

Present: Councillor Jackie Kirk (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Biff Bean, Councillor Bill Bilton, Councillor
Alan Briggs, Councillor Chris Burke, Councillor
Sue Burke, Councillor Bob Bushell, Councillor
David Clarkson, Councillor Thomas Dyer, Councillor
Matthew Fido, Councillor Gary Hewson, Councillor
Andy Kerry, Councillor Jane Loffhagen, Councillor
Rebecca Longbottom, Councillor Helena Mair, Councillor
Bill Mara, Councillor Adrianna McNulty, Councillor
Ric Metcalfe, Councillor Neil Murray, Councillor
Donald Nannestad, Councillor Lucinda Preston,
Councillor Christopher Reid, Councillor Clare Smalley,
Councillor Hilton Spratt, Councillor Mark Storer,
Councillor Edmund Strengiel, Councillor Naomi Tweddle,
Councillor Pat Vaughan, Councillor Calum Watt and
Councillor Loraine Woolley

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Liz Bushell, Councillor Rosanne Kirk and
Councillor Laura McWilliams

16. Mayoral Announcements

Mayor's Engagements

The Mayor referred to her engagements since the last meeting of Council, which had included:

- the opening of the St John's Ambulance Service Training Centre, by HRH the Princess Royal;
- the Digby Annual Families Day;
- the Royal Anglian Regiment's Day at Duxford;
- Army benevolent fundraising evenings;
- an event to mark the completion of works at Boultham Park; and
- the Autumn Fair at the Arboretum.

17. Confirmation of Minutes - 27 July 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2021 be confirmed.

(Note: Councillors Matthew Fido and Naomi Tweddle requested that it be recorded that they had abstained from the vote, as they were not present at the meeting on the 27 July 2021.)

18. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Edmund Strengiel declared a Personal Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Business and Planning Act 2020'. Reason: By virtue of his membership of Lincolnshire County Council.

Councillor Hilton Spratt declared a Personal Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Business and Planning Act 2020'. Reason: By virtue of his membership of Lincolnshire County Council.

Councillor Thomas Dyer declared a Personal Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Business and Planning Act 2020'. Reason: By virtue of his membership of Lincolnshire County Council.

19. Receive Any Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11 from Members of the Public and Provide Answers thereon

Question from Helen Young

Given the humanitarian crisis happening in Afghanistan and the arrival of refugees to the UK, will Lincoln City be co-ordinating an effort to help them? I only ask as I have been on the gov.uk website: <https://www.help-refugees-uk.service.gov.uk/> where you can look up different local authorities within the different areas of the country, and state what type of support you can give, but Lincoln is not listed. Thank you for your time regarding this question.

Reply from Councillor Ric Metcalfe, the Leader of the Council

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, the Leader of the Council, replied that the Council had been working closely with all district councils and the County Council to respond to the request for helping people evacuated from Afghanistan over the last few weeks. All key partners, including local authorities, adult care, children's services, health and education were part of an existing partnership, which was co-ordinated by North Kesteven District Council. The partnership had come together to ensure a comprehensive and consistent response was provided across Lincolnshire.

The City Council, Councillor Metcalfe continued, had a good record responding to this type of crisis. In this case the City Council had responded to the government's request to source some longer term accommodation and the Council was waiting for the Home Office to match three families to the three properties, which the Council had sourced to date in Lincoln. All evacuees had been accommodated in a hotel for quarantine purposes on arrival in the UK and were gradually being relocated to other hotels across the country. There were two hotels being used by the Home Office in Lincolnshire to accommodate families pending their offer of more settled accommodation.

Councillor Metcalfe explained that with respect to donations, it was no surprise that the Council had been inundated by offers from a vast range of sources from the faith sector to individual members of the public. The Council had been taken aback by people's kindness and generosity. The partnership had agreed that there was a need to make sure that the right things were being collected; and donations had to be collected and distributed in a co-ordinated way to ensure Afghan families were helped quickly and correctly. Many of the families had fled their country with absolutely nothing.

A hub and spoke arrangement had been set up across the county. Colleagues at Compassionate Lincoln were co-ordinating the collection of donations in Lincoln and they would be transferred to areas where items were required. Grantham Churches Together was also playing a role in distributing items across the county.

