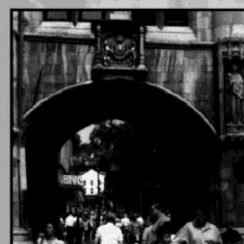




CITY OF
Lincoln
COUNCIL

Council Summons



For the meeting to be held on
Tuesday, 21 June 2022

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CITY OF LINCOLN COUNCIL

Sir/Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the COUNCIL of the City of Lincoln to be held at The Guildhall, Saltergate, Lincoln, LN1 1DH on Tuesday, 21 June 2022 at 6.30 pm.



Chief Executive and Town Clerk

Angela Andrews

A G E N D A

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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.	
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(a) Councillor Donald Nannestad, Portfolio Holder for Quality Housing	29 - 34
10. Appointments to Outside Bodies	To Follow

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Present: Councillor Jackie Kirk (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Debbie Armiger, Councillor Biff Bean,
Councillor Alan Briggs, Councillor Chris Burke,
Councillor Sue Burke, Councillor Bob Bushell,
Councillor Liz Bushell, Councillor Martin Christopher,
Councillor David Clarkson, Councillor Thomas Dyer,
Councillor Gary Hewson, Councillor Rosanne Kirk,
Councillor Jane Loffhagen,
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom, Councillor Bill Mara,
Councillor Adrianna McNulty, Councillor Ric Metcalfe,
Councillor Neil Murray, Councillor Donald Nannestad,
Councillor Lucinda Preston, Councillor Hilton Spratt,
Councillor Mark Storer, Councillor Rachel Storer,
Councillor Edmund Strengiel, Councillor Naomi Tweddle,
Councillor Pat Vaughan, Councillor Calum Watt,
Councillor Joshua Wells, Councillor Emily Wood and
Councillor Loraine Woolley

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Matthew Fido and Councillor Clare Smalley

1. To Elect the Mayor for the Ensuing Year

On the nomination of Councillor Gary Hewson and seconded by Councillor Lucinda Preston it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Rosanne Kirk be elected as Mayor of the City of Lincoln for the ensuing year. Councillor Kirk made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Oath of Allegiance. The newly elected Mayor then returned thanks for her appointment.

(The Mayor [Councillor Rosanne Kirk] took the Chair)

2. To Appoint the Sheriff for the Ensuing Year

It was moved by Councillor Sue Burke, seconded by Councillor Chris Burke and

RESOLVED that Jasmit Kaur Phull be appointed Sheriff of the City of Lincoln for the ensuing year. The newly appointed Sheriff made and subscribed the Declaration of Office, took the Oath of Allegiance and returned thanks for her appointment.

3. To Appoint the Deputy Mayor for the Ensuing Year

Upon the announcement of the Mayor it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Biff Bean be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

4. To Receive Notification of the Appointment of the Mayor's Chaplain

The Mayor notified the Council of her appointment of Canon Edward Jarosz VG of St. Hugh's Roman Catholic Church in Lincoln as her Chaplain for the ensuing year.

5. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

It was moved by Councillor Rebecca Longbottom, seconded by Councillor Jane Loffhagen and

RESOLVED that the thanks of the Council be accorded to the retiring Mayor for the manner in which she discharged her duties during her period of office.

6. Vote of Thanks for the Retiring Sheriff

It was moved by Councillor Ric Metcalfe, seconded by Councillor Donald Nannestad and

RESOLVED that the thanks of the Council be accorded to the retiring Sheriff for the manner in which he discharged his duties during his period of office.

7. To Appoint to Committees and Advocacy Roles

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

(1) That the schedule of appointments to the Executive be noted.

(2) That the schedule of appointments to Committees and Sub-Committees; Chairs and Vice-Chairs; and Advocate Roles for 2022/23 be approved.

Present: Councillor Jackie Kirk (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Biff Bean, Councillor Bill Bilton, Councillor
Chris Burke, Councillor Sue Burke, Councillor
Bob Bushell, Councillor Liz Bushell, Councillor
David Clarkson, Councillor Thomas Dyer, Councillor
Gary Hewson, Councillor Rosanne Kirk, Councillor
Jane Loffhagen, Councillor Rebecca Longbottom,
Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Councillor Donald Nannestad,
Councillor Hilton Spratt, Councillor Mark Storer,
Councillor Pat Vaughan and Councillor Calum Watt

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Alan Briggs, Councillor Matthew Fido,
Councillor Andy Kerry, Councillor Helena Mair, Councillor
Bill Mara, Councillor Adrianna McNulty, Councillor
Laura McWilliams, Councillor Neil Murray, Councillor
Lucinda Preston, Councillor Christopher Reid, Councillor
Clare Smalley, Councillor Edmund Strengiel, Councillor
Naomi Tweddle and Councillor Loraine Woolley

57. To consider the following recommendation from the meeting of the Council held on 18 January 2022 to be proposed by the Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Jackie Kirk) and seconded by Councillor Ric Metcalfe.

At the request of the Mayor, (Councillor J Kirk), the Chief Executive and Town Clerk read out the following motion:

To consider the following recommendation from Council of 18 January 2022, pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, to be proposed by the Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Jackie Kirk) and seconded by Councillor Ric Metcalfe.

That the Council do resolve as follows:

- a) That the Mayor and Citizens of the City of Lincoln do confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon The Right Honourable The Lord Cormack in tribute to his outstanding contribution to the City, being instrumental in several large conservation projects, bringing world class exhibitions to the City such as the Domesday Book and Battles and Dynasties, and securing funding for the Magna Carta vault in Lincoln Castle along with his tireless work, for the benefit of others, as Patron of the International Bomber Command Centre, Deputy High Steward of Lincoln Cathedral, Vice President of the Tennyson Society and Member of the University of Lincoln Court, and his advocacy for the city on the national stage.

By this, the most honourable distinction, which is their privilege to bestow, the Council can pay tribute to his outstanding achievements and to express the high esteem in which he is held.

- b) That an illuminated Scroll embodying the above-mentioned terms and sealed with the Common Seal of the Council be presented to the said The Right Honourable The Lord Cormack.

