

## **Annual General Meeting of the council, 26/06/2020**

### **- service updates**

#### **Councillor Martin Hill OBE, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council**

Our AGM is usually a time to reflect on the year that has passed and look ahead to the coming year with all that we hope to deliver.

Although I will still be doing that, the situation in both the previous and upcoming months that I will be briefly setting out, is not what I ever expected. Nor would I have believed it, if you had told me this time last year.

However, today is a good point in time to take stock of all that has happened since the outbreak of Covid-19.

The disease has had one of the biggest impacts on the day to day lives of the people we have been elected to represent, since the last war in Europe.

The gradual easing of full lockdown arrangements and changing guidance, is in fact the beginning of a new phase, rather than an end to the situation.

Lincolnshire has weathered the virus well to date, and much better than many other parts of the country.

The overall infection rate has held steady at a little under 150 cases per 100,000 people. The England average was 276 cases per 100,000 people – almost double the rate of our county.

But sadly, this has still resulted in great costs to local people. Most notably of course, the loss of 141 loved ones.

Around 1,147 people are known to have been infected in Lincolnshire, as we have all made sacrifices to help control this disease and protect those most vulnerable.

The impact on local businesses in particular will be felt for some time - we must recognise the last few months have undoubtedly been some of the toughest they will ever have faced.

As we move through recovery and learn to live within new boundaries, we will continue to offer support to our business community.

As well as helping businesses access financial support, including government loans and grants, Business Lincolnshire has helped companies diversify, operate differently and re-open safely.

Although most of our leisure and tourism sector remains closed, we will continue to help them through this period until they can welcome visitors back.

I'm sure you will join me in applauding the work of our council staff, and in particular our dedicated social care professionals. Care workers both within the county council and in partner organisations have been very much on the frontline of keeping those most at risk, safe.

Of the 288 care homes in Lincolnshire, 71 have reported an outbreak to date. That is around 1 in 5 of our care homes compared to outbreak rates of nearly twice that in nearby rural counties.

Our schools have managed to continue to provide care for the most vulnerable pupils, and children of keyworkers, across the county. This has helped keep children and young people safe, as well as meaning that critical services could continue.

Over 3060 pupils on average attended schools each day up until the end of May. Wider, careful re-opening of schools in differing capacities has seen 17,000 pupils return to schools to date.

Amongst the seriousness of the situation, have been shining lights of hope and success.

We must also thank and congratulate our tremendous volunteers and residents for their efforts. In the most challenging of times, there were so many people offering help to those in need.

I know you will have chosen particular good causes in your areas to support through our councillors' community fund. This will have enabled many community groups and charities to go on past the initial response and continue to operate.

As we move away from mass lockdown and into more local and targeted control of this virus, there will still be restrictions on what we can do, and how we do things.

But the county council will be at the forefront of Lincolnshire's recovery. This includes the local implementation of the NHS 'test and track' system, where we will work with partners to spot any increase in infection rates, and take appropriate action.

This will hopefully avoid any larger scale outbreaks which could lead to a need for targeted lock down measures in the worst affected areas.

I will chair the Lincolnshire Outbreak Management Board, overseeing the next phase supported by members and officers of other authorities, to set plans and keep them on track.

I expect us to be working to deliver this with national organisations but also with local schools, care providers, workplaces and our communities over the coming months.

And of course we will continue to offer support where it is needed, providing our services in safe and effective ways, keeping residents informed along the way.

I may not have believed you a year ago if you had told me that a global pandemic would have affected all of our lives in this way. But knowing what I do about our resilience and capabilities, both as an organisation and as a county, I would have absolutely believed in the success and compassion of our response.

**Cllr Mrs Patricia Bradwell OBE, Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services**

**Children's services response to Covid-19**

I am proud to say that during the pandemic Children's Services has adapted to ensure that the critical services keeping young people and their families safe continue to be delivered effectively.

I have been told of countless innovative and creative ways in which staff have engaged with families using new technology. In addition, some staff have volunteered for very challenging new roles, including redeployment to our new Wickenby Children's Home, which was opened in response to the pandemic.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their efforts.

We are now reviewing how effective our new ways of working that have been, and whether any of these elements could help enhance future service delivery.

**Schools**

During the pandemic, the vast majority of Lincolnshire schools have remained open to vulnerable children and those of key workers.

