expected to be longer-term cost increases if the cost of financing remains at the current level.
10. The Council's capital investment strategy is being refreshed as part of the financial planning process. This intention is for renewed focus on investment principles, a desire for better reporting of investment impact, as well as improving line of sight on capital affordability over the longer-term
11. In addition, an exercise is ongoing to review the current capital programme to identify any known longer-term changes to current capital investment plans. This exercise will also look to identify new or emergent investment need, so that it can be reported as part of the budget setting process. This review is being led and co-ordinated by the Council's capital review group.
12. The position for each directorate is considered in turn, based on the information reported to directorate leadership teams.

#### Adult Care and Community Wellbeing

13. The directorate has a total capital programme of £15.007m, with some still to get reflected on the ledger and hence doesn't show yet within the tables.
14. To date £3.281m has been spent with the majority funding the DeWint Extra Care Housing development. Council has approved a further £7.339m investment into extra care and working age adult accommodation and day services. The refurbishment of day services is forecast to cost approx. £3.5m. In addition to the £2.504m above, £0.350m of support corporately is anticipated plus a proposal to utilise the 2023-24 ACCW revenue forecast underspend of £0.700m.
15. Current proposals for the use of the £4.311m balance include:
  - £2.320m extra care and working age adult developments in Horncastle,
  - £1.000m day services,
  - £0.991m balance into working age adults housing, location tbc, supporting the need to meet demand.

## Children's Services

16. SEND Capital Funding: the budget has been adjusted to reflect increasing requirements through utilisation of the DfE SEND Capital grant funding for 2023/24. The £101.8m overall programme is on target to deliver to budget. There is an anticipated release of £0.680m from the contingency budgets to resolve other programme matters. In terms of activity update, St Francis and Gosberton are at the pre-construction phase. The delivery timescale Spending for St Christophers, St Francis and Gosberton has been revised and the budget re-phased into 2024/25.
17. Childrens Homes: Robin House (September 2023 planned opening) and Riverhead House (January 2024 planned opening). Budget includes £0.325m of capital contingency funding for Riverhead House, Louth. The overall programme is currently showing a £0.082m underspend, which has been provisionally earmarked for the other homes.
18. Lincs Secure Home (new build): Executive approval has been given to the purchase (with £3m funded from capital contingency) of the land at Bonemill Lane, Sleaford following the grant of planning permission. The project is proceeding on the basis of engaging Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to override the covenant. Approval has also been given to enter into an enabling works contract following DfE grant funding of £7.26m.

## Fire and Rescue

19. Following re-phasing of expenditure to reflect revised timing of requirements, the Fire & Rescue capital programme is forecast to be broadly in line with budget for 2023/24.
20. It is expected that the replacement of the Fire Control mobilising and related systems will create a requirement for additional capital funding. The project team are continuing to develop both the capital and revenue impacts but current expectation is that they will be funded from corporate contingencies.
21. A comprehensive review of the service's long-term capital requirement has been completed to help inform the Council's planning and this shows significant budget shortfalls in the medium-term as the next round of fire appliance replacements fall due, combined with inflationary impacts.

## Place

22. The summary forecast position by area is considered below:
  - a. Highways: Budgets are monitored closely and the programme of works amended as required as variances and risks can be expected given the nature of highways projects and the uncertainty of weather conditions. Some re-phasing of work into next year will follow over the next month.

- b. Communities: The delay in budget spend is within Cultural Services as the Lincoln Museum project is developing. The project team are monitoring the progress and may need to re-phase some of the budget into 2024/25.
- c. Growth: The variance is primarily due to the GLEP projects funding administered by the GLEP Board and staff.

23. The Highways in year asset protection programme remains under constant review given the challenges of weather conditions on the surface dressing programme and the timing of projects needed on the primary route network. Much of this work is covered by the DfT grant, augmented by additional LCC funding.

24. There are two major project updates to note:

- a. Grantham Southern Relief Road (GSRR) is now in its third and final stage to complete the link to the A52 at Somerby Hill. A re-design of the bridge which resulted from poor ground conditions has delayed progress and increased costs. This issue continues to cause uncertainty and financial risk with the forecasts currently being updated.
- b. Spalding West Relief Road (SWRR) has made good progress but the risks remain around materials price inflation, weather, ground conditions and sub-contractor supply and pricing.

#### Resources

25. In respect of IT, there are two major in year variances to report:

- The Council is undertaking a major refresh of computer device's which will lead to benefits around computer performance, productivity and IT security. The project to refresh circa 5,000 devices has commenced and will incur cost during this financial year. There is budget provision available in future years to fund this activity, and therefore there will be forward re-phasing required from the budget allocation which was originally spread over a longer time span.
- The Council also has £4m set aside for improvement transformation. The usage of this resource is currently undergoing a fuller review, aligned to the new strategic IT direction. Due to this, there will be lower spend during 2023/24 which will require re-phasing back to future years to fund the identified activity which will realise the transformational benefits intended, such as the decommissioning of legacy systems.

26. In respect of property, there are forecast to be in year underspends across property maintenance and projects. This reflects supplier capacity to support maintenance works, and revised timescales for project delivery.

## Other Budgets

27. The New Developments Contingency Fund has existed to date to ensure some protection against unforeseen and unplanned increases in the cost of capital schemes, which is especially important considering the wider economic context. The financial planning process is currently considering how to best utilise the remaining balance to support identified need and Council priorities. As a consequence, the contingency budget is not likely to be spent until 2024/25 at the earliest.

Table B1: Impact on 2023/24 – 2023/33 Capital Investment Programme (Summary)

Capital	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 - 2032/33
<b>Investment in Blocks</b>				
Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	-	-	-	-
Children's Services	-	-	-	-
Place	-	-	-	-
Fire and Rescue	-	-	-	-
Resources & Corporate	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-
<b>Investment in Projects</b>				
Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	-	-	-	-
Children's Services	-	-	-	-
Place	8,800,000	-	-	-
Fire and Rescue	-	-	-	-
Resources & Corporate	-	-	-	-
Total	8,800,000	-	-	-
New Development Capital Contingency	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Capital Investment</b>	<b>8,800,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Funding</b>				
External Funding	-	-	-	-
Borrowing	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-
Revenue	(8,800,000)	-	-	-
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(8,800,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Table B2: Impact on 2023/24 – 2023/33 Capital Investment Programme (Detail)

Proposed Investment (funded by revenue underspend)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 - 2032/33
Waste Transfer Stations	6,100,000	-	-	-
Cross Keys Bridge electrification	1,200,000	-	-	-
LED swap out	1,500,000	-	-	-
<b>Total Capital Investment</b>	<b>8,800,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Analysis

The 'Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Quarter 2)' report contained the following recommendation:

That the Executive:

- 2) Approves the transfer of £8.8m from the Place Directorate revenue budget to the capital financing charges budget for the purpose of funding additional capital investment in Place Directorate infrastructure, as set out in paragraph 1.16 of the Report.

Table B1 and B2 demonstrate how the capital programme would be adjusted if this approval is given.

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

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Treasury Management Performance 2023/24 - Quarter 2 to 30 September 2023</b>

**Summary:**

This report details the treasury management activities and performance for Quarter 2 of 2023/24 to 30 September 2023, comparing this to the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 that was approved by the Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning on 13 March 2023. This report meets the reporting requirements as detailed in the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management that the Council follows.

**Actions Required:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited to review the report and pass any comments onto the Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning.

**1. Background**

- 1.1. The Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 sets the framework for how we manage the cashflow, borrowing and treasury investments of the Council and the risks involved.
- 1.2. Actual activity and performance compared to this strategy is reported quarterly, this report being the second quarter report for 2023/24 covering the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- 1.3. Activity and performance up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 compared to the Strategy is detailed in the Conclusion in Section 2 below. Supporting information is detailed in the attached appendices.

## 2. Conclusion

### Comparison of Activity and Performance to Strategy for Period up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

#### Interest Rate Forecast:

##### **Strategy:**

*At the time of writing the Strategy:*

- *By Qtr4 of 2022/23, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had increased Base Rate nine consecutive times from 0.50% to 3.50% to combat on-going inflationary and wage pressures and two more increases left Bank Rate at 4.25% at the end of the financial year.*
- *Further **increase in Bank Rate** was forecast to **peak at around 4.50% by May 2023, then fall back gradually from this point to end the year around 4.00%** and to 2.50% by December 2025. This forecast was linked to inflation falling back over the year as predicated so that the MPC could loosen monetary policy to promote growth.*
- ***Long term rates** were in the region of 4.10% to 4.70% over different periods and were **expected to fall gradually, by around 0.30% to 0.40% in 2023/24**, in line with the expectation for falling inflation.*
- *This forecast was linked to the expectation of inflation falling back over 2023/24 from its highs of over 10%. Growth was expected to contract in 2023/24 due to increases in interest rates and the cost of living squeeze, and the MPC was thought to be keen to reduce rates again as soon as inflationary pressures eased to promote growth.*

#### Activity and Performance to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

##### Short term Rates.

To bring inflation down to the target level of 2%, the MPC have increased Base Rate 13 times from 0.25% (December 2021) to 5.25% (3 August 2023). This rapid increase has now been brought to an end and the MPC, at its meeting on the 7 November 2023, kept rates on hold for the second time in a row due to inflation falling to 6.7% in August 2023, (still at this level), and the expectation that it will significantly fall in December to around 5.0% as energy price caps fall out of the calculations. Both the markets and Link Asset Services (our Treasury Advisor) think that Base Rate has now peaked at 5.25%, with cuts to Rate expected next in 2024. A fall to 3% is now expected by December 2026 as inflation is forecast to drop to target levels by then.

##### Long Term Rates.

Gilt yields which impact long-term borrowing rates, have risen, not fallen, since the Strategy forecast, especially at the shorter end of the yield curve (5yrs to 10 yrs), in line with

increases in Base Rate. Medium to long term rates (15yrs to 50yrs) are influenced by the outlook for inflation and the market appetite to purchase gilts, hence they have risen in the quarter as inflation remained sticky, but they too are expected to fall alongside inflation falls. **PWLB 5 year to 50 year rates were in the range of between 5.22% to 5.67% at the end of September 2023** and Link expect rates to be in the region of **3.50% to 3.80% by December 2026**. These 2026 figures have increased by around 0.30% from previous forecasts.

#### Economic Review.

Economies worldwide have been dominated by an environment of rising inflation, rising interest rates and weak growth. Central banks have a difficult balancing act to follow in getting inflation down without detriment to growth. In the UK, CPI is still the highest in the G7 at 6.7% but is expected to fall to around 5% by the end of 2023 and to target levels of 2% by 2026. Growth (GDP) bounced back quickly after the pandemic from pent up demand. So far in 2023 growth has been 0.60% but has now stagnated and was 0% in Quarter 3 . Zero growth is expected until 2025 although this is positive news as a recession was feared. There is cooling in labour market conditions but no evidence that this has led to easing in wage growth yet. Inflation, wage inflation, the general election, worldwide conflicts and a weakening pound are all factors that will influence the expectations for growth and interest rates going forward, making any forecasts volatile and difficult to predict.

**Appendix A** shows a graph of key interest rate movements in 2023/24 to date, together with the interest rate forecast and commentary from Link Asset Services Ltd (TM Advisor) dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 which goes into more detail on the upside and downside risks to current forecasts.

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#### Investments:

##### **Strategy:**

- *Investment priority – security first, liquidity second and finally yield.*
- *Aim to invest in all periods up to two years to suit direction of interest rates, at rates in excess of market levels.*
- *Low risk counterparty strategy adopted: minimum long-term rating for approved*

counterparties set at 'A' and Sovereign Rating of 'AA-' for any two from three credit rating agencies.

### Activity and Performance to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

Investment Position and Performance.

Cash balances have fallen to just above £258m on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This level is expected to fall over the course of 2023/24, as capital spending increases, which will be funded by Internal cash resources. (Internal Borrowing).

The Councils Weighted Average Maturity or **WAM fell to 121 days (from 153 days) at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**, as longer term investments have been restricted because cash balances are predicted to fall and liquidity tighten.

Investment return for the period has **increased to 4.877%**, the increase from last year reflecting the rising interest rate environment. This was **just under the new SONIA benchmark return of 4.903% by -0.026%**. With Base Rate increases now on hold, the lag of MMF Returns to SONIA has now disappeared as Fund Returns have caught up with market levels. The SONIA benchmark has therefore not been adjusted for any lag in this quarter. (Note: the SONIA rate is already reduced by 0.10% to account for the lack of a bid-offer spread in the market rate). We will continue to look at the suitability of the SONIA rate as an appropriate benchmark to come up with a suitable adjustment.

The Council's return on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 was **on a par with or just exceeded other Councils in the Link Benchmarking group** this quarter, even as the WAM has fallen and was above the expected return for the Council's chosen risk profile. However performance will be impacted going forward by the policy to reduce cash investment levels to the Debt Liability Benchmark, as long term strategic investments will be restricted to maintain adequate levels of liquidity and cash balances fall. This quarter's return is already seeing evidence of this happening. For more detail on Investment activity see **Appendix B**.

Lending List Changes and Annual Investment Strategy.

In accordance with the Annual Investment Strategy, maximum amount limits have been set to align with maximum average cash balances of £300m. There have been no breaches in Investment limits during the quarter. There have been no changes to credit ratings for Counterparties

during the year or no changes to the Annual Investment Strategy that sets the Council's investment risk appetite. The Lending List as on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 is shown in **Appendix C**.

**Appendix D** shows a full list of investments held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, combined with the creditworthiness list provided by Link Asset Services (TM Advisor).

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### **Borrowing:**

#### **Strategy:**

- Long term external borrowing at start of year was £467.8m, costing 3.725%.
- New borrowing requirement for 2023/24 to finance capital programme was set at £77.496m.
- Regard is made to the Debt Liability Benchmark for 2023/24, before any new borrowing is undertaken, taking into consideration the cash balance of the Council. As per the Strategy Report, no external borrowing is necessary in 2023/24 to meet the Debt Liability Benchmark.
- Any external long-term borrowing, if undertaken, would be taken with the aim to reduce the overall cost of debt and for periods to ensure an even debt maturity profile.

### **Activity and Performance to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023:**

Revised Borrowing Requirement. Borrowing requirement brought forward from 2022/23 brings the balance of Borrowing Requirement at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to £127.315m. Adjustment for target, changes, rephasing, Internal borrowing and voluntary repayment of debt will bring this requirement down to zero and **no external borrowing will be undertaken to meet the Debt Liability benchmark for the year**, although the latest Debt Liability Benchmark, as shown in **Appendix E**, shows that external borrowing will be required in the following three years to 2027/28 by around £50m to maintain a chosen cash position for liquidity of £100m. The benchmark will be consistently revised for changes in budget and outturn figures going forward and the strategy amended if appropriate to suit market conditions. With borrowing rates forecast to fall, the decision to delay external borrowing supports market conditions at present.

Borrowing Position and

Debt maturing during the period has brought the balance

Performance.	of borrowing at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 to £460.091m at a cost of 3.718%. As no external borrowing will be undertaken in the year the balance of debt outstanding at the year-end is forecast to be £457.439m, at a reducing cost of 3.713%. A total of £10.329m debt will be maturing naturally in 2023/24 and will not be replaced.
Temporary Borrowing.	A total of £11m temporary borrowing was taken in the period to cover a liquidity shortfall at a cost of 5.25%. £5m of this borrowing remained outstanding at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023, and has subsequently been repaid on 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2023.
Debt Rescheduling.	No debt rescheduling was undertaken in the period.
Prudential Indicator Limits 2023/24.	All prudential limits were met with no breaches during the period.

**Appendix F** shows borrowing detail and latest maturity profile on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

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#### **Other Treasury Issues:**

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##### **Banking Contract Procurement**

The tender procedure for the Council contract for Banking Services which comes to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, has concluded and the contract for a new 5 year contract starting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 has been awarded to the incumbent bank, Barclays Bank plc, subject to contract negotiation.

##### **Expected Legislation Changes**

###### **-Statutory Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and changes to Investment Guidance**

We are awaiting another consultation from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on further changes to the Statutory Guidance on MRP and Investment Guidance. The consultation was expected in June 2023 but there is no word on the release date. Any changes are likely to concentrate on the area of MRP relating to non-treasury investments made for capital purposes.

###### **-Consultation on Local Government Capital Risk Mitigation Measures in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LUR Bill) – will result in changes to the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 and be effective on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.**

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This consultation was issued in July 2023 with a deadline for response of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023. The LUR Bill was introduced in May 2022 and sets out four risk metrics for Councils in England to complete, which if breached would mean the Council comes into scope of the new powers which provides the government with the flexibility to intercede where appropriate to do so. The consultation sought views on appropriate calculations for the following 4 metrics:-

- 1. Total debt (including credit arrangements) compared to financial resources.**
- 2. Proportion of capital assets for which Investment has been made mainly to generate a financial return.**
- 3. Proportion of total debt (including credit arrangements) which is not from PWLB or other Councils.**
- 4. Amount of MRP charged in a financial year.**

Calculations should be appropriate, sufficient, readily calculable, understandable and transparent. Hopefully it is envisaged that most data will be accessible from existing returns and be added to existing prudential indicators going forward.