Donations of help would be appreciated over the next few months. There was a need to make sure the items donated matched the requirements of the families. The Council looked forward to giving a warm welcome to the families.

Supplementary

Helen Young asked where all the information that had been reported could be found, for example where not only useful items, but also volunteer time could be donated, as people were able to offer different skills sets, for example, the questioner worked in the health care sector.

Reply

Councillor Metcalfe undertook to contact North Kesteven District Council with a view to its provision of information on a website, which could be easily accessed by all those wishing to offer help. In addition, it was advised that an officer from the City of Lincoln Council would contact the questioner directly to provide such information.

20. Receive Any Questions under Council Procedure Rule 12 from Members and Provide Answers thereon

Councillor Tom Dyer to Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council

Question

Can the Leader outline how the reduction in supply and thus increase in material costs have impacted City Council capital projects?

Reply

Councillor Ric Metcalfe stated that the City Council's capital projects had of course been impacted as a result of the current challenges in the construction sector, particularly around the supply of skilled labour, the availability of materials and their costs, which had been affected by inflation. The Council's officers continued to work hard to minimise these impacts.

Much depended on the relationship between the Council and its contractors and the Council was fortunate in that it had good contractor relationships, such that the Council could work collaboratively with them to minimise the impact of cost increases. For example, the sorts of things that could be used were: rescheduling the programme to absorb delays; changing materials where appropriate; accepting some delay without imposing a time penalty, so the contractor would not charge more to reflect the increase in costs; the use of contingency sums, which were always included in contracts; and looking for a *quid pro quo* from contractors, to share any escalation of costs.

Inevitably some projects had been or would be delayed in terms of completion dates, leading to some cost impacts. All of these would be reported in the normal way; and the Council was doing all it could to minimise any impact.

Supplementary

Councillor Tom Dyer referred to the expectation that the shortage of materials would continue for the rest of 2021, with prices increasing further in the short

term. Between July 2020 and July 2021, the cost of materials had risen by circa 20%, according to the Office for National Statistics. Councillor Dyer asked whether, assuming a major scheme such as the western growth corridor were to be approved later this year, the Leader of the Council could outline how the current market would impact on the Council's ability to deliver this project. This was asked specifically because of the time-limited nature of the grants that would help fund the western growth corridor project.

Reply

Councillor Ric Metcalfe stated that he would not be commenting on specific projects, such as the western growth corridor. He made reference to the principle that where a contract referred to a fixed-price cost, any increase in costs would be met by the contractor. An example of this was the contract for the crematorium, which was a fixed price contract. Thus a large part of the answer was that it would depend on the content of the contract.

Supply issues would lead to delay in some programmes and would mean later completion dates, where rescheduling the programme and the use of contingencies within the programme could not be applied. The De Wint Court contract was an example of this circumstance.

In other projects, where there had been a negotiation of a fixed price for costs, the Council had either reached an overall agreed financial position without achieving the normally expected savings or the Council had achieved a lower cost position, with an agreement to share the financial impact with the contractor of any increase in material costs.

Delay was always possible and with delay there were always some additional costs, but this depended on the contract. This was being monitored closely and the impact was being monitored by officers during these challenging times.

Councillor Christopher Reid to Councillor Bob Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Place

Question

As Councillor Bushell will no doubt be aware, the on-going closures of a number of uphill public conveniences continue to cause issues for residents and businesses in the area. What additional steps is the Council taking to prevent the problems of some anti-social people choosing to use the streets, gardens and driveways of uphill Lincoln, in place of these closed toilets?

Reply

Councillor Bob Bushell stated in reply that there was no ongoing closure of toilets in Lincoln, only a confirmation of those that had been closed, or maintained just for events. As stated at the Policy Scrutiny Committee, the Executive and the Council, whilst the Council deeply regretted having to close any facilities, the provision of public conveniences was not a statutory function. The Council was committed to reviewing the provision of public conveniences, if its finances were to improve.

The lack of a public toilet was not an excuse for anyone not to have planned their likely toileting requirements and to behave accordingly. Going to the toilet in the

locations suggested was an offence, and the Council trusted that the police would treat it as such.

Supplementary

Councillor Reid stated that the actions referred to in the question had been happening and were continuing to happen, a situation which could be confirmed by local residents, and particularly over the last eighteen months. Councillor Reid asked what the Council was doing to prevent this.