And over the last couple of weeks, we have seen an increasing number of pupils returning, with 324 schools having now re-opened to children in Reception and Years 1, 6, 10 and 12.

We are now seeing over 17,000 children attending school, yet in the past month we have had only four schools with confirmed cases of coronavirus. These all appear to be isolated cases, and there are no indications of an 'outbreak' at any local school.

We continue to work closely with schools to help them maintain a safe environment and support the phased return of further pupils over the coming months.

Schools have done all they can to support online learning at home, but, even so, young people in Lincolnshire have lost hours of education and this is of huge concern. So I am

delighted that the government has announced £1bn of funding to help pupils catch-up on the work that they have missed. We look forward to receiving further details on the programme, so we can work with schools to use this funding to help our children most effectively.

I was also pleased to see the government will continue to provide free food vouchers for families during the summer holidays, which will help many during these difficult times.

Finally, I would like to reassure people that we continue to work with the LEP, colleges and schools to support those young people hoping to move into an apprenticeship or go on to further education this year. Our young people are our future and we will ensure they get the support they need.

### **School transport**

The need for social distancing has also presented significant challenges for our schools transport team, and we continue to ask parents to transport children to school themselves if possible.

We are currently transporting around 1,200 children to school. This is far less than the 18,000 children we usually transport, but, even so, it is not easy finding sufficient vehicles because of the need for social distancing.

Even with a reduction of the 2 metre distancing rule to 1 metre, it will still be difficult for the team to find enough vehicles under the present circumstances.

### **Mental health support teams**

Good progress has been made on our mental health support teams pilot in the Lincoln and Gainsborough areas.

The project gives young people and their families access to a range of mental health and emotional wellbeing support through schools and colleges.

Our trainees are currently working with a small number of young people remotely, and should be fully operational by January 2021.

In addition, we have provisional confirmation that our bid for new teams in the Boston and Skegness areas has been successful, meaning thousands more will receive support.

### **Troubled Families programme**

Colleagues will remember that some years ago we launched the Troubled Families programme.

Complementing the work of our early help team and Future 4 Me, the programme has made a real difference to thousands of families facing complex challenges, giving them the right help at the right time.

In fact, the National Families Unit has said that we were the most successful area in the region, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication of both our staff and the families themselves.

Phase two of the programme ended in March, and, due to our success, funding has now been extended for a further year.

### **Public health nursing**

Despite the lockdown, Lincolnshire's health visitors have continued to visit families with new-borns, offering tailored support.

Children's and young people's nurses have also been providing support where needed, including to families shielding children with complex health issues.

We continue to work with multi-agency colleagues through some of our children's centres, and have embraced new technology to support families in different ways.

### **Special schools project**

Looking ahead, progress continues on the special schools project, with construction underway at the relocated Boston special school.

Pre-construction work has been undertaken at the Willoughby Academy in Bourne and The Eresby School in Spilsby, while design and remodelling work has continued via video conferencing.

The workforce development training platform is also moving forward, which will ensure that all staff have the skills and knowledge to support those with a wide range of needs and disabilities.

### **School places and admissions**

Over the last 8 years, the council has invested £92m to create 8,000 additional places at primary and secondary schools.

Now, over £3m more has been invested in 300 extra secondary school places for the next academic year, with over £4m allocated towards an additional 400 secondary school places by 2022.

Again this year, over 90% of those applying for a primary or secondary school place received their first choice.

## **Adult Care and Public Health**

The Leader has quite rightly mentioned the tremendous efforts of care workers to keep our most vulnerable residents safe during this hugely difficult period. I want to start by highlighting the support given to our care homes and their residents.

We have ensured a close working relationship with our care homes since the pandemic began to give them the support they need. Our teams have established a full programme of training and support to care homes in Lincolnshire for Infection Prevention Control through our health protection team and NHS partners. A Covid-19 hospital discharge pathway is clearly established so that all those leaving hospital are tested before any placement is agreed.

Our care sector has responded brilliantly to the covid threat so that the risk of infection has been minimal in Lincolnshire compared to other areas.

Whilst numbers of residents with suspected Covid-19 increased over previous months as expected, it has never exceeded more than 2% of all residents in Lincolnshire care homes, demonstrating the effectiveness of infection control measures.

We have established the Covid-19 Community Response Partnership, working with colleagues from district councils and the Wellbeing Service to target support to Lincolnshire residents and those identified as clinically or extremely vulnerable by the NHS. A care home resilience plan has also been produced, highlighting the comprehensive support from all agencies.