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### **3. Consultation**

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

Risk and impact analysis for treasury management forms TMP1 of the Treasury Management Practices that are required by the CIPFA Code of Practice. A treasury management risk register details the main risks for treasury management, and this is reviewed annually. Both the TMPs and the risk register are held with the Technical Team of Financial Services.

### **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Movement of Key Interest Rates for 2023/24 to date and Latest Interest Rate Forecast and Commentary from Link Asset Services Ltd
Appendix B	Investments: Activity and Performance on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
Appendix C	Authorised Lending List on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 and Credit Rating Key
Appendix D	Investment Analysis Review on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Link Asset Services Ltd
Appendix E	Debt Liability Benchmark as at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
Appendix F	Borrowing: Activity and Performance and Long-Term Maturity Profile on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023

### **5. Background Papers**

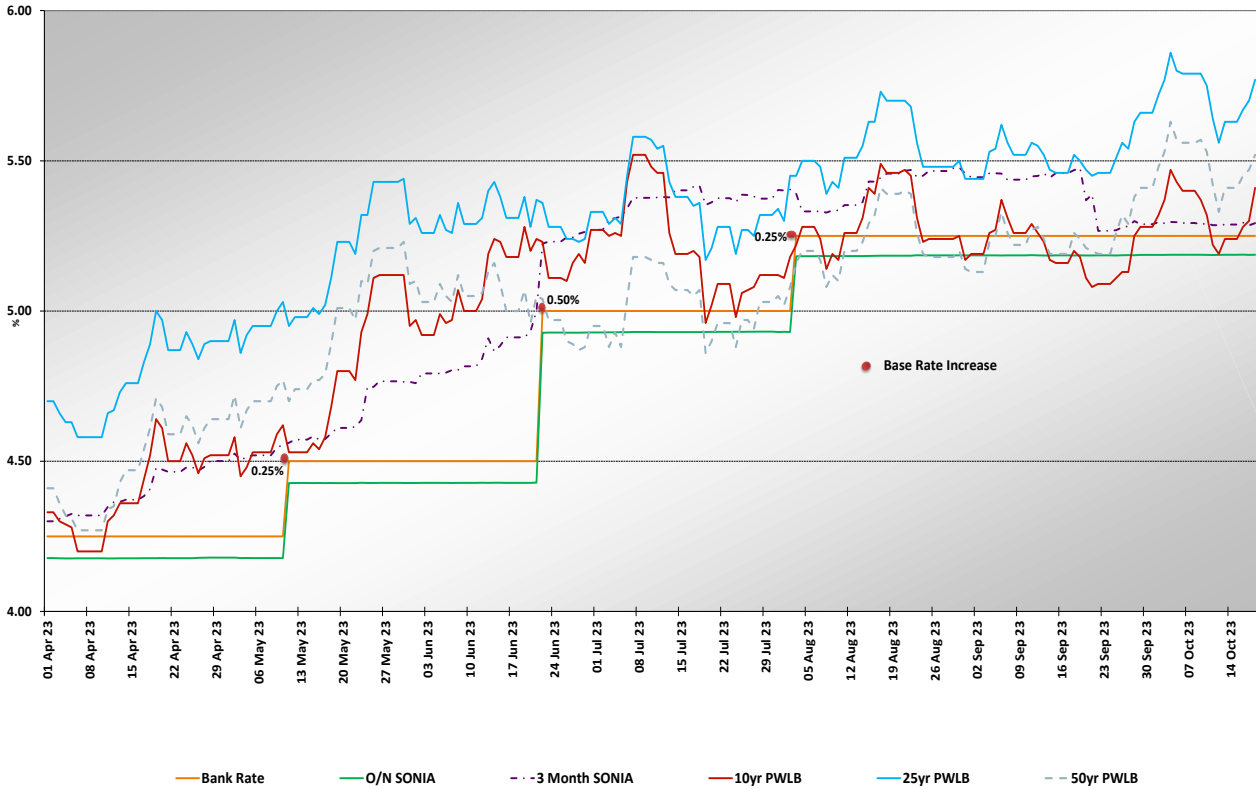
The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 - 13/3/2023	
Council Budget 2023/24 - 17/2/2023	

This report was written by Karen Tonge, who can be contacted on 01522 553639 or [karen.tonge@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.tonge@lincolnshire.gov.uk).



Movement of Key Interest Rates During 2023/24



### Interest Rate Forecast – Link Asset Services Ltd (7 November 2023)

Link Group Interest Rate View 07.11.23													
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26
<b>BANK RATE</b>	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.30	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
6 month ave earnings	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.10	4.60	4.10	3.60	3.40	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
12 month ave earnings	5.80	5.70	5.50	5.20	4.70	4.20	3.70	3.50	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
5 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.50
10 yr PWLB	5.10	5.00	4.80	4.70	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50
25 yr PWLB	5.50	5.30	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.00	4.00	4.00
50 yr PWLB	5.30	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80

# Economic and Interest Rate Commentary– Link Asset Services Ltd- Mid Term Report Ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

- The first half of 2023/24 saw:
  - Interest rates rise by a further 100bps, taking Bank Rate from 4.25% to 5.25% and, possibly, the peak in the tightening cycle.
  - Short, medium and long-dated gilts remain elevated as inflation continually surprised to the upside.
  - A 0.5% m/m decline in real GDP in July, mainly due to more strikes.
  - CPI inflation falling from 8.7% in April to 6.7% in August, its lowest rate since February 2022, but still the highest in the G7.
  - Core CPI inflation declining to 6.2% in August from 7.1% in April and May, a then 31 years high.
  - A cooling in labour market conditions, but no evidence yet that it has led to an easing in wage growth (as the 3myy growth of average earnings rose to 7.8% in August, excluding bonuses).
- The 0.5% m/m fall in GDP in July suggests that underlying growth has lost momentum since earlier in the year. Some of the weakness in July was due to there being almost twice as many working days lost to strikes in July (281,000) than in June (160,000). But with output falling in 10 out of the 17 sectors, there is an air of underlying weakness.
- The fall in the composite Purchasing Managers Index from 48.6 in August to 46.8 in September left it at its lowest level since COVID-19 lockdowns reduced activity in January 2021. At face value, it is consistent with the 0.2% q/q rise in real GDP in the period April to June, being followed by a contraction of up to 1% in the second half of 2023.
- The 0.4% m/m rebound in retail sales volumes in August is not as good as it looks as it partly reflected a pickup in sales after the unusually wet weather in July. Sales volumes in August were 0.2% below their level in May, suggesting much of the resilience in retail activity in the first half of the year has faded.
- As the growing drag from higher interest rates intensifies over the next six months, we think the economy will continue to lose momentum and soon fall into a mild recession. Strong labour demand, fast wage growth and government handouts have all supported household incomes over the past year. And with CPI inflation past its peak and expected to decline further, the economy has got through the cost-of- living crisis without recession. But even though the worst of the falls in real household disposable incomes are behind us, the phasing out of financial support packages provided by the government during the energy crisis means real incomes are unlikely to grow strongly. Higher interest rates will soon bite harder too. We expect the Bank of England to keep interest rates at the probable peak of 5.25% until the second half of 2024. Mortgage rates are likely to stay above 5.0% for around a year.

- The tightness of the labour market continued to ease, with employment in the three months to July falling by 207,000. The further decline in the number of job vacancies from 1.017m in July to 0.989m in August suggests that the labour market has loosened a bit further since July. That is the first time it has fallen below 1m since July 2021. At 3.0% in July, and likely to have fallen to 2.9% in August, the job vacancy rate is getting closer to 2.5%, which would be consistent with slower wage growth. Meanwhile, the 48,000 decline in the supply of workers in the three months to July offset some of the loosening in the tightness of the labour market. That was due to a 63,000 increase in inactivity in the three months to July as more people left the labour market due to long term sickness or to enter education. The supply of labour is still 0.3% below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level.
- But the cooling in labour market conditions still has not fed through to an easing in wage growth. While the monthly rate of earnings growth eased sharply from an upwardly revised +2.2% in June to -0.9% in July, a lot of that was due to the one-off bonus payments for NHS staff in June not being repeated in July. The headline 3myy rate rose from 8.4% (revised up from 8.2%) to 8.5%, which meant UK wage growth remains much faster than in the US and in the Euro-zone. Moreover, while the Bank of England's closely watched measure of regular private sector wage growth eased a touch in July, from 8.2% 3myy in June to 8.1% 3myy, it is still well above the Bank of England's prediction for it to fall to 6.9% in September.
- CPI inflation declined from 6.8% in July to 6.7% in August, the lowest rate since February 2022. The biggest positive surprise was the drop in core CPI inflation, which declined from 6.9% to 6.2%. That reverses all the rise since March and means the gap between the UK and elsewhere has shrunk (US core inflation is 4.4% and in the Euro-zone it is 5.3%). Core goods inflation fell from 5.9% to 5.2% and the further easing in core goods producer price inflation, from 2.2% in July to a 29-month low of 1.5% in August, suggests it will eventually fall close to zero. But the really positive development was the fall in services inflation from 7.4% to 6.8%. That also reverses most of the rise since March and takes it below the forecast of 7.2% the Bank of England published in early August.
- In its latest monetary policy meeting on 20 September, the Bank of England left interest rates unchanged at 5.25%. The weak August CPI inflation release, the recent loosening in the labour market and the downbeat activity surveys appear to have convinced the Bank of England that it has already raised rates far enough. The minutes show the decision was "finely balanced". Five MPC members (Bailey, Broadbent, Dhingra, Pill and Ramsden) voted for no change and the other four (Cunliffe, Greene, Haskel and Mann) voted for a 25bps hike.
- Like the US Fed, the Bank of England wants the markets to believe in the higher for longer narrative. The statement did not say that rates have peaked and once again said if there was evidence of more persistent inflation pressures "further tightening in policy would be required". Governor Bailey stated, "we'll be watching closely to see if further increases are needed". The Bank also retained the hawkish guidance that rates will stay "sufficiently restrictive for sufficiently long".

- This narrative makes sense as the Bank of England does not want the markets to decide that a peak in rates will be soon followed by rate cuts, which would loosen financial conditions and undermine its attempts to quash inflation. The language also gives the Bank of England the flexibility to respond to new developments. A rebound in services inflation, another surge in wage growth and/or a further leap in oil prices could conceivably force it to raise rates at the next meeting on 2nd November, or even pause in November and raise rates in December.
- The yield on 10-year Gilts fell from a peak of 4.74% on 17th August to 4.44% on 29th September, mainly on the back of investors revising down their interest rate expectations. But even after their recent pullback, the rise in Gilt yields has exceeded the rise in most other Developed Market government yields since the start of the year. Looking forward, once inflation falls back, Gilt yields are set to reduce further. A (mild) recession over the next couple of quarters will support this outlook if it helps to loosen the labour market (higher unemployment/lower wage increases).
- The pound weakened from its cycle high of \$1.30 in the middle of July to \$1.21 in late September. In the first half of the year, the pound bounced back strongly from the Truss debacle last autumn. That rebound was in large part driven by the substantial shift up in UK interest rate expectations. However, over the past couple of months, interest rate expectations have dropped sharply as inflation started to come down, growth faltered, and the Bank of England called an end to its hiking cycle.
- The FTSE 100 has gained more than 2% since the end of August, from around 7,440 on 31st August to 7,608 on 29th September. The rebound has been primarily driven by higher energy prices which boosted the valuations of energy companies. The FTSE 100's relatively high concentration of energy companies helps to explain why UK equities outperformed both US and Euro-zone equities in September. Nonetheless, as recently as 21<sup>st</sup> April the FTSE 100 stood at 7,914.

## **A SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF THE FUTURE PATH OF BANK RATE**

- Our central forecast for interest rates was previously updated on 25 September and reflected a view that the MPC would be keen to further demonstrate its anti-inflation credentials by keeping Bank Rate at 5.25% until at least H2 2024. We expect rate cuts to start when both the CPI inflation and wage/employment data are supportive of such a move, and that there is a likelihood of the overall economy enduring at least a mild recession over the coming months, although most recent GDP releases have surprised with their on-going robustness.
- Naturally, timing on this matter will remain one of fine judgment: cut too soon, and inflationary pressures may well build up further; cut too late and any downturn or recession may be prolonged.

- In the upcoming months, our forecasts will be guided not only by economic data releases and clarifications from the MPC over its monetary policies and the Government over its fiscal policies, but also international factors such as policy development in the US and Europe, the provision of fresh support packages to support the faltering recovery in China as well as the on-going conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and Gaza and Israel.
- On the positive side, consumers are still anticipated to be sitting on some excess savings left over from the pandemic, which could cushion some of the impact of the above challenges and may be the reason why the economy is performing somewhat better at this stage of the economic cycle than may have been expected. However, as noted previously, most of those excess savings are held by more affluent households whereas lower income families already spend nearly all their income on essentials such as food, energy and rent/mortgage payments.

### **PWLB RATES**

- Gilt yield curve movements have broadened since our last Newsflash. The short part of the curve has not moved far but the longer-end continues to reflect inflation concerns. At the time of writing there is 60 basis points difference between the 5 and 50 year parts of the curve.

### **The balance of risks to the UK economy: -**

- The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is to the downside.

### **Downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates include: -**

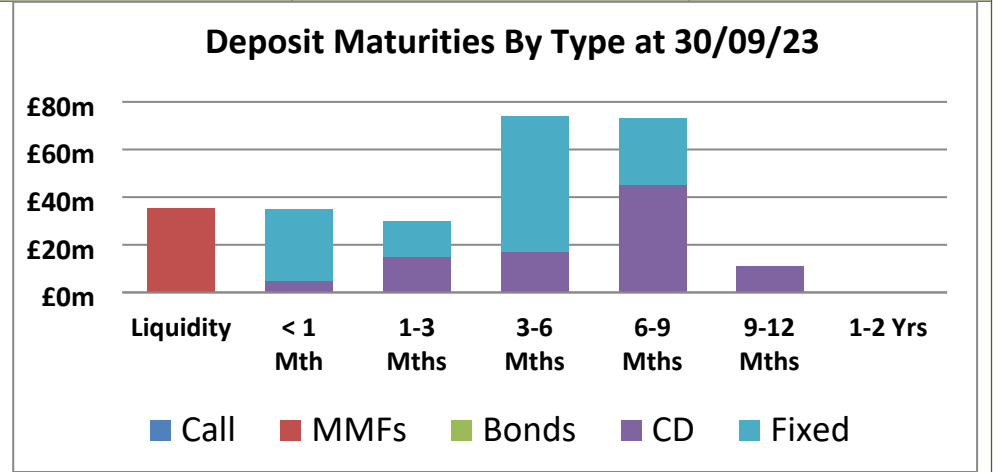
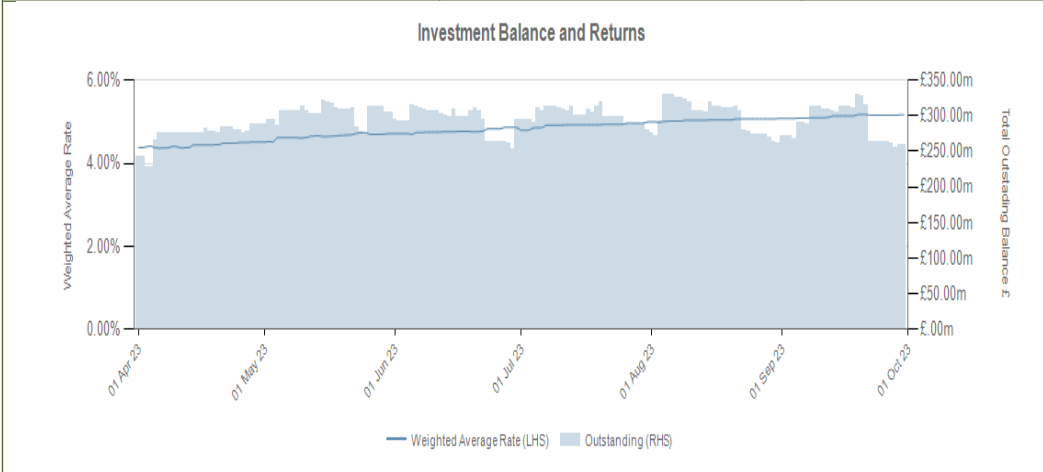
- **Labour and supply shortages** prove more enduring and disruptive and depress economic activity (accepting that in the near-term this is also an upside risk to inflation and, thus, could keep gilt yields high for longer).
- **The Bank of England** has increased Bank Rate too fast and too far over recent months, and subsequently brings about a deeper and longer UK recession than we currently anticipate.
- **UK / EU trade arrangements** – if there was a major impact on trade flows and financial services due to complications or lack of co-operation in sorting out significant remaining issues.
- **Geopolitical risks**, for example in Ukraine/Russia, the Middle East, China/Taiwan/US, Iran and North Korea, which could lead to increasing safe-haven flows.