The Mayor of Lincoln, Councillor Jackie Kirk, proposed the motion that The Right Honourable The Lord Cormack, be admitted to the Honorary Freedom of the City in accordance with the resolution read by the Chief Executive.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Ric Metcalfe. He emphasised that it was with great pleasure and an honour for him personally to second the Freedom of the City of Lincoln to The Right Honourable The Lord Cormack. He highlighted that Lord Cormack was a Lincolnshire yellow belly born in Grimsby in 1939, before he moved away to pursue his career. Councillor Metcalfe gave a brief history of Lord Cormack's distinguished political career, his reputation as a prolific author and broadcaster and appointment as a Life Peer in December 2010. He commended Lord Cormack for his knowledge on so many things which held no bounds. He praised Lord Cormack's many achievements and outstanding contributions to the City. He added that Lord Cormack had now retired to live in Lincoln with his wife and lived in Minster Yard. He continued to be involved in the Cathedral and City and worked constantly for the benefit of others for no personal gain.

The Mayor put the motion to the Council for resolution, which was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that the granting of the Honorary Freedom of the City to the Right Honourable The Lord Cormack be approved.

The Roll of Honorary Freedom was signed by The Right Honourable The Lord Cormack.

The Mayor presented The Right Honourable The Lord Cormack with the Scroll admitting him to the Honorary Freedom of the City of Lincoln.

The Right Honourable The Lord Cormack responded by saying this was a very moving occasion. He stated that it was a great honour to receive the Honorary Freedom of the City of Lincoln. He highlighted four red letter days in his life, becoming a Member of Parliament for Canwick, being Knighted by Her Majesty the Queen, becoming a Member of the House of Lords and now today receiving the Freedom of the City of Lincoln. He was very proud of his County and was delighted he was able to move to live in Minster Yard. He described today as a special day also being the anniversary of the Feast of Annunciation, commemorating the visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, where he announced that she would give birth to Jesus Christ. This building was a very special place, people could view a stone sculpture of the Virgin Mary and the Angel Gabriel on the outside of the building above the Stonebow Gate. The Mote Bell dating from 1371 was still rang here, as it was this morning. We were here as guardians of the history of one of the great cities of England. He entertained his audience with his great knowledge of the history of the City and County. He was moved and gracious to receive the Freedom of the City of Lincoln. He thanked the Mayor, Councillor Metcalfe and all Councillors present for this very special recognition.

Present: Councillor Jackie Kirk (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Bill Bilton, Councillor Alan Briggs,
Councillor Chris Burke, Councillor Sue Burke,
Councillor Bob Bushell, Councillor Liz Bushell,
Councillor Thomas Dyer, Councillor Matthew Fido,
Councillor Gary Hewson, Councillor Rosanne Kirk,
Councillor Jane Loffhagen,
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom, Councillor Helena Mair,
Councillor Bill Mara, 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 Pat Vaughan,
Councillor Calum Watt and Councillor Loraine Woolley

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Biff Bean, Councillor David Clarkson,
Councillor Andy Kerry, Councillor Adrianna McNulty,
Councillor Laura McWilliams,
Councillor Edmund Strengiel and
Councillor Naomi Twedde

51. Confirmation of Minutes - 22 February 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2022 be confirmed and signed as the Chair as a correct record.

52. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pat Vaughan declared a personal interest as his granddaughter worked within the finance department at the City of Lincoln Council.

53. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor thanked the Alive Church for hosting meetings of the Council, which had enabled it to meet in accordance with social distancing measures in its risk assessment.

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to reflect on the tragic events in Ukraine. A message of sympathy and support had been issued by the Council to the Ukrainian community within Lincoln. The Council was liaising with other local authorities on readying itself for people seeking sanctuary within the county, including Lincoln.

The Mayor was sad to report the death of Peter Robinson, who had previously been an officer of the City of Lincoln Council.

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

- The unveiling of artwork created by a local artist and school children had been unveiled at Lincoln train station.
- A fundraising event in Newark.

- The South Holland District Council's Civic Service.

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

No questions had been submitted by members of the public.

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

Councillor Thomas Dyer to Councillor Bob Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place

Question

Can the executive member provide council with an update on the impact of Lincoln's air quality, with reference to pollution hotspots such as Lindum Hill, following the opening of the Lincoln Eastern by-pass?

Reply

The Lincoln Eastern bypass had opened on 19 December 2020 so a full year of monitoring data since the bypass opened was now available. The Council monitored both nitrogen dioxide and particulates smaller than 10 microns (PM10).

The monitoring data had shown there had been a significant reduction in roadside pollution levels from 2019 to 2021 at the sites the Council monitored. However, there were a number of factors that could have influenced the decrease on top of the opening of the Eastern Bypass, including the Covid-19 response measures during 2021 and the closure of Pelham Bridge for several weeks during 2021.

The extent of the reductions due to the opening of the Lincoln Eastern Bypass would become clearer once all 2022 air quality data was available (assuming pandemic restrictions were not re-introduced). Additionally, there would be other issues that the council was currently unable to quantify, such as whether the opening of the bypass had changed traffic routes, therefore creating new air pollution hotspots elsewhere. The Council would continue to work with Lincolnshire County Council's Highways department to establish whether this was the case.

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

Question

Can the portfolio holder provide Council with the details of fly-tipping statistics that lead to formal and informal action?

Reply

527 reports of fly tipping on the public highway and 165 reports of fly tipping on council owned land had been received since 1 April 2021. These figures did not include collections that had been requested by Customer Services, Community Services or proactive collections undertaken by Biffa.

Any reports where the incident had been witnessed, or where cases had evidence, were fully investigated by the team and a decision would be made dependent on the evidence available as to the action which would be taken. However, there were many occasions when the team received reports in relation to fly tipped mattress, fridges or sofas and there had been no witnesses or evidence. In these cases, it would result in no further enforcement action being able to be taken.

Informal action may take the form of advice and verbal warnings, where it could be reasonably expected that informal action would achieve compliance. Officers within the team would carry out investigations and these might reveal an incident which could be deemed as fly tipping. However, on occasions it might have been due to a genuine lack of understanding in relation to the illegal deposit of waste. The use of informal action was a frequent occurrence whilst carrying out their duties and would involve discussing presentation and providing educational information in relation to the disposal.

Formal action would be taken where appropriate, and these would include the use of Community Protection Warnings / Notices, Fixed Penalty Notices or Prosecution.

The Portfolio Holder presented the figures contained within the table below.

FORMAL ACTION	April 2021 to February 2022
Community Protection Warnings/Community Protection Notices	21
Fixed Penalty Notices	7
Prosecutions	1

It was emphasised that a phased approach to enforcement should be undertaken so prosecution would generally be initiated in circumstances where there appeared to be a blatant disregard for the law by a business, or due to the seriousness and scale of the fly-tipping offence. Circumstances that were likely to warrant prosecution included offences committed by businesses, fly-tipping of hazardous material, large scale deposits of waste or significant multiple loads or multiple offenders, however, this would be dependent on evidence.