We have received £10.45m funding from government as part of a £600m national pot for supporting care homes with infection control. Based on national guidelines, 75% of this has been paid direct to care homes, while we are working on the best way to support domiciliary care providers in the county with the remaining 25%. All the funding will help us to reduce and prevent coronavirus outbreaks and protect residents.

Over 70% of care homes have applied for coronavirus test kits through the new testing portal launched by the government some weeks ago. Vulnerable people over 65 have been prioritised initially.

And we have delivered 30 Facebook Portals to care homes as well as another 5 to supported living venues. They have been donated by NHSX as part of 2,000 devices provided across the country. This will support residents to keep in touch with their families.

Our reablement service continues to provide a high quality service. From January to March 2020 65% of all people who received a reablement service did not require any ongoing services. We temporarily stood down this function to enable our provider, Libertas, to support with discharges to home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Between 24 March and 31

May, Libertas received 640 requests for care and provided 462 packages of care in people's own homes. We are now looking at how we reintroduce the reablement service as we start moving into recovery and restoration of services in Adult Care.

Funding is in place to modify provision in our twelve homecare zones to further support our service users. This includes a new 30 minute minimum call for all personal care and a new Floating Support Team established by each of our providers working together.

The Wellbeing Service has had to change and develop the way it provides services to support those who are most vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic. Working as part of the countywide community response, two distinct new teams respond to vulnerable residents and those deemed extremely clinically vulnerable, or 'shielded'. It means effective support to those with a range of needs who need to self-isolate.

To date, these teams have supported over 5,000 Lincolnshire residents since the service was re-focused at the end of March. And where it makes sense, people transfer into the usual Wellbeing service to ensure all their needs are met.

The core Wellbeing Response Service has continued unchanged. Performance has remained good with 96% of callers contacted within 60 minutes, and 82% within 45 minutes. As I've mentioned previously, responders are now based within the county council's fire stations, ensuring a timely response to those in need, generally following a fall at home.

The vital role our carers play has been particularly highlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic. It has meant many adults, children and young people taking on more caring responsibilities for their relatives and friends who are disabled, ill or older and who need support.

Throughout the pandemic, together with our partners, we have been supporting our carers to be able to access essential food and medicines and highlighting a range of online activities and advice to help carers who need it. Over the last year we've engaged with over 10,000 carers – providing more support to families and friends than we have ever done.

The countywide Domestic Abuse Service, provided by EDAN Lincs, quickly adapted its methods of engagement and support to victims, children and families. There has been an increase in enquires to the service during this time which is being monitored closely. Safe remote contact methods have been developed with one-to-one sessions and education courses for those who need assistance.

I'd like to finish by informing you that Lincolnshire has been selected to be the Rural Strategic Partner for the government's Centre for Ageing Better programme – one of only three in the country. Working with district council, health and business partners, the idea is that by 2040, more people in later life will be in good health, financially secure, have social connections and feel their lives are meaningful and purposeful.

The focus is on those approaching later life. We are developing a work programme to secure the best outcomes and opportunities for Lincolnshire people approaching later life.

**Cllr Sue Woolley, Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison and Community Engagement**

Last week while I was driving in Bourne, I was hugely encouraged to see two young girls excitedly running towards their school together. I probably wouldn't have thought twice about this earlier in the year, but after the last few months, it was a welcome reminder of the 'normal' existence we used to enjoy and perhaps take for granted, before the coronavirus outbreak.

The longer social restrictions continue for, the more it becomes clear how much our day-to-day lives have changed. But in our communities, I have been amazed and inspired by how our residents have supported each other, often going above and beyond to help neighbours and friends.

I join Councillor Hill in recognising the excellent work our staff have carried out, helping co-ordinate these efforts. The work of the communities and volunteer co-ordination group within the LRF, has seen re-deployed staff from across the council coming together to support our most vulnerable people.

Initially they made phone calls to check extremely vulnerable residents were ok and had access to food, medication and a support network. They also worked with more than 400 local voluntary and community groups to co-ordinate help where it was needed, registering over 600 volunteers who went on to carry out welfare visits, deliver food parcels and prescriptions.

Now in recovery mode, they are engaging with these volunteers and groups to get their feedback and to consider how we can best utilise volunteer efforts when they are needed.

We have also seen twice as many visits as usual to our funding portal for not-for-profit organisations over the past two months, with direct enquiries also increasing during May and April.

