Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL Working for a better future

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
24 FEBRUARY 2022

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR T J N SMITH (VICE-CHAIRMAN, IN THE CHAIR)

Mrs J Brockway, P M Dilks, A M Hall, R J Kendrick, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet, N H Pepper, E W Strengiel, R Wootten and Mrs J E Killey

Added Members

Councillor R D Butroid attended the meeting as an observer.

Councillors Mrs S Woolley and M A Whittington attended the meeting as observers via Microsoft Teams.

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Barnes OBE (Chief Executive), Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Andrew Crookham (Executive Director Resources), James Drury (Executive Director Commercial), Andy Gutherson (Executive Director Place), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Tony Kavanagh (Assistant Director – Human Resources and Organisational Support), Nigel West (Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer) and Emily Wilcox (Democratic Services Officer)

Officers in attendance via Microsoft Teams:

Pam Clipson (Head of Finance - Adult Care and Community Wellbeing), Andy Gutherson (Executive Director – Place), Caroline Jackson (Head of Corporate Performance), Sue Maycock (Head of Finance - Corporate), Andrew McLean (Assistant Director - Transformation), Keith Noyland (Head of Finance - Communities), Mark Popplewell (Head of Finance - Children's Services), Heather Sandy (Executive Director - Children's Services), Chris Scott (Link Asset Services) and Karen Tonge (Treasury Manager)

109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received by Councillor R B Parker.

It was reported that, under Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Councillor Mrs J E Killey had been appointed as a replacement for Councillor R B Parker, for this meeting only.

It was also noted that Councillor M J Hill OBE had sent his apologies.

110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

111 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2022

RESOLVED:

That minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

112 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF OFFICERS

The Vice-Chairman announced that he had attended the meeting of the Executive on the 8th February on behalf of the Chairman and presented the Board's comments on the Council's Budget Proposals for 2022/34 and had highlighted the Board's points in relation to the impact of the reduction for the Highways Maintenance Grant as well as the pressures on Adult Social Care and the introduction of the Council's Smarter Working Policy and the potential savings that could be achieved.

113 CONSIDERATION OF CALL-INS

None had been received.

114 CONSIDERATION OF COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ACTION

None had been received.

115 PEOPLE MANAGEMENT UPDATE - QUARTER 3

Consideration was given to a report by the Assistant Director – HR and Organisational Support, which invited the Board to consider an update of the HR Management Information (HRMI) and on corporate HR projects.

Additional pressure on staffing as a result of the pandemic had led to a substantial increase in agency spend to £4.26m at the end of Quarter 3. The total agency spend was expected to be around £5.77m by the end of the financial year, which would be an increase of £880,000 compared with 2020/21.

Sickness absence had increased in Quarter 3, with the total number of days lost per FTE for Directorates excluding Fire and Rescue being 7.63, which exceeded the target of 7.5 days per FTE. The number of absences attributed to Cold, Flu and viruses rose steeply from September to November where the seasonal illnesses were further increased by Covid-19 cases and chest infections as well as an increase in mental health related absences, which were the largest cause of sickness.

Support for employee mental health continued to increase and included the use of mental health first aiders, resilience workshops and mindfulness sessions for staff to attend. In addition to their usual service, the Employee Support and Counselling team were providing 'wellbeing check ins' for staff and were developing peer support groups to help colleagues experiencing grief and loss.

The 'People Strategy' was now in effect with the main focus at present being the Council's ability to manage the challenges around attraction and retention.

There had been many positive responses within the results of the employee survey, including that line managers were available and approachable, commending the Council's health and wellbeing offer and the Council's ability to recognise and support employees.

Areas that had not improved were:

- the feeling that colleagues had a fair opportunity to progress and develop their career
- opportunities to use their strengths and talents in their role
- the Council's values providing a clear framework for a team to operate in
- LCC taking a pro-active and preventative approach to support health and wellbeing
- maintaining a good level of resilience and wellbeing most of the time

The Smarter Working Policy was now fully operational, with many teams operating hybrid working meaning a mix of working from home and working in an office environment across the Council. The Board was assured that there had been no additional cost burdens as a result of the implementation of the smarter working policy.

