



County Offices  
Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1YL

8 January 2024

**Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee**

A meeting of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Tuesday, 16 January 2024 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

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

Debbie Barnes OBE  
Chief Executive

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

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



**ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA  
TUESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2024**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Members' Interests</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 November 2023</b>	5 - 12
<b>4</b>	<b>Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillors and Lead Officers</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2024/25</b> <i>(To receive a report from Pam Clipson, Head of Financial Services, which invites the Committee to consider and comment on the budget proposals and the implications for the Council's Environment and Economy Services. The report advises that comments of the Committee are to be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 6 February 2024)</i>	13 - 20
<b>6</b>	<b>Town Centres Improvements Scrutiny Review - Executive Response Action Plan</b> <i>(To receive a report from Vanessa Strange, Head of Infrastructure Investment and Mandy Ramm, Funding and Investment Manager, which invites the Committee to comment on the Executive Response Action Plan on the Town Centres Improvements Scrutiny Review)</i>	21 - 36
<b>7</b>	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme</b> <i>(To receive a report by Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, which enables the Committee to comment on the content of its work programme for the coming year to ensure that scrutiny activity is focussed where it can be of greatest benefit)</i>	37 - 42

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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 Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 16th January, 2024, 10.00 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

All papers for council meetings are available on:

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



**ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
28 NOVEMBER 2023**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR I D CARRINGTON (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors M A Griggs (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A M Austin, A J Baxter, K H Cooke, I G Fleetwood, A G Hagues, H Spratt, G J Taylor and L Wootten

Officers in attendance:-

Justin Brown (Assistant Director Growth), Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Thea Croxall (Adult Learning & Skills Manager), Samantha Harrison (Head of Economic Development), Nicole Hilton (Assistant Director - Communities), Clare Hughes (Employment and Skills Executive Manager), Mick King (Head of Economic Infrastructure), Chris Miller (Head of Environment), Nicola Radford (Senior Commissioning Officer, Regeneration Programmes), Mike Reed (Head of Waste) and Vanessa Strange (Head of Infrastructure Investment), Ian Walker (Infrastructure Team Manager – Economic Infrastructure) and Jess Wosser-Yates (Democratic Services Officer)

36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillor M Boles.

37 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared at this point in proceedings.

38 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2023

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 October 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

39 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND LEAD OFFICERS

The Chairman attended the meeting of the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November and informed Members that it had formally resolved to form a Working Group to investigate the response to Storm Babet in Lincolnshire.

Councillor C Davie, Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning, had submitted his announcements to the Chairman to be shared on his behalf. The following matters were noted:

- Devolution for Greater Lincolnshire was being discussed with local businesses.
- The Autumn Statement acknowledged an extension to the 'Made Smarter Programme' which provided digital adoption support to manufacturers. This Programme was led by the Council on behalf of the East Midlands region.
- The Business Lincolnshire Team had recently been involved with delivering multiple events for businesses such as the Taming the Dragon investment pitching event, the Greater Lincolnshire Engineering and Manufacturing Network (GLEAM) and the Business Lincolnshire's Going Global Conference.
- The Council continued to support approximately 140 small business tenants in the five business centres, the Innovation Centre, and industrial and commercial units.
- Tender for the Electric Vehicle charging pilot was live.
- The Council would propose a strong case for Lincolnshire during the consultation from National Grid regarding pylons in the county in the New Year; assurance was provided that the evaluation of the proposals would be comprehensive.
- The Executive Councillor wished all Members a peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year and thanked them for their scrutiny and work in 2023.

#### 40 PROVISION OF CAREERS ADVICE TO ALL AGE GROUPS IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Consideration was given to a report from Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager and Clare Hughes, Employment and Skills Executive Manager, which provided an overview on the Careers Advice Provision available in Lincolnshire. Amanda Holmes, Senior Project Officer – Learning was also in attendance for this item.

The Committee was guided through the report, and during the discussion the following matters were noted:

- Members questioned how the Council ensured that education providers aligned with the expectation from Department for Education to use the Gatsby Benchmarks as they were not statutorily obliged to. The Employment and Skills Executive Manager that schools were still measured and assessed against the Benchmarks; their responses were collated on a national level by The Career and Enterprise Company and reported their performance annually.
- Further detail was requested on the metrics used to benchmark providers; it was highlighted that the metrics were identified following a review of systems globally and were contained within the Gatsby Report. A recent Select Committee Review had agreed to reassess the Benchmarks to ensure they were still suitable.
- Information was requested on the performance of schools in providing careers advice.

- The Council supported all publicly funded schools, including special schools, on a one-to-one basis. This offer did not extend to private schools, though they could still subscribe to relevant newsletters.
- Members noted that careers advice ought to be individually tailored to reach different audiences; they were subsequently informed that the Council was assessing the messaging of careers advice advertisements with the University of Lincoln. The Chairman requested an update on this work.
- The scope of careers advice had changed due to the digitalisation of the market, which subsequently led more people to aspire to be self-employed. The Employment and Skills Executive Manager assured that self-employment was an important strand of careers education, and one of the Gatsby Benchmarks pertained to how a young person might manage their career over their lifetime which also would include those wishing to pursue self-employment.
- Local Government could be better advertised by careers advice.
- Members welcomed the work of Operation Pumpkin and requested an update in due course.
- The Committee supported the use of successful case studies and practical examples within the report.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the Committee notes the contents of the report.
2. That the Committee supports the work that is underway via the Council's Skills Development Fund and the Careers Hub aiming to help fill gaps identified in the report and discussed.
3. That the comments in relation to sector approach to developing careers information and on the methods used to engage the community and showcase the types of Lincolnshire has to offer, be shared with the relevant officers and portfolio holders in support of their efforts.

#### 41 SERVICE LEVEL PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE CORPORATE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2023-24 QUARTER 2

Consideration was given to a report from Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development, Mike Reed, Head of Waste, and Chris Miller, Head of Environment, on the performance of the Service Level Performance measures for 2023-24 Quarter 2 for Economy, Flooding and Waste which are within the remit of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee were guided through the report, and the following matters were noted:

#### **Economy:**

- It was agreed that the colours on the pie charts be more consistent.

