

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

Statement from: Councillor C N Worth, Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services

LIBRARY SERVICES

The contract with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) was officially launched on 4 April 2016, with a seamless handover of operations.

As part of the dialogue phase of the procurement exercise and as per the contract, it was agreed that the initial focus would be on transition and operational delivery. Formal performance monitoring will not be implemented until Q2, however, initial indication is that visits have increased over the core library sites and there has been an influx of activities delivered over the summer period.

There are ongoing developments within the service and the potential for soft play areas for children at the core sites is currently being reviewed. Numerous physical changes are also being developed at a number of the core sites including Boston, Skegness, Sleaford and a new castle themed children's area at Lincoln.

Partnerships are beginning to be explored with District Councils around the use of the mobile service to support the District's proposed changes to the community access points. Relationships are also developing with the University Librarian over potential joint working opportunities.

Operational staff feedback on their first months of working with GLL are all positive. However, we are still to receive agreement from the landlord at the Isaac Newton Shopping Centre in Grantham, to our sub-letting of the site to GLL. Grantham Library staff, therefore, remain LCC employees, although they are supported operationally by the GLL management team and LCC.

The Community Hub roll-out continues to progress with relationships forming with GLL around the dedicated training and support that is available.

Sutton Bridge, Swineshead and Wainfleet are still scheduled to go live over the coming months, bringing the total number of Community Hubs to 36 (this includes Belton Lane Children's Centre and the 3 hospitals that operate as a hub).

I look forward to seeing all these services come into their own over the next few years. This is an exciting time for an excellent library service and is a great outcome for everyone.

HERITAGE & CULTURE

Lincolnshire Heritage Sites are Awarded TripAdvisor – Certificate of Excellence

In June, Lincoln Castle, Gainsborough Old Hall, The Collection and Usher Gallery, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre and the Museum of Lincolnshire Life were all given the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. The accolade is

awarded based on the quality, quantity and reviews submitted by travellers on TripAdvisor over a year. For quality, the sites maintained an overall TripAdvisor bubble rating of at least four out of five.

Lincoln Castle and the Museum of Lincolnshire Life receive Sandford Award

In July, Lincoln Castle and the Museum of Lincolnshire Life were recognised for their educational programmes with a Sandford Award. They join The Collection and Gainsborough Old Hall which have held the award since 2015 and 2014 respectively. The Sandford Award is an independently judged, quality assured assessment of education programmes at heritage sites, museums, archives and collections across the British Isles.

Poppies: Wave

Over 200,000 people visited 'Poppies: Wave' in July, six weeks after it opened at Lincoln Castle. Lincoln was chosen to host *Wave* (by artist Paul Cummins and installation by Tom Piper) by the arts programme for the First World War centenary, 1418NOW. Amy Farrington (originally from Lincoln but now living in Barcelona) was the 200,000th person to visit the *Wave*. To celebrate the milestone, Amy and her partner Andrew, were given all-inclusive tickets to the Castle's other attractions. As at the end of August total numbers of visitors had increased to just under 500,000.

Magna Carta returned to The Castle

I am pleased to report that Magna Carta returned to the Castle in August after work was completed to reset the humidity level. Magna Carta and Charter of the Forest were moved to an off-site location earlier in the summer following a rise in humidity in the David Ross Magna Carta Vault. Due to specific requirements for hosting the documents, it was necessary for them to be removed to a controlled environment whilst the humidity levels in the vault were restored.

Usher Gallery to receive BP Portrait Award 2016

In September, the BP Portrait Award 2016, the most prestigious portraiture competition in the world, arrives at the Usher Gallery direct from its 37th year at the National Portrait Gallery in London. It will then move to its final stop at the National Portrait Gallery in Scotland. Selected from 2,557 entries by artists from 80 countries around the world, the popular competition has a huge international reach and will be a broad selection of the best global portraiture painting.

REGISTRATION AND CORONER'S SERVICE

Registration Service

The Registration Service continues to promote its celebratory events and ceremonies. The summer is always a busy time for families to celebrate particularly in relation to marriage.

We continue to explore opportunities for closer working with North and North East Lincolnshire under the Greater Lincolnshire devolution agenda. A project team has been set up to see how this could be developed with an initial focus on the sharing of

training material and facilitating service delivery across the borders where that is convenient for families yet within the legislative framework.