Councillor Alan Briggs to Councillor Neil Murray, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth

Question

Following last week's council meeting, is the executive member now aware of the Charterfields Board?

Reply

Yes, the Board, which was made up of senior officers of the Council and senior officers of Lindum Group, was part of the governance framework for the more strategic decision making for the proposed development of the western growth corridor.

Councillor Mark Storer to Councillor Donald Nannestad, Portfolio Holder for Quality Housing

Is it acceptable for recently homeless individuals to be housed in City Council properties that do not even have carpet?

Reply

The majority of the properties that were used on a temporary basis for homeless households were already carpeted. As this temporary accommodation was relet, in preparation for its further temporary use, checks were carried out and properties were carpeted if needed. In addition, the council relets several hundred properties on permanent tenancies each year and funding was not sufficient to provide carpets for all of these, however where carpets from the previous tenant were of sufficient quality and cleanliness then they would be left in place for the new tenant. The Housing Solutions and Allocations Teams do provide signposting to relevant charities that may be able to assist new tenants to furnish their properties.

Councillor Matthew Fido to Councillor Sue Burke, Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequality

Question

Can the executive member update council on how the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy will support people for the financial year 2022-23?

Reply

The City of Lincoln Council had been allocated £2.7m in Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) to help support those businesses affected by the pandemic but that were ineligible for existing support linked to business rates. Businesses who may potentially be eligible for the CARF had recently been contacted, with a deadline of 31 March 2022 for applications to be submitted, after which applications would be assessed as soon as possible.

Also, the Council had introduced a Business Rates Growth Policy in 2018, to assist businesses moving into premises in the City or those looking to expand to potentially receive a discretionary relief from their business rates for up to three years. This Policy had remained in place, and the Council's Revenues and Benefits Shared Service would continue to work closely with Major Developments to identify businesses who may benefit from this rates relief.

Councillor Bill Mara to Councillor Sue Burke, Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequality

Question

How is the City Council working with partner organisations to boost the Skills and Training outcomes for those in Lincoln, with reference to the unemployed?

Reply

The Council had been working across a range of service areas with a number of public sector, private sector and voluntary organisations to boost skills and training opportunities for the unemployed, which had included:

- Town Deal funded projects including digital skills and tourism / hospitality related training.
- Community based projects with Abbey Access centre, Lincoln City Foundation, Network and others with the neighbourhood team.
- Housing Repairs Service was working with Lincoln College on construction related trades / skills development and training.

Councillor Hilton Spratt to Councillor Bob Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place

Question

Can the executive member provide an update on the council's aim to hit net zero by 2030?

Reply

The Council's Executive had recently approved the Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan, which set out how the Council would work towards achieving net zero carbon by 2030 for its organisational emissions. The Council's Environmental Performance was externally audited on an annual basis by Investors in the Environment and a copy of the latest annual report could be found online.

For Lincoln's area wide climate action and ambition to achieve net zero carbon the Council had prepared a draft Lincoln 2030 Strategy and Action Plan with its partners on the Lincoln Climate Commission, which was scheduled to go out to public consultation in May 2022 and due to be completed by Autumn 2022. A report providing a detailed review of progress would be produced and published annually to report progress towards the net zero carbon target for Lincoln.

56. To Consider the Following Recommendations of the Executive and Committees of the Council

(a) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2027

It was moved by Councillor Jackie Kirk, seconded by Councillor Donald Nannestad and

RESOLVED that Council Procedure Rule 17.4 regarding the content and length of speeches be suspended to allow the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition unlimited time to speak on Minute 56a.

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council, proposed the recommendations contained within the report, as detailed on page 18 of the agenda pack, in relation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2027 and budget.

He reflected on the events of recent years, particularly focusing on the impact of Covid-19 on the Council, combined with a number of measures the Council had to undertake due to the restrictions imposed at different stages throughout the pandemic, all of which had led to significant costs and a drop in many traditional sources of income for the Council. The City Council was very well financially managed and due to its excellent financial stewardship had been able to stabilise the position and rebuild its finances for a sustainable future in line with continuing to support the Council's vision. Reference was made to the continued uncertainty faced by the labour market and its associated supply issues, which was impacting on many sectors.

Reference was made to the longstanding uncertainty with regards to local government financing, where the Council had achieved £10 million of revenue savings over a period of ten years. It had been hoped that the Levelling Up White Paper would address inequality within Lincoln, however, this had not been included. Similarly, the Council was awaiting detail on the Shared Prosperity Fund. However, the Leader was pleased to highlight the successful projects which had received funding via the Lincoln Town Deal Fund. Councillor Metcalfe took this opportunity, however, to remind Council that there were lots of financial challenges ahead owing to the ongoing uncertainty in funding.

An increase of 1.89% in council tax was proposed, which averaged approximately 7-8p per week. It was highlighted that 14% of the total council tax bill for the City of Lincoln was attributable to the City Council, with the remainder going to Lincolnshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Donald Nannestad, Deputy Leader of the Council, seconded the proposition and reiterated the points made in relation to the reduction in government funding and the ongoing financial challenges faced by the Council, as a result of this reduced funding and also Covid-19.

The Mayor, having received notice of the Leader of the Opposition's intention to propose a number of amendments, permitted that more than one amendment may be discussed and debated at once to facilitate the proper and efficient conduct of the Council's business in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.6(b). She reported, however, that each amendment would be voted upon separately.

Councillor Thomas Dyer, Leader of the Opposition, proposed the following amendments to the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which were seconded by Councillor Christopher Reid, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

Amendment 1 - the increasing of Enforcement Fines:

- (a) Littering - Amendment to page 127 of the agenda pack. Appendix 7. Delete £75 proposed fine for littering and insert £100.
- (b) Dog Fouling – Amendment to page 127 of the agenda pack. Appendix 7. Delete £50 proposed fine for Dog Fouling and insert £100.
- (c) Breach of Community Protection – Amendment to page 127 of the agenda pack. Appendix 7. Delete £75 proposed fine for Breaching of Community Protection and insert £100.
- (d) Breach of a Public Space Protection Order – Amendment to page 127 of the agenda pack. Appendix 7. Delete £75 proposed fine for Breach of a Public Space Protection Order and insert £100.

- (e) Breach of S46 Notice (Presentation of Waste) – Amendment to page 127 of the agenda pack. Appendix 7. Delete £75 proposed fine for Breach of S46 Notice (Presentation of Waste) and insert £100.