PI 70 qualifications achieved by adults

- Members noted that there was less education provision in South Kesteven, West Lindsey and South Holland; the Head of Economic Development clarified that the Council avoided duplicating efforts of colleges and education providers which indicated provision was already available in those areas.
- The Council worked in partnership with colleges and education providers to ensure that services were tailored depending on the demand, feedback and progression opportunities.
- It was questioned whether the Council's efforts complimented other providers; it was subsequently agreed that the Committee would consider a report at a future meeting on the different education provision available in Lincolnshire from various providers.
- The Assistant Director – Growth informed that around £18 million was received in Lincolnshire for the adult education budget per year, from which the Council received around £2 million; the majority was received by colleges, and the Council worked to ensure the qualifications were accessible across the county.
- It was questioned whether the public was consulted when considering new courses. Members were subsequently informed that training and colleagues providers were invited to provide courses qualifications in required subject areas and were assessed on their coverage and level of innovation as part of the annual commissioning cycle.

PI 71 Amount of external funding attracted to Lincolnshire

- Members welcomed that over £8 million of external funding had been attracted to Lincolnshire.
- Previously, funding typically was derived from the European Union. Funding sources were contemporarily more diverse and the Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) did not offer as much money. UKSPF required that community, skills, and businesses were supported which has meant some provision has scaled down.
- On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman was willing to work with the Economic Development team to maximise output in the context of UKSPF.

**Environment**PI 72 Flooding incidents investigated

- It was noted that the impact of Storm Babet was not included in the data for this measure; this information would be included in the Performance Report for Quarter 3.
- The Flood and Water Team was working with external agencies to address the impact of Storm Babet; internal flooding was prioritised.
- The Head of Environment informed Members that the timescales to complete Section 19 Investigations (S19s) depended on complexity and scale.
- Investigations of 'near misses' were often commissioned by the Council despite there being no statutory obligation to do so.
- The Committee voiced their support for the Flood and Water Team and their efforts.



## **Waste**

### PI 160 Recycling Rate (new formula)

- The Environment Act was expected to introduce separate food waste collection, and it would be required that all producers of materials and packages to fund Local Authorities for disposal and collection costs.
  - Waste Collection Authorities, not Disposal Authorities, would be entitled to new burdens funding which meant the Council may have to finance an expanded service and infrastructure.
- Members noted the recycling rate was 40.63% which fell below the target of 50%, and they subsequently questioned why the introduction of separate paper and card collection had not impacted this statistic. The Head of Waste informed Members that this did not impact the recycling rate as paper and card were still processed as recycling, however it vastly improved the quality of the material collected.
- The plateau of recycling rates had been observed nationally.

### PI 76 Recycling at County Council owned Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

- The HWRCs processed over 25 types of material and subsequently the Head of Waste suggested that further education and engagement was required at HWRC for the public.
- Where there was disruption in the supply chain that supported HWRCs, materials were rarely processed incorrectly to avoid turning the public away from the site.

## **RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receives the report
2. That the comments from the discussion of the performance indicators presented be forwarded to relevant officers and portfolio holders for their information and consideration.

## **42      SCRUTINY PANEL B - AGRICULTURE SECTOR SUPPORTS IN LINCOLNSHIRE SCRUTINY REVIEW – EXECUTIVE RESPONSE AND ACTION PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report from Vanessa Strange, Head of Infrastructure Investment, which invited the Committee to comment on the Executive's response to the Agriculture Sector Support in Lincolnshire report prepared by Scrutiny Panel B. Nicola Radford, Senior Commissioning Officer – Growth was also in attendance for this item.

Members were informed that the Executive had unanimously supported the recommendations of Scrutiny Panel B in its meeting in September 2023. The Committee was invited to consider the Executive Response, and was required to follow the recommendations outlined in the action plan.

During consideration of the report, the following matters were noted:

- The Executive had welcomed the inclusion of the perspectives of young people in agriculture within the report, notably the Agricultural Champions videos.

**ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
28 NOVEMBER 2023**

- Executive Members had discussed mental health challenges faced by those in the agricultural sector at length; the Committee was informed that since publication, it had been confirmed that a Mental Health worker would be supporting the Lincolnshire Rural Support Network (LRSN).
- The action plan was also welcomed by the Committee as it showed the Council's commitment to supporting the agricultural industry.
- Recent flooding events had highlighted the impact and challenges faced by the agricultural sector.
- It was requested that an update report be considered by the Committee on the implementation of the action plan.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee endorses the report and action plan
2. That the Committee's satisfaction of the detailed account provided regarding actions that seek to discharge the recommendations be recorded
3. That a further update on the progression of the action plan be brought back to the Committee for its consideration in July 2024.

**43      ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report from Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, which enabled the Committee to comment on the content of its work programme.

The Scrutiny Officer agreed that an item be added to the February 2024 agenda following the abolishment of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) when timings had been realised and further detail had been received regarding devolution.

The Assistant Director – Growth informed Members that there was work underway regarding net transition which would be circulated to the government in December; therefore, February would be most appropriate for the topic to be considered by the Committee.

**RESOLVED**

That the Work Programme be agreed subject to the above amendment.

**44      CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**RESOLVED**

That under Section 100(A) 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 it is considered to contain exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

**45      HORNCASTLE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE EXTENSION**

Consideration was given to the exempt report, and the Committee raised a number of questions which were answered by the Officers present.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee supports the recommendations to the Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning, and the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning) as set out in the report.
2. That the Committee's comments be passed on to the Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning, and the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning) in relation to this item.

The meeting closed at 12.23 pm

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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 January 2024
Subject:	Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2024/25

### Summary:

This report details the Council's budget proposals for the financial year 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 and the assumptions made given the national context.

The economic context in which the Council operates continues to be highly challenging, with continuing impacts from high levels of inflation and the budget proposals make a number of adjustments to reflect the increased cost of providing services.

The Local Government Settlement published in February 2023, provided a reasonable estimation of the potential funding for 2023-24 and 2024-25. The provisional Local Government Financial Settlement 2024-25 published 18 December 2023 has continued with existing spending plans meaning no additional funding above that already forecast.

This report specifically looks at the budget implications for the Council's Environment and Economy services.

### Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider this report and make comments on the budget proposals. The comments of the Committee will be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 6 February 2024.

