

Agenda Item 5

MEETING OF LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1 December 2023

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

MEETING GUIDANCE

The proceedings will be live streamed and recorded.

Please note there is no fire drill or fire alarm test planned, in the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave by the nearest fire exit and make your way to the car park at the front of County Offices.

Members should be mindful that the high-performing loop system is sensitive to any type of noise in the Chamber. Ambient sound from the Chamber immediately prior to meetings, and during open session may be picked up by the loop, and therefore Councillors should conduct private conversations outside of the Chamber. The loop will be muted at the close of the meeting.

If a member would like to speak, they should raise their hand so it can be clearly seen.

Requests to speak will be monitored by Democratic Services, and managed by the Chairman, with the assistance of the Chief Executive.

When the Chairman invites you to speak, you should press the button on your microphone unit to make it live. Please speak directly into the microphone and press the button again to switch it off once you have finished speaking.

Prayers will be led by Reverend Canon Nick Brown, Precentor of Lincoln, in the Council Chamber at 10:20am, prior to the start of formal proceedings at 10.30 a.m.

The agenda previously circulated and published will be followed.

Councillor R P H Reid in the Chair

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS – 1 December 2023

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

List of apologies to be read by Chief Executive, Debbie Barnes OBE.

2. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

Councillors to indicate if they have any interests they wish to declare.

Note:-

Councillors are reminded that there is no need to declare an interest if it has already been recorded on the register of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or notified to the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. Where councillors do declare an interest, they must state what the interest is. Councillors must not speak or vote on the item.

Should you have any queries about declarations please seek advice from officers in advance of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Chairman to state:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 15 September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. RESULTS OF THE BY ELECTION FOR GRANTHAM NORTH DIVISION

A report by the Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director – Resources has been circulated.

The Chairman to state:

That the Electoral Return be noted.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman to state:

Having earlier reported the result of the by-election for the Grantham North electoral division I would like to welcome Councillor Paul Martin to his first full council meeting.

Since the last meeting of the Council, I have been busy carrying out civic engagements around the County. As always, I would like to thank the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Eddie Strengiel, for deputising for me at events when I have been unable to attend, and my wife and Chairman's Lady, Julia, for her constant support.

Earlier this month the new Bishop of Lincoln, The Right Rev Stephen Conway, was installed and enthroned at Lincoln Cathedral and we were honoured to have been asked to attend this historic occasion.

This was closely followed by the Remembrance Sunday service held in the Cathedral, which was a truly moving occasion and was attended by hundreds of people. It was a privilege to lay a poppy wreath on behalf of the County Council.

We often talk about Lincolnshire having world leading business sectors, and increasingly we recognise that the defence sector -and especially the technological side of the defence sector- is one of our greatest strengths.

I was therefore very pleased to attend an event to celebrate Park Air Systems being taken over by the multi-national Indra company. This investment will create a strong future for the business and it will provide excellent career opportunities for young people in the south of the county.

I look forward to visiting other businesses as part of my time as chairman, and of reassuring them of LCC's support in their investment.

I hope that today you have taken the opportunity to be shown the Members' data dashboard, which supports you to understand the services and properties in your electoral divisions. The plan is for officers to add further datasets to the dashboard, based on your feedback.

A full list of the most recent civic duties I have carried out is available from the Civic Office on request.

6. STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Statements by the Members of the Executive have been circulated.

7. A DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE AND CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

A report by the Chief Executive has been circulated.

An amendment has been submitted by the Independent Group.

The Chairman proposes the temporary suspension of Council Procedure Rules for the duration of this Agenda Item.

Temporary suspension of Council Procedure Rules

The Chairman to move:

That there be one debate on the motion and the Independent Group amendment and the following Council Procedure Rules be suspended for the duration of this Agenda Item – 13.6 (b), 13.6 (c) 13.6 (d), 13.6 (e) and 13.10 (b) and that:

- (1) In introducing and moving a motion, the mover of the motion be allowed to speak for 6 minutes.**
- (2) That the proposer of an amendment be allowed to speak for 6 minutes.**
- (3) That Councillors seconding a motion each be allowed to speak for 3 minutes and may reserve their speech until later in the debate.**
- (4) That other speakers each be allowed to speak for 3 minutes.**
- (5) That no further amendments be moved.**

Councillor to second.

