

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, 3 July 2018**

**6.00 pm**

**Committee Room 1, City Hall**

Membership:	Councillors Bob Bushell (Chair), Naomi Tweddle (Vice-Chair), Kathleen Brothwell, Sue Burke, Chris Burke, Gill Clayton-Hewson, Helena Mair, Lucinda Preston, Alan Briggs, Christopher Reid and Hilton Spratt
Substitute member(s):	Councillor(s) Gary Hewson
Also in attendance:	None.
Officers attending:	Democratic Services, Angela Andrews, James Wilkinson and Daren Turner

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### AGENDA

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SECTION A	Page(s)
1. Confirmation of Minutes - 3 April 2018	3 - 4
2. Declarations of Interest	
Please note that, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, when declaring interests members must disclose the existence and nature of the interest, and whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) or personal and/or pecuniary.	
3. Terms of Reference	5 - 6
4. Feedback from Executive	
5. An Introduction from the Chair	
6. Local Community Impact of Welfare Reform - Overview	7 - 10
7. Intelligence from Key Witnesses	
Martin Walmsley Questions and Answers from Members	
Laurence Waylett – CAB Questions and Answers from Members	
8. Next Steps	



<b>Present:</b>	Councillor Bob Bushell ( <i>in the Chair</i> )
<b>Councillors:</b>	Yvonne Bodger, Kathleen Brothwell, Thomas Dyer, Paul Gowen, Jane Loffhagen, Helena Mair, Lucinda Preston, Tony Speakman and Naomi Tweddle
<b>Also in Attendance:</b>	None.
<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>	Councillor Sue Burke, Councillor Chris Burke and Councillor Gill Clayton-Hewson

**35. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**36. Introduction from the Chair**

The chair provided a brief summary of the last 4 meetings which covered the following main areas:-

1. An Introduction to Inclusive Growth
2. Labour Market and Case Studies
3. Business Sector and Statistics
4. Overview and Summary.

**37. Overview by Jay Wilkinson**

Jay Wilkinson, Strategic Development Project Manager:-

- a) Carried out a brief presentation which provided a re cap on the inclusive growth meetings to date
- b) Highlighted the key findings from the Lincoln Growth Conference on 16<sup>th</sup> March
- c) Further highlighted the supply side findings that were identified by the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee
- d) Summarised the key discussion points and potential recommendations.

**38. Discussions on Recommendations to be taken Forward from the Review**

RESOLVED that the following recommendations be submitted to Executive for consideration:-

**Supply Side policies**

- Work with The Network to:
  - Establish referral mechanisms with the Lincolnshire Move Partnership which together could offer resources to a broader range of Lincoln residents; and consider this in light of time limited funding for existing projects (e.g. Lincolnshire Move Partnership is funded by 2014-2020 European Social Fund programme);

- Identify any partnership or referral opportunities with Linkage Community Trust;
- Identify how the key sectors were important to the city were targeted and engaged with;
- Identify which opportunities The Network and Lincolnshire Move Partnership may have had in re-skilling and re-training existing employees to meet future shifts in employment.
- Continue to support the Living Wage; and promote the city council's Corporate Social Responsibility Charter prior to its launch in summer 2018.
- Consider the remit of the Employability Courses project to identify its flexibility to re-skill and re-train employees. If not possible, seek funding opportunities to enable this.
- Engage with the Education Business Partnership to identify ways to promote their mentoring and National Citizens Service programmes.
- Continue to support work experience placements across the board i.e. plumbing/manual work at the city council as a way for young people to gain practical 'hands on' experience.
- Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee considered reviews into (a) the challenges surrounding transport to work and education; and (b) the coverage and availability of advice and support to people accessing help such as Personal Independence Payments (PIP).

### **Demand Side policies**

- Convene partners in the city to identify similarities in investment priorities and explore potential opportunities to pool or coordinate resources.
- For the findings of Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee regarding the importance of inclusive growth to be considered when developing growth strategies in the future. This would include the importance of sustainable supply chains for small and medium sized enterprises.
- For future industrial strategies to consider the growing need for flexible working patterns in the development of utilities infrastructure e.g. broadband infrastructure.
- DWP and Planning Services to explore if there were any opportunities available to encourage local employment.
- As a community leader; explore the potential and appetite for training or advising small and medium sized businesses using the skills and knowledge already in the city council and/or partner organisations.
  - Also keep in touch with Bishop Grosseteste University regarding Loric (Lincolnshire Open Research and Innovation Centre) which aims to develop into an observatory of shared learning for the business community, and actively signposted businesses to this resource as the scheme develops overtime.
  - Promote and signpost to opportunities for employees to up-skill and re-train.