## 1. Background

- 1.1.1 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. This was guided by the financial strategy approved as part of this process, providing the mechanisms to ensure the council remains financially sustainable and resilient.
- 1.1.2 As part of the Council's financial planning process, the previously approved medium term financial plan is reviewed in depth over the summer and into the autumn, which informs the preparation of a 2024-25 budget proposal.

- 1.1.3 The key messages from scrutiny and public consultation are fed into the process and contribute towards an updated budget proposal to the Executive on 6th February 2024. At this meeting, the Executive will be invited to approve a final budget proposal to be taken to the budget setting meeting of Full Council which will be held on Friday 23rd February 2024.
- 1.1.4 This budget proposal focusses on the 2024-25 budget specifically for the Council's Environment and Economy services. The feedback from the Scrutiny Committee will inform the final budget proposal to Full Council.
- 1.1.5 The economic environment continues to be a significant risk. The economy has been subject to unprecedented inflation, which means that the cost of goods and services have increased at a higher rate than the Government's target, over a prolonged period. This has led to a challenging operating environment, due to its inflationary exposure within the cost base (contracting and staffing costs). The revised inflation forecasts are 4.6% (2023 Q4), 3.1% (2024 Q4), 1.9% (2025 Q4), and 1.5% (2026 Q4). Inflation is not expected to return to below the 2% target for until 2025.
- 1.1.6 On 22 November 2023, the Government set out their spending plans for the medium term via the Autumn Statement. Following the Autumn Statement, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) translate national spending limits into individual allocations for local authorities via the Local Government finance settlement. The provisional settlement was published 18 December 2023.
- 1.1.7 On 18th December 2023, the Department published the draft 'Local Government finance settlement 2024/25' via a written statement to Parliament. This confirmed funding allocations in line with the policy statement. At a national level, core spending power is forecast to increase to £64.1 billion from £60.2 billion (6.5% overall increase). The key points to note for Lincolnshire are as follows:
- The revenue support grant has been inflated by £1.549 million or 6.6% (September CPI), with an additional adjustment rolling in the fire pension grant (£1.437 million), a net nil change.
  - Business rate baseline funding and multiplier compensation grant is forecast to increase by £8.729 million or 6.5%.
  - The core council tax referendum limit for local authorities is set at 3%, in addition to an adult social care precept of 2% for all authorities responsible for the delivery of adult social care services.
  - Funding announced in the Autumn Statement 2022, an uplift in social care grants:
    - i. an additional £692 million will be distributed to local authorities through the Social Care Grant for adult and children's social care;

- ii. an additional £200 million will be distributed in 2024 to 2025 through the Discharge Fund;
  - iii. Maintaining the improved better care fund at 2023/24 levels;
  - iv. £1,050 million in 2024 to 2025 will be distributed for adult social care through the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF).
- An additional one-off round of new homes bonus payments in 2024/25 of £0.952 million.
  - Continuation of the rural services delivery grant at 2023/24 levels £8.134 million.
  - The Services Grant will reduce from £4.508 million in 2023/24 to £0.709 million in 2024/25. This funding line has been reduced to fund inflationary increases in other lines of the settlement.
  - The Council does not benefit from the funding guarantee due to its core spending power increasing by more than 3%.

1.1.8 In addition, the Government set a policy steer, relating to the following points:

- Authorities are asked to continue to consider how they can use their reserves to maintain services over this and the next financial year, recognising that not all reserves can be reallocated, and that the ability to meet spending pressures from reserves will vary between authorities.
- The Government continues to explore ways to move councils away from establishing '4 day working week' practices, which in their view do not represent good value for taxpayers' money.
- The Exceptional Financial Support framework is available to provide support where a council has a specific and evidenced concern about its ability to set or maintain a balanced budget, including where there has been local financial failure. Where councils need additional support from government, they should take every possible step to minimise the need for that support to be funded by national taxpayers. As part of that process, the government will consider representations from councils, including on council tax provision.

1.1.9 Members will be aware that for several years now, the Government has committed to major financial reforms in recognition that the current funding distribution mechanisms are outdated relative to need and resource availability (i.e., the Review of Relative Needs and Resources or a reset of accumulated business rates growth). The Government confirmed in the policy statement that they remain committed to improving the local government finance landscape in the next Parliament, however the current priority has been to provide one year funding stability.

- 1.1.10 Overall, the settlement was broadly in line with expectations, even if the sector had hoped for additional funding to support with rising costs particularly due to inflation and demand. No additional funding has been made available for the cost pressure created by the greater-than-expected increase in the National Living Wage announced by the government in the autumn. The final settlement is due for publication in February 2024, following the standard consultation process.
- 1.1.11 The final settlement is due to be published in February 2024, following the usual consultation process.
- 1.1.12 The Council's financial planning framework seeks to forecast the cost base and funding base over a medium-term period, normally three or four years. At present, the Medium-Term Financial Plan indicates that a balanced budget cannot be achieved in any of the four years from 2024/25 through to 2027/28 without support from reserves. However, this is prior to receiving the Lincolnshire District Councils confirmation of Council Taxbases and Collection Fund positions affecting 2024/25.
- 1.1.13 In view of the continuing uncertainties about future levels of funding and the overall economic context, a one-year budget is proposed for 2024/25.
- 1.1.14 At its meeting on 9 January 2024 the Executive will consider proposals for the Council's revenue and capital budgets to be put forward as a basis for consultation, including the proposed Council Tax increase and use of reserves.

## 1.2 2024-25 Revenue Budget

- 1.2.1 Budgets have been reviewed in detail based on the latest available information. A number of new cost pressures have emerged in addition to the pressures identified for 2024/25 in the previous year's budget process. In some areas, savings which can be made through efficiencies with no or minimal impact on the level of service delivery have also been identified. In developing the proposed financial plan, budget holders have considered all areas of current spending, levels of income and council tax plus use of one-off funding (including use of reserves and capital receipts) to set a balanced budget.
- 1.2.2 The table below shows the total proposed revenue budget for the Council's Environment and Economy services.