Consideration was given to the report and during the discussion the following points were noted:

- The smarter working policy offered a hybrid approach, with the facility to support employees to work in the office if they wished to. The Board was reassured that employees experiencing difficulties with their mental health as a result of working from home would be supported.
- Staff turnover rates had been much lower throughout the pandemic which was thought to be due to uncertainty within the job market nationally. However, as the country moved to the recovery phase of the pandemic, the Council had begun to see an increase in turnover rates similar to that of pre-pandemic, which was partly due to the benefits of many businesses offering agile working which had led to a broader range of opportunities across the private sector. The Board was reassured to hear that the Council put in place support plans to encourage employees to stay, where possible. Members also recognised that some degree of turnover was healthy for both employee and the Council as it provided the opportunity for a new work force. Members recognised the opportunities that had arisen for smarter working as a result of the pandemic and welcomed a hybrid approach.
- It was encouraging to see that there had been an increase in employee involvement in

decision making across the Council, which was important in maintaining the morale of employees.

- The Board welcomed the support for apprenticeships within the Council.
- Assurance was provided that the smarter working policy offered flexibility around hybrid working, for example it would allow people with cold like symptoms to work from home if they were well enough to do so, to minimise the spread of illnesses to other colleagues.
- The importance of encouraging freedom around mask wearing and not putting pressure on people to remove masks was emphasised.
- There were a number of measures being implemented in an attempt to improve career development opportunities across the Council, but officers acknowledged that there was more work that could be done. It was encouraging to see an increase in the take up of secondments for employees, which could often be a stepping stone to other career opportunities and were an excellent way to provide further opportunities.
- The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of providing as many opportunities as possible for people to grow and develop within the Council. The Council was working with the university to identify graduating students with possible job openings in their specialist areas.
- Pay within the private sector job market was competitive which would have some impact on retention and attraction of staff to the Council which was restricted to a government mandated pay scale
- The Council could offer short term pay initiatives for employees and members were reassured that the Council did offer a competitive apprenticeship salary compared with the national provision.
- Departments with higher levels of staff turnover were seen within Business Support and in hard to recruit areas. A breakdown of staff turnover for each directorate would be circulated to the Board.

RESOLVED:

That, having received the necessary assurances regarding the HR information, the progress on the 2021-24 People Management Strategy projects be noted.

116 CORPORATE PLAN SUCCESS FRAMEWORK 2021/22 - QUARTER 3

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Corporate Performance, which invited the Board to consider a report on the 2021/22 Corporate Plan performance for Quarter 3, which would be presented to the Executive on 01 March 2022. The views of the Board would be reported to the Executive as part of its consideration of this item. This report also set out the performance of the service level performance indicator for the 2021/22 Quarter 3 that was within the remit of the Board.

Of the 32 key activities detailed within the Corporate Plan Success Framework, recorded within the quarter, 28 were rated green as they were progressing as planned and four were rated as amber as progress was within the agreed limits.

The four amber rated key activities were reported. Further details of the proposed plans to enable progress were detailed within the report.

- A10 - We will achieve net zero carbon emissions as a council by 2050 or earlier through the development of the Green Masterplan. We will provide climate leadership in Lincolnshire and beyond. We will define our 10 year climate change plan with the new executive
- A12 - We will maximise the reuse and recycling potential of the county's waste, treating it as a resource. This will include exploring the opportunity for anaerobic digestion facilities across the County.
- A42 - We will refresh our Corporate People Strategy, reviewing culture, values and behaviours, and enabling our staff to be healthy and resilient so we can improve how we support our customers. Structures will be fit for purpose and facilitate our One Council approach
- A47 - We will transform the way we engage with customers through the implementation of a customer strategy. We will maximise technology solutions in the Customer Service Centre (CSC) to enable customers to do more online, including paying for services. In year 2 our emerging digital strategy will enable us to be innovative so our customers can access us through multiple channels.

Further to the reporting in quarter two, there were now two types of Key Performance Indicators (KPI)’s being reported: those where an ambition (target) had been set and those where a judgement around performance had been made (contextual). Of the KPI’s where an ambition had been set, eight could be compared with an updated position for quarter three progress reporting. Of those, six had met their ambition (target); one had exceeded the ambition; five had achieved the ambition and two did not achieve the ambition These are set out below under each of the relevant ambitions. Details of which were contained within Appendix 1 to the report.