### **39. Community Leadership Draft Work Programme 2018/19**

RESOLVED that the content of the work programme be noted.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE – COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Purpose of the Committee:</b>	
1.	To actively promote and strengthen the City of Lincoln Council's community leadership role of speaking up for the people of Lincoln on any matters which affect their well being.
<b>Terms of Reference:</b>	
1	To engage and consult with Lincoln residents to assist the Council in being fully aware of their issues, concerns and aspirations so these inform the policies and decision making of the Council, giving particular attention to the needs of disadvantaged groups.
2	To engage with all relevant stakeholders including all public, private and third sector organisations, seeking to promote effective partnerships for meeting the needs of the City.
3	To exercise the powers granted to the Council by Parliament for the scrutiny of the decisions of external organisations or groups whose decisions appear to have an impact on the people of the City of Lincoln and seek to influence these in the interests of local people.
4	To enhance the transparency of local decision making by enabling elected members to have the opportunity to hold service providers to account for their performance.
5	To scrutinise any emerging legislation which directly impacts on people in Lincoln, seeking to exert influence on behalf of local people.
6	To respond, in collaboration with the Council's Executive to any Government or other external consultation process ensuring that the Council's voice is heard on all matters affecting the well being of the City.
<b>Membership:</b>	
1.	The Committee will consist of 8 Elected Members.

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## High-level scopes for CLSC Pre-meet

J. Wilkinson | 14 June 2018

At the CLSC de-brief session on 23 May 2018, it was agreed to produce a high-level scope on three review / briefing topics for possible consideration by CLSC, and its 2018/19 work programme. These topics were;

- Communities (drawing from the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper)
- Affordable housing
- Impact of welfare reform

### Potential integrated communities scope

#### **Background**

In March 2018, the Government published the *Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper*. This document highlighted a number of challenges drawn from a range of evidence sources including Dame Louise Casey's independent review into opportunity and integration.

#### **Challenges highlighted in the green paper**

- High levels or sudden migration can put a strain on local communities, particularly in deprived areas
- There is a high level of segregation in schools, reducing opportunities for different ethnicities to mix (e.g. 60% of minority ethnic pupils were in schools where minority ethnic pupils were in the majority)
- There can be ethnic segregation in communities, and lack of meaningful social mixing
- There is labour market disadvantage amongst ethnic minority groups (unemployment and under-employment)
- There is a lack of English proficiency amongst some groups

#### **Possible review focus**

- Overview of the demographic information held on the city
- Overview of the community cohesion strategy and how this seeks to integrate communities locally
- Overview of the Sincil Bank Regeneration Scheme and how this seeks to integrate communities locally
- Overview of what the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper proposes to do at a national level
- Case studies from the Government's first five integration areas (Blackburn with Darwen; Bradford; Peterborough; Walsall; and Waltham Forest).
- Evidence from Bishop King Primary School (61% are EAL 2016/17); and Monks Abbey Primary School (42% are EAL 2016/17).
- Identification of the challenges to integration, what is currently in place through the Community Cohesion Strategy and Sincil Bank Regeneration Scheme to promote integration in neighbourhoods, and where the gaps are.

## **Possible meetings**

This review would have a broad scope, and may benefit from taking place over three meetings;

- Meeting 1: Background to the data; case studies; and the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper.
- Meeting 2: Review of the community cohesion strategy and Sincil Bank Regeneration Scheme, and the impact they are having in integrating communities within neighbourhoods. Additionally, evidence from Bishop King Primary School and / or Monks Abbey Primary School.
- Meeting 3: Collation of findings, identification of what should continue / stop / commence; and then agreement of recommendations to Executive.

## Potential affordable housing scope

## **Background**

In 2017, the city council adopted the Lincoln Housing Strategy 2017-2022. It identifies Lincoln's six housing challenges;

- Housing supply: demand for housing in the city is increasing exponentially, with particular emphasis on smaller family accommodation, and affordable housing for younger people.
- Homelessness and entrenched rough sleeping: many of those utilising and seeking temporary accommodation, and rough sleeping in the city, have gravitated from other locations in response to the concentration of support.
- Supported and specialist accommodation: there is a need to modernise the supported housing service, and respond to a largely unmet need for specialist accommodation for those with more acute mental / physical health needs.
- Private rented sector and poor housing conditions: The private rented sector has seen a sharp increase, partly due to the rapid rise in property prices compared to wages. University expansion has also increased student demand. This has caused increases to rents and alongside benefits changes, good quality private rented housing is more expensive to access.
- Sustainable living and fuel poverty: Around 6,147 households are unable to afford to heat their home to a suitable level, which can cause health issues.
- Affordability: where the housing market doesn't deliver enough housing for the city, by default it doesn't provide enough housing that is affordable.