Revenue Budget	2023/24 Budget	Cost Pressures	Savings	2024/25 Proposed Budget
Environment inc Flood Risk Mgmt	3.536	0.116		3.652
Waste Management	21.880	1.466	-1.607	21.739
Planning Services	1.420	0.350	-0.175	1.595
Economic Development	1.288			1.288
Economic Infrastructure	0.414	0.303		0.717
Infrastructure Investment	1.050			1.050



Development Management	0.104			0.104
GLLEP	0.508			0.508
<b>Total Growth</b>	<b>30.200</b>	<b>2.235</b>	<b>-1.782</b>	<b>30.653</b>

- 1.2.3 The overall budget proposals have allowed for pay inflation of 4% in 2024/25 including the effect of the change in the national living wage from April 2024. This is however, currently being held centrally pending agreement of any pay settlement, following which service budgets will be updated and it is therefore not currently reflected in the table above.
- 1.2.4 Continuing inflationary pressures in the construction sector result in a forecast increase of £0.116m in the cost of labour, materials and equipment used in the maintenance of the public rights of way network.
- 1.2.5 In Waste Management, inflation has had a marked effect on the re-procurement of Household Waste Recycling Centre contracts, increasing cost by £1.216m. This is exacerbated by new requirements to separately store and haul waste deemed to contain hazardous material, which increases operational costs by a further £0.250m. However, these increases in cost are offset by further savings of £0.857m in 2024/25 from the continued roll-out of separated waste paper and card collections and a short-term saving of £0.750m from increased income share from the Energy from Waste (EfW) plant. This is expected to diminish over the following three years as energy prices return to more “normal” levels.
- 1.2.6 A restructure of the Planning team to provide greater resilience and accommodate the increased demand resulting from Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) applications, increases cost by £0.250m, although this is largely funded by increased fee income resulting from Planning Performance Agreements in respect of NSIPs, which is expected to generate £0.175m. The cost of the cyclical examination of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan also adds a short-term pressure of £0.100m in this service area.
- 1.2.7 Inflation has also had a £0.303m impact on the cost base of the Business Units operated by Economic Infrastructure, causing increases in energy costs, insurance, and the cost of improving energy performance to meet required standards. This service is largely funded by the rent income generated causing changes in the cost base appearing to be disproportionately high compared to the net (after income) budget baseline.

### 1.3 Capital Programme

- 1.3.1 A ten-year Capital Programme has been compiled in line with the principles set out in the Capital Strategy, including the principle of Affordability.
- 1.3.2 The economic context set out earlier on in this report continues to pose financial risk to capital programme delivery. There are two elements to consider, the first is

ongoing inflation in capital schemes, which continues to be visible and increases with time. The second is the cost of financing, which has increased due to the increase in the base rate. It is hoped that these risks recede with time and will continue to be monitored and reported.

1.3.3 There are new schemes added to the programme following prior Executive approval. These are all planned for 2024/25 and are to be funded via revenue. The schemes are detailed below, the first of which relate to Environment and Economy services:

- Waste Transfer Stations (£6.1 million) – £6.1 million agreed additional investment from revenue for the waste transfer station infrastructure in preparation for implementing the requirements of the Environment Act. This is enabled by a windfall energy from waste gain in 2023/24. Additional costs of approx. £3 million are forecast to complete the stations and will be included in the future years capital programmes.
- Flood investigations and alleviation (£4 million) – in recognition of the rising challenges around water level management, the Executive decided in early December to set aside additional funding to enable further works to be designed, planned, and implemented.
- Cross Keys Electrification (£1.2 million) – funded by additional traffic regulation order income, the scheme intends to replace the hydraulics on the bridge to ensure a more resilient and efficient operation.
- LED Swap Out (£1.5 million) – funded by the in-year forecast energy underspend, the proposal is to invest additional capital into LED lighting, which is expected to lead to reductions in energy consumption and cost.

1.3.4 The table below shows the proposed gross capital programme for the Council's Environment and Economy services.

Scheme	2024/25 Investment	Future Years Investment
Flood & Water Risk Management	4.922	
Local Flood Defence Schemes (to match fund EA)	1.037	3.500
Countryside Rights of Way	0.000	0.000
<b>Total Environment</b>	<b>5.959</b>	<b>3.500</b>
HWRC – Tattershall		
HWRC – Skegness		2.000
Waste - Separated Paper and Card Scheme	0.465	
Waste Transfer Stations ( <i>part funding</i> )	6.100	
<b>Total Waste</b>	<b>6.565</b>	<b>2.000</b>
Broadband	1.093	3.770
Economic Development - Horncastle Industrial Estate Extension	1.500	

<b>Total Growth</b>	<b>2.593</b>	<b>3.770</b>
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1.3.5 The Capital Programme is currently supplemented by funding from the Development Fund Initiatives earmarked reserve, with a total of £3.444 million having been approved in previous budgets to increase capacity to carry out drainage investigation and repair work, reducing deterioration and improving prevention of localised flooding issues. That scheme was expanded by a further £4.000 million of funding for flood investigations and alleviation, approved by the Executive on 5 December 2023.

## 2. Conclusion

2.1 A thorough review of Council services was carried out during this year's budget process. Cost pressures, income changes and efficiencies have been identified, and the Capital Programme has been reviewed. The budget proposals aim to reflect the Directorate priorities aligned to the councils Corporate Plan whilst operating within the resources available to it.

2.2 The budget proposals have been developed alongside, and in accordance with, the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy and a proposed final version of this Strategy will be reported to the Executive in February 2024. Final budget proposals will be reported to the Executive on 6th February 2024.

## 3. Consultation

### a) Risks and Impact Analysis

An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for the proposed increase in Council Tax. This will be reported to the Executive at its meeting on 6 February 2024.

Further risk and impact assessments will need to be undertaken on a service-by-service basis.

## 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
Council Budget 2024/25 Executive Report 9 January 2024	<a href="#">Executive Report 09 January 2024 (Complete Draft) (moderngov.co.uk)</a>

This report was written by Pam Clipson, Head of Financial Services, who can be contacted at [pam.clipson@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:pam.clipson@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

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

Report to:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>16 January 2024</b>
Subject:	<b>Town Centres Improvements Scrutiny Review - Executive Response Action Plan</b>

**Summary:**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 the Executive received a report on Town Centre Improvements in Lincolnshire which was prepared by Scrutiny Panel A, on behalf of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee. The Executive agreed to make arrangements to respond to the report by 03 December 2023. The Executive's response will: 1. Indicate which recommendations have been accepted: and 2. Where recommendations are accepted, to bring forward an action plan for their implementation.