This appears to be a direct result of the pandemic as many are from new groups, or from existing organisations that are diversifying.

During this time, we have also carried our first County Views survey, which will now be taking place three times per year, on behalf of all councils in Greater Lincolnshire.

I'm pleased to report that from 662 responses, 81% of people agreed that their local area is a great place to live. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the issue respondents would most like to see improved is 'Road networks and highway maintenance'.

Although the number of respondents was not especially high given the current circumstances, the initial survey gives us a starting point to go forward and the results will help us to monitor progress against the aims of the corporate plan. The results are now available on the council website and make an interesting read.

I'm sure by now you are all aware of the monthly town and parish council newsletter we send to 366 town and parish councils across Lincolnshire. Engagement with this newsletter is increasing every month, and this is developing into a really useful tool to keep them up to date with council news and activity.

Our engagement teams have also built 309 individual websites for town and parish councils over the last couple of months. Work is continuing to complete them all so they can be rolled out as soon as possible. Alternative ways of providing support to replace face to face training is being developed.

HealthWatch Lincolnshire has been inviting people to share their views on the impact of Covid-19 on their health and wellbeing, and engaging widely.

The preliminary findings were presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 9 June and the weekly reports summarising the public responses can be found on the [HealthWatch Lincolnshire website](#). The findings are being used to support the LRF's intelligence gathering from the pandemic, but also the Health and Wellbeing Board's future focus.

I recently contributed to a report for the LGA on our Health and Wellbeing Board 'reset' in light of Covid-19. The LGA will now be working with us in the coming months to review our priorities in Lincolnshire in light of the impact of the pandemic.

This will ensure progress towards reducing health inequalities, whilst re-assessing local needs, but also making sure we don't compromise our readiness to respond to any future virus outbreaks.

The pandemic has brought inequalities into sharp focus. Early evidence suggests that some of the social determinants of health, including obesity, ethnicity, deprivation, poor mental health and socio-economic status are contributing to higher levels of Covid-19 related deaths.

On Tuesday, I chaired a virtual LGA conference on this topic. Professor Sir Michael Marmot, delivered the keynote speech and we heard how Health and Wellbeing Boards are leading on wider determinants of health and tackling health inequalities.

Clearly our local NHS has been incredibly busy being at the forefront of the Covid-19 response.

United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) has approved a plan to help patients who have had surgery and appointments postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, get the treatment they need.

The Trust will temporarily create a largely COVID-free site at Grantham and District Hospital for this next phase of the pandemic, where they will carry out more chemotherapy sessions, cancer surgeries and other elective surgeries for patients from across Lincolnshire.

Although I welcome the re-starting of these procedures and understand the rationale, there are clearly local concerns. We will be monitoring any impacts closely and ensuring this is a temporary measure, as has been promised.

Lincolnshire's GP and primary care services are now arranged into 14 areas, called Primary Care Networks (PCNs). This is another positive step in better co-ordinating health and social care and making services more integrated for our residents. They build on existing services and will form part of the county's aspiration that people will live in good health for longer. Networks will work with local communities to increase the use of social prescribing and extend access to physiotherapy and clinical pharmacy services.

Further to my updates at the last full council meeting, I am pleased to confirm that the NHS Lincolnshire CCG was formally established on 1 April 2020, completing the merger of the four former CCGs.

As previously reported, John Turner has been appointed as Chief Executive and I can now tell you that Sean Lyons has taken up the position of Chair of the CCG Governing Board.

At a management level, I hope that these changes within our NHS will give a more joined up approach to health service provision both during these challenging times, and in the longer-term.

Lastly, I would also like to congratulate Mark Locking, currently the Managing Director of Lincoln College Group, and Emma Tatlow, who have been appointed by Active Lincolnshire as Chair of the Board and CEO respectively.

Active Lincolnshire is a key partner supporting the plan to improve physical activity in the county, as part of our Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **Cllr Colin Davie – Executive Councillor for Economy and Place**

As Cllr Hill has already mentioned that the last few months have been incredibly difficult for our local businesses, and will continue to be for some time to come.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the economy and on growth locally, just as it has nationally.

But I'm very proud of all that we have done to help support our businesses, and all that we continue to do.

Our teams have worked quickly and flexibly. They have re-purposed the advice that we give to businesses to reflect government guidance, updating it frequently.