Reply

Councillor Bushell stated that there were adequate toilet facilities in that area, including an award winning public convenience in Castle Square and a public convenience in the Castle itself. There was good provision across the City.

Councillor David Clarkson to Councillor Bob Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Place

Question

Can the portfolio holder update Council with the usage rates of the City of Lincoln Council electric vehicle charging points?

Reply

Councillor Bushell stated in reply that he had extensive data, which he would be willing to share on email if any councillor wished to receive it. At Lucy Tower Street car park, where there was one charging point with two sockets, there had been 17 usages in July and 18 in August 2021. At Broadgate car park, where there was one charging point with two sockets, there had been 43 usages in July and 45 in August 2021. At Chaplin Street car park, where there were five charging points, there had been 20 usages in July and 35 in August 2021. At Orchard Street car park, where there were four charging points, which had only recently been installed, there had been 16 usages in August 2021. At the Lawns car park, where there was one charging point with two sockets, there had been 39 usages in July and 48 in August 2021. At Lincoln Central car park, which had six charging points, there had been 135 usages in July and 166 in August 2021.

There had been a reduction in use during the lockdown, but the usage had been consistently increasing since that time.

Supplementary

Councillor Clarkson asked whether there were any plans to extend the network of vehicle charging points, especially in the more traditional tourist areas of the city.

Reply

Councillor Bushell replied that depending on finances there were plans to extend the network. These charging points had been funded by a grant. As ownership of electric vehicles increased, there would be a need for significantly more charging points. There were discussions on whether lamp posts might be used in the future as charging points. However, it was noted that national grid would need to be able to cope with the extra demand for electricity from vehicles.

Councillor Alan Briggs to Councillor Bob Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Place

Question

Does the City Council fully intend to follow the footsteps of other Lincolnshire district councils and rollout paper and card recycling?

Reply

Councillor Bob Bushell answered that the City of Lincoln Council remained a member of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, and as such had been fully involved in the discussions on separate paper and card collections. The transfer of waste from the 'collection authority', the City Council, to the 'disposal authority', Lincolnshire County Council, needed to be undertaken lawfully, and in the proper manner. This would mean that Lincolnshire County Council would serve a section 51 notice on the City of Lincoln Council, and this notice would set out the terms under which paper and card collection would be established.

Councillor Bushell added that when there would be clarity on the expected costs to the City of Lincoln Council, a report would be brought forward. It had been hoped that this would have been possible before now, but the Council was still awaiting the section 51 notice from Lincolnshire County Council. In any event, if Lincoln were to adopt paper and card collections, it was not anticipated that these would be before 2024.

Supplementary

Councillor Briggs asked whether the City of Lincoln fully intended to implement separate paper and card recycling, in the light of views expressed on social media.

Reply

Councillor Bushell confirmed that his earlier reply represented an accurate position of the City of Lincoln Council with regard to paper and card collections. There was a full intention to become involved in these collections.

Councillor Eddie Strengiel to Councillor Neil Murray, Portfolio Holder for Economy

Question

Can the portfolio holder update Council on when it plans to bring forward its review into parking in the City?

Reply

Councillor Neil Murray stated in reply that it was early days in the process. Parking services had been badly affected by Covid-19, but the Council was collecting data on this and the usage of the Council's car parks was improving week by week. The Council would have to see the impact of hybrid working arrangements, with people tending to work only part of the time in the office, before initiating the formal review.

Supplementary

Councillor Strengiel asked why had a decision been made on the school parking arrangements prior to the outcome of the parking review?

Reply

Councillor Murray replied that the Council had been requested to consider this, because some people had to use their car to take their children to school, which was acknowledged.

Councillor Matthew Fido to Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council

Question

Can the leader provide an update on local government reorganisation and devolution?

Reply

Councillor Ric Metcalfe advised that the Lincolnshire district council leaders, together with Lincolnshire County Council, had signalled their interest in another devolution deal. The former Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government had stated that local government had provided strong leadership during the pandemic and this could provide a platform to drive the country's recovery from the pandemic and to continue re-shaping places and communities.