**Action Required**

The Committee is invited to receive the Executive's response to the report and to agree a plan to monitor and scrutinise the implementation of the agreed recommendations.

**1. Background**

In September 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board approved a scrutiny review of town centre improvements to help:

- support business start-up and growth
- create employment opportunities
- retail revival and
- to support a broader demographic to use town centres in the county – with a particular emphasis on young people.

The Committee recognised that market towns and high streets across the UK had been 'hit by a perfect storm' including the impact that the rise of online shopping and the pandemic had had on footfall and the way that high streets were being used.

The following key lines of enquiry for the scrutiny review were agreed by the Panel:

1. Understanding changes in behaviours, shopping, land use and the impact of technology on the future of high streets across Lincolnshire and how that changes the infrastructure and changes in town centres.
2. Consider the delivery of existing town Deals; future project pipelines and the ways in which the Council could effectively support such changes and projects.
3. Examine how the council can support the needs of businesses (including retail and hospitality sectors) in town centres, including hardships arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and EU transition.
4. Identify the best practice of supporting the green recovery of the high street.

On 3 October 2023 the Executive was invited to consider the report and assign responsibility to the relevant Executive Councillor(s) for responding to the report.

As part of its response, the Executive is requested to indicate to the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee which recommendations in the report are accepted.

Where recommendations are accepted, there is also a request for an action plan, showing what steps are being taken to implement the recommendations, with projected timescales, where possible. This will enable the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee to monitor the implementation of any actions arising from the report.

The Executive Councillors and officers have met to establish the attached action plan. The Executive Councillors agree the vital importance of the market towns and town centres – in providing services, job opportunities and in supporting communities. Their strength is in their distinctive offer and their contribution to the visitor offer. The Executive also noted the need to ensure new investment is attracted to the high street and to review ways to ensure parking is not a barrier to supporting increased town centre use. The Executive also noted that the review should take account of and address any opportunities emerging from the government’s review of business rates.

The actions in the attached Action Plan outline the practical steps that will be undertaken in the context of the Council’s strategic role and in recognition of the number of national, regional and local stakeholders and partners that are actively engaged and investing in Lincolnshire town centres. Accordingly clearly defined activities must be undertaken that create an environment for growth, complement existing activity and harness local distinctiveness to support increased footfall throughout the year. Accordingly the Executive Councillors support the premise of collaboration and strategic leadership.

The key principles that will be adopted in delivering the action plan align with the themes set out by the Scrutiny Panel A:

- Leadership and policy
- High Street Business support
- Placemaking, Funding and Skills development
- Technologies, innovation and Digitalisation
- Data driven decision making and targeted investment and
- Green Growth

## 2. Conclusion

The Committee is requested to consider the attached Action Plan and agree a plan to monitor and scrutinise the implementation of the agreed recommendations.

## 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	Executive Response to the Town Centre Improvements Scrutiny Review - Action Plan Arising from Recommendations

## 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
Report by Scrutiny Panel A on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	<a href="#">(Public Pack)Agenda Document for Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee, 12/09/2023 10:00 (moderngov.co.uk)</a>

This report was written by Mandy Ramm, Funding and Investment Manager who can be contacted on 07725256629 or [mandy.ramm@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.ramm@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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# EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS SCRUTINY REVIEW – ACTION PLAN ARISING FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

December 2023 v2

For the purposes of referencing Item 7 pages 35-144

[-\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee, 12/09/2023 10:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Budget and officer time has been allocated from the Funding and Investment Team (F&I) to manage and coordinate the cross-council activities set out in this Town Centre Action Plan. This includes the role of oversight of partner and stakeholder activities in order to maintain the relevance of the actions set out in the plan and to keep them up to date and applicable. A cross-council virtual officer working group will also support the strategic overview of the agreed action plan and report on the delivery of the recommendations to Members.

The main focus of external partner engagement will be through a series of town centre focused Local Transport Board meetings to gather intelligence and local views on key towns. It is envisaged that this will help generate additional actions and areas of local focus where the County Council can ring strategic leadership and where relevant intervention. The creation of a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and single point of entry within the Council will support engagement with town centre issues and opportunities and help crystallise activity and needs as they evolve.

The creation of a town centre fund to support town centres with direct member involvement will support small scale animation and activities to improve footfall in market towns and high streets and will provide information and evidence of ‘what works’ for further review and consideration. The same is true of pilot activities in particular the two pilots around the digitalisation of the high streets. The product can be scaled, tailored and adapted to other town centres and will enable the ‘celebration of distinctiveness’ in our town centres.

Moves to support indigenous businesses with advice and digital skills together with supporting inward investment to our high streets will with other investments underway and planned, develop holistic actions around town centre viability and vitality.

The focus on ‘place-making’ and quality environments used by the whole community and its widest demographic, and visitors will develop opportunities for use and diversified offers around leisure, retail, heritage and hospitality. Further opportunities to address barriers to use (including parking and accessibility) will support the overall package of actions to position Lincolnshire market towns as places of local value, providers of jobs and services and as key contributors to growth.

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted ? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Lead Officer
<p><b><u>Recommendation 1</u></b> <b><u>Leadership and Policy</u></b></p> <p>That Lincolnshire County Council engage annually with each of the established 8 Local Transport Boards (LTB) to discuss town centres. This will bring together local strategic partners to discuss and agree actions to address local town centre issues and opportunities and will promote cohesive action with short, medium, and long- term outcomes.</p> <p>This builds on the Panel’s conclusions set out in section 3.3 of the published report, that recognises the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive cross-sectoral partnership activity which is being informed by local needs</li> <li>• Proactive planning and collaboration as an</li> </ul>	YES	<p>The Executive Councillor Highways, Transport and IT has agreed the principle to trial an annual town centre focused meeting using each LTB (for which he has responsibility) as the foundation for discussion with expanded local attendance.</p> <p>This is in recognition of the priority the Executive attaches to holistic, partnership activity to address issues in town centres including but not limited to their connectivity, their relationship to their economic hinterland and creating an environment for their economic vitality and viability as drivers of growth.</p>	<p>Utilising an existing partnership to move forward at pace is recognised as the most viable option and <b>8 pilot meetings will be convened.</b></p> <p>These will be created in 2 stages taking lessons from the first 4 and applying to stage 2 meetings to improve the engagement and impact continuously learning from the meeting format and output. At the end of stage 2 the process will be evaluated.</p> <p>The 8 meetings will cover the following LTB areas:</p> <p>Louth Gainsborough Boston Grantham Skegness/Mablethorpe Sleaford Spalding and Holbeach Stamford</p>	2024 delivery within agreed LTB programme	Vanessa Strange

