

Agenda Item 5

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10 DECEMBER 2021

Statement from: Councillor M J Hill OBE – Leader of the Council

COMMERCIAL TEAM

The Team has established a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for post-mortems and mortuary services to meet the Council's immediate needs whilst providing flexibility in the event that there is a merger of coronial areas with North Lincolnshire and/or North East Lincolnshire Council. Authorities across the country may utilise the DPS to establish contracts with some commercial benefit for the Council for hosting the service.

Work is ongoing on the re-procurement of a Framework Agreement for refuse collection vehicles and is likely to incorporate new or emerging vehicle technologies and associated infrastructure. We are also establishing a Framework Agreement for grounds maintenance services due to be live before the end of 2021.

The team has recently conducted a number of other procurements including: consultancy services, flood defences, the production of a green tourism toolkit, a digital engagement software system, psychometric testing for recruitment & progression, and topographical surveys.

The team continues to work closely with colleagues in Highways on the Highways Select Framework and on the North Hykeham Relief Road procurement.

We have also delivered several procurements for our District Council partners including a kitchen and bathrooms contract for NKDC and a contract for the regeneration of Grinter Close in North Hykeham which included the design, build and erection of affordable dwellings and the redevelopment of Grinter House.

FINANCE

Budget Setting 2022/23

Following on from the Chancellor's Budget and Spending Review 2021, we are assessing the impact of the financial settlement and how this will affect our Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Executive will make its budget proposals for consultation at its meeting on the 5 January 2022, before making final proposals for Council to consider in February.

Revenue and Capital budget monitoring Q1 and financial impact of Covid-19

The second budget monitoring reports for the current financial year 2021/22 are based on the forecast position on 30 September 2021. The reports were presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 25 November, with the comments of the Board presented to the Executive on 7 December 2021. The reports include the financial impacts of Covid-19 and demonstrate our continued vigilant financial management, with a satisfactory position being forecast on our revenue and capital budgets.

THEDDLETHORPE GDF (GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY)

The County Council, East Lindsey District Council and Theddlethorpe Parish Council have joined the GDF working group, which has now met twice. The working group has received updates on the key activities being undertaken by RWM in accordance with the requirements of Government Policy.

The working group has three tasks:

Engage with the public locally

The working group has received updates on the local engagement activity which currently runs to around 2000 individuals having participated in meetings or one to one briefing sessions. Some of the events had to be cancelled due to outbreaks of Covid infection within the RWM team but these along with some additional events have been rescheduled for the New Year. Work is progressing on developing Q&A information to address and respond to the main lines of enquiry being raised. A stakeholder reference group is being established of other interested groups and bodies who might be expected to become members of a community partnership if that is established and meetings are being arranged for those organisations to be briefed on the process and the work of RWM. Local research will be undertaken through focus groups and one to one interviews to provide qualitative and quantitative data on people's views and opinions. This will take place in the New Year.

Identify a search area

The options for this are to be presented to the January meeting of the Working Group for consideration. Officers have engaged in a workshop session to ensure key considerations are fully considered as part of that process.

Identify initial Community Partnership Membership

If the project proceeds to the next stage the Community Partnership will be established, and it is important that such a partnership is representative of local views so the County Council will input to the development of that group's membership although once it is established as a partnership it will be able to amend its membership accordingly.

It is currently envisaged that the work of the Working group will be completed by the spring of 2022 with the Community Partnership being established. More information about the project can be found by visiting [Working Group Theddlethorpe \(workinginpartnership.org.uk\)](http://Working Group Theddlethorpe (workinginpartnership.org.uk)).

CCN CONFERENCE

Myself, Cllrs Parker and Whittington plus the Chief Executive attended the CCN conference on November 22 2021.

In a very full agenda there were discussions on many of the issues facing local government in county areas including the soaring demand for children's care (led by our CX), changes to adult care funding, levelling up, climate change and devolution.

Michael Gove gave indications that there would be announcements about the devolution white paper before Christmas and stressed his personal preference was for economic growth decisions to be taken by locally elected people with a broad remit.

These issues are common to county councils across the country but I was reassured that Lincolnshire is better placed than many and is already looking at future solutions.

The conference sessions are available to view on:

<https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/conference-and-events/ccn-conference/>

AMBULANCE SUMMIT

On December 1st we hosted the third Ambulance Summit with senior Lincolnshire representatives of the emergency services, the Council, the NHS and related voluntary organisations.

Building on the success of the previous summits in organising joint working to prevent hundreds of patients entering the acute health arena we investigated how we could further work collectively to further improve outcomes for residents.

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