**Upside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates: -**

- Despite the recent tightening to 5.25%, the **Bank of England proves too timid** in its pace and strength of increases in Bank Rate and, therefore, allows inflationary pressures to remain elevated for a longer period within the UK economy, which then necessitates Bank Rate staying higher for longer than we currently project.
- **The pound weakens** because of a lack of confidence in the UK Government's pre-election fiscal policies, resulting in investors pricing in a risk premium for holding UK sovereign debt.
- Longer-term **US treasury yields** rise strongly if inflation remains more stubborn there than the market currently anticipates, consequently pulling gilt yields up higher. (We saw some movements of this type through October although generally reversed in the last week or so.)

Projected **gilt issuance, inclusive of natural maturities and QT**, could be too much for the markets to comfortably digest without higher yields compensating.

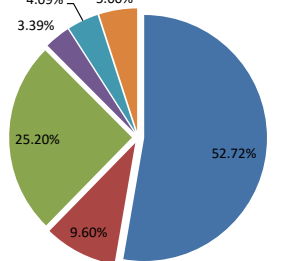
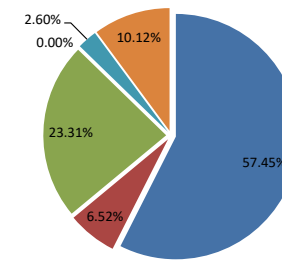
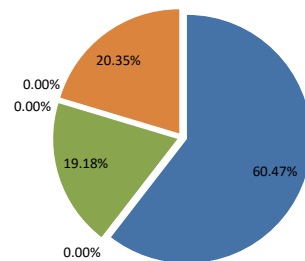
Investment Position at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023				
Investments Outstanding 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Weighted Average Maturity (WAM)	Benchmark Return (O/N- 3 Month SONIA less 0.10%) Annualised	Council Performance Annualised	Outperformance
£258.385m	121 Days	4.903%	4.877%	-0.026%



Link Benchmarking Analysis of Investments on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

	LCC	Benchmark Group (15)	English Counties (17)
Return at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	5.16%	5.17%	5.08%
WAM	121	112	110
Risk Weighted Score (Duration & Credit Quality)	3.72	3.18	2.59
Model Banding- Expected Return for Risk Taken	4.82% - 5.11%	4.92% - 5.21%	4.87% - 5.16%

4.922%	Fixed Deposits
0.000%	Call & O/N
5.468%	CDs
0.000%	Bonds
5.293%	MMFs
0.000%	Enhanced MMFs



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# Appendix C

## Appendix C

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LENDING OF TEMPORARY SURPLUSES									
Country		Lending Limit £m	Maturity Limit	# Watch/ Outlook Adjusted		FITCH Long Term	IBCA Credit Rating Sovereign	For Treas CDS Overlay	
	1	<b>Other Local Authorities</b>		25 each	24 Months				
	2	<b>Debt Management Account Deposit Facility</b>		50	6 Month				
	3	<b>UK Banks :</b>							
		<b># HSBC Group</b>		25	365 Day				
UK		HSBC Bank Plc (RFB)	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AA-	365 Day
		HSBC 31 Day Notice Account	25	365 Day					
		HSBC Evergreen Notice Account	25	365 Day					
		<b># RBS Group - Part Nationalised</b>		50	365 Day				
UK		National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	50	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AA-	365 Day
UK		Royal Bank of Scotland Plc (RFB)	50	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AA-	365 Day
		<b># LloydsHBOS Group</b>		20	365 Day				
		Lloyds TSB Bank Plc (RFB)	20	6 Months	6 Months	SB	A+	AA-	6 Months
		Bank of Scotland PLC (RFB)	20	6 Months	6 Months	SB	A+	AA-	6 Months
UK		Barclays Bank PLC (NRFB)	20	6 Months	6 Months	SB	A+	AA-	3 Months
UK		Close Brothers Ltd	20	6 Months	6 Months	NO	A-	AA-	6 Months
UK		Nationwide Building Society	20	6 Months	6 Months	SB	A	AA-	6 Months
UK		Santander UK PLC	20	6 Months	6 Months	SB	A+	AA-	6 Months
UK		Standard Chartered Bank	20	6 Months	6 Months	SB	A+	AA-	6 Months
	4	<b>Other Banks</b>							
AUS		Australia & New Zealand Banking Group	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AAA	365 Day
AUS		Commonwealth Bank of Australia	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AAA	365 Day
AUS		National Australia Bank	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AAA	365 Day
AUS		Macquarie Bank Ltd.	20	6 Months	6 Months	SB	A	AAA	6 Months
AUS		Westpac Banking Corporation	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AAA	365 Day
		<b># BNP Paribas Group</b>		25	365 Day				
BEL		BNP Paribas Fortis	20	6 Months	6 Months	SB	A+	AA-	6 Months
FRA		BNP Paribas	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AA-	365 Day
CAN		Bank of Montreal	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AA+	365 Day
CAN		Bank of Nova Scotia	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AA+	365 Day
CAN		Canadian Imperial Bank Commerce	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AA+	365 Day
CAN		National Bank of Canada	20	6 Months	6 Months	SB	A+	AA+	6 Months
CAN		Royal Bank of Canada	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AA+	365 Day
CAN		Toronto Dominion Bank	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AA+	365 Day
DEN		Danske A/S	20	6 Months	6 Months	SB	A	AAA	6 Months
FRA		Credit Industriel et Commercial	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AA-	365 Day
FRA		Societe Generale	20	6 Months	6 Months	PO	A-	AA-	6 Months
FIN		Nordea Bank Abp	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AA+	365 Day
FIN		OP Corporate Bank	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AA+	365 Day
GER		DZ Bank AG	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AAA	365 Day
GER		Landesbank Hessen-Thuringen Girozentrale (Heleba)	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AAA	365 Day
NETH		Bank Nederlande Gemeenten	25	24 Months	24 Months	SB	AAA	AAA	24 Months
NETH		Cooperatieve Rabobank U A	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AAA	365 Day
NETH		ING Bank NV	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AAA	365 Day
SING		DBS Bank Ltd	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AAA	365 Day
SING		Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AAA	365 Day
SING		United Overseas Bank	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AAA	365 Day
SWITZ		UBS AG	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	A+	AAA	365 Day
SWE		Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AAA	365 Day
SWE		Swedbank AB	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA-	AAA	365 Day
		<b># Svenska Group</b>		25	365 Day				
SWE		Svenska Handelsbanken AB	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA	AAA	365 Day
UK		Handelsbanken Plc	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA	AA-	365 Day
		Svenska Handelsbanken - 35 Day Notice Account	25	365 Day	365 Day				365 Day
		Svenska Handelsbanken- 10 Day Notice Account	25	365 Day	365 Day				365 Day
		Svenska Handelsbanken- Call Account	25	365 Day	365 Day				365 Day
USA		Bank of New York Mellon	25	24 Months	24 Months	SB	AA	AA+	24 Months
USA		Bank of America NA	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA	AA+	365 Day
USA		JP Morgan Chase Bank NA	25	365 Day	365 Day	SB	AA	AA+	365 Day
	5	<b>AAA Money Market Funds</b>							
		<b># MMF Group</b>		200	24 Months				
		HSBC Global Liquidity Fund	25	24 Months			AAA		
		Morgan Stanley Sterling Liquidity Fund	25	24 Months			AAA		
		Deutsche Managed Sterling Fund	25	24 Months			AAA		
		Insight GBP Liquidity Fund	25	24 Months			AAA		
		Aberdeen Standard Liquidity Fund	25	24 Months			AAA		
		<b># Group Limit of applies where indicated.</b>							
	**	A maximum of 20% of total funds to be held in the Building Society Sector.							
	**	No more than 20% of total funds to be held in any one institution or group, excluding Govt/MMFs.							
		Any adverse press comments concerning borrowers/potential borrowers should be referred to M Grady / S Maycock / K Tonge / T Spencer							
						Revised:	30th September 2023		

## **Definition of Credit Ratings and Credit Default Swap Spreads**

### Credit Ratings:

#### Long Term Rating (Fitch)

The Long Term rating assesses the borrowing characteristics of banks and the capacity for the timely repayment of debt obligations which apply to instruments of up to 5 years duration.

**Long Term Ratings range from AAA, AA, A to DDD, DD, D. Only Institutions with Ratings of A+ and above are acceptable on the Councils Lending List as follows:**

**AAA - Highest Credit Quality** - lowest expectation of credit risk. Exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. Highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

**AA - Very High Credit Quality** - Very low expectation of credit risk. Very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. Not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

**A - High Credit Quality** - Low expectation of credit risk. Strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. More vulnerable to adverse foreseeable events than the case for higher ratings.

*“+” Or “-” may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories.*

#### Sovereign Ratings (Fitch)

The Sovereign (Governments of Countries) Rating measures a sovereign’s capacity and willingness to honour its existing and future obligations in full or on time. It looks at factors such as:

- Macroeconomic performance and prospects;
- Structural features of the economy that render it more or less vulnerable to shocks as well as political risk and governance factors;
- Public finances, including the structure and sustainability of public debt as well as fiscal financing;
- The soundness of the financial sector and banking system, in particular with respect to macroeconomic stability and contingent liability for the sovereign; and
- External finances, with a particular focus on the sustainability of international trade balances, current account funding and capital flows, as well as the level and structure of external debt (public and private).

**Sovereign Ratings range from AAA, AA, A to DDD, DD, D. Only countries with a Sovereign Rating AA- are acceptable on the Councils Lending List.**

## Credit Rating Watches and Outlooks issued by Credit Rating Agencies

**Rating Watches** -indicate that there is a heightened probability of a rating change in the short term either in a positive or negative direction. A Rating Watch is typically event-driven and, as such, it is generally resolved over a relatively short period.

**Rating Outlooks** -indicate the direction a rating is likely to move over a one- to two-year period reflecting a position not yet reached but if trends continue will do so hence triggering a rating move.

## Money Market Fund Rating (Moody's)

Aaa/MR1+ - this rating denotes the lowest expectation of default risk. It is assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events. Funds rated MR1+ are considered to have the lowest market risk.

## Credit Default Swap (CDS) Spreads

A CDS is effectively a contract between two counterparties to 'insure' against default. The higher the CDS price of a counterparty, the higher the supposed risk of default. The CDS level therefore provides a perceived current market sentiment regarding the credit quality of a counterparty and generally the movement in the CDS market gives an early warning of the likely changes in credit ratings of a counterparty.

Link has employed a benchmark system which compares the CDS spread of a counterparty against a pre-determined benchmark rate (iTraxx Senior Financial Index) to produce a CDS status overlay of 'In Range', 'Monitoring' or 'Out of Range' and this status is used to further determine the creditworthiness of the counterparty.

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# Lincolnshire County Council

## Monthly Investment Analysis Review

September 2023

## Monthly Economic Summary

**General Economy**

The UK Manufacturing PMI for September rose to 44.2, from 42.5, outpacing market predictions of a rise / fall to 43. The uptick hinted at a more gradual decline in manufacturing activity, with some respondents attributing it to customer destocking influencing their output. By contrast, the UK Services PMI contracted, registering 47.2 in September, down from the previous month's 49.5 and below market expectations of 49.2. As a result, the Composite PMI (which incorporates both sectors) dropped to 46.8 in September, down from August's 48.6 and below the market consensus of 48.7, a preliminary estimate showed. This marked the fastest reduction in private sector activity since the lockdown period in January 2021, driven by a continued contraction in manufacturing output and the steepest decline in service sector activity in 32 months. The UK Construction PMI also experienced a dip, declining from 51.7 in July to 50.8 in August. This result suggested a marginal increase in overall business activity, with growth in commercial and civil engineering segments offsetting a slump in house building.

The UK economy contracted by 0.5% m/m in July, the largest decline this year, reversing 0.5% growth in June. This result was weaker than market forecasts of a 0.2% decrease. Notably, the services sector played a role in this contraction, primarily due to a 3.4% decline in the human health activities industry, a result of NHS strikes leading to appointment and procedure cancellations. Elsewhere, the UK's trade deficit narrowed to £3.446 billion in July from £4.787 billion in June, driven by a 1.8% rise in exports and a 0.2% drop in imports, taking them to their lowest level since February 2022.

In the three months to July, the number of people employed in the UK fell by 207,000, exceeding market expectations of a 185,000 drop. This marked the sharpest decline in job creation since September 2020. As a result, the unemployment rate in the UK rose to 4.3% in three months to July, reaching its highest level since the third quarter of 2021. This suggests a potential cooling in the labour market after extensive monetary policy tightening by the Bank of England. Despite this, average weekly earnings (including bonuses) in the UK increased 8.5% y/y in the three months to July, registering their biggest increase in two years. However, this was mainly reflective of one-off bonus payments to NHS staff, so would come out of calculations in the coming months.

The annual consumer price measure of inflation in the UK eased to 6.7% in August from 6.8% in July, falling below market consensus of 7.0% and the Bank's own forecast. This marked the lowest inflation rate since February 2022, primarily due to a slowdown in food inflation and a decline in the cost of accommodation services. Against this backdrop, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to hold Bank Rate at 5.25% during this month's meeting, marking the first pause in policy tightening in nearly two years. The central bank cited expectations of a significant decline in CPI inflation in the near term as one reason for the pause, while also noting that the latest employment figures, specifically the wages element, did not tally with other data it had reviewed. However, while pausing, the Committee also noted that it would embark on further tightening if required.

Retail sales in the UK partially recovered in August, rising by 0.4% m/m following a 1.1% decline in July. Mirroring this, the GfK Consumer Confidence index rose to -21 in September from -25 in August, posting its highest reading since January 2022, with the report's subcomponents suggesting growing optimism about the economy and easing pressures on household spending.

Public sector net borrowing excluding public sector banks (PSNB ex) reached £11.6 billion in August, £3.5 billion more than in August 2022 and the fourth-highest August borrowing since records began in 1993. Borrowing in the financial year to August was £69.6 billion, £19.3 billion more than in the same five-month period last year - but £11.4 billion less than the £81.0 billion forecast by the Office for Budget Responsibility.

The US economy created 187,000 jobs in August, marking the third consecutive month with job gains below the 200,000 threshold. This provided further evidence of a gradual easing of labour market conditions largely attributed to the Federal Reserve's interest rate rises aimed at lowering inflation. According to its preferred measure of inflation, Personal Consumption Expenditure index, prices rose by 3.5% y/y in August after an upwardly revised 3.4% rise in July, matching market forecasts. Meanwhile, the US economy grew at an annualised rate of 2.1% in the second quarter of 2023, unchanged from the previous estimate, and compared to an upwardly revised 2.2% growth in the first quarter. Against this backdrop, the Federal Reserve kept the target range for the Federal Funds Rate at a 22-year high of 5.25%-5.5% at its September meeting but signalled there could be another rate rise later this year.

In the Euro Area, the inflation rate fell to 4.3% y/y in September compared to 5.2% in August, reaching its lowest level since October 2021 and falling below the market consensus of 4.5%, a preliminary estimate showed. GDP, meanwhile, expanded a meagre 0.1% q/q in the three months to June, revised lower from initial estimates of a 0.3% gain. With inflation starting to decline but remaining above the central bank's 2% target, the ECB raised rates for the 10th consecutive time at its September meeting but signalled that it could be minded to a pause in further tightening.

## Housing

House prices in the UK continued to decline in August, with the Nationwide House Price Index falling by 5.3% y/y, registering its largest drop since July 2009. By comparison, the Halifax House Price Index fell by 4.6% y/y.

## Currency

The MPC's decision to hold Bank Rate at 5.25%, which surprised some investors looking for a rate rise, saw Sterling fall against both the Dollar and the Euro over the month and reflected a more hawkish tone to policymakers' outlooks outside the UK.

September	Start	End	High	Low
GBP/USD	\$1.2620	\$1.2206	\$1.2620	\$1.2135
GBP/EUR	€1.1677	€1.1528	€1.1724	€1.1498

## Forecast

In the wake of the MPC's decision to leave Bank Rate at 5.25%, both Link Group and Capital Economics revised their forecasts and now believe that 5.25% (rather than 5.5%) will be the peak in Bank Rate for this cycle.