<p>important mechanism to bring together other ingredients of success to high streets such as car parking, cycle storage and public transport: and</p> <p>The vital role of neighbourhood plans which can bring together the local community's input and help support local shopping areas that meet local needs and will therefore drive ongoing use.</p> <p>Further the LTB approach will provide opportunities for towns and villages, in close proximity, to work together to best effect.</p>			<p>Lincoln is excepted from this work in line with the Scrutiny Panel's scope and inclusions.</p> <p>Using the end evaluation, a review will then be undertaken by the Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning on the efficacy of the pilot including the purpose, impact and use of LTBs as effective vehicles for focused action to address immediate town centre/high street issues and options for LTBs to develop and plan longer term interventions targeted at the specific needs of each place and where any shared themes are identified, to develop an appropriate costed programme of activities to promote growth to be considered by the Executive as relevant</p>		
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<p><u>Recommendation 2</u> <u>High Street Business</u></p> <p>(a) That the County Council lobbies those organisations that restrict businesses and support further streamlining of administrative processes for town centre businesses, including licencing.</p> <p>(b) That the County Council be supportive of High Street businesses by developing a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for town centre matters; and streamlining processes internally to support businesses.</p> <p>(c) That the County Council seeks to provide businesses with business support and continues to seek funding to enable this.</p> <p>(d) That opportunities be considered through regulatory services, such as Trading Standards, to offer</p>	YES	<p>The SPOC is seen as an effective solution to provide co-ordination and good customer/stakeholder management, providing effective communications.</p> <p>The SPOC however cannot just be a reactive role responding to external queries and should be tasked with co-ordinating responses to known issues (as raised by the Scrutiny Panel) and immerging intelligence. This in turn will need to be reviewed to help inform services going forward including opportunities to be effective in supporting town centres.</p>	<p>A dedicated email account will be created to receive town centre related <i>communications</i>. This will be monitored by the SPOC. The Customer Service Centre will be advised and work with Communications Team will be undertaken to drive awareness and uptake of this as an entry point to raise town centre related issues and opportunities.</p> <p>Working with Comms and relevant service areas visibility of the SPOC (to external customers and partners and internal colleagues) will be undertaken to raise the role/profile to ensure effectiveness. This should include (led by Funding and Investment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>a short comms plan and Social Media campaign/awareness raising (external)</b></li> <li>• <b>a method of reporting to/engaging with key service areas</b> that is light touch and manageable so that the SPOC role is effective in developing a 2-way knowledge share and</li> </ul>	<p>Feb 24</p> <p>Feb 24</p>	<p>Mandy Ramm (interim SPOC linking these activities together)</p>
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<p>selected business advice to support town centre business start-ups.</p> <p>(e) That a pilot be explored to <i>'keep the local spend local'</i>, working with Lincolnshire County Council's procurement, partners and existing <i>'buy local'</i> initiatives.</p>			<p>building effective, outcome focused relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Creation of a cross council Virtual Officer Town Centre Group</b> to review and support the town centre work (this applies to all actions in this plan)</li> </ul> <p>The SPOC should also be given the responsibility to scope and develop an <b>internal Action Plan</b> that harnesses the following areas of work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Lobbying Framework</b> to HMG to support streamlined business administration and regulatory reform with the aim of supporting economic growth in town centres. This should capture evidence and business input, be agile but support overarching objectives of LCC economic strategies and policies and align with key CCN/LGA messaging to achieve scale and impact but focusing on the Lincolnshire story/case studies to animate the town focused areas of concern – lead Funding and Investment (F&amp;I)</li> <li>2. Through Business Lincolnshire, ongoing development of town centre business support offers</li> </ol>	<p>Feb- March 24 scoping, delivery 24/25</p>	<p>Samantha Harrison</p>
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			<p>under current arrangements and <b>post 2025 scoping opportunities to deliver a consolidated package of town centre business support</b> – lead Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. As Rec 4 below to also align digital skills development focused on retail and hospitality and</li><li>b. Align the Multiply Adult Numeracy programme and any forthcoming literacy/other skills opportunities to support skills pipelines for retail/hospitality sectors</li></ul> <p>3. <b>A 'buy local' proposal</b> to involve internal (Economic Development, procurement) and external partners (in particular Destination Lincolnshire, the Federation of Small Businesses, Chamber of Commerce and local business organisations) to look at options to build on existing activity and add value via add-ons, pilots or branding and messaging to support enhanced but cost effective outcomes. Lead Economic Development</p>		Samantha Harrison
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<p><b>Recommendation 3</b> <b>Placemaking, Funding and Skills</b></p> <p>(a) That Lincolnshire County Council work with North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council to recognise the vital role of market towns in Greater Lincolnshire and to review opportunities for appropriate funding and budgets to support their viability and vitality (including infrastructure provisions) as a key ingredient in growing the economy of Greater Lincolnshire (referenced in Section 4 – Leadership and Strategy).</p> <p>(b) That the County Council encourage good design across town centres through its development management functions and through partnership working with teams at Local Planning Authorities and other stakeholders.</p>	YES	<p>The Executive concurs with the Panel’s assertion on the vital importance of market towns to the wider economy of GL. This is being progressed at all levels of Devolution discussions and remains an integral part of LCCs economic strategy to support inclusive and sustainable growth including our towns and villages and the rural hinterland that they serve.</p> <p>Further, the Council has long held that the uniqueness of Lincolnshire is founded on its local distinctiveness , heritage and character creating beautiful, diverse places to live, visit and do business. This is something that should be capitalised on further in an effort to help create growth and opportunities in our towns.</p> <p>To enable LCC Members to coordinate and help catalyse locally focused interventions, a pilot pot of funding will be created and reviewed for impact and inclusions. Creating</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To promote connectivity opportunities to/from and within our town centres (including digital, public transport, vehicular, pedestrian and cycle) the key deliverables of the GL Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework will be reviewed for town centre opportunities and an <b>Action Plan to support Town Centre Infrastructure</b> drafted for consideration after consultation with communities and businesses. This will be informed by the LTB process. Lead F&amp;I</li> <li>2. Through the work of the Development Management and strategic planning Teams a <b>focus on place excellence and design quality</b> will be pursued in new development, new planning policies and local plan input with <b>options for Design Guides etc</b> – lead Development Management</li> <li>3. Development Management, Highways, Environment to work proactively with local</li> </ol>	<p>To be determined by the programming of the LTBs</p> <p>February 24 ongoing</p>	<p>Mandy Ramm</p> <p>Warren Peppard</p> <p>Warren Peppard</p>