The Board supported the proposals to the Executive, as set out within the report and during the discussion the following points were noted for consideration:

- In response to concerns raised by residents in West Lindsey regarding the roll out of a separate cardboard and paper recycling collection and where to store the recycling bins, especially for those in terraced houses, and that side waste would no longer be collected, these issues would have already been addressed by the other two district councils who had rolled out the separate collection and a flyer was being sent out by West Lindsey District Council which clarified the roll out and directed residents to a series of FAQs on its website. This roll out was being driven by the requirements of the Environment Act and the expectation on all councils to act differently in terms of how they collect and recycle waste. Initial feedback from the other two district councils indicated that it had been positively received, and it was increasing recycling rates and the quality of what was recycled which meant it had a greater value. In relation to side waste, there was a risk that it would become contaminated and damp, which would reduce the quality and therefore its value.

Larger quantities of cardboard waste should be taken to HWRC sites for disposal. It was anticipated that the separate cardboard and paper recycling collection would eventually be rolled out in the remaining district councils to provide a joined up approach across the county. As the quality of recyclable material had increased, the Council was receiving an income stream as opposed to incurring costs for disposing of the waste through the Energy from Waste facility. There was not a material recycling facility (MRF) in Lincolnshire, and this was not currently being pursued as the focus was on separate collections in line with the Environment Act. An anaerobic digestor for food waste was being explored in addition to looking for new ways to process and dispose of separated waste.

- In response to concerns that the ambition 'Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full' could be subjective and how success against that ambition could be measured, it had been recognised that the Corporate Plan needed to be all encompassing for all businesses, residents and visitors which made it challenging for individual needs to be reflected in the performance indicators. This would be a challenge for all councils when developing a corporate plan. The performance indicators were then proxy measures to try to assess how the Council's services contributed to that. It was recognised that for many families, this ambition would be a challenge due to economic hardship and rising costs. Consultation had been undertaken on the language used in the Corporate Plan, which could be looked at again when the Corporate Plan was refreshed in the future.
- The number of children in care in Lincolnshire was lower than other local authorities with similar levels of deprivation and geography. This was due to a number of reasons, such as the Council's investment in early help and support to provide preventative support to families; strong links with schools which has helped schools to see their role in supporting vulnerable families; and the use of Signs of Safety where the Council worked alongside the family within the family network and the community to identify what strengths were available and what wrap around support could be provided by the wider family, neighbours and the community. The number of children in care had increased, as it had nationally as well, but it was important to keep children safe with their families and ensure that the right children were in care when they needed to be. Children's Services was inspected by Ofsted regularly and engaged in peer review with other local authorities, and was therefore confident that the thresholds were right and the right children were coming into care. The target would not prevent children being brought into care if that was needed. A contribution to the rising number of children in care was the backlog in the courts due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which was delaying children exiting from care, but this was now starting to ease.
- With regards to children's mental health, the waiting times for treatment had increased, both nationally and in Lincolnshire. The Lincolnshire CCG funded these services which were provided by Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, and the Council was the lead commissioner for these arrangements. The Council would be raising these concerns with the CCG to seek resolutions to the increasing waiting times.
- The majority of complaints received by the Council were in relation to Highways and Children's Services. A lot of work had been undertaken on the early resolution of

complaints, but due to the volume of complaints increasing, particularly during the pandemic, this was proving difficult. Additional resource had been put into the team to try to resolve more complaints early on to avoid escalating to the formal process. An annual report on complaints was considered by the Audit Committee which could be shared with the Board in the future.

- In relation to supporting businesses and diversifying employment sectors in Lincolnshire, there were two main routes of government funding to support businesses in addition to the support provided by the economic development team at the Council. The majority of grants would go to either the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership or through the district councils. The Levelling Up White Paper also proposed future funding streams going through district councils rather than the county council.
- The customer strategy and the digital strategy aimed to make it easier for customers to access the Council. The majority of calls go through the Customer Service Centre (CSC), a lot of which were transactional calls or people ringing the Council to check that their online transactions had gone through. As Serco managed the CSC, this meant there was a cost to the Council for each call. Work was being undertaken to identify the highest volume, lowest complexity type of calls to look at potential solutions to reduce the volume of calls, and then introduce changes one at a time. The impact would be monitored as not everyone was able to access the Council online so there was a need to ensure that other avenues for accessing the Council were still available.
- In relation to the increase in crime rates, it was highlighted that there had been an increase in the number of police officers, rural crime officers, police vehicles, drug dogs, and traffic vehicles which should start to have a positive impact on the crime statistics.
- With regards to the Green Masterplan and the Climate Partnership, it was highlighted that these would be difficult to achieve unless additional funding and investment was identified.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations to the Executive, as set out within the report, be supported;
2. That a summary of the comments made be passed on to the Executive as part of its consideration of this item.