Amendment 2 - freeze all parking charges until undertaking a full car parking review:

- (a) Delete all proposed charges for 22/23 and insert all current rates on pages 138, 139 & 140 of the council agenda budget pack.

Amendment 3 - introduce 1 hour's free parking at the Lincoln Central Car Park until the outcome of the parking review:

- (a) Delete charges for 1-hour parking at the Lincoln Central Car Park on page 139 of the council agenda budget pack and replace with "£0 until outcome of parking review".

This would help assist the High Street and local businesses recover from the financial implications of Covid-19.

Amendment 4 - offering more effective virtual tenancy at our managed workspace:

- (a) Delete the £304 charge on page 137 of the agenda pack, appendix 7 and insert "£216" (£18 per month excluding VAT).
- (b) The City of Lincoln Council also agrees to fully review the virtual tenancy offering and align it with other operators within Lincolnshire.

This would help assist smaller businesses to start up.

Amendment 5 - the Council to fund four Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to directly support policing operations within our neighbourhoods and to support special constable recruitment within Lincoln:

- (a) Insert an additional recommendation within items 13, of the council agenda pack to fund four PCSOs at a cost of £30,000pa per PCSO.
- (b) Insert a 25% council tax discount (as per the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner request) within the recommendation section of the council agenda pack.

Amendment 6 - allocate £35,000 from the Mayoral Car fund and Vision 2025 fund for more public seating provision within our parks and recreational areas:

- (a) Allocate the full £27,100 from the Mayoral Car reserve plus an additional £7,900 from the vision 2025 fund to provide more public seating provision throughout Lincoln.

Amendment 7 - end the Neighbourhood working scheme, to fund the above priorities:

- (a) The Council recommends that it now winds down the Neighbourhood working scheme, to fund other priorities and assist with the Council reprofiling its budget, should the above amendments be implemented.

During the discussion on the proposed amendments, the following points were noted:

- It was suggested that any amendments were circulated at an earlier stage in the budget setting process to enable thorough consideration. In response, it was advised that the amendments had been circulated with 24 hours' notice.
- It was commented that a large proportion of council tax income was attributed to the Police and Crime Commissioner and therefore any funding for additional PCSOs should be funded via this source of income, alternatively the Police and Crime Commissioner could approach the County Council.
- The City Council had sustained significant budget cuts over a period of ten years.
- There was a need to review and increase certain enforcement fines, particularly for dog fouling, as it was having a negative impact on the City.

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, using his right to reply, advised that he would not be in support of any of the amendments as they had not been properly costed and would therefore negatively impact on the Council's budget. The total cost of the proposed amendments was £487k, of which the full funding of those amendments had not been set out as part of the amendments.

It was highlighted that should the Council freeze car park income, it would cost circa £105k for the next twelve months, with an additional cost of circa £240k should the Council provide the first hour of parking free of charge, the funding of these amounts had not been factored into the amendments. With regards to the funding of the four PCSOs, this would cost the Council circa £120k per year and the Council had no responsibility for policing.

Having been proposed and seconded, each amendment was voted upon individually. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7, a recorded vote was taken for each amendment, the results of which were as follows:

Amendment 1:

For (8)

Councillor Alan Briggs
Councillor Thomas Dyer
Councillor Matthew Fido
Councillor Bill Mara
Councillor Chris Reid
Councillor Clare Smalley
Councillor Hilton Spratt
Councillor Mark Storer

Against (18)

Councillor Bill Bilton
Councillor Chris Burke
Councillor Sue Burke
Councillor Bob Bushell
Councillor Liz Bushell
Councillor Gary Hewson
Councillor Jackie Kirk
Councillor Roseanne Kirk
Councillor Jane Loffhagen
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom
Councillor Helena Mair
Councillor Ric Metcalfe
Councillor Neil Murray
Councillor Donald Nannestad
Councillor Lucinda Preston
Councillor Pat Vaughan
Councillor Loraine Woolley
Councillor Calum Watt

Abstention

Amendment 2:

For (8)

Councillor Alan Briggs
Councillor Thomas Dyer
Councillor Matthew Fido
Councillor Bill Mara
Councillor Chris Reid
Councillor Clare
Smalley
Councillor Hilton Spratt
Councillor Mark Storer

Against (18)

Councillor Bill Bilton
Councillor Chris Burke
Councillor Sue Burke
Councillor Bob Bushell
Councillor Liz Bushell
Councillor Gary Hewson

Councillor Jackie Kirk
Councillor Roseanne Kirk
Councillor Jane Loffhagen
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom
Councillor Helena Mair
Councillor Ric Metcalfe
Councillor Neil Murray
Councillor Donald Nannestad
Councillor Lucinda Preston
Councillor Pat Vaughan
Councillor Loraine Woolley
Councillor Calum Watt

Abstention

Amendment 3:

For (7)

Councillor Alan Briggs

Councillor Thomas Dyer
Councillor Matthew Fido
Councillor Bill Mara
Councillor Chris Reid
Councillor Hilton Spratt
Councillor Mark Storer

Against (18)

Councillor Bill Bilton

Councillor Chris Burke
Councillor Sue Burke
Councillor Bob Bushell
Councillor Liz Bushell
Councillor Gary Hewson
Councillor Jackie Kirk
Councillor Roseanne Kirk
Councillor Jane Loffhagen
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom
Councillor Helena Mair
Councillor Ric Metcalfe
Councillor Neil Murray
Councillor Donald Nannestad
Councillor Lucinda Preston
Councillor Pat Vaughan
Councillor Loraine Woolley
Councillor Calum Watt

Abstention (1)

Councillor Clare
Smalley

Amendment 4:

For (8)

Councillor Alan Briggs
Councillor Thomas Dyer
Councillor Matthew Fido
Councillor Bill Mara
Councillor Chris Reid
Councillor Clare
Smalley
Councillor Hilton Spratt
Councillor Mark Storer

Against (18)

Councillor Bill Bilton
Councillor Chris Burke
Councillor Sue Burke
Councillor Bob Bushell
Councillor Liz Bushell
Councillor Gary Hewson

Councillor Jackie Kirk
Councillor Roseanne Kirk
Councillor Jane Loffhagen
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom
Councillor Helena Mair
Councillor Ric Metcalfe
Councillor Neil Murray
Councillor Donald Nannestad
Councillor Lucinda Preston
Councillor Pat Vaughan
Councillor Loraine Woolley
Councillor Calum Watt

Abstention

Amendment 5:

For (7)