Bank Rate	Now	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26
Link Group	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%	3.00%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%
Capital Economics	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	4.75%	4.25%	3.75%	3.25%	-	-	-	-

## Lincolnshire County Council

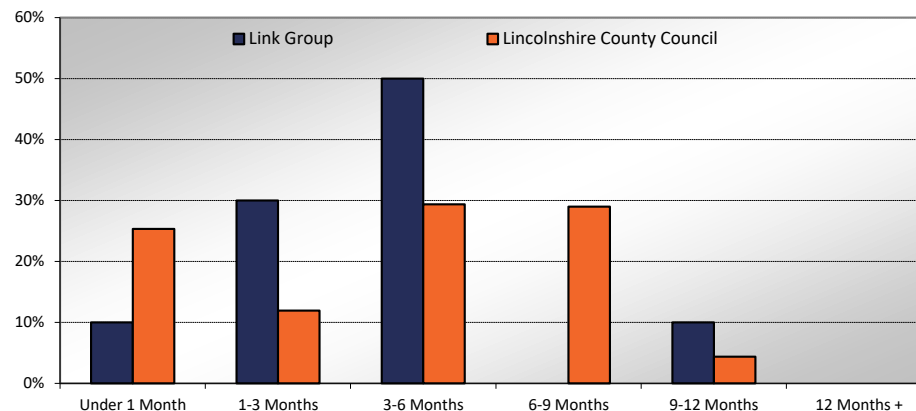
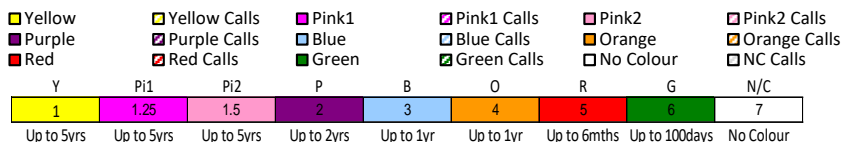
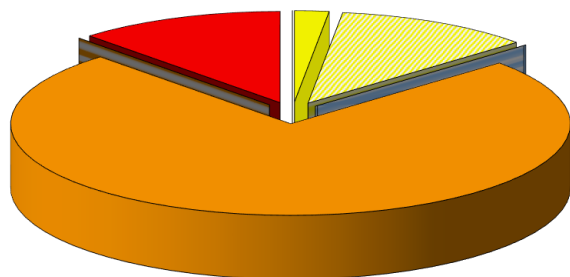
### Current Investment List

Borrower	Principal (£)	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date	Lowest LT / Fund Rating	Historic Risk of Default
MMF HSBC	9,790,000	5.26%		MMF	AAAm	
MMF Insight	18,945,000	5.24%		MMF	AAAm	
Bank of Montreal	10,000,000	5.36%	14/10/2022	13/10/2023	A+	0.002%
Standard Chartered Bank (ESG)	5,000,000	4.71%	14/04/2023	13/10/2023	A+	0.002%
Toronto Dominion Bank	5,000,000	5.50%	14/10/2022	13/10/2023	AA-	0.001%
Toronto Dominion Bank	10,000,000	5.13%	18/10/2022	18/10/2023	AA-	0.001%
Close Brothers Ltd	5,000,000	4.85%	25/04/2023	25/10/2023	A-	0.003%
Bank of Montreal	10,000,000	4.80%	07/11/2022	06/11/2023	A+	0.005%
Close Brothers Ltd	5,000,000	4.90%	05/05/2023	06/11/2023	A-	0.005%
Close Brothers Ltd	5,000,000	4.90%	05/05/2023	06/11/2023	A-	0.005%
Bank of Montreal	5,000,000	4.85%	18/11/2022	17/11/2023	A+	0.006%
Standard Chartered Bank (ESG)	5,000,000	5.23%	06/06/2023	06/12/2023	A+	0.008%
Close Brothers Ltd	5,000,000	5.75%	31/07/2023	31/01/2024	A-	0.015%
Landesbank Hessen-Thueringen Girozentrale (Helaba)	6,900,000	5.02%	02/05/2023	02/02/2024	A+	0.015%
Nordea Bank Abp	10,000,000	4.64%	03/02/2023	05/02/2024	AA-	0.008%
DBS Bank Ltd	10,000,000	4.45%	07/02/2023	07/02/2024	AA-	0.008%
Nordea Bank Abp	7,000,000	5.80%	09/08/2023	09/02/2024	AA-	0.008%
Landesbank Hessen-Thueringen Girozentrale (Helaba)	5,000,000	4.55%	23/02/2023	23/02/2024	A+	0.018%
Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	10,000,000	4.72%	02/03/2023	29/02/2024	A+	0.019%
London Borough of Southwark	5,000,000	4.40%	20/03/2023	18/03/2024	AA-	0.010%
DBS Bank Ltd	15,000,000	4.75%	31/03/2023	28/03/2024	AA-	0.011%
Landesbank Hessen-Thueringen Girozentrale (Helaba)	5,675,000	4.70%	04/04/2023	03/04/2024	A+	0.023%
Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd	9,900,000	4.90%	14/04/2023	12/04/2024	AA-	0.012%
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB	10,000,000	5.04%	14/04/2023	12/04/2024	A+	0.024%
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB	10,000,000	5.28%	21/04/2023	19/04/2024	A+	0.025%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	10,000,000	5.18%	22/05/2023	22/04/2024	A+	0.025%
Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd	5,000,000	4.95%	28/04/2023	26/04/2024	AA-	0.013%
National Australia Bank Ltd	5,000,000	6.35%	27/06/2023	24/05/2024	A+	0.029%
Landesbank Hessen-Thueringen Girozentrale (Helaba)	7,425,000	5.46%	06/06/2023	05/06/2024	A+	0.031%
UBS AG	10,000,000	6.50%	07/07/2023	07/06/2024	A+	0.031%
UBS AG	5,000,000	6.33%	26/07/2023	25/07/2024	A+	0.037%
UBS AG	6,000,000	6.39%	21/08/2023	19/08/2024	A+	0.040%
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>£251,635,000</b>	<b>5.16%</b>				<b>0.015%</b>

Note: An historic risk of default is only provided if a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and is not provided for an MMF or USDBF, for which the rating agencies provide a fund rating. The portfolio's historic risk of default therefore measures the historic risk of default attached only to those investments for which a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and also does not include investments which are not rated.



Portfolio Composition by Link Group's Suggested Lending Criteria



Portfolios weighted average risk number = **3.72**

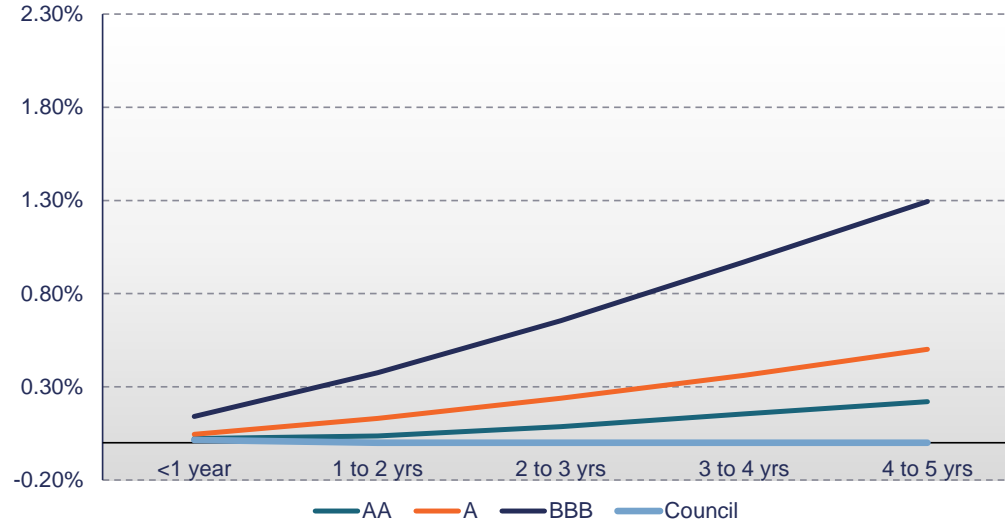
WARoR = Weighted Average Rate of Return  
WAM = Weighted Average Time to Maturity

	% of Portfolio	Amount	% of Colour in Calls	Amount of Colour in Calls	% of Call in Portfolio	WARoR	WAM	WAM at Execution	Excluding Calls/MMFs/USDBFs	
									WAM	WAM at Execution
Yellow	13.41%	£33,735,000	85.18%	£28,735,000	11.42%	5.12%	25	54	170	364
Pink1	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Pink2	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Purple	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Blue	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Orange	74.67%	£187,900,000	0.00%	£0	0.00%	5.18%	156	351	156	351
Red	11.92%	£30,000,000	0.00%	£0	0.00%	5.06%	50	184	50	184
Green	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
No Colour	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>£251,635,000</b>	<b>11.42%</b>	<b>£28,735,000</b>	<b>11.42%</b>	<b>5.16%</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>328</b>

# Lincolnshire County Council

## Investment Risk and Rating Exposure

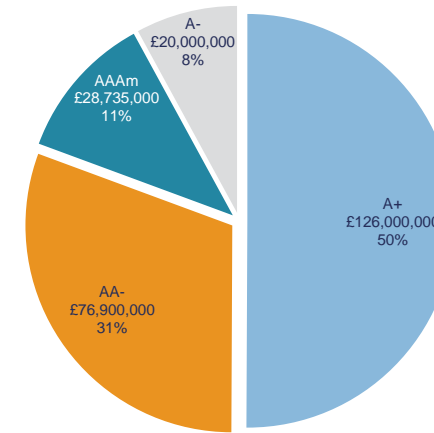
Investment Risk Vs. Rating Categories



Historic Risk of Default

Rating/Years	<1 year	1 to 2 yrs	2 to 3 yrs	3 to 4 yrs	4 to 5 yrs
AA	0.02%	0.04%	0.09%	0.16%	0.22%
A	0.05%	0.13%	0.24%	0.36%	0.50%
BBB	0.14%	0.38%	0.65%	0.97%	1.29%
Council	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Rating Exposure



### Historic Risk of Default

This is a proxy for the average % risk for each investment based on over 30 years of data provided by Fitch, Moody's and S&P. It simply provides a calculation of the possibility of average default against the historical default rates, adjusted for the time period within each year according to the maturity of the investment.

### Chart Relative Risk

This is the authority's risk weightings compared to the average % risk of default for "AA", "A" and "BBB" rated investments.

### Rating Exposures

This pie chart provides a clear view of your investment exposures to particular ratings.

Note: An historic risk of default is only provided if a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and is not provided for an MMF or USDBF, for which the rating agencies provide a fund rating. The portfolio's historic risk of default therefore measures the historic risk of default attached only to those investments for which a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and also does not include investments which are not rated.

Lincolnshire County Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes  
MOODY'S

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
27/09/2023	1988	DNB Bank ASA	Norway	The Long-Term Rating was upgraded to 'Aa1' from 'Aa2'; The Long Term Outlook changed to Stable from Positive.

Monthly Credit Rating Changes  
FITCH

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
15/09/2023	1987	Danske Bank AS	Denmark	The Long-Term Rating was upgraded to 'A+' from 'A'; The Long Term Outlook is Stable.

Lincolnshire County Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes  
S&P

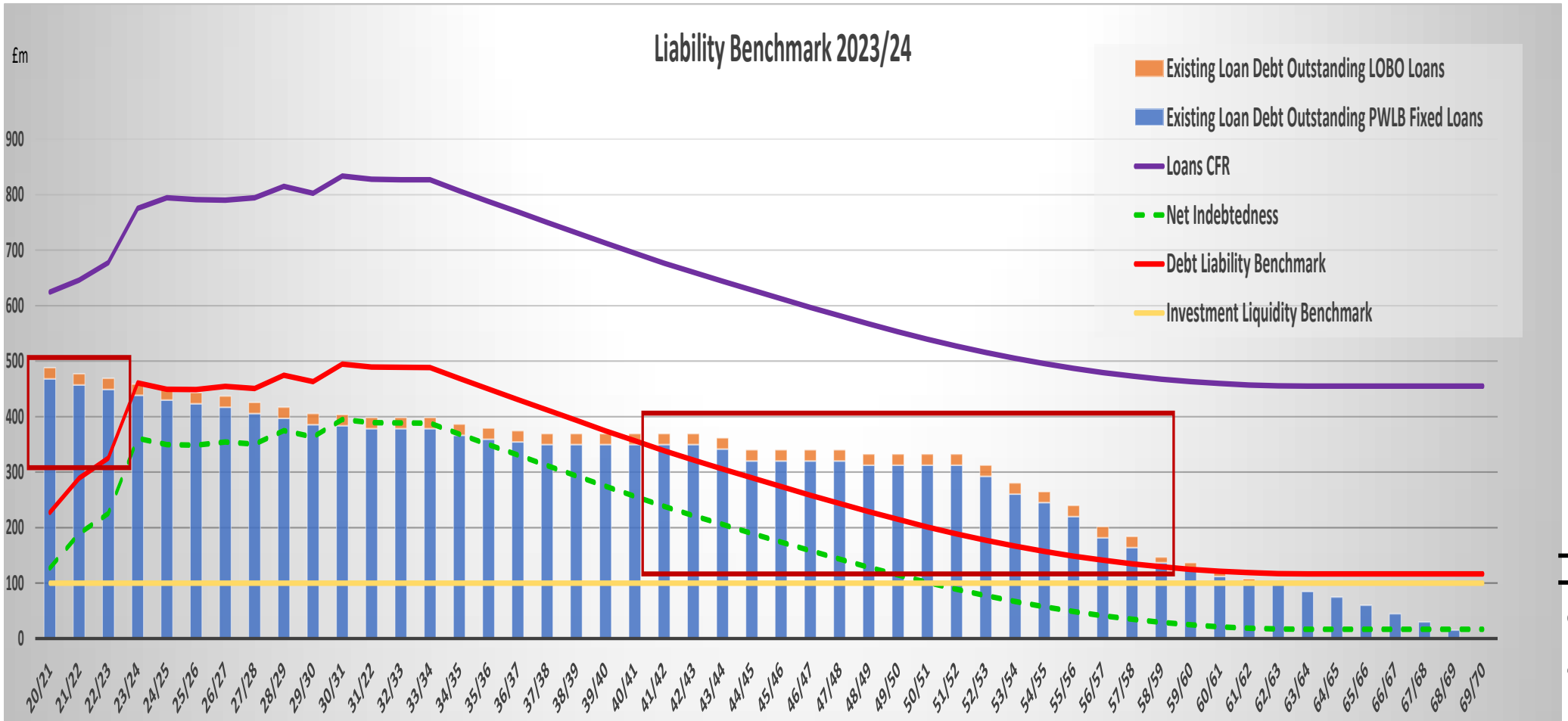
Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action

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Debt Liability Benchmark As At 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Liability Benchmark 2023/24



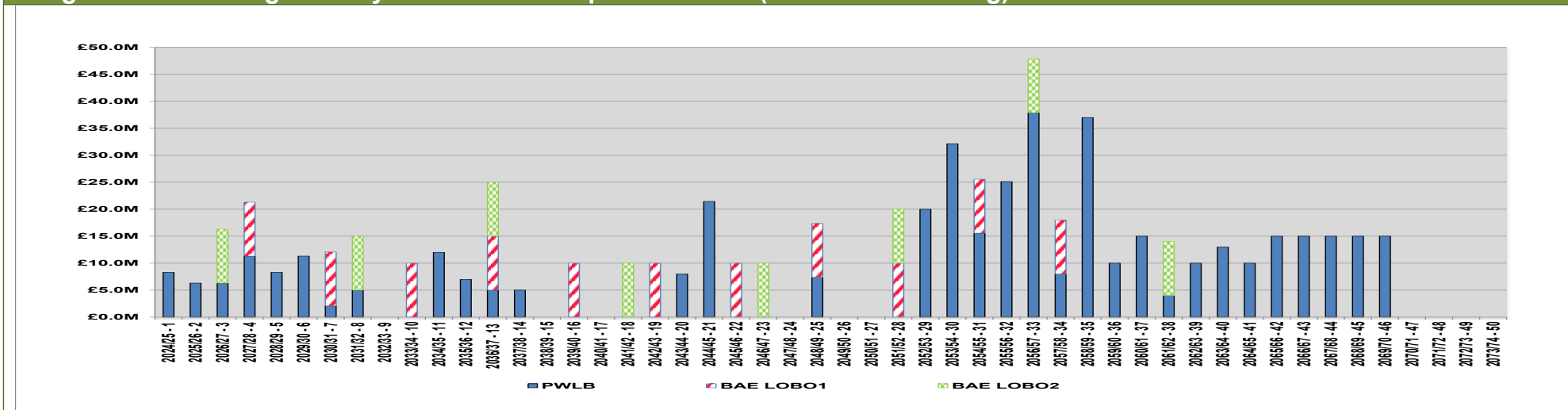
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Borrowing: Activity & Performance and Long-Term Maturity Profile on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Long-Term Borrowing Position on 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023			Borrowing Requirement Position at 30/9/2023	
<b>External Borrowing Position 30/9/2023 and Forecast for 2023/24</b>			<b>Borrowing Requirement Position at 30/9/2023</b>	
Borrowing Position 1/4/2023	£467.768m	3.725%	Borrowing Requirement 2023/24	£77.496m
New Borrowing Taken to 30/9/23	£0.000m		Plus Carry Forward from 2022/23	<u>£49.819m</u>
Debt Repaid to 30/9/2023	-£7.677m			£127.315m
<b>Borrowing Position 30/9/2023</b>	<b>£460.091m</b>	<b>3.718%</b>	Less adjustments:	
<b>Further action required in 2023/24:</b>			Rephasing/Target Changes	(£8.197m)
Remaining Borrowing Requirement 2023/24	£0.000m		Internal Borrowing	(£108.795m)
Further Debt Repayments Due	-£2.652m		Voluntary Repayment of Debt	(£10.099m)
Projected Borrowing at 31/3/2024	£457.439m	3.713%	Debt Repayment- Non Treasury	<u>(0.224m)</u>
				£0.000m
			Less Borrowing Taken- to 30/9/2023	<u>(£0.000m)</u>
			<b>Remaining Borrowing Requirement 2023/24</b>	<b>£0.000m</b>
			<b>At 30.9.2023</b>	

Long Term Borrowing Maturity Profile At 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (External Borrowing)



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**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,  
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>People Management Update – Quarter 2</b>

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the HR Management Information (HRMI) for Quarter 2 2023-2024.