The County Council and the two greater Lincolnshire unitary authorities had also asked for a meeting with the government. A meeting had taken place at the beginning of September between civil servants and Lincolnshire local government officers. As part of the national context, it was understood that there had been thirty such meetings. It was understood that government had been seeking potential pilot areas and there would only be two or three areas likely to be given the go-ahead. These two or three pilots would be in advance of the long awaited white paper, which was expected sometime in the autumn 2021.

Councillor Metcalfe referred to the new Secretary of State, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, and the situation was fast changing; and it was not known what views he would bring to the devolution agenda. Also, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had been renamed as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, but its title did not include local government.

Supplementary

Councillor Fido referred to the new Secretary of State's reputation as someone who had 'shaken up' various government departments and asked the Leader of the Council how he thought the Secretary of State would move local government forward and whether he looked forward to working with him in the future.

Reply

Councillor Metcalfe acknowledged that the new Secretary of State had a reputation for challenging the status quo, which was often a good thing, but it was not yet known what direction the new Secretary of State would lead his department. There had been changes to the ministerial team, which could bring

more or less enthusiasm for local government re-organisation or devolution. It was understood that the will to undertake any local government re-organisation had diminished even further. However, owing to the centralising tendencies of many governments, a conversation on devolution would be welcome, because if local government could be given more autonomy, financially or in other respects, that would be positive.

Councillor Tom Dyer (in place of Councillor Bill Mara) to Councillor Sue Burke, Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequality

Question

How is the military covenant monitored within the Council?

Reply

Councillor Sue Burke informed the Council that the armed forces community covenant helped to support serving and former military personnel and help reduce barriers. The armed forces community covenant was a declaration of mutual support between local authorities and the military. The two main principles were to remove any disadvantage that individuals in the armed forces and their families may experience as a result of serving; and an understanding that special consideration might be afforded serving and veteran personnel, if appropriate. The main service areas were health and wellbeing, education and housing.

The City of Lincoln Council was one of the signatories to the covenant with all the local authorities in Lincolnshire in 2017. The City of Lincoln Council focused on housing support; and monitoring was an integral part of the whole process; an example being the identification of armed forces personnel in the Council's housing records.

The Council's housing allocation policy aligned with the covenant by making reference to armed services personnel in the section where priority was given to bidders with a local connection. This was difficult for armed forces personnel who moved around a lot as part of their military career and for whom it was difficult to prove a local connection to Lincoln. The Council's policy allowed those in, or leaving the armed forces, to refer to periods while serving or prior to serving as evidence of a connection.

The Council's lead officer was Joanne Crookes (Customer Services Manager), who was able to deal with any enquiries. The Council was in regular contact with welfare organisations such as the British Legion and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association. The City of Lincoln, with its connections to the armed forces, was honoured to play its part in the armed forces covenant.

Supplementary

Councillor Tom Dyer referred to Councillor Bill Mara having emailed officers some weeks ago and not having received a response. Councillor Dyer asked when Jo Crookes had been appointed as the responsible officer, as Councillor Mara had been told when he had emailed in July 2021 that there was no responsible officer.

Reply

Councillor Sue Burke advised in her reply that a response to the email from Councillor Mara had now been issued. Unfortunately there had been a mix-up and the relevant director had apologised for this. The date of appointment of Jo Crookes as the responsible officer for the armed forces covenant would be notified after the meeting.

Councillor Andy Kerry to Councillor Donald Nannestad, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question

Can the portfolio holder update the council on the City Council's housing waiting list, detailing how many applicants are in each band?

Reply

Councillor Donald Nannestad advised that the Council had the following numbers on the housing register: Band One 215, Band Two 362, and Band Three 711, which gave an overall total of 1,288 applications. Band Two comprised existing tenants who were seeking to move. The reason for the numbers being at that level was the impact of 'Right to Buy'. At one time the Council had approximately 11,000 council properties, but now had less than 8,000. The remaining housing stock contained a disproportionate number of one or two bedroom dwellings, as the larger dwellings, the three and four bedroom properties, had largely been purchased. A number of those purchased properties were now rented privately, so rather than a new class of homeowners, as was originally intended, a new private landlord class had been created.

Supplementary

Councillor Andrew Kerry asked how many applicants were seeking three or four bedroom properties; and given the reduced number of three and four bedroom properties in the Council's stock, he also asked whether the Council was seeking to build these properties to meet the shortfall.