Councillor Alan Briggs
Councillor Thomas Dyer
Councillor Matthew Fido
Councillor Bill Mara
Councillor Chris Reid
Councillor Hilton Spratt
Councillor Mark Storer

Against (19)

Councillor Bill Bilton
Councillor Chris Burke
Councillor Sue Burke
Councillor Bob Bushell
Councillor Liz Bushell
Councillor Gary Hewson
Councillor Jackie Kirk
Councillor Roseanne Kirk
Councillor Jane Loffhagen
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom
Councillor Helena Mair
Councillor Ric Metcalfe
Councillor Neil Murray
Councillor Donald Nannestad
Councillor Lucinda Preston
Councillor Clare Smalley
Councillor Pat Vaughan
Councillor Loraine Woolley
Councillor Calum Watt

Abstention

Amendment 6:

For (8)

Councillor Alan Briggs
Councillor Thomas Dyer
Councillor Matthew Fido
Councillor Bill Mara
Councillor Chris Reid
Councillor Clare Smalley
Councillor Hilton Spratt
Councillor Mark Storer

Against (18)

Councillor Bill Bilton
Councillor Chris Burke
Councillor Sue Burke
Councillor Bob Bushell
Councillor Liz Bushell
Councillor Gary Hewson

Councillor Jackie Kirk
Councillor Roseanne Kirk
Councillor Jane Loffhagen
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom
Councillor Helena Mair
Councillor Ric Metcalfe
Councillor Neil Murray
Councillor Donald Nannestad
Councillor Lucinda Preston
Councillor Pat Vaughan
Councillor Loraine Woolley
Councillor Calum Watt

Abstention

Amendment 7:

For (7)	Against (18)	Abstention (1)
Councillor Alan Briggs	Councillor Bill Bilton	Councillor Clare Smalley
Councillor Thomas Dyer	Councillor Chris Burke	
Councillor Matthew Fido	Councillor Sue Burke	
Councillor Bill Mara	Councillor Bob Bushell	
Councillor Chris Reid	Councillor Liz Bushell	
Councillor Hilton Spratt	Councillor Gary Hewson	
Councillor Mark Storer	Councillor Jackie Kirk	
	Councillor Roseanne Kirk	
	Councillor Jane Loffhagen	
	Councillor Rebecca Longbottom	
	Councillor Helena Mair	
	Councillor Ric Metcalfe	
	Councillor Neil Murray	
	Councillor Donald Nannestad	
	Councillor Lucinda Preston	
	Councillor Pat Vaughan	
	Councillor Loraine Woolley	
	Councillor Calum Watt	

Amendments 1 to 7 were therefore declared lost.

Returning to debate on the original motion, Councillor Chris Reid proposed the following amendment:

The full reopening of the West Gate Toilet facilities – reversing the decision taken earlier this financial year:

- (a) Council to recommend that the West Gate Toilet facilities are reopened.

In proposing the amendment Councillor Reid highlighted the significant opposition to the Executive's original decision, both by members of the public and local businesses. Councillor Reid pleaded with the Council to accept it had made the wrong decision and not to let pride stand in the way of correcting it. Councillor Mark Storer seconded the proposal but reserved his right to speak.

During a debate on the amendment, the following points were noted:

- This reduction in service had been made following years of budget cuts suffered by the City Council.
- It was confirmed that the West Gate facilities were open to disabled users 24/7 and they would be open to all users during paid events. It was also highlighted that there were other facilities available for use close by, including at Castle Hill.

Councillor Mark Storer, who had reserved his right to speak, advised that this should be about ensuring the right level of service is available to members of the public, local businesses and the visiting economy. By having these facilities closed, it sent out the wrong message.

Councillor Ric Metcalfe reiterated the Council's current financial challenges and that difficult decisions had to be made. It was also reiterated that there were other public facilities within walking distance of the West Gate facilities.

Having been proposed and seconded, the amendment was voted upon. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7, a recorded vote was taken, the result of which was as follows:

For (8)	Against (18)	Abstention
Councillor Briggs	Councillor Bilton	
Councillor Thomas Dyer	Councillor Chris Burke	
Councillor Matthew Fido	Councillor Sue Burke	
Councillor Bill Mara	Councillor Bob Bushell	
Councillor Chris Reid	Councillor Liz Bushell	
Councillor Clare Smalley	Councillor Gary Hewson	
Councillor Hilton Spratt	Councillor Jackie Kirk	
Councillor Mark Storer	Councillor Roseanne Kirk	
	Councillor Jane Loffhagen	
	Councillor Rebecca Longbottom	
	Councillor Helena Mair	
	Councillor Ric Metcalfe	
	Councillor Neil Murray	
	Councillor Donald Nannestad	
	Councillor Lucinda Preston	
	Councillor Pat Vaughan	
	Councillor Loraine Woolley	
	Councillor Calum Watt	

The amendment was declared lost.

Returning to debate on the original motion, Councillor Clare Smalley proposed the following amendment:

That £20,000 from the Corporate Repairs and Maintenance Reserve (Carry Forwards – Appendix 6 – Page 67) be allocated for a Bus Shelter Improvement Programme, to repair, replace or install bus shelters across the City of Lincoln.

That the planned use of earmarked reserves in 2022/23 in the General Fund (Appendix 1 Page 50) be increased from £4,966,830, by £20,000 to increase the contribution from balances to £4,986,930, which would offset the expenditure incurred.

Councillor Alan Briggs seconded the proposal and reserved his right to speak.

During the debate on the amendment, the following points were noted:

- It was highlighted that this amendment would be more appropriately funded by Lincolnshire County Council, as the highways authority. The level of reserves held by the county council was also commented upon.
- It was commented that those bus shelters owned by the City Council should be maintained to a high standard. It was also noted that there were some bus shelters owned by a third party within the City.

Councillor Metcalfe advised that the only reason as to why the City Council had any involvement in bus shelters was as a result of a legacy agreement with the County Council, as highways authority, thus the City Council had been left with the shelters, despite the agreement long ago coming to an end. However, the City Council did not receive any funding to maintain bus shelters. It was therefore considered more appropriate to be funded by the County Council.