## **Possible review focus**

A significant amount of work is already being undertaken to;

- Enable 400 new homes by 2020
- Increase the council's supply of council housing
- Respond to the issue of rough sleepers (June 2018 – awarded £376k to establish a rough sleeper coordinator post and a range of outreach and intervention activities, to further support an already active partnership)



With this in mind, if there is an appetite to consider the above, it may be worth review these topics at a later date, to enable the partnership led interventions to take place, and then review their outcomes.

However, a shorter term review of affordable housing could focus on two possible areas;

1. The issue of affordability in the private rented sector, and the challenges this creates for accessing good quality private rented accommodation. There is a large body of evidence on the challenges associated with poor quality private rented accommodation, and the challenges surrounding affordability, that could feed into a review. This review could consider;
  - a. What the housing strategy is doing to address this
  - b. The impact of the Trusted Landlord Scheme
  - c. The scale of the issue in Lincoln, with a focus on rent levels; hazards; non-decent homes; and fuel poverty
  - d. Evidence from the Private Housing Team and the Citizens Advice Bureau
2. The affordability of home ownership, and the impact of people struggling to pay their mortgages. There is less local evidence on the affordability of home ownership. The figures for Lincoln suggest housing is more affordable locally than elsewhere in the country. However, the figures could be masking the true picture of housing affordability.
  - a. What the limited data on housing affordability tells us about Lincoln
  - b. National evidence on affordability
  - c. What help to buy schemes are currently available
  - d. The impact on replacing support for mortgage interest with locals for mortgage interest
  - e. Evidence from partners such as Westleigh and Waterloo

### Potential impact of welfare reform scope

#### **Background**

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 became law on 08 March 2012. The Act introduced a wide range of reforms to the benefits and tax credit systems. More recently, social security and housing measures in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 included;

- Lowering the household benefit cap threshold from £26,000 for a family and £18,200 for a single person, to £23,000 in London (£15,410 for a single person) and £20,000 (£13,400 for a single person) elsewhere in the UK.
- A four-year benefits freeze.
- Limiting support through Child Tax Credits/Universal Credit
- The abolition of Employment and Support Allowance Work-Related Activity Component
- Changes to conditionality for “responsible carers” under Universal Credit
- Replacing Support for Mortgage Interest with Loans for Mortgage Interest
- Reducing social housing rent levels by 1% in each year for four years from 2016-17

In addition, in March 2018, the Law Society published *Priced out of Justice?* which argued some of the poorest families in England and Wales are being denied legal aid because they cannot afford the financial contributions they are required to make.

Also, Universal Credit came into effect in Lincoln on 07 March 2018. Since then, the city council's newly formed Universal Credit Support Team has been working hard to support residents' transition onto the system. As of June 2018, there are 1,254 Universal Credit claimants in Lincoln, and the council has provided 133 residents with digital support; 65 residents with budgeting support; and 30 residents with combined digital and budgeting support. Amongst our council tenants, 101 tenants have had their rent arrears increase since claiming UC; and 79 have had their rent arrears decrease.

#### **Possible review focus**

- Briefing on the impact of welfare reform, particularly Universal Credit, from the city council's UC Support Team
- Briefing on the impact of welfare reform and challenges around legal aid and PIP applications, from Lincoln Citizens Advice Bureau (+ law firm if relevant)
- Briefing on the city council's service level agreement with the Citizens Advice Bureau

#### **Possible meetings**

*Given the recent changes to portfolio holder scopes, and the changes to this topic's reporting line, it may be appropriate to consider this topic later in the work programme to allow time for the portfolio holder to review this important service.*

In light of the very broad nature of welfare reform and its far-reaching impact, it is suggested this review could commence with a single-meeting briefing to Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee on the current effects of welfare reform and UC. This briefing could come from the city council's newly established Universal Credit Support Team, and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

This briefing could provide initial evidence to Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee to inform a possible follow up meeting on a specific area of welfare reform. Options could include;

- The challenges of accessing legal aid in Lincoln, in light of the Law Society's recent report
- The impact of welfare reform on city council housing rent arrears, and the support in place to respond to this
- Review of the support available to people in accessing and applying for benefits e.g. PIP

Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – Timetable for 2018/19**12 June 2018 - Deferred**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Work Programme for 2018-19 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

**3 July 2018**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Work Programme for 2018-19 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report
Scrutiny Annual Report	Democratic Services Officer	Annual Report

**28 August 2018**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Work Programme for 2018-19 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

**6 November 2019**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Work Programme for 2018-19 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

**8 January 2019**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Work Programme for 2018-19 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

**5 March 2019**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Work Programme for 2018-19 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

### **Suggested topics**

- Impact of Welfare and Reform – (PIP)/Advice
- Supported Housing
- Integrated Communities
- Health Inequality
- Transport and Inclusive Growth
- Social Mobility