The Chairman will state:

I wish to remind members about the Rules of Debate as set out in rules 13.5 and 13.9 of the Council Procedure Rules which have not been suspended. These are set out in paragraphs (i) and (ii) below:

Except as set out in rules 13.5 and 13.9 below, councillors are only allowed to speak once during the debate. Therefore, a motion and any amendment will proceed as one debate.

(i) Rule 13.5 (When a Councillor may speak again)

A Councillor who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

- a) In exercise of a right of reply;
- b) On a point of order or information; and
- c) By way of personal explanation

(ii) Rule 13.9 (Right of reply)

- (a) The mover of a motion has a right to reply at the end of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote.

- (b) If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion has the right of reply at the close of the debate on the amendment, but may otherwise not speak on it; and

The mover of the amendment has no right of reply to the debate on his or her amendment.

Note: The Chairman may also propose the temporary suspension of procedure rules for item 13 in the event of circulation of an amendment to the motion.

Vote to be taken on the suspension of the Procedure Rules

Motion by the Conservative Group

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

That the Council consider a report to the Leader of the Council attached at Appendix 1, feedback from OSMB and support:

- 1. The devolution deal document attached at Appendix A;**
- 2. The draft proposal for the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority attached at Appendix B (“the proposal”) for the purposes of public consultation in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023;**
- 3. The carrying out of public consultation on the proposal in accordance with paragraphs 26 to 30 of the Executive Councillor Report and the Consultation document at Appendix C; and**
- 4. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve any minor amendments to the draft proposal or consultation arrangements. The delegation is to be exercised in consultation with the Leader of the Council and is conditional upon agreement to such amendments by other Constituent Councils.**

Councillor P A Bradwell OBE to second.

Proposed amendment by the Independent Group

Councillor P M Dilks to move:

- 1. That the Council consider a report to the Leader of the Council attached at Appendix 1, feedback from OSMB and support the holding of a democratic public County-wide referendum to seek residents’ views: on two simple questions, i.e. whether they support or oppose:**
 - a) the creation of an extra layer of Government in the form of a Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, and North East Lincolnshire; and**
 - b) an Elected Mayor to represent the whole of Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire.**

~~–That the Council responds to the~~

~~1. The devolution deal document attached at Appendix A and t~~

~~The draft proposal for the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority attached at Appendix B (“the proposal”) when the results of the referendum have been declared.~~

~~2. for the purposes of public consultation in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023;~~

~~3. The carrying out of public consultation on the proposal in accordance with paragraphs 26 to 30 of the Executive Councillor Report and the Consultation document at Appendix C; and~~

~~4. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve any minor amendments to the draft proposal or consultation arrangements. The delegation is to be exercised in consultation with the Leader of the Council and is conditional upon agreement to such amendments by other Constituent Councils.~~

S151 OFFICER COMMENTARY: The one-off cost of a Referendum is estimated at approximately £1.3M, based on the known costs of running a County Election. Funding for this would need to be identified.

Councillor to second.

Debate to take place

Vote on the amendment

Vote on the original proposal (If amendment is defeated)

Note – Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is attached at Schedule 1.

8. **QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

I am anxious to allow a good spread of questions across the chamber within the time allocated. I intend to allow 45 minutes for questions. I am expecting councillors to be disciplined because of the time available.

When invited to ask their question, councillors should press the button on their microphone to make it live and press it again once they have finished speaking.

9. **POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

A report by the Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources has been circulated.

Councillor J Brockway to move:

That the Council approves the allocation of Committee seats (as detailed in Appendix A circulated within the Order of Proceedings) in accordance with the political balance rules.

Councillor K E Lee to second.

10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chairman to state:

It has come to light since publication of the paperwork that the change proposed within the documents is no longer required. Therefore, with your permission I intend to withdraw this item for consideration.

11. DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER

A report by the Chief Executive has been circulated.