Since the start of the lockdown, the services that we commission have provided one-to-one advice to 596 businesses. This has included help to diversify or to provide services differently so they can keep operating in the toughest of trading environments.

The Business Lincolnshire website has been a valuable source of current support for the business community with around 4500 individual users accessing information on the site.

The council has also supported construction work in Lincolnshire to continue where possible. The development management team carried out remote site checking during lockdown, making sure bigger projects such as housing and other developments could move forward safely.

Developers and contractors provided photos, videos, documentation and testing certificates so the team could check works are up to standard and conditions were being met, without having to physically attend sites.

And as always, we have shown that together we are stronger in Lincolnshire. It is not just our local communities that have rallied to help each other.

We have worked with district and unitary councils, who have allocated more than £200m of grants to businesses.

We have worked with organisations like the Chamber of Commerce, banks and accountants, who have all run online webinars on subjects as diverse as wellbeing for employers and managing insurance claims.

Our Team Lincolnshire ambassador programme, has started weekly "Team Lincolnshire Cares" webinars which are greatly appreciated by its members.

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP, as a thriving partnership, has led the response phase. In particular, it has run a campaign to encourage students and the unemployed to help out in Lincolnshire's agriculture and food sector – an area which has seen huge demand.

Last month this was strengthened further when Rutland County Council joined the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and North and North Lincolnshire councils committing to sole membership. They were previously also part of Humberside's LEP.

To get our economy on track in Lincolnshire, it's important that we continue with our key investments.

Although work on the Food Enterprise Zone in Holbeach was paused for a short amount of time, we are now back on site and I am pleased to say that the steel frame for the first building on the site, the University of Lincoln's food technology centre, has now gone up.

We know our tourism businesses are suffering greatly, and whilst the situation is outside of our control we will continue to ensure that the right support is provided for phased recovery that gives confidence to residents and visitors.

Tourism will need to be re-launched in a considered and managed way which generates much-needed revenue for businesses, whilst not overwhelming local services.

We will also continue with our ambition to diversify the visitor economy, through raising the quality of our tourism offer and providing jobs in other sectors.

I am pleased to confirm that the basic construction of Huttoft Boatshed Café is almost complete, ready for the installation phase. As a modular building, it has been built offsite and so good progress has been made.

We will also shortly be starting to build the roadway in Skegness Business Park so that it can be opened up to employers in sectors which will help to diversify the coastal economy.

Of course, as we have been dealing with the current emergency, many residents may still be feeling the effects from the last one.

Work has continued over the last few months to complete the flood investigations opened across Lincolnshire from the months of heavy rainfall from June to November.

At present there remain around 150 open investigations, and the council continues to work within the current restrictions to conclude these and to seek solutions for those affected residents.

Members will be aware that the investigation into flooding in the Wainfleet area was completed early this year.

£150,000 has been allocated to support implementation of urgent measures accordingly. We have also completed and published a long term action plan with partners for this catchment, to ensure we invest this money to the best possible effect.

Our flood alleviation scheme at Digby began last month as part of our capital scheme and we will also be trialling a new scheme across Lincolnshire giving householders access to resilience measures for their properties.

This scheme will be aimed at very localised issues – often affecting only a small number of properties - where a large scale scheme may be harder to put in place.

The scheme we are implementing has been used successfully by Essex County Council in recent years, and we are working with them to learn from their experience.

As with many other council services, we have shown our commitment to continuing to provide valued services through a time when they have been needed more than ever; and to deliver priority projects, even in the most challenging of situations.

### **Councillor Nick Worth – Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services**

I would like to thank the staff for being so creative in the way we do business. This is a stark change from the past and I've been impressed with their attitudes and positivity.

Services have adapted amazingly well with many of our heritage and culture services offered virtually, including story times, online Q&A sessions and the virtual hosting of VE Day celebrations.

Libraries, although physically closed, did a roaring trade. Compared to last year, the number of new members joining the library service increased by 712% in April and 225% in May. E-Book issues were up 223% and 345% across the two months and there were large increases in the number of e-magazines and e-newspapers as well as the amount of music streamed through the portal.

I am pleased to announce we will be ready to reopen libraries on 13<sup>th</sup> July with 60% current opening hours, 'takeaway' service for books (no browsing for now – phone or click to reserve, then collect) and limited pc use by public. Access service ready to roll with two weeks' notice, full mobile service 4 weeks after that. Review at the beginning of August with a view to support community hubs opening. The next phase of core libraries opening will create areas for limited browsing.