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<p>(c) That design excellence, local distinctiveness, and character of town centres are encouraged through partnership working (under guidance from the Historic Places Team); and that quality public realm offers/green spaces are created to provide residents and visitors with the opportunity to increase dwell time and to support health and wellbeing objectives and help develop Lincolnshire’s visitor economy (this links to recommendation 2b).</p> <p>(d) That consideration be given to each County Councillor receiving a £3,000 budget to support local activities aimed at increasing town centre footfall. Funding to be allocated through an established criteria and aligned to the work and findings of the LTBs (this links to recommendation 1)</p>		<p>a combined pot rather than individual allocations will enable co-ordination and help achieve maximum impact for local areas and avoid duplication. There will also be opportunity to align with the views of the LTBs (town focused activity) as relevant.</p>	<p>stakeholders wherever possible to <b>promote enhanced public realm schemes</b> (design, capital enhancements and policies). Schemes and impacts to be reviewed annually for effectiveness with input and support from LTB pilots. – lead Development Management</p> <p>4. F&amp;I will scope a <b>programme of investment support for towns</b> to a value of up to £50,000 commencing April 2024. Funding will complement existing activity in the town centres and high streets of Lincolnshire, to help animate spaces and events and to bring together the local community to use their local market towns and high streets throughout the year. Activity will seek to increase town centre footfall, and thereby support viability of local businesses. It will also increase take up and use of public sector/funded services including public transport, libraries and children’s centres. The types of activities expected to be funded (based</p>	<p>February 2024 ongoing</p> <p>April 24</p>	<p>Mandy Ramm</p>
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			<p>on best practice in similar areas) include: Business directories, arts and heritage trails and actions, pop up shops and markets, pilot park and save schemes, events, buy local activities etc (all evaluated by a published criteria including local need/support and statutory requirements</p> <p>Agreed programme to be managed in accordance with approved activity, reviewed at 6 month point and subject to post-programme evaluation. Decisions on the impact and effect will then influence how the lessons from the pilot can be applied going forward (2025 onwards) -Lead Funding and Investment with support from Econ Dev (tourism)</p>		
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<p><b><u>Recommendation 4</u></b> <b><u>Technology, Innovation and Digitisation</u></b></p> <p>(a) That Lincolnshire County Council takes a firm view on developments and lobby government so that planning authorities have a greater say in the siting of 5G infrastructure.</p> <p>(b) That the County Council support initiatives to drive digital skills amongst people who work in town centres, where appropriate.</p> <p>(c) That Lincolnshire County Council test community and visitor opportunities to '<i>digitise the high street</i>', working in partnership with local areas to ensure content is created and managed in real time, along the lines of the pilots currently being developed in Holbeach and Mablethorpe (this will build on the work of the Council's Historic Environment Team and look at other opportunities to animate</p>	YES	<p>The Executive supports the recommendation as a key aspect of ensuring that town centre uses and options for growth, revitalisation or diversification are future proofed.</p> <p>Lincolnshire market towns should be enabled to meet changing customer trends and expectations including accessing information in new ways and supporting businesses to respond to this. Some Lincolnshire businesses are front runners in this field but to give opportunities to all businesses to explore and promote the use of technology will only enhance economic opportunities for our town centres.</p>	<p>See <b>Lobbying Framework</b> above to include issues related specifically to 5g lead F&amp;I</p> <p>See <b>consolidated package of town centre business support</b>, to include digital skills – lead Economic Development</p> <p><b>Digitalisation pilot launch</b> January/February 2024 with delivery Jan-Aug 24 and evaluation and review for lessons learned. Work with partners to cost and develop a wider programme of town centre digital opportunities based on the partnership with UoL and use and take up of available technology. Review opportunities to build in digital skills as part of this.</p>	<p>Feb- March 24 scoping, delivery 24/25</p> <p>Feb-March 24 scoping, delivery 24/25</p> <p>Jan-Dec 24</p>	<p>Mandy Ramm</p> <p>Samantha Harrison</p> <p>Mandy Ramm</p>
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spaces including the use of pop-up museums).					
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<p><b><u>Recommendation 4</u></b>  <b><u>Data-driven Decision Making and Targeted Investment</u></b></p> <p>That data and lessons captured through pilots, including digital highstreets and Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fund are used to inform better business cases to support interventions and investments in town centres.</p>	YES	This is supported in full	Officers to build this into all activities with case studies to encourage active learnings – lead Funding and Investment.	January 24 ongoing	Mandy Ramm
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<p><b><u>Recommendation 6</u></b> <b><u>Green Growth</u></b></p> <p>That Lincolnshire County Council: -</p> <p>(a) Develop a digital Green Retail/Hospitality Guide aimed at supporting independent businesses.</p> <p>(b) Improve facilities to encourage bike use on high streets (basic Sheffield stands) – linking to the work of the LTBs.</p> <p>(c) Encourage the use of service budgets to improve outcomes through investing in pilot activity, where benefits are aligned to the County Council’s aspirations for inclusive green growth.</p>	YES	<p>The Executive recognises the importance of developing town centres in a sustainable manner and welcomes in particular the focus on green tourism and opportunities to support other forms of access to town centres including walking and cycling.</p>	<p>Working with Econ Development (visitor economy) to build on lessons from coastal green tourism work supported by the wider decarbonisation and net zero agenda produce a digital <b>Green Retail and Hospitality Guide for town centre businesses</b> to launch ahead of the summer with supporting publicity using the green focus as a way to encourage increased visits and to leverage new markets.</p> <p>Undertake an <b>audit of current high street cycle facilities and assess demand/locational opportunities and establish a costed programme for consideration.</b></p> <p>Through the Virtual Officers Town Centre Group <b>champion green growth awareness and opportunities and develop appropriate measurements and evaluations</b> to complement work on the council’s Green Master Plan and the emerging Carbon Management Plan 4. This aligns with Recommendation 5 data led decision making and can, as appropriate, feed into the work through the LTB events.</p>	<p>February – May 24</p> <p>April onwards</p> <p>February - ongoing</p>	<p>Mary Powell</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>Dan Clayton</p>
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**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>16 January 2024</b>
Subject:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme</b>