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

That the Council with effect from 1 December 2023 designates William Bell as the Council's Monitoring Officer.

Councillor P A Bradwell OBE to second.

12. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2024/25

A report by the Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director – Resources has been circulated.

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

- 1. That the Council considers the IRP recommendations in Appendix A to the report;**
- 2. That the Council approves the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2023/24 as amended in Appendix B to the report as the Council's Scheme of Members Allowances for 2024/25**

Councillor P M Dilks to second.

13. MOTIONS ON NOTICE SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Note: The Chairman may propose the temporary suspension of procedure rules for this item in the event of circulation of an amendment to the motion.

Motion submitted by the Labour Group

Councillor K E Lee to move:

Across Lincolnshire we have recently seen the highest levels of rainfall ever recorded in many areas. I want to pay tribute to all of those who were involved in dealing with the floods, both agencies and community groups who all did their very best to keep our communities safe.

However, given the impact of climate change, the frequency and level of impact of weather-related incidents is increasing and we must ensure that the statutory response meets that increased level of threat.

It is vital that going forward sufficient funding is allocated by government to mitigate the impact of weather-related incidents, that a fully co-ordinated response is provided by all agencies, and that local residents have a single point of contact to turn to in order to obtain prompt support to keep them safe. Local response networks must be given the resources and leadership to ensure that our communities feel confident that occurrences such as we recently witnessed will be better prevented and mitigated.

Accordingly, this council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister requesting the establishment of a nationally-led, nationally-funded body to ensure an effective, properly co-ordinated and accountable response to weather-related emergencies.

Councillor K J Clarke to second.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

At the conclusion of the meeting will all Members please be upstanding in their places until the Chairman has left the Chamber.

Members are reminded to collect their post from their pigeonholes after the meeting.

SCHEDULE 1 (At Appendix A) SHOWS FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
ON A DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE AND CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

SHCHEDULE 2 (At Appendix B) SHOWS THE POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO
COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCILLORS

COUNCIL MEETINGS – RULES OF DEBATE

(i) Rule 13.5 (When a Councillor may speak again)

A councillor who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

- a) In exercise of a right of reply;
- b) On a point of order or information; and
- c) By way of personal explanation.

(ii) Rule 13.9 (Right of Reply)

- a) The mover of a motion has a right to reply at the end of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote;
- b) If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion has the right of reply at the close of debate on the amendments, but may otherwise not speak on it; and
- c) The mover of the amendment has no right of reply to the debate on his or her amendment.

COUNCIL MEETINGS – INTERVENTION IN DEBATE

1. (a) Points of Order are just that. They must relate to the Council Procedure Rules or conduct of the meeting and generally will be drawing attention to a perceived breach, e.g.

- (i) absence of a quorum;
- (ii) order of speeches;
- (iii) irrelevance;
- (iv) time limit for speech exceeded;
- (v) misconduct;
- (vi) motion not seconded.

- (b) Examples of common intervention which are **NOT** points of order:-

- (i) Points of information or Personal Explanation (as to which see below);
- (ii) Disagreement with a speaker;
- (iii) Further thoughts or clarification of a previous speech prompted by the speaker (unless amounting to a Personal Explanation);
- (iv) Correction of a speakers opinion (rather than fact, which is a Point of Information);
- (v) An attempt to "reply" to another Member's speech or a point made in it;

2. (a) Point of Information – when a Member is speaking and is obviously proceeding on the basis of information which is wrong or of which the member is ignorant, another member may properly seek to intervene to provide the correct or missing information, thereby saving the Council from being misled and saving its time.
- (b) ASKING FOR information is **NOT** a Point of Information; a member who has spoken may be able to request a colleague who has not yet spoken to ask;
3. (a) A Personal Explanation is a proper intervention only when an earlier speech by the Member is being misquoted or misrepresented;
- (b) It must not be used as a spurious pretext for reiteration of the Member's earlier speech or as a second speech.
4. Practice

Members making one of the Points must specify which one is being used. The Member speaking should give way. The Point should be made briefly. The Chairman will then rule on it promptly, firmly and finally. There will be no debate nor will the ruling of the Chairman be open to discussion.

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