Having been proposed and seconded, the amendment was voted upon. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7, a recorded vote was taken, the result of which was as follows:

For (8)	Against (18)	Abstention
Councillor Briggs	Councillor Bilton	
Councillor Thomas Dyer	Councillor Chris Burke	
Councillor Matthew Fido	Councillor Sue Burke	
Councillor Bill Mara	Councillor Bob Bushell	
Councillor Chris Reid	Councillor Liz Bushell	
Councillor Clare Smalley	Councillor Gary Hewson	
Councillor Hilton Spratt	Councillor Jackie Kirk	
Councillor Mark Storer	Councillor Roseanne Kirk	
	Councillor Jane Loffhagen	
	Councillor Rebecca Longbottom	
	Councillor Helena Mair	
	Councillor Ric Metcalfe	
	Councillor Neil Murray	
	Councillor Donald Nannestad	
	Councillor Lucinda Preston	
	Councillor Pat Vaughan	
	Councillor Loraine Woolley	
	Councillor Calum Watt	

The amendment was declared lost.

Council returned to the original motion.

Having been proposed and seconded, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7, a recorded vote was taken, the result of which was as follows:

For (18)

Councillor Bill Bilton
Councillor Chris Burke
Councillor Sue Burke
Councillor Bob Bushell
Councillor Liz Bushell
Councillor Gary Hewson
Councillor Jackie Kirk
Councillor Roseanne Kirk
Councillor Jane Loffhagen
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom
Councillor Helena Mair
Councillor Ric Metcalfe
Councillor Neil Murray
Councillor Donald Nannestad
Councillor Lucinda Preston
Councillor Pat Vaughan
Councillor Loraine Woolley
Councillor Calum Watt

Against (8)

Councillor Alan Briggs
Councillor Thomas Dyer
Councillor Matthew Fido
Councillor Bill Mara
Councillor Chris Reid
Councillor Clare Smalley
Councillor Hilton Spratt
Councillor Mark Storer

Abstention

The motion was declared carried.

It was therefore RESOLVED that the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2027 and the Capital Strategy 2022-2027, including the following elements, be approved:

- The Council was member of the Lincolnshire Business Rates Pool in 2022/23.
- The General Fund Revenue Forecast 2022/23-2026/27, as shown in Appendix 1 to the report, and the main basis on which this budget has been calculated (as set out in paragraph 4 of the report).
- The General Investment Programme 2022/23-2026/27, as shown in Appendix 2 to the report, and the main basis on which the programme had been calculated (as set out in paragraph 6).
- The Housing Revenue Account Forecast 2022/23-2026/27, as shown in Appendix 3 to the report, and the main basis on which this budget had been calculated (as set out in paragraph 5).
- The Housing Investment Programme 2022/23-2026/27, as shown in Appendix 4, and the main basis on which the programme had been calculated (as set out in paragraph 7).

(b) Council Tax 2022/23

The recommendations to the Council, as set out on pages 173 and 174 of the agenda and report pack, were duly moved and seconded, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7, a recorded vote was taken, the result of which was as follows:

For (25)**Against (1)****Abstention**

Councillor Bill Bilton
Councillor Alan Briggs
Councillor Chris Burke
Councillor Sue Burke
Councillor Bob Bushell
Councillor Liz Bushell
Councillor Thomas Dyer
Councillor Matthew Fido
Councillor Gary Hewson
Councillor Jackie Kirk
Councillor Roseanne Kirk
Councillor Jane Loffhagen
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom
Councillor Helena Mair
Councillor Bill Mara
Councillor Ric Metcalfe
Councillor Neil Murray
Councillor Donald Nannestad
Councillor Lucinda Preston
Councillor Chris Reid
Councillor Hilton Spratt
Councillor Mark Storer
Councillor Pat Vaughan
Councillor Loraine Woolley
Councillor Calum Watt

Councillor Clare Smalley

The motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED

That the following, as submitted, be approved:

1. Acceptance of the 4th January 2022 Executive recommendation that the Council Tax Base for 2022/23, as calculated in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, to be £25,310.01.
2. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - a) £114,288,370 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - b) £106,928,470 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

- c) £7,359,900 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A (4) of the Act).
- d) £290.79 being the amount at 2(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- e) £0 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
- f) £290.79 being the amount at 2c) above less the amount at 2e) above, all divided by the amount at 1 above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year

g) **City of Lincoln Council**

A	B	C	D
£193.86	£226.17	£258.48	£290.79
E	F	G	H
£355.41	£420.03	£484.65	£581.58

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 2f) above by the number which, in proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular band divided by the number which in proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different bands.

3. That it be noted that for the year 2022/23 Lincolnshire County Council have provisionally stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with the dwelling bandings shown below:

Lincolnshire County Council

A	B	C	D
£954.78	£1,113.91	£1,273.04	£1,432.17
E	F	G	H
£1,750.43	£2,068.69	£2,386.95	£2,864.34

4. That it be noted that for the year 2022/23 Police & Crime Commissioner Lincolnshire have provisionally stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with the dwelling bandings shown below:

Police & Crime Commissioner Lincolnshire

A	B	C	D
£184.20	£214.90	£245.60	£276.30
E	F	G	H
£337.70	£399.10	£460.50	£552.60

5. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2g, 3 and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/23 in accordance with the dwelling bandings shown below:

Total Council Tax Charge 2022/23

A	B	C	D
£1,332.84	£1,554.98	£1,777.12	£1,999.26
E	F	G	H
£2,443.54	£2,887.82	£3,332.10	£3,998.52

(c) Prudential Indicators 2021-2022 - 2024/25 and Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23

The recommendations to the Council, as set out on page 185 of the agenda and report pack, were duly moved and seconded.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Treasury Management Strategy, including the treasury management prudential indicators and the Investment Strategy, as set out in section 4 and Appendix 3 to the report, be approved.
- (2) That the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
- (3) That the Treasury Management Practices, as set out at Appendix 4 to the report, be approved.

(d) Pay Policy Statement 2022/23

The recommendation to the Council, as set out on page 268 of the agenda and report pack, was duly moved and seconded.

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

RESOLVED

That the Pay Policy Statement, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

(e) Calendar of Meetings 2022/23

It was duly moved and seconded that the Calendar of Meetings for 2022/23 be approved.

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

RESOLVED

That the Calendar of Meetings for 2022/23 be approved.

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COUNCIL

21 JUNE 2022

REPORT UNDER RULE 2(VI) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Report by Councillor Donald Nannestad, Portfolio Holder for Quality Housing

INTRODUCTION

The last 12 months have continued to be a challenging time for housing. The various levels of Covid restrictions have had their effect on housing performance but we have also experienced issues in the supply of materials with the additional problem of a shortage in the labour market. The performance of voids, notable for the amount of red in the quarterly performance report, has further been affected by the fact that the contractor we were using at the start of the financial year went into administration. That said there have also been some excellent areas of performance such as rent collection and the completion of De Wint Court extra care home which is a flagship development for us.

