



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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	22 February 2022
Subject:	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Performance Framework 2021-2022 - Quarter 3

Summary:

This report sets out the performance of the Tier 2 Service Level Performance measures for 2021/22 Quarter 3 for Economy, Flooding and Waste which are within the remit of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on the details of the performance contained in the report and recommend any changes or actions to the relevant Executive Councillor.

1. Background

Economy Performance Measures

The targets measure the number of businesses supported, the number of adults gaining qualifications and the amount of external funding attracted to Lincolnshire. Progress has been very good to date. The Growth department has been very innovative and resourceful and changed the mode of delivery to a virtual model very quickly; this alongside the government grants has greatly supported our learners and business community.

Businesses Supported

During Q3 a further 399 businesses were supported bringing the total for the year to date to 1525, above the quarter target of 1308. This is a direct result of businesses accessing the Invest for the Future funds that was part of the Lincolnshire County Council's Covid 19 support package. The grant was designed to support existing businesses to invest in capital projects that will help them respond to the challenging trading environment caused by COVID-19 and enable them to grow, provide additional services or improve their operating environment.

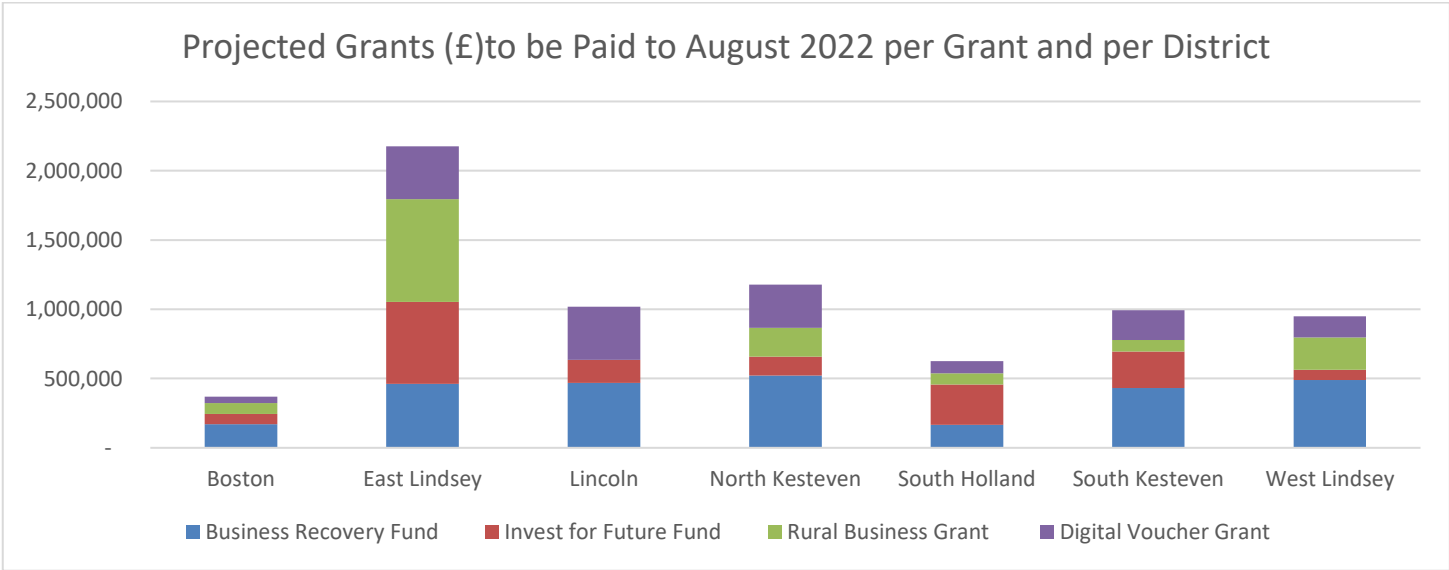
The County Council’s Covid business grant scheme is now ended, with only a handful of final payments to be made. The scheme has helped just under 900 businesses, almost all of whom were small businesses employing less than 10 people and many of whom were unable to receive any other form of public grant during the lockdown. As such, the council’s investment has been a lifeline for many businesses and their staff.

The tables below show the amount of grant provided to businesses under each of the four grant streams: business recovery grant, invest for the future programme, rural business grant, and digital business grant. £2.700m was spent on business recovery grants, £1.600m on Invest for the Future, £1.400m on rural business grants, and £1.600m on digital vouchers. A further £0.500m has been invested in delivering the priorities identified by The Tourism Commission which was chaired by Councillor Colin Davie.

There has been a good distribution of grants across the county which is broadly consistent with the number of small and medium sized businesses in each district area -226 businesses received grants in East Lindsey, 163 in North Kesteven ,159 in Lincoln , 132 in West Lindsey, 122 in South Kesteven, 58 in South Holland, and 39 in Boston.

Several local authorities across the country have contacted LCC and asked for information about how we ran the programme because they would like to establish similar schemes.

Projected Grant (£) to be paid by August 22	Boston	East Lindsey	Lincoln	North Kesteven	South Holland	South Kesteven	West Lindsey	Total
Business Recovery Fund	170,000	462,500	467,500	522,500	165,000	432,500	490,000	2,710,000
Invest for Future Fund	75,000	591,846	167,500	136,031	291,011	262,268	72,500	1,596,155
Rural Business Grant	77,525	740,323	0	207,819	81,707	84,254	235,379	1,427,006
Digital Voucher Grant	47,123	380,560	383,013	310,740	87,838	213,346	151,452	1,574,074
Total	369,648	2,175,230	1,018,013	1,177,091	625,555	992,368	949,330	7,307,235



This quarter there have been 7 investment fund grant schemes paid and a further 22 are in progress. With local European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Grant Schemes coming to an end, the number of businesses being supported through grant programmes will

decrease short term, however take up of some of the new specialist programmes has been good with 20 businesses benefitting from the Manufacturing Transformation Programme, 48 businesses accessing the Supply Chain programme, 20 businesses engaged in the 10 by 10 Growth Accelerator Programme and 25 Lincolnshire businesses participating in the joint East Midlands wide Business Resilience programmes.