117 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE 2021/22 - QUARTER 3 TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

Consideration was given to a report by the Treasury Manager, which invited the Board to consider a report which detailed the treasury management activities and performance for Quarter 3 of 2021/22 to 31 December 2021, comparing this to the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2021/22.

Forecasts expected there to be two to three increases of 0.25% in short term rates over the next two years, the timing of the rises would be difficult to predict due to inflation spikes and the potential for weak growth during the period.

Long term rates had fallen in November with the announcement of Omicron and Covid-19 measures and continued to fall in December as demand for gilts by Pension Funds increased. Long term rates had risen again in January to levels at which they started from at the start of the year. The overall balance of movement in long term rates was still for a gradual increase over the next three years by around 0.10% per annum.

Investment levels remain high and investment benchmarks continue to be exceeded. The Weighted Average Maturity of Funds (WAM) of the fund was falling in line with an increasing interest rate environment.
Following a revision of the Borrowing Requirement to take account of rephasing of capital spend, target changes, underspends and internal borrowing there will be no external borrowing undertaken in 2021/22.

A total of £34.5m of temporary borrowing was undertaken in the period at an average rate of 0.0387%. It was expected that no temporary borrowing would remain outstanding on 31 March 2022.

The Board was advised that CIPFA had issued revised Prudential and Treasury Management Codes on 21 December 2021 and expected the core tenets of the new Codes to be adhered to with immediate effect. CIPFA had allowed a soft launch for the reporting requirements which required full compliance from 2023/24.

Consideration was given to the report and during the discussion the following points were noted:

- There was evidence to suggest that there would be a peak in inflation around April 2022 and a subsequent decrease during the remainder of the calendar year. The current expectation of high levels of inflation had prompted discussions on an increase in base rates.
- Global events were likely to have an impact due to the uncertainty of the markets at the current time.
- The Board acknowledged the financial difficulties being faced by some residents as a result of inflationary rises.
- It was too early to say whether Russia's military invasion of Ukraine would have an impact on inflation within the UK and it was recognised the impact would be felt globally. Members were reassured that Officers would monitor the situation over the coming months.

RESOLVED:

> That a summary of the comments made during the debate be passed to the Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning.

118 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2022/23

Consideration was given to a report by the Treasury Manager, which invited the Board to consider a report on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2022/23 which was due to be considered by the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning) between 14 and 18 March 2022.

The Board was referred to the table at paragraph 2.1.3 of Appendix 1, which showed the Council's net treasury portfolio position on 31 December 2021 compared to the start of the year, with associated average percentage costs/returns.

Investment returns were expected to increase in 2022/23 to around 1.25% by the financial year end and liquid investments such as Money Market Funds would see yields improve although there was the potential for a time lag compared to market yield increases.

Borrowing interest rates had fallen to historically low rates as a result of Covid and Quantitative Easing operations which had increased recently, but remained at relatively low levels with little further increase in yields expected for the following year. Yields in all periods were relatively the same with value to be found at the short end of the curve or the long end. Due to unpredictability rates would remain volatile as markets react to events as they occured. There was still a gap of around 1% to 1.5% between short term rates and long term rates and so any external borrowing undertaken would therefore incur a cost of carry, i.e.) a revenue loss between borrowing costs and investment returns, in the medium term.

Members were reminded that the long term borrowing requirement plans for the Council come from the Council's capital expenditure and financing plans which formed part of the Council Budget each year.

The Treasury Management Strategy had been set for 2022/23 considering the anticipated economic environment and movement of interest rates for the year ahead. The strategies reflected the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Treasury Management, the CIPFA Prudential Code and the MHCLG Guidance on Local Government Investments.

The Director - Link Asset Services was provided with an opportunity to comment on the Council's treasury management strategy, noting that the proposed internal borrowing position was in line with the liability benchmark and the means of borrowing proposed in the strategy continued to be a cost effective way forward. There was an expectation that higher investment levels would reduce and the Council would invest in cash safely and over time by keeping the portfolio at a shorter duration with more opportunities to obtain better rates throughout course of year. Link Asset Services were working with Officers to make the implementation of the new CIPFA code of practice as easy as possible whilst applying best practice.