Reply

Council Donald Nannestad replied that there were approximately 250 applicants for three or four bedroom properties. In the Rookery Lane development there were some larger houses planned. The Council also had to be cognisant that there were a number of people waiting for two bedroom properties.

Since 1 June 2021, when the ban on evictions had been lifted, the Council had been receiving approximately 70 applications per week. It was likely that these numbers would continue to increase. These evictions had been taken place not because of any fault of the tenant, but because the landlord wished to sell the property. This represented a very difficult situation.

Councillor Mark Storer to Councillor Neil Murray, Portfolio Holder for Economy

Question

How does the Council square ambitions to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school, with their decision to offer discounted parking for parents dropping children off in cars?

Reply

Councillor Neil Murray advised that the discounted rate for car parking offer was only of benefit to the parents of those schools which had a City of Lincoln car park close by. The car parking offer would ensure that those parents who wished to drive their children to school, and this could be for a variety of reasons, were parked away from the road immediately outside of a school.

Whilst there was a hope that parents would always want to consider walking and cycling to school as preferable options, it was a fact of life that this was not always viable for families given other work-life pressures, or who simply lived too far away. Currently heavy traffic pressures are witnessed around many schools at certain times of the day, and the offer brought forward was simply an effort to reduce some of that pressure, and thus assist with child safety issues outside of schools.

Supplementary

Councillor Mark Storer asked for the full environmental impact of the decision to provide discounted parking for parents.

Reply

Councillor Neil Murray stated that he would see if this information could be provided.

Councillor Hilton Spratt to Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council

Question

Please can the Leader update Council on the Council's financial position with respect to the ongoing budget shortfall?

Reply

Councillor Ric Metcalfe stated that the Council's approved budget for 2021/22 had included a requirement to deliver savings of £850,000, which represented a significant sum. It had been reported to the Executive and the Performance Scrutiny Committee in August 2021 that at the end of quarter 1 savings of £427,040 had been secured against this target. The position as at quarter 2 would be reported to the Executive and the Performance Scrutiny Committee in November 2021. At this stage in the financial year there was confidence that the full £850,000 would be delivered in 2021/22. Whilst this was challenging, it was currently considered achievable.

Supplementary

Councillor Hilton Spratt asked whether the Leader of the Council agreed with the use of advice and guidance from the Local Government Association to local authorities in respect of how financial investments could support a carbon-free and sustainable future.

Reply

Councillor Ric Metcalfe confirmed that, as the Council had done for a number of years, the efforts on carbon reduction had yielded significant savings. All the energy efficiency measures, which the Council had been making, had made a contribution to reducing the city Council's overall carbon footprint. If there were further opportunities, as part of the Council's savings effort and as part of the climate change agenda, the Council would take them.

21. Receive Reports under Council Procedure Rule 2 (vi) from Members
(a) Report by Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Portfolio Holder for Our People and Resources 2021/22

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Portfolio Holder for Our People and Resources, presented his report to the Council which had been set out on pages 13 to 34 of the agenda. Councillor Metcalfe paid tribute to the all Council's staff, who had risen to the challenges presented by the pandemic. The Council had raised its game in terms of improving the wellbeing of staff.

Councillor Metcalfe also referred to the improving budgetary position of the Council, when compared to twelve months before. He stated he was confident that the budget could be balanced in the next two years. He also stressed the importance of the 'one council' agenda, which would affect the delivery of all services.

The Council was provided with an opportunity to ask questions, where the following points were noted:

- Western Growth Corridor – The planning application for the Western Growth Corridor would be determined by the Council, sitting as the Planning Committee. This was currently expected by the end of 2021 and all councillors would be offered a briefing on this.
- Towns Fund Bid – This represented a good example of partnership working, which had included Karl McCartney as the local MP, who had supported the process.
- Staff – It was important that all staff were thanked for their efforts during the pandemic. Their work had provided an excellent example of the importance of local authorities and their links to local communities.
- Energy Costs – The Leader of the Council would advise Councillor Tom Dyer in writing of the arrangements for the Council's purchase of gas, together with any impact of recent price increases.
- Apprenticeships – The Council was proud of its longstanding support for the apprenticeship programme.
- Guildhall – The Council paid tribute to the Mayor's Officer, Richard Storey, who had represented the heritage of Lincoln, including the Guildhall, in a recent television programme called Britain's Historic Towns on Channel 4.
- Greyfriars Regeneration Project – The project for the regeneration of the Greyfriars was welcomed, as it was an important building with a long and interesting history.