Heritage- building on the success of the reopening of the grounds and Wall Walks at Lincoln Castle, we will be ready to open some of the other sites on 13<sup>th</sup> July (if screens installed in time and PPE arrives). We will open the rest of Lincoln Castle's offer, The Collection (not necessarily 7 days a week), Archives (3-4 days a week), BBMF (3-4 days a week). Staff from

the MLL, The Usher Gallery. Learning Team will be temporarily reallocated to ensure additional staff at those sites opening 13<sup>th</sup> July to ensure public confidence in adherence to social distancing, one way systems etc. Subject to how opening goes and any changes in government advice we'll review every four weeks with anticipated opening of other sites for the October half term.

The consultation on the Usher Gallery is ongoing as we speak and the initial report from the consultants is due at the end of this month.

## **Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue (LFR)**

### **Pre-Covid: key achievements**

We have continued to strengthen our relationships with emergency services colleagues - the fire control room has now successfully re-located to our Police & Fire headquarters at Nettleham, supporting our drive for even closer collaboration between emergency services in the county. The mobilising system the control room use has also been upgraded to provide increased resilience for the future.

We have continued to receive applications from the community to become on-call firefighters:

- We had 11 new on-call firefighters join us in January having successfully completed their initial recruit course.
- 9 of a further 11 new recruits were also able to start with us in March.
- The 2 brand new entrants are now returning to training, along with 6 new on-call recruits.

We have welcomed your thoughts and feedback on our community plan:

- We have completed the consultation with the public and stakeholders on our Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) – also known as Our Community Plan- which outlines our key risks to our communities and the organisation itself. This will be used as a basis for how we mitigate these risks, how we use our resources to give the best results and make Lincolnshire safer, stronger and more resilient.

Throughout the COVID period:

- I'm pleased to be able to report that during the exceptional challenges of the last few months, our fire cover has remained strong and many fire crews have gone above and beyond in supporting their local communities.
- 12 firefighters also trained with East Midlands Ambulance Service to be able to support their response to Covid-19 if necessary, such as driving urgent care vehicles and safely moving patients.
- The fire prevention team have continued to support vulnerable people across the county, with advocates giving telephone advice and providing Safe and Well visits to the most vulnerable.

### **Registration and Coroners Services**

Birth registration is being reintroduced. Death registrations are being completed by telephone. Notices of Marriage are being reintroduced. These are currently being completed at Lincoln only with other offices being able to take notices as soon as possible.

Wedding ceremonies in July are being checked and staffing is being arranged. Ceremonies in August are being contacted to both confirm attendance and arrange necessary legal preliminaries. All ceremonies will be subject to 2 metre social distancing and those in Registration offices will also be converted into standard ceremonies to ensure that they are completed in the given timescale. All licenced venues are being contacted to ensure that registration staff maintain a 2 metre distance from couples and guests.

### **Councillor Eddy Poll – Executive Councillor for Commercial and Environmental Management**

#### **Waste Services**

##### Pre- Covid

It's been a really interesting year and continued to work hard with our partners to deliver the best for the residents of the county.

Lincolnshire Waste Partnership continues to go from strength to strength. We have continued with our food waste trial with South Kesteven. The separate Paper and Card collection trial, which involved 7,500 homes in the county, has been a great success. There has been a high level of public participation and satisfaction and very good quality material recovered. Over 240 tonnes of clean and dry paper and card going to a paper mill in Kings Lynn – being repurposed into paper and card.

- We have teamed up with our district council colleagues in a national campaign to SCRAP flytipping.
- We've processed the millionth tonne of waste at our EFW plant – We're now landfilling well below 4% of total household waste.
- Just before Covid struck, we awarded a new recycling contract to local processor Mid-UK, which will sort our mixed recyclables for the next five years.

#### During Covid

- During the emergency, I am pleased to say Waste Services have maintained operations at the waste transfer stations to support household collections which suffered minor disruptions but are now returning to normal.
- I'm delighted to welcome a number of redeployed LCC staff into the service to help us keep 'business as usual'.
- We closed the recycling centres at the height of the pandemic in line with government advice to avoid non-essential journeys, but I'm delighted to say they have now reopened. To make the process safer for residents and staff, a new 'Click and Tip' booking system has been introduced. To the middle of June, almost 40,000 bookings had been taken for the 11 sites. Public reaction has been fantastic, and we aim to keep the new system, albeit more technically advanced, in place.
- The EFW maintained a full level of service for the county's waste, as did our recycling processing service delivered by Mid-UK. Therefore, waste and recycling collections and processing in Lincolnshire maintained a good level of service during the crisis.
- It is not yet clear how Covid-19 has affected the Government's timetable for introducing the new policies contained in the Resources & Waste Strategy and

whether promises of future funding can be maintained due to the economic impact of the crisis and the predicted recession.