The City Council has just under 7,800 properties of which 45% are houses and 42% flats, with the remainder made up of maisonettes, bungalows and sheltered housing. The ratio between houses and flats has been skewed out of proportion by Right to Buy which has seen us lose a significantly higher number of family homes compared with the number of flats bought by tenants. In addition, eight out of 10 of our homes were constructed before 1974 which creates challenges – in particular when it comes to improving energy efficiency.

In this report I have included some of the performance data and it is clear that some areas, particularly voids, need improvement. Changes have been made with the anticipation of the required improvement being made although some factors are out of our hands.

However, we are making significant progress in several areas including the introduction of a pilot digital repairs reporting scheme; the completing of the De Wint Court extra care home; the introduction of scheduled repairs which has reduced significantly the carbon foot print of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA); work on Rookery Lane is moving on rapidly with the first properties due to be completed by the year end; and planning for the regeneration of Hermit Street flats is also moving forward with the aim of starting work during the current financial year.

My portfolio includes health. There is a direct link between housing conditions and health while household income and levels of air pollution are also key factors which affect the health of our population. These three areas are all ones in which the City Council can influence health. In addition, we are responsible for leisure, parks and green spaces all of which are so very important in both physical and mental health. Although Lincolnshire County Council has the wider responsibility for public health, we also have an important role to play.

Finally, many thanks to all the staff who have not only assisted with this report but given me tremendous support during my recent period of illness. I also thank the Lincoln Tenants Panel for the valuable work they have done and continue to do to

improve the lot of tenants. The Social Housing White Paper emphasises the fact that the voice of tenants must be heard. The Charter sets out seven key commitments all of which have been adopted by the City Council and are included in our Tenancy Involvement Strategy as well as in the refreshed 30-year Housing Business Plan which was approved by the Executive committee on 21 February.

TENANCY SERVICES

Tenancy Services staff have worked extremely hard to ensure rent collection has been maintained. Emphasis has been placed on direct contact with tenants through visits and calls with targets in place for staff. This is a success story with both performance indicators (125B and 126) showing green. The target of 96.5% for rent collected has been exceeded in each of the four quarters of 2021-22 with a collection rate of 100.18% at the year end. This has resulted in a decrease in arrears compared to 2020/21. Arrears as a percentage of rent debit was 3.63% at the end of Q3 which is an improvement on 2020/21 when the end of year figure was 3.74%. The target was 4.45%. A number of challenges remain not least of which is the impact of Universal Credit (UC). The number of tenants claiming UC has increased by over 1,000 year - on-year and arrears on UC claims account for around 60% of the total arrears. The cost-of-living issue which tenants, as well as everyone else face, is another matter which has the potential to seriously impact on rent collection but how serious that impact is will become clearer in the coming months.

VOIDS

In contrast to the success of rent collection it is fair to say that the performance in voids is not where we would like it to be but we are working to rectify the situation. A number of matters have affected performance with the most significant being the fact that the contractor we started the financial year with went into administration. We have experienced delays in ordering kitchens, plastering products and some timber lines while recruitment of new staff has been affected by the high national demand for labour. Covid restrictions have also played a part. The target remains at 32 days for properties needing minor works and 45 days where major works are required. The relevant performance figures for 2021-22 were 56 and 83 days. These are continuing to reduce and the performance as at 6 June was 43 days for minor works and 78 days for major works with the overall average being 57 days. I anticipate both these times will continue to reduce as many of the long-term voids have been completed over the last few months. It must be remembered that voids are only included when they are actually completed so by clearing long-term voids the average length of time will initially go up. Since the initial contractor went into administration the work has been picked up by our own Direct Labour Organisation (DLO), who have been allocated extra staff, and additional private contractors have been taken on for this work. We have carried out a procurement exercise to replace the voids contractor who went into administration. This was done in 'lots' around the city to give more resilience. We have realigned working practices, dedicated more team leader time and changed team structures to help resolve the position. At one point we were 25% down in our labour force but this is improving and, for example, in January six new joiners came to work for us. This should put us in a better position at the end of Q1 of 2022/23.

HOUSING REPAIRS

Out of the performance indicators relating to housing repairs two are green and one red. The red indicator is the percentage of urgent repairs carried out within the three-day time limit and the amber indicator relates to priority one-day repairs. There is now closer management of one and three-day repairs and a repairs co-ordinator has been appointed. One and three-day repairs are being prioritised over 100-day tickets. As with voids there have been issues with obtaining materials but performance does need to improve to an acceptable level. In terms of three-day tickets 90.69% of these were completed within the time limits which is well below the 97.5% target. However, 99.1% of priority repairs (one day) are being carried out within the time limits, which is amber as the target is 99.5% and 99.46% of priority and urgent repair appointments are being kept which is above the 97% target. In the long-term the recently introduced policy of improving the standard of kitchens and bathrooms that we fit should have an effect in reducing the number of repairs. We have recently introduced a pilot scheme for reporting repairs online. This will not only assist those who use the scheme but also reduce the numbers phoning in repairs. That in turn means that the time spent in a call queue should be reduced for those tenants phoning in repairs.

HOUSING INVESTMENT

Less than 1% of properties were classified as non-decent homes but we also currently have 183 properties which are considered not decent standard as a result of tenants refusing us entry.

99.19% of properties have a valid gas certificate which is better than 2020/21 but still below the target. Cases where the tenant refuses access for the gas safety inspection are, as a matter of course, referred to legal services for the appropriate action to be taken to ensure we gain access.

NEW BUILD/ALLOCATIONS

De Wint Court, our flagship extra care home, was officially opened in March. Although the completion was slightly delayed due to issues out of our control it was within budget. Homes England and Lincolnshire County Council both contributed funding towards this project which is our first extra care home.

Construction work is now well underway at Rookery Lane which will add 42 new homes to our housing stock. A ceremony to name this development took place earlier this month and the scheme is due to be completed by mid-December. It will be known as Ward Paddock after the Ward family who lived for 60 years in the house that was demolished to make way for the scheme. Work on the redevelopment of Hermit Street flats is anticipated to start later this calendar year. This involves remodelling the existing properties with a number of additional new-build homes.

In addition, we are working with Barnardo's to provide supervised accommodation for care leavers.

We have continued to acquire properties under the purchase and repair scheme using Right to Buy receipts (RTB). In 2021-22 we purchased 15 properties under this scheme. This has ensured our RTB receipts are spent within the required time. RTB

receipts will be used towards the funding of the new properties which form part of the Hermit Street project.