**Actions Required:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is asked to seek assurance on HR Management Information and People Strategy.

## **1. Background**

This report provides a summary of the HR management information data from 2023 Quarter 2 which can be seen in the summary data dashboard in Appendix A and the March 2023 Gender Pay Gap summary in Appendix B. The report also provides a summary of the People Strategy and the outcomes of the past 2 years.

## **2. HR Management Information**

### **a. Employments**

The number of employments increased by 70 in Quarter 2 (5798) and overall has increased by 130 (2.3%) since Q2 2022-23.

### **b. Voluntary turnover**

The 12-month voluntary turnover percentage has decreased again in quarter 2 and stands at 8.41%. This is the lowest level since Q1 2021. The challenges within Adults and Children's remain with recruitment but turnover is relatively stable (below 10 and 8% respectively). One factor in this has been the Council's commitment to a number of attraction and retention initiatives over the last 18 months.

### c. Agency spend

There has been an increase (+£30,019) in spend for this latest quarter. The increase relates to a higher demand for Educational Psychologists, who are largely 'off contract' agencies. However, whilst agency has increased the model of delivery is still more cost effective than the direct employment provision. In addition, there continue to be the normal areas of challenge within hard to recruit roles in Children's Services, Adult Care, Legal Services and Performance (Resources). However, the 'on contract' services with Matrix are demonstrating a reduction in spend due to lower costs per booking compared to previous quarters under the former contract.

#### On Contract (Matrix)

Q1 2022	£ 1,500,416
Q2	£ 1,520,141
Q3	£ 1,550,928
Q4	£ 1,427,076
Q1 2023	£ 1,433,890
Q2	£ 1,378,374

#### Off Contract (Various Agencies)

Q1 2022	£ 191,424
Q2	£ 202,097
Q3	£ 264,241
Q4	£ 186,481
Q1 2023	£ 332,767
Q2	£ 418,300

The main challenge is the off contract spend due to the difficulties in finding specialist professionals.

### d. Sickness absence

At the end of quarter 2, the LCC (Lincolnshire County Council) days lost per FTE (Full Time Equivalent) figure for Directorates stands at 7.22 days. The figure has been reducing over the last year and is now below the 7.5 days target.

The directorates with the highest level of sickness have had reductions in the last quarter: Adult Care and Community Wellbeing (from 8.79 in Q1 to 7.88 in Q2). Children's Services (from 9.26 in Q1 to 9.05 in Q2). These areas remain above the 7.5 target. The sickness level in all other directorates remains at or below target.

Mental health related absence remains the highest cause of days lost. This is not unusual and mirrors most organisational reasons for absence. The Council provides a wide range of pro-active and re-active interventions for people with mental health concerns.

## 3. People Strategy

The People Strategy was launched in June 2021 to meet the Corporate Plan ambition on being an 'employer of choice'. There is a focus on nine core areas for development over the up to the end of 2024:



### 3.1 Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

#### 3.1.1 The Gender Pay Gap

Under the Equality Act 2010 (specific duties and Public Authorities) regulations 2017 the council is required to publish statutory gender pay gap information on an annual basis. The next report will cover the year up to 31 March 2023. The summary is included in Appendix B.

We had 5,208 employees in scope for the 2023 gender pay gap exercise. Of these 1,657 (32%) are male and 3,551 (68%) are female. The calculations are based on a comparison of the mean and median hourly rates for males and females.

The 2023 gender pay gap report shows:

- LCC mean gender pay gap: 3.5% (1.5% improvement from 2022)
- LCC median gender pay gap: 2.7% (0.1% greater than 2022)
- National median gender pay gap: 14.9% (2022 figure)

Whilst the County Council performance nationally is good, it continues to support initiatives that enable career development for its female employees, that will overtime see a further reduction in the pay gap. For example, flexible / smarter / hybrid working, supports a better work life balance for female employees progressing through their career, particularly in senior leader roles, where there is a need for a more representation.

### 3.2 People Strategy Outcomes: 2021-2023

An evaluation has been undertaken on the People Strategy to see what changes we have seen to the workforce challenges within the Council over the past 2 years.

### **3.2.1 The Workforce Challenge: 2021**

The Council needed to address the following workforce challenges:

- i. 'Employer of Choice' but no people strategy / plan.
- ii. Impact of Covid -19.
- iii. Employees working from home.
- iv. Increasing sickness absence.
- v. Increasing voluntary turnover. Attraction / recruitment issues and no workforce planning.
- vi. Poor use of workforce data.
- vii. Challenges with our public sector equality duty.
- viii. Pay framework for leaders.
- ix. Employee relations challenges.
- x. Need for improved employee engagement.
- xi. Further development of health and wellbeing initiatives.

### **3.2.2 Our Outcomes: 2023**

Over the past two years the Council has achieved the following:

- i. People strategy and comprehensive work plan in place.
- ii. Smarter working: financial savings and clear expectations.
- iii. Sickness absence: month on month decline over the last 12 months.
- iv. Voluntary turnover: month on month decline over the last 12 months.
- v. Attraction and retention framework has supported services to stabilise.
- vi. Monthly HR reporting to CLT and quarterly to OSMB on timely data.
- vii. Ability to evidence our public sector equality duty.
- viii. Senior leaders pay reform (non-consolidated pay increments subject to performance).
- ix. Improved employee relations and more a 'business like' approach to managing HR cases.
- x. Culture and leadership stock take, virtual staff forums, facilitator roles.
- xi. Enhanced health and wellbeing initiatives.

### **3.2.3 The Workforce Challenge: 2023 and beyond**

The following areas will form part of the actions for the next 12 months:

- Business process improvement / productivity challenge.
- Developing new organisational values and behaviours with our workforce.
- Implementing a leadership development programme.
- Further reform to HR policies / processes
- Further development of attraction and retention framework
  - a. Phase 2 improvements to the LCC recruitment website
  - b. Further enhancing staff benefits (cost neutral)
  - c. Improved workforce planning

- Transforming and improving payroll, pension, HR administration and aligning with existing processes to achieve efficiency.
- Outcomes of 2023 employee survey need addressing.

#### 4. Conclusion

The Board is invited to review the HRMI data from Quarter 2 2023/24 and seek assurance on HR Management Information and the current position of the People Strategy.

#### 5. Consultation

##### a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

#### 6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Quarterly HRMI data 2023 Quarter 2
Appendix B	Gender Pay Gap March 2023

#### 7. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
People Strategy 2021-2024	Copy can be requested via <a href="mailto:tony.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk">tony.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>

This report was written by Tony Kavanagh (Assistant Director – HR and Organisational Support) and Lucy Shevill (Strategic HR Business Partner) both of whom can be contacted via e-mail at [tony.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:tony.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk) and [lucyk.shevill@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:lucyk.shevill@lincolnshire.gov.uk).





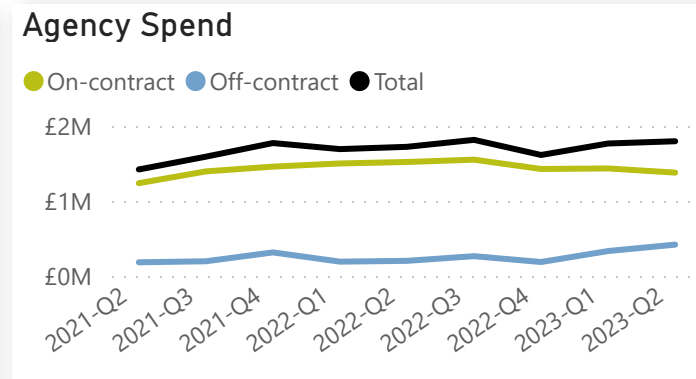
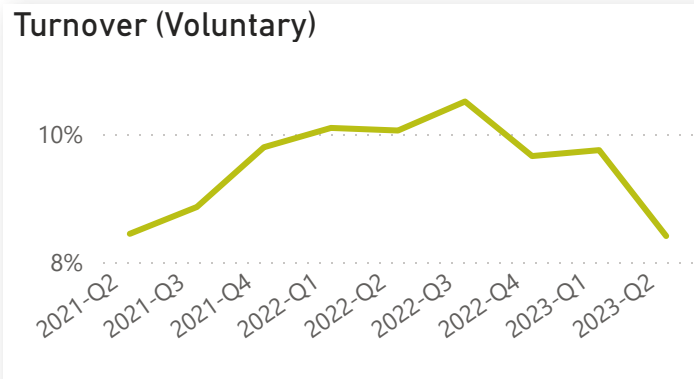
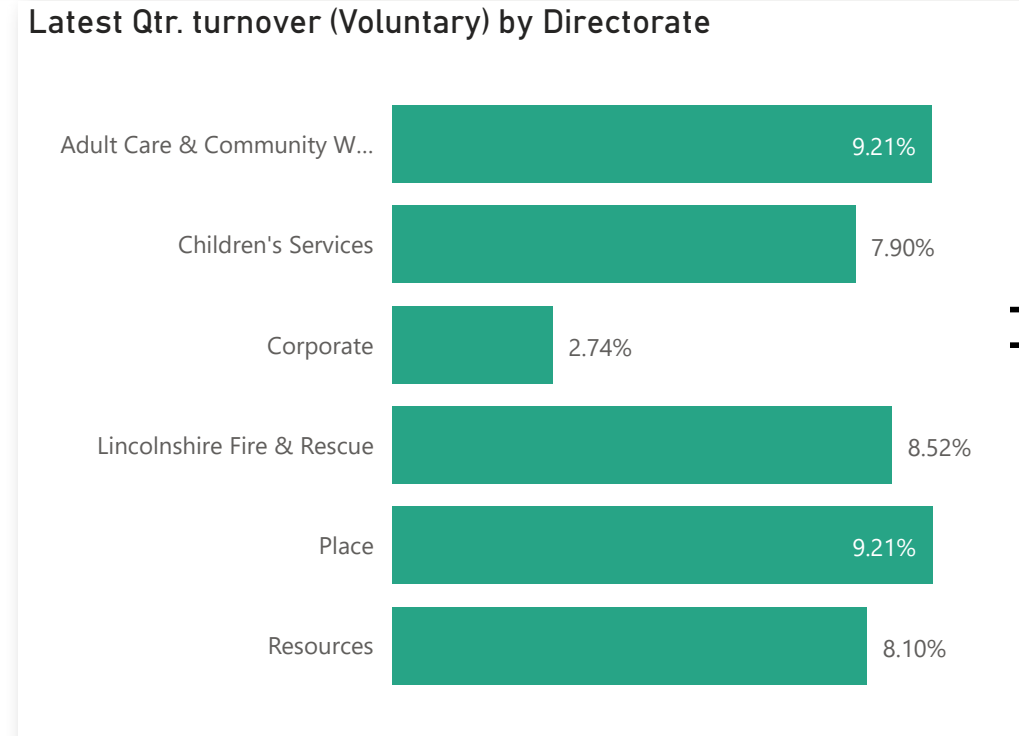
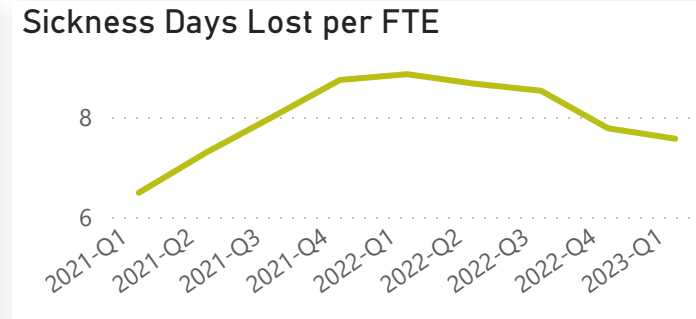
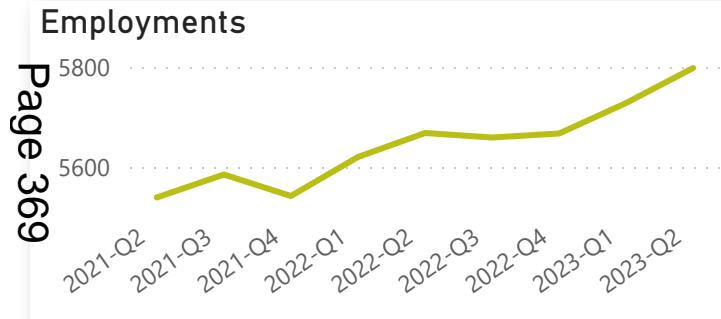
# HRMI for LCC by quarter from 2021-Q2

Financial Year - Quarter	Employments
2021-Q2	5539
2021-Q3	5585
2021-Q4	5542
2022-Q1	5620
2022-Q2	5668
2022-Q3	5659
2022-Q4	5667
2023-Q1	5728
2023-Q2	5798

Financial Year - Quarter	Sickness Days Lost per FTE
2021-Q2	7.29
2021-Q3	8.01
2021-Q4	8.74
2022-Q1	8.86
2022-Q2	8.67
2022-Q3	8.52
2022-Q4	7.77
2023-Q1	7.57
2023-Q2	7.22

Financial Year - Quarter	Turnover (Voluntary)
2021-Q2	8.44%
2021-Q3	8.86%
2021-Q4	9.79%
2022-Q1	10.09%
2022-Q2	10.05%
2022-Q3	10.51%
2022-Q4	9.66%
2023-Q1	9.75%
2023-Q2	8.41%

Financial Year - Quarter	On-contract Agency Spend	Off-contract Agency Spend	Total Agency Spend
2021-Q2	£1,237,652	£182,698.3	£1,420,351
2021-Q3	£1,394,639	£196,219.6	£1,590,858
2021-Q4	£1,458,294	£314,447.1	£1,772,741
2022-Q1	£1,500,416	£191,424.3	£1,691,840
2022-Q2	£1,520,141	£202,096.7	£1,722,237
2022-Q3	£1,550,928	£264,240.8	£1,815,169
2022-Q4	£1,427,076	£186,480.6	£1,613,556
2023-Q1	£1,433,890	£332,766.2	£1,766,656
2023-Q2	£1,378,374	£418,300.4	£1,796,675



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# Lincolnshire County Council

## Gender Pay Gap 2023

We had 5,208 employees in scope for the gender pay gap exercise.

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, 68% of our workforce was female (3,551) and 32% male (1,657).

The mean gender pay gap is the difference between the mean hourly rate of pay for males (£18.07) and females (£17.44).

For 2023, this was 3.5%. This has narrowed by 1.5% from 2022 (5.0%).

The median gender pay gap is the difference between the median hourly rate of pay for males (£16.55) and females (£16.11).

For 2023, this was 2.7%. This has increased by 0.1% from 2022 (2.6%).

We have no bonus payments for 2023 that fall in the gender pay gap category.

### Additional information

Quartile	% Males 2023	% Females 2023
Lower	26%	74%
Lower middle	26%	74%
Upper middle	43%	57%
Upper	31%	69%

The percentage of females in the upper quartile has increased by 2% from 2022. The percentage of females in the upper quartile is now higher than the percentage of females in the council.

There has been a 1% increase of females in the upper middle quartile from 2022.

There has been a 2% increase of females in the lower middle quartile from 2022.

There has been a 1% increase of females in the lower quartile from 2022.

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**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,  
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director – Resources**

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Health and Safety Annual Report 2022/23</b>

**Summary:**

This report gives an overview of key achievements, activities and statistics across all Directorates related to Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) compliance and implementation of Health and Safety legislation and its statutory duties.

**Actions Required:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited to seek assurance and comment on the contents of the Health and Safety Annual Report 2022-23.