### **Moving forward**

- We need to improve the quality of recycling across the county, so will be working hard to address this
- We'll seek to add more functionality and update the click and tip booking system – making it even easier for residents to use.
- We've seen the environmental and economic benefits of the paper and card separate collections – so look to begin to roll this out further in spring 2021.
- We are looking to find the best processes and assets for the service in a way which reduces our carbon emissions and gives the best value for tax payers
- We continue to develop more robust plans for commercial waste.
- We continue to work with our partners to crack down on flytipping in the county.

### **Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership**

- We are working with our Greater Lincolnshire partners looking at planning, energy use and transport to ensure we do our best for nature across the county.
- Covid has reminded us once again how important our open spaces are – both for our emotional and physical wellbeing. When we could, we opened up our car parks in the Coastal Country Park to allow local people enjoy and exercise on our beautiful coastline.

### **Sustainability**

- Our sustainability team has been leading the creation of a green master plan for the Council and our partners. We've adopted a target of net carbon neutrality by 2050, as well as a range of targets to meet this aspiration by local authorities across Lincolnshire, so we are looking at new and innovative ways to deliver our services, and how we can support and lead our communities in moving to a more sustainable future.

- The council's sustainability team has taken the opportunity presented by Covid to embrace and promote the benefits of remote working. We've continued to develop the technical evidence base underpinning the green masterplan while preparing for formal consultation with our partners to create the first draft of the plan.
- One of the most important elements of the plan will be to understand and sustain some of the positive impacts of Covid, such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, more sustainable use of transport and greater use of remote working. All of these will contribute significantly to a permanent reduction in emissions, as well as embedding more sustainable working practices with wider environmental, economic and health benefits for our communities overall.

**Cllr Barry Young – Executive Councillor for Community Safety and People Management**

Now, perhaps more than ever, the work we do to keep our residents safe is vital to support our communities through this vulnerable time.

**Safer Communities-Prevention, Protection, Partnerships**

Our innovative 'Safer Together' partnership with Lincolnshire Police has become well established over the last year. Although recent redeployments from both organisations to support our response to the pandemic have impacted on our joint working, we remain committed to working together to address such matters as illegal trading, and persistent and harmful offending; to provide safety messages to schools, and; to support victims of scams and fraud.

**Trading Standards**

Lincolnshire Trading Standards welcomed four new Trading Standards Officers to their ranks back in January. All four are working toward the Level 4 Regulatory Compliance Officer apprenticeship. This qualification is recognised by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute and will help support the future of the service which has struggled to attract fully qualified officers when going out to recruitment.

On 9 March, Trading Standards carried out one of their largest ever animal seizures, taking into their care 48 cattle that were deemed to be suffering or at risk. Action like this is always taken as a last resort, and in this case it followed a number of visits where improvement notices were issued but unfortunately not complied with. The court hearing following the seizure was due to take place in April, but understandably was delayed until later this month due to the Covid-19 outbreak. As such, the cattle remain in our safe care.

As lockdown measures were introduced in mid-March, Trading Standards have worked closely with Lincolnshire Police and our district council colleagues to support businesses that could continue to operate safely, and ensure compliance with the government's regulations to help stop the spread of the virus.

We have also continued in the fight against scams. As fraudsters attempted to cash-in on the coronavirus outbreak, our Trading Standards service has continued to issue warnings and advice about the latest scams to residents and businesses.

The service is currently testing PPE and hand sanitisers being offered to residents and businesses, to ensure that they are legally compliant, and verify any safety claims.

### **Community Safety**

In the Community Safety Team, we welcomed a new co-ordinator in January who assumed lead responsibility for Reducing Offending and Modern Slavery. They began work with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board to progress the recommendations in the Serious Adult Review "Learning from the Experience of Large-Scale Modern Slavery in Lincolnshire".