A new Bereavement Booklet has been developed and is due to be published very shortly. This will provide information, support and guidance for bereaved families. We aim to have this available in a wide range of locations and in particular within hospital settings.

Nationally, legislative opportunities include the addition of mother's names to marriage certificates which has been proposed in a second Private Members Bill, the proposal for wider data sharing under the Digital Economy Bill, and implementation of aspects of the Immigration Act which may support fee raising powers.

Lincolnshire Coroner's Service

The interim arrangements following the departure of Professor Forrest as Senior Coroner to South Lincolnshire continue to be embedded. It has been a particularly busy first six months in the calendar year with a high volume of reported deaths to the Coroner with a large number of unusual scenarios and high profile cases for both Coroners.

Following the Executive's decision on 5 April 2016 to support the merger of the two coroner areas, the service has been working to develop the Business Case for Merger with constructive and positive dialogue and support with both the Ministry of Justice and the Chief Coroner's Office. It is anticipated the Business Case will be published by the Ministry of Justice early in the autumn as part of an engagement event to seek views on the proposed merger from a wider perspective of stakeholders.

Alongside this, the Council is working with Lincolnshire Police to more clearly align service delivery with the Council's statutory responsibilities for the provision of adequate accommodation and staffing. This also moves towards the Chief Coroner's recently published guidance in relation to the 'Model Coroner's Office'.

The Coroner's Court Support Service has been active in Lincolnshire since June and we will be able to provide a further update on the success of this initiative in due course.

We continue on the journey to transform the service and to try to ensure that a high quality, timely and sensitive service is delivered to families.

FIRE & RESCUE

Home Office Reform

The new Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, Bandon Lewis MP, has taken on responsibility for delivering the package of reforms for the Fire and Rescue service outlined in May by the then Home Secretary. The main pillars of these reforms include: efficiency and collaboration, transparency and accountability and workforce reform. This work is already underway with the Policing and Crime Bill, which contains provisions on emergency service collaboration and enabling Police and Crime Commissioners to take on fire and rescue functions where a local case has been made, expected to receive Royal Assent towards the end of the year.

Other areas of work include developing proposals for an independent inspection regime and exploring a single portal for information on fire and rescue services.

More locally, progress on the Blue Light Collaboration project continues apace having been endorsed by the Executive in May. The project will deliver a shared police and fire headquarters at Nettleham, see the development of a new joint Blue Light campus at South Park and the co-location of a number of emergency service stations around the county. The expected completion date is December 2018.

Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP)

The changes at Lincoln North fire station, resulting from last year's IRMP consultation, took effect on 1 September 2016. This saw the station change from a 24/7 shift crewed station to a Lincolnshire Crewing System station where wholetime firefighters are available on the fire station during the day and available 'on call' within 5 minutes at night.

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue presented the results of this year's IRMP consultation to the Executive on 6 September. Key recommendations that were agreed included: the adoption of a revised 3-year strategy document which outlines key community risks and the Service's approach to mitigating those risks; a revised proposal around the Lincoln South fire station which, although will not impact on response times, will still require a reduction of 12 wholetime firefighters across the county to meet savings targets; the permanent relocation of an aerial ladder platform to Boston; the further development of the Joint Ambulance Conveyance project; and the introduction of a cost recovery process for businesses which generate repeated unwanted fire signals from automatic fire alarm apparatus. These changes will be implemented over the coming months as appropriate.

New Station at Sleaford

Work on the new fire station at Sleaford has now started. The development is taking place on the Eastgate Centre site and will include a new fire station and County Council office accommodation. There also remains the potential for EMAS to share the site in the future. The work is due to be completed by October 2017.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Exercise Grey Seal

Exercise Grey Seal is a Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) coastal pollution exercise. It will take place over the period 21-23 November 2016 and be run in conjunction with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Key objectives of the exercise will be: to test the co-ordination between national, sub-national and local levels (including cross border liaison between Lincolnshire and Humber) in response to a major coastal pollution incident; validate the Lincolnshire LRF Coastal Pollution Response plan; and test integration of local communities and volunteer responses to an environmental emergency. The scenario will be based around a collision of a passenger ferry with an oil tanker resulting in oil coming ashore in Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and Bridlington.