## **1. Background**

### **1.1 Annual Report**

The annual report covers the period between April 2022 and March 2023 and highlights actions undertaken to ensure our statutory requirements, under health and safety legislation, are met and gives a level of assurance within key areas of compliance. This year's report covers the significant and key actions taken by LCC in a post COVID-19, smarter working environment and the assurance required to ensure continued and improved compliance with health and safety standards.

The final report is published on the Council's website and is split into five sections:

- Key Results
- Employee Wellbeing
- Support the Business
- Key Actions
- Future Priorities

## **1.2 Areas of focus**

- No enforcement action or intervention from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). A 12% increase in Health and Safety (H&S) related courses e-learning being completed by LCC employees, over 10,000 courses, our highest ever amount.
- Development and implementation of a new on-line health and safety contractor evaluation system for permitted work on the Highway.
- Renewal of our First Aider training contract, giving us a 20% discount on the price of courses.
- Continued development and transfer of our health and safety policies and guidance into our new interactive, digital format and hosted on our health and safety HUB.
- Our Schools Health and Safety self-assessment achieved a 100% returned rate for the fifth consecutive with a majority consistently reporting “best practice”.

## **1.3 Items to note**

### **Driver Assessment Toolkit 22-25**

This year saw the redesign and relaunch of our Driving Assessment Toolkit (DAT). Aimed at all employees who drive in the course of their duties, it enables us to evaluate the occupational driving risk our employees face and provide key information, guidance or take action to control or reduce those risks. Since its relaunch in August 2022, over 3000 employees have completed the assessment, with only 2% initially falling into the ‘high’ risk category.

### **Workstation assessment and training**

We renewed and renegotiated our current workstation assessment system and health and safety e-learning contract (SHINE). The improvements to the SHINE contract gave us several new and additional e-learning training courses, along with more efficient and effective monitoring process, at an average cost of only £1 per employee per year over the next 5 years.

### **Health and Safety Management**

In 21-22 we developed and trialled a revolutionary method of delivering the Managing Safety in LCC training course, which incorporated an ‘open university’ style of learning combined with a practical session. These reduced the delivery time of the course by 50% and gave greater flexibility to manager undertaking the training. In 22-23 we officially launched the training within several Directorates, training a significant number of managers and receiving positive feedback on this new approach.

## **Building for the future**

Lincolnshire County Council's first health & safety apprentice completed their training and passed their final examination, gaining a Level 3 Safety, Health and Environment Technician qualification. They will now become a permanent member of the corporate health and safety team and a review will be undertaken to decide whether we can continue with the apprenticeship programme.

### **3. Conclusion**

The Board is invited to seek assurance and comment on the contents of the Health and Safety Annual Report 2022-23 attached at Appendix A.

### **4. Consultation**

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

See Health and Safety Annual Report – Our Risk Section Page 11

### **5. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Health and Safety Annual Report 2022-23

### **6. Background Papers**

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

This report was written by Fraser Shooter who can be contacted by e-mail at [fraser.shooter@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:fraser.shooter@lincolnshire.gov.uk).





# Health & Safety

## Annual Report 2022-23



# Contents

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<b>Key results</b>	Page 2
<b>Employee Health, Safety &amp; Wellbeing</b>	Page 5
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<b>Future priorities</b>	Page 8
<b>EVOSAFE statistics</b>	Page 10
<b>Our risks</b>	Page 11

# Executive Summary

Hello and welcome once again to our annual Health and Safety report for 2022/23.

With the legacy of COVID still fresh in our minds and the changes it forced upon us, we now have some time to reflect on these and evaluate the ones that actually improved the delivery of services and begin to build on them to expend those positive effects into other areas of health and safety service delivery and management.

With a national spotlight now being focused on people's mental health, the ability for us to look beyond just achieving compliance with the law and to consider the greater effect and positive impact good health and safety management can have on both the mental health of the people of Lincolnshire and our own staff will continue to aid us with the delivery of excellent services.

Once again, the corporate health and safety team continue to investigate new and innovative ways to improve both the delivery of health and safety management, but also, the effectiveness and efficiency of those services through our digital strategy. This year saw even further increases to the number of health, safety and wellbeing training courses now being made available via the e-learning or hybrid formats, along with more services now being incorporated into the digital audit process, improving both the quality and more importantly the consistency of those reports.

As we head into the post COVID work environment and the new ways of working implemented during the pandemic are established as the norm moving forward, the need for our health and safety management to be adaptable remains a key priority and driver for our corporate health and safety team to ensure our commitment to providing a safe, healthy, and positive working environment is maintained.



**Andrew Crookham**  
Executive Director – Resources



**Cllr Mark Whittington**

# Key Results

This corporate update report provides a summary of the Health and Safety activities for 2022-23 and gives assurance on how well the council manages its health and safety risks.



No investigations or interventions from any of the enforcement agencies undertaken, resulting in no formal or enforcement action taken against us.

A 12% increase in the number of e-learning health and safety courses completed in 22-23, with over 10,000 individual courses having been completed by LCC employees.



The design, development, trialling and implementation of a new on-line contractor health and safety evaluation toolkit for permitted works on the highway.

Renewal of our first aid training contract, giving us a 20% discount on the price of future courses.



Many policies reviewed, updated and transferred into the new interactive digital format and hosted on our health and safety HUB

LCC maintained schools continue to see the value of our annual health and safety self-assessment programme, with 100% participating for the fifth consecutive year and the lowest score being an impressive 89%.



# Key Results

## *“The driving force”*

This year saw the redesign and relaunch of our Driving Assessment Toolkit (DAT). Aimed at all employees who drive in the course of their duties, it enables us to evaluate the occupational driving risk our employees face and provide key information, guidance or take action to control or reduce those risks. Since its relaunch in August 2022, over 3000 employees have completed the assessment, with only 2% initially falling into the ‘high’ risk category.



## *“Make it SHINE”*

We renewed and renegotiated our current workstation assessment system and health and safety e-learning contract (SHINE). The improvements to the SHINE contract gave us several new and additional e-learning training courses, along with more efficient and effective monitoring process, at an average cost of only £1 per employee per year over the next 5 years.



## *“No more guess who”*

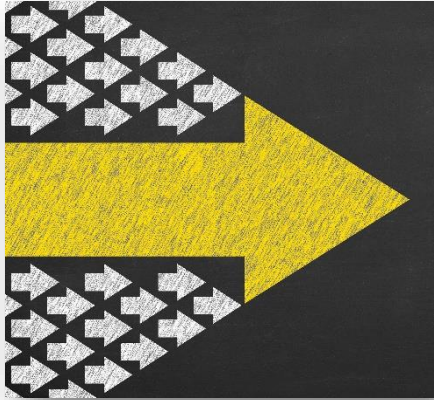
2022-23 saw the introduction of the new digital First Aid Board (FABs). With the flexibility of smarter working a new method quickly identify which employees are first aid trained, their location and availability was required. These new digital notice boards replace the old-style posters and can be updated on a regular basis, quickly and efficiently.

## *“A Vote for safety”*

Health and safety guidance for elected members was reviewed and reissued, the guidance covers key hazards faced by our members and contained important information and instruction to reduce risk.



# Key achievements



## Follow my leader

In 21-22 we developed and trialled a revolutionary method of delivering the Managing Safety in LCC training course, which incorporated an 'open university' style of learning combined with a practical session. These reduced the delivery time of the course by 50% and gave greater flexibility to manager undertaking the training. In 22-23 we officially launched the training within several Directorates, training a significant number of managers and receiving positive feedback on this new approach.

## Building for the future

Lincolnshire County Council's first health & safety apprentice completed their training and passed their final examination, gaining a Level 3 Safety, Health and Environment Technician qualification. They will now become a permanent member of the corporate health and safety team and a review will be undertaken to decide whether we can continue with the apprenticeship programme.



## We can't stress the importance enough

As part of the e-learning training contract renewal we felt it was important to incorporate some additional training options related stress awareness and management. In February we launch two new courses, Stress Awareness for Employees and Stress Awareness for Managers.

## Evolving for the future

Following a review of the health & safety governance structure in October several significant changes were implemented. The Corporate Health & Safety Team transferred from the Corporate Audit Team into Human Resources, helping to better a line employment and health and safety law support services, along with improved links with employee wellbeing. Changes were also made with the health & safety committee, combining this with our Central Panel group to try and improve the co-operation with Union representatives with health and safety governance.



# Health, safety & wellbeing

## Employee Health and Wellbeing Group Project Team

This group was established in early summer 2020 to oversee the delivery of our Employee Health and Wellbeing Strategy. In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and wellbeing the delivery plan for the strategy was reviewed and refocused, ensuring a range of support is available for employees and managers with both physical and mental health and wellbeing.



The group ensures work is focussed and targeted appropriately and links in with the work of the Smarter Working project and work currently being led by Lincolnshire Community Health Services Trust (LCHS) to support employees with health and wellbeing particularly across the health and social care sector in Lincolnshire.



The LCC group is made up of representatives from HR, Public Health, Adult Services and Communications to ensure relevant intelligence can be fed into all initiatives we undertake to support employee health and wellbeing and to reflect the council's supportive and inclusive culture.

Meetings were held with the Chairs of the Staff Network groups to ensure feedback from the networks was captured and the offer developed appropriately to ensure support for all employees including carers, employees with a disability and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic employees.

Through the work of the group colleagues are offered healthy lifestyle initiatives. A recent offer included two 12-week physical activity programmes, one aimed at the less active 'Heart and Sole' and the other at those wanting a higher-level challenge 'Miles Better' in order to ensure inclusivity for all.



# Health, safety & wellbeing

As an organisation we know that it is hugely important we take care of our mental health. As part of our LCC employee health and wellbeing offer we have a wide range of support open to all, ranging from advice to specialist sessions and practical assistance.

This includes:

- Employee Support and Counselling Service
- New Brilliant Me resilience sessions
- Mindfulness Hour
- Mental Health First Aider network
- Being a Mindful Employer



In addition, all Lincolnshire County Council staff can access The Staff Wellbeing Hub run by LPFT (Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust) which provides a confidential space to share concerns and worries without the fear of being judged

## Organisational Development Steering Group

The Organisational Development Steering Group is made of representatives from across the council. It is one of our key engagement groups for workforce issues and meets bi-monthly, working collaboratively and creatively to support the delivery of our Employee Health and Wellbeing; Engagement and Development; and Workforce Strategy initiatives for the Council. During the pandemic the key focus area for the group was employee health and wellbeing as we developed and enhanced our offer to support our employees.



Further details and information on employee health and wellbeing can be found on the LCC Equality, Diversity and Inclusion page and Annual Report.



# Identified Priorities

The council has appropriate systems and processes in place to ensure good Health & Safety management is maintained. We are satisfied that these work well, however there is always room for continuous improvement. Several priorities were identified within the 2021-22 annual report, our progress on these is highlighted below:

## What we have done

Actions identified/undertaken	Progress
<b>Driver Assessment Toolkit</b> Review and re-launch of the Driving Assessment Toolkit (DAT) for the next 3-year period 2022-25	completed
<b>Managing Safely Training</b> Full corporate roll out of the newly developed “Managing Safely in Lincolnshire” course	completed
<b>Contractor Evaluation Toolkit</b> Implementation of the new Section S278 – Contractor H&S Evaluation system for permitted works on the highway	completed
<b>Tender Evaluation Toolkit</b> Development of a system for evaluating the H&S documentation of external companies tendering for LCC contracts	On-going
<b>First Aider Notification</b> Review First Aid and procedures to ensure continued compliance within a Smarter Working environment	completed

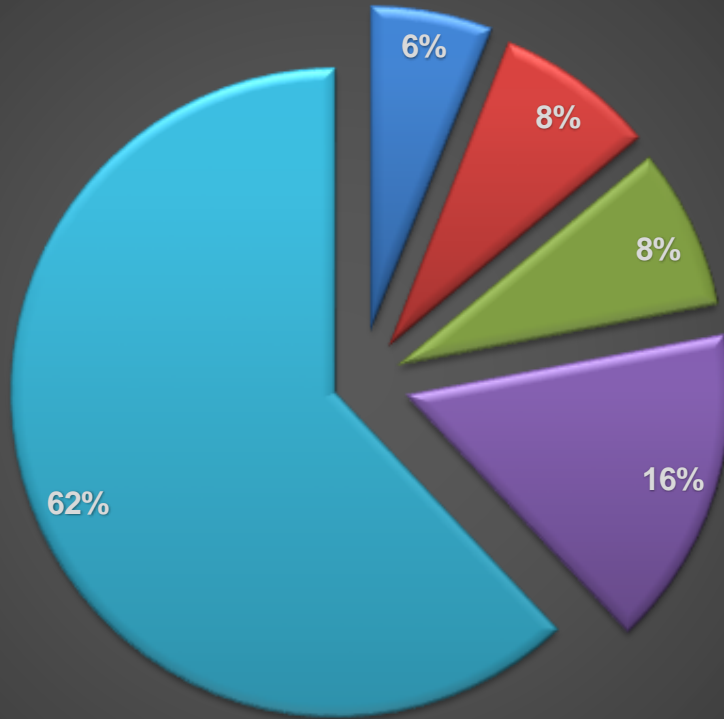
# Future priorities

To ensure our systems and processes remain in good working order and we continue to grow our service provision, we continually review and investigate areas where improvements or efficiency savings can be made. Our focus for 2023-24 includes the following areas:

Key activity	Lead officer/team	Timescales
Development of a digital property health and safety checklist and guidance	Property Services and Corporate Health and Safety Team	April 2023 to March 2024
Review and launch a new e-learning fire marshal training course	The Corporate Health and Safety Team	April 2023 to March 2024
Implementation of the SHINE workstation assessment system within Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.	The Corporate Health and Safety Team & LFR	From May 2023
Development of new display screen equipment eye test and glasses voucher protocol/policy	Corporate Health and Safety Team	From July 2023
Development, trialing, implementation of reviewed Working Safely Course Review	Corporate Health and Safety Team	From May 2023

# EVOSAFE report forms 22-23

## Percentage split of reported incidents



- Resources
- Adults & Comm Wellbeing
- Place
- Childrens (Educational)
- Childrens (All Other Services)

**Total number of completed report forms = 1313**

**\*Accidents = 1002**

**\*\*Near miss = 286**

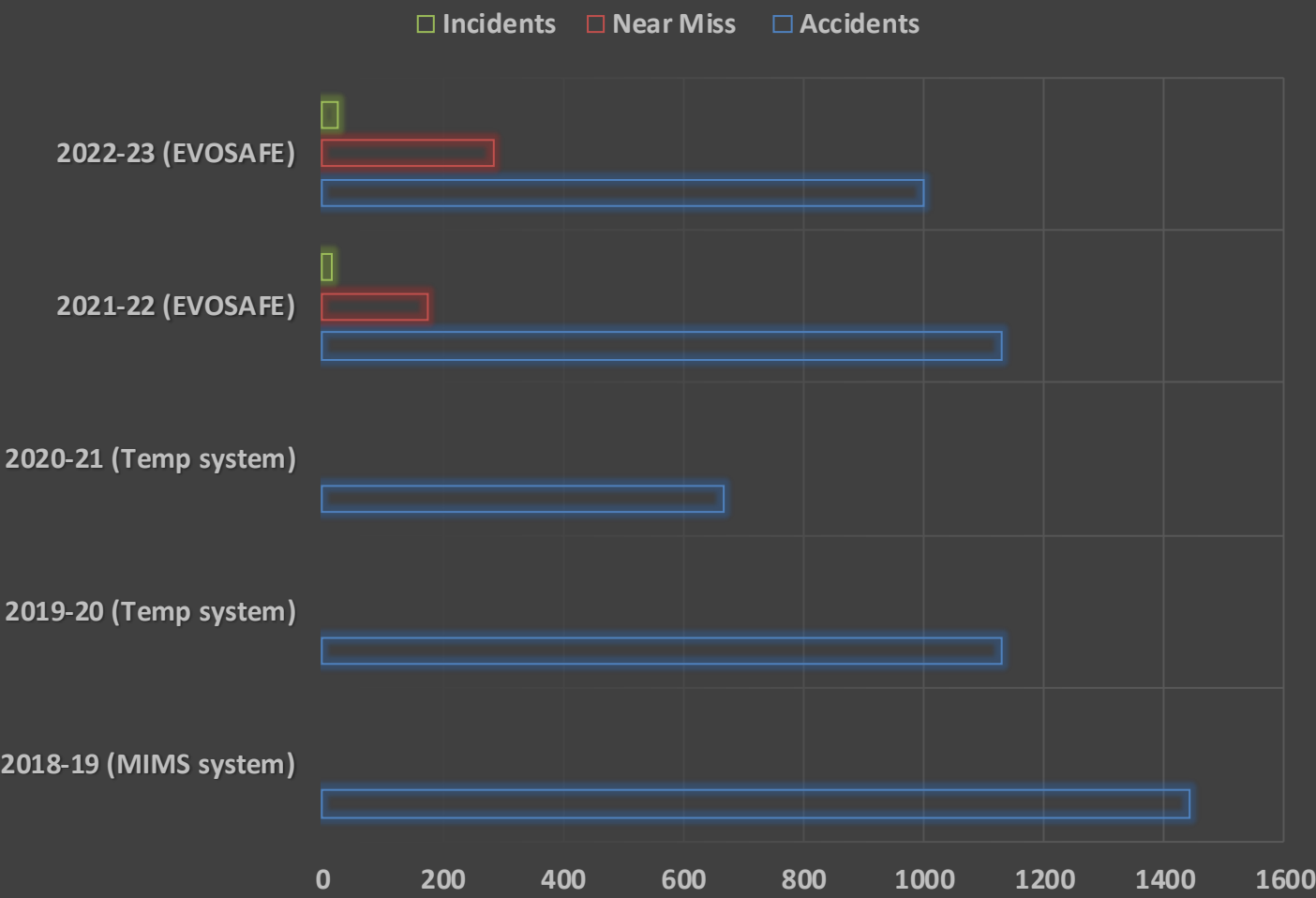
**\*\*\*Incidents = 25**



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Employees Non-Employees

# EVOSAFE report forms



**As expected, we've seen an increase in reports of 'Near miss' incidents**

**The awareness of employees to report these types of incidents is a positive, helping to identify potential issues**

**We've seen a 22% decrease in the total number of reported employee accidents**

**Better understanding and use of the EVOSAFE, resulted in more accurate reporting**



**A 37% decrease in the total number incidents resulting in some form of injury compared to 21-22**

**Resulting in a 27% reduction in employees having to take time off work due to injury**

**A total of 108 days were lost to injuries resulting from work related accidents**

**A 52% reduction on the number of days lost in 21-22**



# Our risks

## Health and Safety risks

There are no changes to the biggest health and safety risks the Council faces:

Risk	Mitigating actions	Inherent risk rating	Level of assurance
Failure to notify the HSE of RIDDOR-reportable incidents / injuries within the regulated timescales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy and guidance to be reviewed.</li> <li>EVOSAFE system fully rolled out.</li> <li>Process to be incorporated within Managers Health &amp; Safety training</li> </ul>	Amber	Substantial
Inadequate Health & Safety knowledge/ understanding within middle and senior management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Managing Safety launched in 2022-23</li> <li>Targeted questions within digital audit</li> </ul>	Amber	Improving
Maintenance of effective governance arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Steering Group</li> <li>Directorate groups</li> <li>TOR for Health &amp; Safety Gov' structure</li> </ul>	Green/ Amber	Substantial
Enforcement action from the Health & Safety Executive against LCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing policies/procedures</li> <li>Increased corporate training programme</li> <li>Provision of competent support/advice</li> </ul>	Amber/ Red	Substantial
Enforcement action from the Health & Safety Executive against LCC's partners/contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor Health &amp; Safety evaluation</li> <li>Joint partnership meetings</li> <li>Oversight and scrutiny</li> </ul>	Amber	Substantial

### Key

The Impact	Inherent risk rating	Assurance rating
Enforcement Action / Prosecution Financial Costs – fines, claims Representational costs – negative media coverage Harm to employees Harm to services users Impact on service delivery	<b>High</b> - very large fines, criminal prosecution, death or life changing injury, prohibition of services.	<b>Low</b> – minimal level of confidence over the design and operation of controls, performance or management of risk.
	<b>Medium</b> - significant fine, breaches of legislation, serious injury or harm, improvement notices for service.	<b>Limited</b> - medium level of confidence over the design and operation of controls, performance or management of risk.
	<b>Low</b> - monitor and be aware, activity to mitigate the risk within existing service delivery plans / management arrangements.	<b>Substantial</b> - high level of confidence over the design and operation of controls, performance or management of risk.

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**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,  
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Proposals for Scrutiny Review by Scrutiny Panel A</b>

**Summary:**

At its meeting on 28 September 2023, the Board requested each overview and scrutiny committee to consider whether it has a topic that would benefit from an in-depth scrutiny review by Scrutiny Panel A. The overview and scrutiny committees considered this request at their meetings in October and November 2023.

This report enables the Board to consider an evaluation of all the potential topics for scrutiny reviews that have been identified by the overview and scrutiny committees and to agree which review should be undertaken by Scrutiny Panel A.

**Actions Required:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited:

- (1) to agree the topic for an in-depth scrutiny review to be undertaken by Scrutiny Panel A, taking into consideration the priority matrix at Appendix A.
- (2) to agree the draft terms of reference for the scrutiny review as set out in Appendix B, subject to finalisation by Scrutiny Panel A for subsequent approval by the Board.

## **1. Background**

Scrutiny Panel A and Scrutiny Panel B have recently completed their respective reviews of Town Centre Improvements and Lincolnshire Agricultural Sector Support, which have each been presented to the Council's Executive. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, which is responsible for allocating topics, has already assigned the topic of Traffic Management in Lincolnshire to Scrutiny Panel B as its next review, and is now being invited to allocate a topic for Scrutiny Panel A to undertake.

One of the essential roles of overview and scrutiny is to carry out in-depth reviews where the outcomes can clearly influence and improve policy and service delivery for the people

of Lincolnshire. In accordance with the Council's constitution, this role is undertaken by the two scrutiny panels.

These two scrutiny panels provide an opportunity for scrutiny councillors to consider a particular topic in detail, for example by engaging with a range of individuals in less formal settings, which is not always possible in the formal setting of a committee meeting. Based on the evidence received, a report is compiled, with the panel making recommendations for possible improvement.

As has previously been reported, Scrutiny Panels conduct their reviews in accordance with the following principles:

- Scrutiny Panels should aim to collect a broad range of evidence on the particular review, interviewing interested parties, and engaging local communities, where this is feasible.
- Scrutiny Panels should focus on developing realistic recommendations for improvement in relation to the topic under review.
- Scrutiny Panels will submit their draft reports to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration, approval and onward referral as appropriate.

Scrutiny Panels undertake their reviews in accordance with the terms of reference and timetable determined for each review by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

#### Establishment of a Scrutiny Panel

A Scrutiny Panel should only be set up when a suitable topic for a scrutiny review is identified by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board using the prioritisation toolkit.

Each Scrutiny Panel will have up to eight members including the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The membership should be politically inclusive and all non-executive councillors (and added members for education reviews) are eligible. Nominations for membership of the Scrutiny Panels will be sought from the leader of each political group.

#### Identifying Potential Scrutiny Review Topics

Suggestions for scrutiny reviews may come from a variety of sources such as the scrutiny committees, other non-Executive Councillors, Executive Councillors, and senior officers.

When considering a potential topic for a scrutiny review, it is important that the Board ensures that the potential scrutiny review will not be duplicating any review work that is being undertaken by officers or external partners.

The remit for the potential scrutiny review should be focussed and not too broad, so that an in-depth review can be completed within a set timescale and will lead to achievable outcomes.



Following consultation with the Council's overview and scrutiny committees, a number of potential topics for a scrutiny review by Scrutiny Panel A have been identified and are set out below:

- **Young Carers**
- **Children's Services Workforce Recruitment and Retention**
- **Physical Exercise in Communities and Schools**
- **Vapes**

For each of these potential topics, sufficient information was provided to develop draft terms of reference which are set out at Appendix B to the report.

Once assigned to Scrutiny Panel A, the terms of reference will be finalised by Scrutiny Panel A for subsequent approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

### Prioritising Topics for Scrutiny Reviews

Prioritisation is a key tool for successful scrutiny. Selecting the right topics where scrutiny can add value is essential for scrutiny to be a positive influence on the work of the Council. Scrutiny committees must be selective about what they look at and need to work effectively with limited resources. Scrutiny activity should be targeted, focused and timely and include issues of corporate and local importance, where scrutiny activity can influence and add value.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's scrutiny prioritisation toolkit has been applied to all the suggested topics for a scrutiny review to produce a priority matrix which is set out at Appendix A.

The Council's Policy Unit has been consulted on the proposals and has supported the prioritisation of topics for consideration by the Board through the addition of local and national policy context as part of the priority matrix.

## **2. Conclusion**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is asked to agree a potential topic for an in-depth scrutiny review to be undertaken by Scrutiny Panel A, taking into consideration the priority matrix attached at Appendix A, and agree the draft terms of reference attached at Appendix B for the review to be progressed, subject to finalisation by Scrutiny Panel A for subsequent approval by the Board.

## **3. Consultation**

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

Not Applicable

#### 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Priority Matrix
Appendix B	Draft Terms of Reference for Potential Topics

#### 5. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or by e-mail at [nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk) and Matthew Garrard, Head of Policy, who can be contacted on 07500 075211 or by e-mail at [matthew.garrard@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.garrard@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

Priority Matrix

	Does the topic affect a number of people living, working and studying in Lincolnshire?	Is the issue strategic and significant? (Very High, High, Moderate, Low)	Is there evidence to support the need for scrutiny that can add value? (Very High, High, Moderate, Low)	Is the Scrutiny timely or duplicating other work?
<b>Young Carers</b>	Caring is a significant factor in the lives of many Lincolnshire families, with an estimated 7,000 young carers in the County.	<p><b>High</b> This is significant issue and is linked to a key aim of the Council's Corporate Plan to "help our young people achieve". With so many acting as young carers it is essential that the right support is in place to ensure that young carers can achieve and are aware of and can access the support available to them.</p> <p>As the pandemic comes into the endemic stage there is evidence that 40% of young carers feel that their mental health has suffered.</p>	<p><b>High</b> The proposed review explores relatively new implications for an area that the County Council can make a significant difference.</p> <p>Members can add value by analysing whether current practices go far enough and to consider if service provision both face to face and virtual is accessible and relevant to those who need it most.</p>	With a growing evidence base of the effect of the pandemic on young carers, a review would provide a timely opportunity to explore these issues.
<b>Children's Services Workforce Recruitment and Retention</b>	Nationally children's services recruitment and retention continue to be a challenge. This is also the case within Lincolnshire as the Council seeks to continue to provide an 'outstanding' rated service to the residents of Lincolnshire.	<p><b>High</b> The Council's corporate plan places emphasis on all children having the best possible start in life.</p> <p>We continue to be rated 'outstanding' but face challenges in recruitment and retention and in order to maintain this standard of service over the long-term, these issues must be addressed.</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b> Members can seek to identify how the County Council could improve promotion of its 'outstanding' children's services to encourage prospective candidates into the sector. Members could also engage in discussions with current staff to consider their concerns, to see if LCC can internally improve any of its practices.</p> <p>With recruitment and retention proving challenging across the sector there may be limits to how far the County Council can address these issues locally.</p>	Recruitment and retention continue to be challenging across the sector and a review would be timely with the potential to add value.

	Does the topic affect a number of people living, working and studying in Lincolnshire?	Is the issue strategic and significant? (Very High, High, Moderate, Low)	Is there evidence to support the need for scrutiny that can add value? (Very High, High, Moderate, Low)	Is the Scrutiny timely or duplicating other work?
<b>Physical Exercise in Communities and Schools</b>	Physical activity is important for a healthy life and can benefit residents physical and mental wellbeing across the whole county.	<p><b>Moderate</b></p> <p>The Council's Corporate Plan is ambitious for residents to have rewarding, active and healthy lifestyles. This is supported through the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>A major contributor to wellbeing is physical exercise, and Lincolnshire experiences a lower level of physical activity than England for young people and adults. 65.4% of adults are active within the county compared to the England figure of 67.3%. For children and young people, the Lincolnshire figure stands at 46.3% compared to 47.2% for England.</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p> <p>Members can seek to identify methods in which physical activity take up could improve and consider if there is anything that the Council can do to improve accessibility to physical activity areas.</p> <p>Other partners including the voluntary and community sector and Active Lincolnshire make important contributions in this space.</p>	Lincolnshire experiences lower than average figures for those engaging in regular physical activity. The review would allow Members to explore the issues around this without duplication.
<b>Vapes</b>	<p>Vaping is a growing issue within Lincolnshire.</p> <p>One in four retailers in Lincolnshire retailers sold vapes to minors during test purchases. According to data compiled by Lincolnshire Trading Standards, 27 per cent of underage test purchases resulted in a minor being sold a vape.</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p> <p>The Corporate Plan aspires for residents to be able to live healthy lifestyles irrespective of their background. Whilst smoking has for some time been on the decline, vaping has increase year on year, particularly amongst young people.</p> <p>Whilst the health implications of vaping are yet to be fully understood, the NHS's current policy is that vaping is not completely harmless.</p>	<p><b>High</b></p> <p>Members can consider locally if there is enough accessible information about the current known risks of vaping and consider whether further local campaigning and information distribution is needed.</p> <p>Members could also consider if more what actions, if any the County Council could take to combat the sale of illicit vapes.</p>	This issue continues to increase in prominence with the number of users increasing all the time. The intelligence from trading standards indicates local challenges to be addressed therefore a review would be timely.

### **Draft Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of *Children and Young People: Young Carers***

#### Purpose of the Review

To review and consider whether the balance of awareness raising both within the Local Authority, and with partners and in communities, is appropriate; and whether service provision both face to face and virtual is accessible and relevant to those who need it most.

#### Terms of Reference

1. Following the increased identification of young carers since the Covid-19 pandemic, to consider ways in which the Council could effectively support the needs of those new and old to the role of caring in Lincolnshire.
2. To examine ways in which the Council can develop further media coverage of the issues to ensure all young carers know where to access information and support for themselves and their families.

#### Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify how Lincolnshire County Council can support the increasing number of young carers in the county. Benefits of the review include:

1. Enhancing the Council's awareness of the increase of young carers since the Covid-19 pandemic and how the support they receive has had to adapt to the changing circumstances of family life.

Some children have begun caring for the first time and others have had their caring role change or increase during lockdowns. Our own staff and schools have responded to the additional challenges posed by Covid-19 restrictions.

2. Identification of the need to develop further support for the increasing number of young carers within Lincolnshire.

Young Carers' rights were strengthened under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014. Since this time the service has been integrated within Children's Services Early Help, whilst also maintaining support to partners in identifying and supporting young carers and their families. The service also works collaboratively with Adult Services and Public Health. Caring is a significant factor in the lives of many Lincolnshire families, with an estimated 7,000 young carers in the County.

Media and social media coverage of the issues for young carers has increased nationally and locally. As well as the challenges faced by young carers, Lincolnshire

has tried to maintain a positive message to young carers and our young carers have been proud to tell us about their roles.

Our young carers participation group is going from strength to strength; and our young people, their families and our staff, would value the opportunity to tell their stories, and be recognised by councillors for the positive contributions they are already making. There is however more for us to do.

3. To review the need to have tailored methods of accessible information and support for young carers as each young carer's situation is unique.
4. We need to ensure all young carers know where to access information and support for themselves and their families. In particular, we recognise that children and young people caring for family members with mental health problems, or who misuse drugs or alcohol, are less likely to identify as a young carer or access support. We also know that early identification of support for young carers at the point of diagnosis of their parents or carers would ensure need is met early and our engagement with wider partners, in particular GPs, would enable this to happen consistently.

#### Exclusion from the Review

This review will focus on the development of Lincolnshire County Council's tailored support to young carers due to the increase following Covid-19. All other types of business outside the sector will be excluded from the review.

#### Completion Dates

TBC

**Draft Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of  
*Children and Young People: Children's Services Workforce Recruitment and Retention***

Purpose of the Review

To review the support provided to the workforce delivering essential community services. This scrutiny topic intends to tackle the challenges of recruiting and retaining staff.

Terms of Reference

1. To consider ways in which the Council could effectively improve the retention and recruitment of the workforce within this service area.
2. To explore ways in which the Council could improve the understanding and awareness of the 'outstanding' Ofsted rated service, to promote the environment in which current staff and prospective staff work/will work in.

Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify that a problem exists in terms of both recruiting, retaining and developing staff. An exercise could gather feedback and information that can be used to address this issue effectively in the future. Benefits of the review include:

1. Enhancing the Council's awareness of the reasons for the recruitment and retention challenges faced in this area.

Lincolnshire County Council became one of only six local authorities across England after inspection in April 2023 to receive a second consecutive outstanding rating from Ofsted.

2. Identification of the need to develop further planning and strategy to combat the issue.

In terms of children's social workers, 83% of authorities said they were experiencing difficulties recruiting staff, with 72% saying retention was a problem.

2022 statistics showed that a third of local authorities cite staff recruitment and retention as a challenge, showing 5,400 social workers left the profession in 2022, a 9% rise on the previous year and the highest number since 2017. Vacancies are also at a record high of 7,900, a 21% rise in 2021.

1. To review the concerns of current staff and those apprehensions that may prevent prospective staff from entering the sector.

2. Promoting the Children's Services sector around the county and creating the conditions whereby people want to come and work for the service and convincing those who currently work in the sector, to stay.