Our Domestic Abuse lead supported commercial colleagues in the re-procurement of the Refuge Support Service contract earlier this year, to ensure we could continue to provide a safe space for those escaping domestic abuse. We were also successful in securing additional Government funding of £187,000 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to develop the county's accommodation options for victims of domestic abuse even further.

As lockdown restrictions were introduced, it was vital that we continued to provide our services to help victims of domestic abuse, and we've worked hard with our partner agencies across the county to ensure the level of support available remained the same. However, unlike other areas of the country, thankfully Lincolnshire has not seen a significant rise in reports of domestic abuse or referrals or calls to our support services during the lockdown.

Our Domestic Abuse Project Officer has also been working with Lincolnshire Co-op to raise awareness of domestic abuse amongst their workforce, to allow them to support colleagues and customers who may require help.

And since being set up in 2015, the Stay Safe Partnership has now engaged with over 160,000 pupils across Lincolnshire on anti-social behaviour, alcohol awareness, drug awareness, healthy relationships, internet safety, fire safety and road safety. The team also prepared resources for parents and carers who found themselves home-schooling their children when schools closed earlier this year.

### **Apprenticeships**

Apprenticeships are key to helping support our staff to develop, and securing the right skills for the future of the council. As of 20 May, the total number of apprentices on roll is 192, with a levy allocation of £1.6m. Just over 44% of training provision is being delivered by local providers.

During the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of our apprentices have been able to finish their apprenticeships early, due to their continued focus and the support and dedication of their line manager and their apprentice training provider.

For the vast majority of our apprentices, they have been able to continue their learning through new, digital solutions, and through learning packs, with tutors on hand to provide support.

25 of the 192 apprentices are currently on a break from their learning, due to them being redeployed to help with the response to Covid-19, or due to ill health. The HR service is working closely with those apprentices and the providers to agree the best time for them to return to their programmes.

19 new apprentices have started their training with us since the start of lockdown on 23 March, and schools are also continuing to send in requests for apprenticeship training due to start in the new academic year.

The Council is working closely with the Education, Skills and Funding Agency and the Local Government Association to ensure our apprentices have the support they need to complete their learning, despite the difficult circumstances.

### **Cllr Richard Davies, Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT**

Undeniably the impacts of Covid-19 on the transport network has been huge. Public transport operators – particularly bus operators – have been particularly badly affected as passenger numbers have collapsed. We're working very closely with this industry to try to support them as much as we can.

We have been allocated around £1m from government to improve the way our towns and city operate, to support more walking and cycling. We're working with our district, town and parish council colleagues on plans to ensure whatever changes we deliver are effective.

There is an opportunity to do things differently and make Lincolnshire operate differently, particularly around commuting and shorter journeys. I'm pleased to see the uptake in walking and cycling, and if we can capitalise on that then we will see significant differences to the way our transport networks operate, in particular around those shorter, 1 to 3 mile journeys.

On the £100m Lincoln Eastern Bypass scheme, unfortunately work did have to pause at the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak whilst social distancing measures were introduced. But I'm pleased to say that work subsequently started up again, helped by dryer weather, and I'm confident the road will reopen before the end of the year.

Work on the Grantham Southern Relief Road managed to continue on site despite the onset of Covid-19, and work has taken place to tunnel under the A1.

Both of these schemes will unfortunately see cost increases due to the coronavirus, but it is not known at this stage by exactly how much.

Work started on the archaeology on the northern section of the five part Spalding Western Relief Road scheme, with construction due to start in the autumn. Detailed designs are ongoing for the remainder of the project.

The Lincolnshire Coastal Highway project is very much about connected both sides of the county. We have a series of schemes underway already – such as on the A46 to the north of Lincoln – but we are will also be rolling out a multi-year programme which will include a variety of road improvements and footways and cycleways along that route.

On the Riseholme Roundabout on the A46, we are working to increase capacity, by making the roundabout bigger and allowing traffic to flow more freely.

Further along the A46, the notorious accident blackspot at the Dunholme/Welton junction will be replaced with a brand new roundabout, after securing funding from national government. We're looking to start work here in September.

At the Sleaford Rugby Club Junction, works are underway to signalise the junction coming off the A17, in order to make the connectivity with the A17 work much better, as this is a key linkage in particular into the employment areas in the north of Sleaford.

Parallel works at Holdingham Roundabout have unfortunately been delayed until the middle of February.

Finally at Corringham Junction, works will starts in September and will take around 10 weeks.

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