The Board supported the recommendations to the Executive Councillor and during their discussion the following items were noted for consideration:

- The impact of a rising short term rate environment means that as interest rates increase, money market fund rates and call account rates also increase, whilst temporary fixed borrowing which the Council had already taken was at very low rates compared to the current levels. Increasing interest rates also however make it harder to maintain the investment benchmark as there was always a time lag of when investments had not matured yet to replace them with investments at current levels.
- The risk of inflation was still not fully known but it was expected to peak in April 2022 and then start reducing over the course of this year back to 2% target levels by the end of 2023. There could be several increases in interest rates which could see a rise to around 2%. However, there was a balancing act between the need to reduce inflation while not restricting economic growth and impacting further on businesses and individuals. Higher interest rates would mean better investment returns for the Council so there would be more investment income, but this might be offset by higher external borrowing costs.
- The Ukraine crisis could result in risky assets such as equities reducing, as money moves into safer, higher quality government bonds and gold. This increased demand in bonds and gilts would lower the yield and hence lower borrowing costs. The crisis could have a negative impact on economic growth which may mean that interest rates would not need to increase. However, there could also be a negative impact on gas for the region which could increase fuel costs even further which would have an impact on inflation. In relation to the liability benchmark, this would result in less long-term borrowing and a lower investment level, with investments held for liquidity purposes only in the long term.
- CIPFA had reclassified investment into three types which were Treasury Investments, Service Delivery Investments and Commercial Return Investments. The Strategy decision related to the Treasury investments only, which were the investments made from the cash balance of the Council. Service delivery investments taken have a service reason behind the investment and could include loans to a third party to deliver a service. Commercial return investments were made to make a return only with no service delivery benefit behind them. CIPFA’s new code was to tackle the policy and practices of the non-treasury and commercial investments that had arisen over the past few years.
- Training expectations for those involved in treasury management was currently set out in the Strategy. The new CIPFA code introduces a new requirement for a knowledge and skills framework for everyone involved in treasury management setting out what skills and knowledge each participant in treasury management should have and identify any training requirements required to provide that. This would be proportionate to the size and complexity of the council as each council delivered

treasury management differently and it would be for each council to determine what was suitable. This framework would be developed over the forthcoming financial year.

- With regards to the pension fund pooling arrangements, an agreement was put in place in April 2010 which set out how it would be governed and operate to ensure there was protection for both sides.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be supported;
2. That a summary of the comments made, as above, be passed on to the Executive Councillor as part of his consideration of this item.

119 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2021/22 - QUARTER 3

Consideration was given to a report by the Executive Director – Resources, which invited the Board to consider a report on the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2021/22 - Quarter 3 which was due to be considered by the Executive on the 1st March 2022.

Members were advised that the overall revenue position was forecasting an underspend of £7.366m for 2021/22, which excluded schools and Covid-19. There had been a number of variances in the budget, including a large increase in the budget for Home to School Transport which was currently forecast

As Officers moved to the final stages of the budget setting process, potential underspends and contingencies had been identified and were set out within the report.

Members were advised that the Council had incurred a further £80 million of expenditure related to Covid related activities this financial year which had contributed to the underspend. Officers continued to carefully code expenditure where possible to utilise the Covid grants available.

The Board supported the recommendations to the Executive and during the discussion the following points were noted for consideration:

- The additional £10m for highways maintenance in 2021/22 would not all be spent this year. The expenditure would be spent over a period of about three years on particular initiatives, such as for rural roads, drainage and gully work.
- The £2.3m reserve allocated for Covid-19 was no longer required as some of the grant conditions had been relaxed which allowed for carry forwards of any Covid grants. The impact of Covid-19 had been built into the budget proposals for 2022/23 such as in relation to children in care. Some of the Covid grants related to Adult Care, and the medium term financial plan for Adult Care had identified ongoing costs from Covid-19, such as delays in services such as health checks and additional packages of care, which would be funded by carrying forward some grants such as outbreak management.
- Of the estimated £7.366m underspend, it would be proposed that £900,000 would be

transferred to a reserve for domestic abuse activities. With regards to the remainder of the underspend, a proportion would be the automatic 1% carry forward for each directorate which would leave an amount left over that would require a political decision regarding what to use it for based on officer recommendations.