#### Exclusions from the Review

This review will focus on how Lincolnshire County Council can recruit and retain staff in the Children's Services sector where the organisation has faced issues. All other types of business outside the sector will be excluded from the review.

#### Completion Dates

TBC



**Draft Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of  
*Children and Young People: Physical Exercise in Communities and Schools***

Purpose of the Review

To review and consider how physical exercise amongst young people can be increased in the educational environment and within social settings.

Terms of Reference

1. To consider ways in which the Council can encourage young people to exercise.
2. To explore ways in which the Council can work with schools and communities to create environments that increases participation in physical activity and ensuring all are aware of the positive effects that physical activity can have on an individual.

Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify why there is currently low levels of physical exercise within the younger community in Lincolnshire. Benefits of the review include:

1. Enhancing understanding around the possible options that could be utilised to encourage more young people to participate in physical exercise.

People who have a physically active lifestyle have a 20-35% lower risk of cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease and stroke compared to those who have a sedentary lifestyle. Regular physical activity is also associated with a reduced risk of diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis and colon/breast cancer and with improved mental health.

In Lincolnshire in 2021/22, 46.3% of children and young people were classed as physically active. This was below the regional figure of 49.6% and the number for England of 47.2%.

2. Acknowledging the positive effect on mental health that increased physical exercise can have.

A recent done by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that running for 15 minutes a day or walking for an hour reduces the risk of major depression by 26%.

Exercise can help provide: sharper memory and thinking, higher self-esteem, better sleep, more energy and stronger resilience.

3. The promotion across the county to improve understanding and willingness amongst young people to participate in physical activity.

### Exclusions from the Review

This review will focus on how Lincolnshire County Council can promote and encourage more young people to participate in physical activity. All other types of business outside the sector will be excluded from the review.

### Completion Dates

TBC

## **Draft Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of *Public Protection and Communities: Vapes***

### Purpose of the Review

To review and consider the increased usage of vapes within Lincolnshire particularly amongst young people. To also look at the increased sale of illicit vapes and branding, and how this can be combated.

### Terms of Reference

1. To consider ways in which the Council can help support the prevention of the sale and supply of illicit vapes.
2. To explore ways in which the Council could improve the understanding particularly amongst young people around the potential risks of vaping and why the uptake in vaping has been so large.
3. To consider whether Lincolnshire County Council can lobby or push for a change in how these products are branded and promoted.

### Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify the reasons behind the increased uptake in vaping. Benefits of the review include:

1. Considering the reasons behind the increased usage of vapes particularly among young people and exploring what Lincolnshire County Council can do to combat this.

In March/April 2023 the proportion of children experimenting with vaping had grown by 50% year on year, from one in thirteen to one in nine. In 2023 20.5% of children had tried vaping, up from 15.8% in 2022 and 13.9% in 2020 before the first COVID lockdown. The majority had only vaped once or twice (11.6%), while 7.6% were currently vaping (3.9% less than once a week, 3.6% more than once a week) and the remainder (1.3% in 2023) saying they no longer vape.

The proportion of those who have never smoked but who have tried vaping is 11.5%. However, eight out of ten children have never smoked, so this amounts to nearly half (48%) of children who have ever tried vaping. 62% of those who have never smoked but have vaped have only tried once or twice, while 70% current vapers have also tried smoking.

2. Identifying the need for the Council to work with partners to crackdown on the sale of illicit vapes and understanding the safety concerns of vapes that are illegal.

Shops selling illegal vapes and the sale of vaping products to children are the top threats on the UK's High Streets, according to Trading Standards officials.

In a survey of more than 400 Trading Standards officers, 60% said their main worries were shops selling illegal vapes which are potentially unsafe, and the sale of any vaping products to under-18s, which is also illegal.

As of a March 2023 in Lincolnshire, 5,417 unsafe products were removed from the market between April and December 2022. 5,062 were non-compliant vapes.

3. The Council can help raise awareness county-wide of the potential risks of vaping and the lack of trusted evidence currently around the implications of usage.

The NHS's current policy is that vaping is not completely harmless. They only recommend it for adult smokers, to support quitting smoking and staying quit.

#### Exclusions from the Review

This review will focus on how Lincolnshire County Council can address the issue of vaping in Lincolnshire and possible methods to aid the reduction of users and prospective users, particularly amongst young people. All other types of business outside the sector will be excluded from the review.

#### Completion Dates

TBC



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,  
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme</b>

**Summary:**  
This item informs the Board of its current work programme for 2023/24.

**Actions Required:**  
This item is for information only.

## **1. Background**

### Work Programme

The current version of the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is set out in Appendix A.

### Executive Forward Plan

The Executive Forward Plan of key decisions is set out at Appendix B. This is background information for the Board to ensure that all key decisions are scrutinised by the relevant scrutiny committee.

## **2. Conclusion**

This item is to inform the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board of its current work programme for 2023/24, which is attached at Appendix A to this report.

## **3. Consultation**

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

Not Applicable

#### 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme
Appendix B	Forward Plan of Key Decisions

#### 5. Background Papers

No background papers as defined in section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

This report was written by Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted by e-mail at [nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk) and Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 07500571868 or by e-mail at [Kiara.Chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Kiara.Chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Each agenda includes the following standard items:

- Call-in (if required)
- Councillor Call for Action (if required)

<b>30 November 2023 – 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>1.</b> To consider and approve a Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and commence consultation activities	Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director - Corporate	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Council decision on 01 December 2023)
<b>2.</b> Corporate Plan Success Framework 2023/24 – Quarter 2	Caroline Jackson, Head of Corporate Performance	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 05 December 2023)
<b>3.</b> Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>• Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	Cllr Rob Kendrick, Chairman of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Cllr Nigel Pepper, Chairman of Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Performance Scrutiny
<b>4.</b> Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 – Quarter 2 to 30 September 2023	Michelle Grady, Assistant Director - Finance	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 05 December 2023)
<b>5.</b> Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 – Quarter 2 to 30 September 2023	Michelle Grady, Assistant Director - Finance	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 05 December 2023)
<b>6.</b> Treasury Management Performance 2023/24 - Quarter 2 to 30 September 2023	Karen Tonge, Treasury Manager	Performance Scrutiny
<b>7.</b> People Management Update - Quarter 2	Tony Kavanagh, Assistant Director – HR and Organisational Support	Performance Scrutiny
<b>8.</b> Health and Safety Annual Report 2022/23	Fraser Shooter, Health and Safety Team Leader	Performance Scrutiny

<b>30 November 2023 – 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>9.</b> Proposals for Scrutiny Reviews - Responses by Scrutiny Committees	Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer	Review Scrutiny

**21 December 2023 – Cancelled**

<b>25 January 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>1.</b> Council Budget 2024/25	Michelle Grady, Assistant Director - Finance	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 6 February 2024)
<b>2.</b> Service Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2024/25	Adam Hopley, Strategic Finance Lead – Corporate	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 6 February 2024)
<b>3.</b> Legal Services Company Update	Chief Legal Officer	Performance Scrutiny
<b>4.</b> Future IT Service Delivery Model	David Matthewman, Chief Information Officer	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 6 February 2024)
<b>5.</b> Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>• Health Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>• Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>• Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	Cllr Hugo Marfleet, Chairman of Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Cllr Carl Macey, Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee Cllr Ian Carrington, Chairman of Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Cllr Mike Brookes, Chairman of Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	Performance Scrutiny



<b>29 February 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>1.</b> Corporate Plan Success Framework 2023-2024 – Quarter 3	Caroline Jackson, Head of Corporate Performance	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 5 March 2024)
<b>2.</b> People Management Update - Quarter 3	Tony Kavanagh, Assistant Director – HR and Organisational Support	Performance Scrutiny
<b>3.</b> Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 – Quarter 3 to 31 December 2023	Michelle Grady, Assistant Director - Finance	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 5 March 2024)
<b>4.</b> Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 – Quarter 3 to 31 December 2023	Michelle Grady, Assistant Director - Finance	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 5 March 2024)
<b>5.</b> Treasury Management Performance Quarter 3 to 31 December 2023	Karen Tonge, Treasury Manager	Performance Scrutiny
<b>6.</b> Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25	Karen Tonge, Treasury Manager Chris Scott, Link Asset Services	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor Decision between TBC March 2024)
<b>7.</b> Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>• Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	Cllr Rob Kendrick, Chairman of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Cllr Nigel Pepper, Chairman of Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Performance Scrutiny

<b>28 March 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>1.</b> Transformation Programme Update	Clare Rowley, Head of Transformation Andrew McLean, Assistant Director – Corporate Transformation, Programmes and Performance	Performance Scrutiny
<b>2.</b> Property Services Contract Year Seven Report	Stuart Wright, Contract Manager - Corporate	Performance Scrutiny

28 March 2024– 10:00am			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
	Property		
3.	Update on IMT Services - Project Portfolio	Donna Fryer, Head of Portfolio and Resources	Performance Scrutiny
4.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>• Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>• Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	Cllr Ian Carrington, Chairman of Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Cllr Mike Brookes, Chairman of Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee Cllr Tom Ashton, Chairman of Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee	Performance Scrutiny

25 April 2024– 10:00am			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
1.	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24	Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer	Performance Scrutiny
2.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>• Health Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	Cllr Hugo Marfleet, Chairman of Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Cllr Carl Macey, Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee	Performance Scrutiny

30 May 2024– 10:00am			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
1.	People Management Update - Quarter 4	Tony Kavanagh, Assistant Director – HR and Organisational Support	Performance Scrutiny
2.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young</li> </ul>	Cllr Rob Kendrick, Chairman of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Performance Scrutiny

<b>30 May 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
People Scrutiny Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	Cllr Nigel Pepper, Chairman of Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee	

<b>27 June 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>1.</b> Corporate Plan Success Framework 2023/24 – Quarter 4	Caroline Jackson, Head of Corporate Performance	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 2 July 2024)
<b>2.</b> Review of Financial Performance 2023/24	Michelle Grady, Assistant Director - Finance	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 2 July 2024)
<b>3.</b> Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24	Karen Tonge, Treasury Manager Chris Scott, Link Asset Services	Performance Scrutiny
<b>4.</b> Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	Cllr Ian Carrington, Chairman of Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Cllr Mike Brookes, Chairman of Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	Performance Scrutiny

For more information about the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board please contact Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, on 07500571868 or by e-mail at [Kiara.Chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Kiara.Chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023**

PUBLISH DATE 1 NOVEMBER 2023

DEC REF	MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR DECISION	HOW AND WHEN TO COMMENT PRIOR TO THE DECISION BEING TAKEN	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND CHIEF OFFICER	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
I030594	To consider and approve a Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and commence consultation activities	1 December 2023	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning)	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Council	Report	Assistant Director - Corporate E-mail: lee.sirdifield@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Chief Executive	Yes	All Divisions
I030089	Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 - Quarter 2	5 December 2023	Executive	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	Report	Assistant Director - Finance E-mail: michelle.grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	All Divisions
I030088	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 - Quarter 2	5 December 2023	Executive	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	Report	Assistant Director - Finance E-mail: michelle.grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	All Divisions
I029631	Wellbeing Service Re-commissioning	5 December 2023	Executive	Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Report	Programme Manager E-mail: sean.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Public Health and Executive Director - Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	Yes	All Divisions
I030627 New!	Horncastle Industrial Estate expansion	Between 5 December 2023 and 15 December 2023	Executive Councillor: Economic Development, Environment and Planning, Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning)	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Exempt Report	Head of Economic Infrastructure E-mail: mick.king@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Economic Development, Environment and Planning and Executive Director - Place	Yes	Horncastle and the Keals
I030441	Cross Keys Bridge - Improving Resilience	Between 6 December 2023 and 12 December 2023	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning)	Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT Capital Review Group Resources	Report	Head of Highways Design Services E-mail: john.monk@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director - Place	Yes	The Suttons

DEC REF	MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR DECISION	HOW AND WHEN TO COMMENT PRIOR TO THE DECISION BEING TAKEN	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND CHIEF OFFICER	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
I030186	Myle Cross & Cherry Willingham Refurbishment - Alternate Provision	Between 8 December 2023 and 22 December 2023	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning)	Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, Children's Services, Legal Services, Property Services	Report	Head of Property Development E-mail: Dave.Pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	All Divisions
I030084	Lincolnshire Secure Unit (LSU) Catering Service	Between 8 December 2023 and 22 December 2023	Executive Councillor: Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration	Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee LSU Staff Legal Services	Report	Children's Services Strategic Commissioning Manager E-mail: mark.rainey@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	All Divisions
I030628 New!	Civil Parking Enforcement - 2024 Contract and Notice Processing Solution	Between 11 December 2023 and 15 December 2023	Executive Councillor: Economic Development, Environment and Planning	Finance Legal HR Corporate Commercial Board Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	Report	Traffic Manager E-mail: mick.phoenix@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT and Executive Director - Place	Yes	All Divisions
I030649 New!	Alternative Route to Competitive Tendering - Short Breaks Service at Cedar House	Between 12 December 2023 and 13 December 2023	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Public Health		Report	Senior Commercial and Procurement Officer E-mail: linda.turnbull@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Public Health and Executive Director - Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	Yes	All Divisions
I029249	Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan 2023	Between 13 December 2023 and 21 December 2023	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT	Place LT Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	Report	Head of Highways, Client and Contract Management E-mail: jonathan.evans@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT and Executive Director - Place	Yes	All Divisions
I029248	Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Policy	Between 13 December 2023 and 21 December 2023	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT	Place DLT Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	Report	Head of Highways, Client and Contract Management E-mail: jonathan.evans@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT and Executive Director - Place	Yes	All Divisions
I030209	LCC Coronial Toxicology Services	Between 15 December 2023 and 22 December 2023	Executive Councillor: NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System, Registration and Coroners	Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee – 12 December 2023	Report	Senior Commercial & Procurement Officer E-mail: emma.gold@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System, Registration and Coroners and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	All Divisions

DEC REF	MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR DECISION	HOW AND WHEN TO COMMENT PRIOR TO THE DECISION BEING TAKEN	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND CHIEF OFFICER	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
I030292	Council Budget 2024/25	9 January 2024	Executive	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	Report	Assistant Director - Finance E-mail: michelle.grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	All Divisions
I030085	Deepings Leisure Centre	6 February 2024	Executive	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	Report	Assistant Director - Corporate Property E-mail: jayne.sowerby-warrington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	Deepings East; Deepings West and Rural
I030411	Primary School Mobile Replacement Scheme	Between 22 January 2024 and 26 January 2024	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning)	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Report	Head of Property Development E-mail: dave.pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	All Divisions
I030410	Welton William Farr - New Sixth Form Block and Dining Remodelling	Between 22 January 2024 and 26 January 2024	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning)	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Report	Head of Property Development E-mail: dave.pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	Welton Rural
I029445	Waste Transfer Station Improvements	Between 22 January 2024 and 26 January 2024	Executive Councillor: Waste and Trading Standards	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Report	Head of Waste E-mail: mike.reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Waste and Trading Standards and Executive Director - Place	Yes	All Divisions
I030293	Council Budget 2024/25	6 February 2024	Executive	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	Report	Assistant Director - Finance E-mail: michelle.grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	All Divisions
I030272	Future IT Service Delivery Model	6 February 2024	Executive	Corporate Leadership Team Informal Executive Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Leader of the Council Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT	Report	Chief Information Officer E-mail: david.matthewman@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	N/A

DEC REF	MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR DECISION	HOW AND WHEN TO COMMENT PRIOR TO THE DECISION BEING TAKEN	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND CHIEF OFFICER	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
I030650 New!	North Hykeham Relief Road - Land Assembly Preparation and Highway Matters	6 February 2024	Executive	Local councillors and appropriate statutory bodies Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	Report	Head of Highways Infrastructure E-mail: sam.edwards@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT and Executive Director - Place	Yes	Eagle and Hykeham West
I030025	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot - Contract Procurement	Between 4 March 2024 and 8 March 2024	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Affected Local Members Relevant Officers	Exempt report	Senior Commissioning Officer tanya.vaughan@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT and Executive Director - Place	Yes	Birchwood; Boston Coastal; Boston North; Boston Rural; Boston South; Boston West; Boultham; Carholme; Hartsholme; Horncastle and the Keals; Skegness North; Skegness South; Sleaford; St Giles; Stamford East; Stamford West
I028654	Gosberton House Academy - New Block Extension and External Works as part of the SEND Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy	Between 18 March 2024 and 22 March 2024	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning)	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Exempt Report	Head of Property Development E-mail: dave.pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	
I030234	Orchard House B - Refurbishment of Orchard House B and demolition of the BMU	Between 8 April 2024 and 12 April 2024	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning)	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	Exempt Report	Head of Property Development E-mail: dave.pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and Executive Director - Resources	Yes	N/A
I030731 New!	Parking Enforcement Procedures Manual	Between 17 June 2024 and 24 June 2024	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT	Place DLT Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	Report	Parking Services Manager E-mail: Matt.jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT and Executive Director - Place	Yes	All Divisions

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