There have been 26 inward investment meetings this quarter and the Team Lincolnshire virtual coffee club meetings continue to provide support to businesses. In the region of 150 small businesses are supported through tenancies within the Economic Infrastructure Property Portfolio. Of these many take up support from Business Lincolnshire and in Q3 11 businesses were directly supported to develop and grow directly through Portfolio.

Qualifications Achieved

The number of qualifications achieved by adults in Q3 was 297 bringing the total to 1,270, above the target of 1,200 and is as a direct result of a change in some construction training provision, with learning programmes now offering an increased number of individual qualifications than previously expected.

With the relaxation of national restrictions around the delivery of classroom learning, the number of qualifications achieved through online/distance learning has now reduced, with the result that at the end of Q3 38% of all qualifications achieved were delivered through that route, compared to 43% at the end of Q2.

Provision continues to be aimed at targeted learners resulting in 59% of all qualifications having been achieved by male learners and 35% by learners with no, or low levels of previous qualification attainment. These percentages are consistent across all 3 quarters. With a continued focus on supporting employability, the range of qualifications achieved at the end of Q3 now includes 88 GCSE's or Functional Skills in English or maths as well as a further 10 ESOL qualifications. In terms of supporting Lincolnshire's priority employment sectors, the number of qualifications achieved that relate to the wider care sector has now increased to 397, with a further 263 supporting construction, 198 supporting hospitality and 136 supporting accountancy and business administration services.

Included at the request of Corporate Performance: Please note that the targets for KPI70 were increased at the end of Q2 due to the yearly target being exceeded at the end of that quarter. Previous targets – Q2 - 140 Q3 - 320 Q4 - 600 Revised targets – Q2 - 950 Q3 – 1,200 Q4 – 1,400.

External Funding Attracted

During Q3 an additional £1,114,500 of external funding has been received, bringing the total for the year at Q3 to £19,180,499 against a target of £20,425,123.

We were successful in attracting £885,000 from the national “Community Renewal Fund” competition. The funding will enable voluntary organisations to help long-term unemployed people in Lincoln, and it will also enable us to undertake research into how to

help to fill vacancies in the adult social care sector. We were also successful with a bid to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for funding of £229,500 which has been received to expand the work we do to provide advice to businesses through the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub.

We remain on course to meet our annual target and we already expect to receive confirmation of two other funding sources during Q4: £195,000 to help us to co-ordinate self-help groups of like-minded businesses in our most important economic sectors, and £769,884 of European Funding has been drawn down, for the delivery of the Business Lincolnshire Business Advisory one to one support, a packed calendar of courses across a wide range of business topics, as well as grants to support businesses to grow.

Due to an oversight in the 2021-22 quarter 2 reporting the figure reported, £15,230,915, was the actual performance for the quarter rather than the cumulative of £18,065,999. The performance for quarter 2 would have exceeded the target of £12,563,213 rather than achieved.

Flooding Performance Measures

This measure is calculated on the basis of the number of formal investigations undertaken by the County Council under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Lincolnshire County Council has interpreted a flooding incident to be any in which one or more domestic properties are flooded internally; the strategic highway network is significantly affected; there is significant impact on farmland or there is a significant impact on the community e.g., schools or commercial property. It should be noted that whilst the figures provided are accurate at the time of reporting, these may subsequently change either up or down as active and emerging investigations progress and the causation and impacts of the flooding are fully understood.

There were 5 S.19 Investigations started in Q3 affecting 7 residential properties. This compares with 18 investigations affecting 36 properties in Q3 last year, 2020/2021. It was previously reported that 23 investigations had been started during Q3 of 2020/2021, however this figure has now been revised following the conclusion of a number of investigations which determined that internal flooding had not occurred and as such have now been logged as a 'near miss'.

Waste Performance Measures

The three Performance Indicators measure the waste collection and recycling performance across Lincolnshire. The first Performance Indicator is the recycling rate at our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) which is 71.87% compared to the 71.28% of the previous quarter. This is still below the target of 75% and may be as a consequence of fewer public visits to HWRCs. The total amount of material presented at HWRCs is around 65% of pre-pandemic levels.

The second Performance Indicator is the overall recycling rate of 43.7%, which is a slight decline from the previous quarter of 44.6% and is still below the target of 48%. Part of this

may be down to the smaller amount of material received at HWRCs which tends to increase the overall recycling rate. Overall, there is a national decline in recycling rates and the reasons are not fully understood. However, the new Environment Act will attempt to redress this decline through having more materials such as food waste collected separately. Other initiatives that we are progressing separately to that requirement, includes the separate collection of paper and card which has already been rolled out in Boston and North Kesteven, with West Lindsey being next district on the programme for April. Another initiative we are implementing is a schools engagement programme, whereby educational material will be circulated, and Waste staff will be visiting schools to discuss recycling issues.

The third Performance Indicator is the amount of material produced by each household and this cumulative total is 768kg per household compared to the target of 780kg per household. This may be due to lower levels of garden waste produced earlier in the year and also less material being presented at HWRCs.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to review and comment on the performance information for Quarter 3 and highlight any recommendations or further actions for consideration.

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	Economy Performance Measures
Appendix B	Flooding Performance Measures
Appendix C	Waste Performance Measures

5. Background Papers

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

This report was written by:

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