The demand for Council housing remains high with 1,440 on the housing register at the end of 2021-22 Q4.

HOMELESSNESS

Significant work has been done over recent years to reduce homelessness in the City with Government funding being directed at Lincoln amongst other cities and towns across the country. In relation to this we were able to draw down funding to purchase 15 flats for move-on accommodation as part of the Next Steps Accommodation Project. We were the first Council in the country to acquire a property under this programme and were successful in purchasing the required number. A further three flats have been purchased with money from a second phase of Government funding. Regular checks on street homelessness have, on occasions, produced a nil head count which is the first time this has been achieved.

Homelessness remains an issue. There is a particular pressure as a result of the availability of suitable move-on accommodation and general needs housing in both our own stock and in private sector housing. We have, at this time, unprecedented numbers of homelessness applications. The number of people approaching us as homeless in 2021-22 was 990 compared to 709 in 2020-21 which is an increase of nearly 40%.

DECARBONISATION

The Council in July 2019 approved a resolution declaring a climate and environmental emergency and resolved to deliver a carbon neutral vision for Lincoln by 2030. The role Housing is to play in this is set out within the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan approved by the Executive in December of last year. This commits the Council's new build properties to be either net zero carbon or EPC A rated for projects commenced from 2022-23 and to raise the standard of all Council homes to an average of EPC C rating. Recent new build projects such as the Markham House site and Rookery Lane have been low carbon and have EPC B ratings. Rookery Lane includes sustainable urban drainage. All recent new homes have been fitted with EV charging points.

In terms of our older stock (80% of which was built pre-1974) we are committed to review the Lincoln Homes Standard to improve energy performance. We will also consider retrofit solutions for our existing stock with trials to commence subject to funding.

Our Council together with all other housing stock authorities and registered housing providers, faces many challenges to achieve the progress we need to make. For instance, achieving EPC A ratings/net zero carbon on new build properties significantly increases the cost. The logistics of installing ground-source or air-source heat pumps and solar panels to many of our properties produces real challenges which in some instances cannot, at the moment, be overcome.

What we have done already is introduce a number of changes in the way housing repairs operates which have significantly reduced our carbon footprint. The introduction of scheduled repairs has led to a reduction in mileage travelled by our workforce. The result has been a reduction of more than 40% in CO2e emissions from fleet vehicles since the baseline year. A higher standard of kitchens is being fitted which should reduce the number of repairs while splash boards are to be fitted in bathrooms rather than glazed tiles. Currently no housing repair waste is sent to landfill. 37% is recycled and the remainder goes to RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel).

HRS are in the tender process for a new fleet provision which will continue to reduce the CO2 emissions with more electric vehicles becoming part of the fleet in five years.

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING

The team is currently investigating 56 housing condition complaint cases relating to private sector housing. These include issues of disrepair (which accounts for the majority of cases), overcrowding and illegal evictions. In terms of complaints regarding disrepair, Park and Abbey Wards account for 60% of the total reported. We continue to take action against private landlords and a number of final Civil Penalty Notices have been issued with further investigations underway.

The target for bringing empty private sector homes back into use is 50 and we need to make sure this is met. There have been challenges with gaining access to empty properties during Covid coupled with the escalating cost of materials/availability of builders to bring empty homes back to a habitable state. In Sincil Bank the number of long-term empty properties has now reduced to 20. Across the city as a whole, we have around 800 properties classified as either second homes or empty furnished homes. The majority of these are student housing which hasn't been occupied in the current student year.

The private sector housing team carried out property checks related to the housing of Ukrainians who have escaped from the war in their home country. These checks are being carried out in a timely manner although at the moment the numbers are relatively small.

The team has processed a large number of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) applications to adapt homes enabling people to live in their own homes as long as possible. The spend in the last financial year was just over £1 million on home adaptations in the private sector. This is funded from an annual Government grant which for 2022-23 is £851,990. As can be seen we are seeing demand outstrip supply and have been using reserves built up from lower demand in previous years. We anticipate demand for DFGs will continue to increase over the next few years and we are in a strong position to meet this increased demand.

Finally in this section the City Council has been successful in attracting grant funding to better insulate and heat the homes of those most in need. This is hugely important work given the escalating energy costs and the increasing number of people falling into deeper fuel poverty. In 2019 the estimated number of households in Lincoln which met the Government's fuel poverty criteria was 6,568 and the city has the second highest level of fuel poverty among the Lincolnshire district councils.

So far, the Council has attracted £479,600 in external funding to retrofit up to 40 energy inefficient homes in Lincoln during the current financial year and £2,203,194 to deliver the Sustainable Warmth Programme in 2022-23.

In addition, officers are looking at how, under the Housing Assistance Scheme, we can use DFG funding in a wider context to help those with health conditions to access support for better insulation and better heating where cold homes are affecting their health.

These schemes will have a positive impact for the poorest in our community.

HEALTH

The annual health profile for the city produced by Public Health England has again not been published but data, although less comprehensive, is still available. Covid has dominated health over the last 12 months at the number of cases in Lincoln reached a very high level earlier this year but has dropped significantly and the figure for the 31 May to 6 June was 58 cases, over half of which were in the 30-60 year age range. What is not clear at the moment is the long-term effect of Covid on those who contracted the virus and in particular those who have been seriously ill, as it is a new virus.

Health data invariably lags behind real time data. Very few of the performance indicators for the city are in green and the majority are red. In particular life expectancy for both men and women in the city is lower than both the East Midlands and the England averages. For men this is 76.1 years (2018-2020) and this has deteriorated in each of the last two years being 76.9 in 2017-19 and 77.3 in 2016-2018. For women life expectancy slightly improved in 2018-20. The suicide rate attributed to Lincoln (2018-2020) is the worst in England. Life expectancy varies between wards with a difference of 8.1 years for males between the best Hartsholme at 80.3 years and Park at 73.2 years. For females the difference within wards is starker at 10.7 years between the best of Witham at 83.9 years and the worst of Moorland at 73.2 years.

Over the past year we have been working with the other six Lincolnshire district councils to produce a Lincolnshire District Health and Wellbeing Strategy. In addition, the refreshed Let's Move Lincolnshire Strategy aimed at increasing physical activity levels is to be launched at this year's Lincolnshire Show. The City Council has played a key role in the production of these two strategies.

As I mentioned at the start of this report, the City Council has an important role to play in the health of our residents and anything we can do to increase household income, reduce air pollution and improve housing conditions will improve health.

Donald Nannestad Portfolio Holder for Quality Housing