- The general reserve was a legal requirement whereas the financial volatility reserve and other reserves were earmarked reserves at the discretion of the Council. The target range of 2.5% to 3.5% of the annual budget only applied to the general reserve, and therefore the overall percentage of the annual budget for all the reserves was higher. The reserves were for different uses, with the financial volatility reserve used for covering shortfalls and financial uncertainty, but the general reserve would only be used as a last resort. There were a number of financial uncertainties facing the Council such as changes to business rates, adult social care reforms and increasing pressure on adult social care from rising numbers, reduction in highways funding, and tensions in Eastern Europe, and the reserves would enable the Council to manage these financial risks.
- The fair funding review was now expected to start in Spring 2022. It was anticipated that the Council's reserves would not be taken into account during the review. There was a need to ensure there was some cushioning in the budget in case the outcome from the fair funding review was not favourable to the Council in relation to rurality and deprivation.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations to the Executive, as set out in the report, be supported;
2. That a summary of the comments made be passed on to the Executive as part of its consideration of this item.

120 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2021/22 - QUARTER 3 TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

Consideration was given to a report by the Executive Director – Resources, which invited the Board to consider the Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2021/22 - Quarter 3 to 31 December 2021.

The report set out the capital programme which covered a 10 year period and could be found at Appendix 1 to the report. An underspend of around £40m for 2021/22 was forecast for the capital programme which had included the movement of costs related to the Spalding Western Relief Road.

The Board considered the report and supported the recommendations to the Executive.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations to the Executive, as set out in the report, be supported;
2. That a summary of the comments made be passed on to the Executive as part of its

consideration of this item.

121 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMMES

Consideration was given to a report by the Chairman of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee, which detailed the future work programme of the Committee as well as a detailed account of items considered by the Committee in recent meetings.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Democratic Services Officer and the Scrutiny Officer for their work to support him as the Chairman of the Committee.

Recent work of the Committee included:

- The approval of the Council Budget Report for 2022/23, in which the Committee had acknowledged the importance of efforts made to roll out efficient waste collection services, including the separate paper and cardboard collection trial and the food waste collection trial that took place in South Holland District and South Kesteven District respectively and welcomed future plans for wider roll out of the food waste
- Quarterly performance indicators for Economy, Flooding and Waste in which an update was received on the Council's Covid Business Grant Scheme. The Committee was encouraged that a total of £7.3m of the grants had been spent and distributed across the county in a manner consistent with the number of small and medium sized businesses in each district area
- Other items considered were in relation to an update on the Theddlethorpe Geological Disposal Facility Working Group and the Landscapes Review for the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Committee's work plan detailing items due to be considered at future meetings was attached at Appendix A to the report.

During the discussion the following points were noted and taken under consideration by the Chairman of the Committee:

- Whilst the Board acknowledged the importance of installing further electric vehicle charging points across the County, it was emphasised that these charging points should not replace disabled parking spaces.
- Further detail would be provided to the Committee on the effectiveness of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems in relation to other flood risk measures.

Consideration was then given to a report by the Chairman of the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee, which detailed the future work programme of the Committee as well as a detailed account of items considered by the Committee in recent meetings.

Recent work of the Committee included:

- The Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals for 2022/23 and the 5th Local Transport Plan had both been unanimously supported by the Committee. On the first instance the Committee was satisfied that the Major Schemes Programme remained affordable and whilst acknowledging the impacts of the £12 million gap in funding that there was ongoing work of Leading Officers and Executive portfolio holders towards a future funding strategy as part of the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan.

- The Committee had been encouraged by the proposed transfer of the transport to school services, under the Highways budget.
- In terms of the Local Transport Plan, the Committee had supported the successful consultation exercise that took place which engaged a wide audience, exceeded expectations and offered a representative glimpse into current views. Members had also been encouraged to hear that the plan was looking to reverse the negative picture of a declining bus service -partially owed to the pandemic.

The Committee's future work programme was set out at Appendix B to the report.

During the discussion the following points were noted for consideration by the Chairman:

- The Board expressed the need for an effective gulley and highway system.
- The Board raised concerns about the lack of effective parking enforcement across the County, particularly for those parked illegally on double yellow lines.
- The Board emphasised a need for more careful consideration of the height of roads when planning housing developments to minimise the risk of flooding into properties.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Board's satisfaction be recorded with the activity undertaken since November 2021 by:
   (a) the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee and
   (b) the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee.

2. That the Board's satisfaction be recorded with the planned work programme of:
   (a) the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee; and
   (b) the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee.

122 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Board was reminded that this item was for information only. However, there had been one amendment to the work programme at the insurance strategy report had been deferred and would now be considered at the meeting of the Board scheduled for 28 April 2022.

The meeting closed at 1.17 pm

1.