**Summary:**

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

**Actions Required:**

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

## **1. Background**

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

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

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

## 2. Work Programme

<b>16 JANUARY 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
1.	<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals [Pre-decision Scrutiny] (Executive Decision, 06 Feb 2024)</b>	Pam Clipson, Head of Financial Services
2.	<b>Town Centres Improvements Scrutiny Review – Executive Response Action Plan</b>	Vanessa Strange, Head of Infrastructure Investment Mandy Ramm, Funding and Investment Manager

<b>27 FEBRUARY 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
1.	<b>Visitor Economy Update (incl. Visit Lincolnshire &amp; Tourism Commission Y2 &amp; Local Visitor Economy Partnership)</b>	Mary Powell, Place and Investment Manager
2.	<b>Greater Lincolnshire Internationalisation Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2024 – Update</b>	Angela Driver, Enterprise Growth manager
3.	<b>Inward Investment Strategic Plan for Team Lincolnshire</b>	Tony Reynolds, Inward Investment Manager
4.	<b>Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Performance Framework 2023 - 2024 – Quarter 3: <i>Economy, Flooding and Waste</i></b>	Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development Chris Miller, Head of Environment Mike Reed, Head of Waste
5.	<b>Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot – Contract Procurement</b> EXEMPT REPORT <b>[Pre-decision Scrutiny] (Executive Councillor Decision 4 - 8 March 2024)</b>	Justin Brown, Assistant Director -Growth Tanya Vaughan, Senior Commissioning Officer Economic Investment

<b>16 APRIL 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
1.	<b>Introduction to East Atlantic Flying Way Heritage Site Bid</b>	Chris Miller, Head of Environment
2.	<b>Carbon Management Plan [Pre-decision Scrutiny] (Executive Councillor Decision TBC)</b>	Chris Miller, Head of Environment Dan Clayton, Sustainability Manager
3.	<b>Waste Transfer Station Improvements [Pre-decision Scrutiny] (Exec Cllr Decision 22 – 26 April 2024)</b>	Mike Reed, Head of Waste

<b>28 MAY 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
1.	<b>Draft Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Preferred Approach [Pre-decision Scrutiny] (Executive Decision TBC)</b>	Adrian Winkley, Minerals and Waste Policy and Compliance Manager
2.	<b>LCC Business Centres and Economic Development Portfolio - Performance Report</b>	Simon Wright, Regeneration and Portfolio Manager

<b>09 JULY 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
1.	<b>Adult Learning Provision 2023-24 and plans for the 2024-25 academic year</b>	Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager Jenny Riordan, Principal Officer for Learning and Skills
2.	<b>Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Annual Performance and Future Business Support Landscape</b>	Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development
3.	<b>Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Performance Framework 2023 - 2024 – Quarter 4: <i>Economy, Flooding and Waste</i></b>	Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development Chris Miller, Head of Environment Mike Reed, Head of Waste

<b>10 SEPTEMBER 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
1.	<b>Broadband Programme – Annual Position Report</b>	Stephen Brookes, Broadband Programme Manager
2.	<b>Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Performance Framework 2024 - 2025 – Quarter 1: <i>Economy, Flooding and Waste</i></b>	Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development Chris Miller, Head of Environment Mike Reed, Head of Waste
3.	<b>Sutton Bridge Place Making - Update Report</b>	Mick King, Head of Economic Infrastructure

<b>15 OCTOBER 2024– 10:00am</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
1.	TBC	

<b>26 NOVEMBER 2024– 10:00am</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Performance Framework 2024 - 2025 – Quarter 2: <i>Economy, Flooding and Waste</i></b> Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development Chris Miller, Head of Environment Mike Reed, Head of Waste

### 3. Items to be Programmed.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Est Date</b>
Alternative Fuels	TBC
Climate Change Impact	2024
Elements of Environment Act- (Waiting for Gov Guidance/Updates)	2023
Food Waste Collection- (Waiting for Env Act Updates)	W/S 2023/2024
Green Technology Grant	TBC
Historic Places Team Strategy	TBC
Horncastle Industrial Estate extension	TBC
Introduction to East Atlantic Flying Way Heritage Site Bid	W 2023/2024
Lincolnshire Reservoir– Progress Updates	2024
Local Nature Recovery Strategy (inc. Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership Update)	TBC
Motorhomes & Campervans Working Group	W 2023/2024
New Burdens Doctrine – Funding for Net Additional Costs	TBC
Property Green Agenda – potential guest presentation facilitated by Sustainability	TBC
Verge Biomass Management	TBC
Waste Performance Targets - Setting of Targets	TBC

### 4. Conclusion

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

### 5. Consultation

#### a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable.

### 6. Appendices

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



## **7. Background Papers**

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

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

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

MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	HOW AND WHEN TO COMMENT PRIOR TO THE DECISION BEING TAKEN	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
<b>Draft Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Preferred Approach [I028138]</b>	TBC	Executive	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Minerals and Waste Policy and Compliance Manager, E-mail: <a href="mailto:adrian.winkley@lincolnshire.gov.uk">adrian.winkley@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	No	All Divisions
<b>Waste Transfer Station Improvements [I029445]</b>	Between 22-26 April 2024	Executive Councillor: Waste and Trading Standards	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Head of Waste, E-mail: <a href="mailto:mike.reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk">mike.reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	Yes	All Divisions
<b>Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot – Contract Procurement EXEMPT [I030025]</b>	Between 4 - 8 March 2024	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Senior Commissioning Officer Economic Investment, E-mail: <a href="mailto:Tanya.Vaughan@lincolnshire.gov.uk">Tanya.Vaughan@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	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
<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2023/24</b>	Executive Decision – 06 February 2024 and County Council Decision February 2024	Executive & County Council	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Head of Finance, E-mail: <a href="mailto:keith.noyland@lincolnshire.gov.uk">keith.noyland@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	Yes	All Divisions