The report was noted.

(b) Report by Councillor Chris Burke, Portfolio Holder for Customer Experience and Review 2020/21

Councillor Chris Burke, Portfolio Holder for Customer Experience and Review, presented his report to the Council which had been set out on pages 35 to 44 of

the agenda. Councillor Burke reiterated the tributes to staff for their efforts during the pandemic.

The Council was provided with an opportunity to ask questions, where the following points were noted:

- IT Costs – Councillor Chris Burke offered to provide a written answer to Councillor Tom Dyer on the costs of the roll-out of new IT equipment to staff and which budget this had been funded from.
- Fix My Street App - Councillor Chris Burke undertook to consider the use of the *Fix My Street* app for reporting matters within the City Council's remit.

The report was noted.

(c) **Report by Councillor Bob Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place 2020/21**

Councillor Bob Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place, presented his report to the Council, which had been set out on pages 45 to 68 of the agenda. Councillor Bushell added that on 20 September 2021 the Executive had approved an updated environmental policy, which would require all decision reports to include environmental implications. Councillor Bushell also thanked staff and the Council's contractors who had continued to work hard during the challenges of the pandemic.

The Council was provided with an opportunity to ask questions, where the following points were noted:

- Parks and Open Space Maintenance – Reduced grass cutting had supported the increase in wildflowers.
- Boultham Park – A number of trees had been removed following the advice from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust, with a view encouraging more wildlife. There was an intention to introduce a boating platform on the lake, which would be designed and managed to ensure it could not be misused. Members of the Lincolnshire Angling Association, which controlled fishing from the lake, were also members of the Boultham Park advisory group.
- Hartsholme Country Park and Camp Site – A green flag was expected to be confirmed for Hartsholme Country Park during October 2021, which would be the third green flag park across the city. Trees would continue to be maintained as and when required.
- Council's Investments – In response to a suggestion that the council invested into environmental schemes, rather than leaving money in reserves, it was advised that it was hoped that more investment could be made in environmentally sustainable schemes generally.
- Syston Green – It was advised that a councillor had been informed by an officer that the cost of the required maintenance to Syston Green would exceed the reserves for unmaintained land. However, this area was in need of maintenance. Councillor Bushell undertook to investigate the issue of the maintenance of Syston Green.
- Net Zero for Housing Revenue Account – A report from the Portfolio Holder for Housing had previously outlined the activities to reduce the carbon footprint of the housing function.

- Tree Survey – A tree survey was undertaken on a regular basis to ascertain whether any of the trees, including any newly planted trees, required maintenance.
- Shortage of HGV Drivers – The national shortage of HGV drivers had not to date impacted the Council's contractors.
- Fly Tipping – An anti-fly-tipping strategy had been introduced by the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership. It was hoped that the re-opening of the household waste recycling centre would reduce incidences of fly-tipping across the county.

The report was noted.

(d) Report by Councillor Jane Loffhagen, Chair of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee 2020/21

Councillor Jane Loffhagen, Chair of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee, presented her report to the Council, which had been set out on pages 69 to 72 of the agenda.

Councillor Loffhagen highlighted that any recommendations from the Committee's consideration of the two issues relating to the Covid-19 Pandemic, were fed into the Council's response to the pandemic report, via the senior officers who attended the meetings of the Committee.

The report was noted.

22. Business and Planning Act 2020

A report on the function of granting pavement licences under the Business and Planning Act 2020 was submitted, which invited the Council to consider the delegation of its functions under the legislation to Lincolnshire County Council.

The recommendations in the report were moved by Councillor Neil Murray and seconded by Councillor Ric Metcalfe.

On being put to the meeting, the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED

- (1) That approval be given to the City of Lincoln Council entering into an agreement with Lincolnshire County Council, following the proposal from the County Council to assume the function of pavement licences under the Business and Planning Act 2020.
- (2) That the Strategic Director of Communities and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be delegated authority to finalise the terms of the delegation within the parameters set out in the report.
- (3) That the function of granting pavement licences under the Business and Planning Act 2020 be delegated to the Highways Department of Lincolnshire County Council.