

Present: Councillor Rosanne Kirk (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Debbie Armiger, 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 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
Naomi Tweddle, Councillor Pat Vaughan, Councillor
Calum Watt, Councillor Joshua Wells, Councillor
Lorraine Woolley and Councillor Emily Wood

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Martin Christopher, Councillor David Clarkson,
Councillor Jackie Kirk, Councillor Clare Smalley and
Councillor Edmund Strengiel

25. Confirmation of Minutes - 18 October 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2022 be confirmed.

26. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pat Vaughan declared a Personal Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Statement of Accounts 2021/22'.

Reason: His daughter worked within the benefits department at the City of Lincoln Council, and similarly his granddaughter worked in the finance department.

27. Mayor's Announcements

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

- The opening of the Cornhill development.
- Remembrance Services.
- The Diwali celebration at the Lincolnshire Showground.
- The switching on of the Christmas Lights.

The Mayor was also pleased to report that she had raised £2,313 as part of her recent charity auction.

28. 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.

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

Councillor Watt to Councillor Sue Burke, Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequality

Question

Could the Portfolio Holder comment on the effectiveness of the council's information campaign and distribution of aid to people in Lincoln with regards to the cost-of-living crisis?

Reply

In terms of cost-of-living challenges, the Council was a direct deliverer of some schemes but it was a communicator/co-ordinator/facilitator/'sign poster' for other schemes, helping to support and assist other organisations to deliver wherever possible. Angela Andrews, Chief Executive and Town Clerk co-chaired a countywide Cost of Living Challenge Stakeholder Group.

In terms of schemes directly delivered:

- Household Support Fund payments for first two schemes to Lincoln residents:
 - December 2021 to March 2022: £427,542
 - August 2022 to September 2022: £318,570.
- Council Tax Energy Rebate:
 - April 2022 to November 2022 (mandatory scheme): Almost 40,000 households
 - September 2022 to November 2022 (discretionary scheme): Entire government fund of £196,950 allocated.
- Discretionary Housing Payments:
 - Up to the end of October 2022, over £93,000 paid out for 2022/23.

It was also noted that there were a large stock of posters available within the Members' Room on the cost of living crisis for distribution by councillors across their respective wards.

All staff involved in the support and above mentioned schemes were thanked for their hard work.

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

Question

Following the inquest into the tragic death of the two-year-old-boy, Awaab Ishak, in Rochdale, please can the Portfolio Holder outline what steps the Council is taking to ensure that it protects its residents from mould within its own social housing stock?

Answer

The Council was taking its responsibilities as a landlord very seriously, and this included making every effort to ensure its tenants lived in a safe environment. The Council had information on its social media channels on how to manage airflow, ventilation and any mould and damp appearing. When the Council was asked to visit customers properties due to their concern over mould and damp

issues, the Council provided leaflets and face to face advice on ventilation and airflow around the home.

Due to the understandable, significant additional demand for mould and damp surveys since the incident in Rochdale the Council had set up a short-term intervention team that had a range of specialised skills in order that the Council could respond more quickly and provide customers with the reassurances they required. Customer services had been asked to put mould and damp enquiries through to a repair ticket immediately, so the Council triaged, prioritised and ensured the correct categorisation for response.

Supplementary

How many council-owned properties had reported damp or mould?

Answer

The total number was unknown and was not available to the Portfolio Holder at the meeting however, it was noted that enquiries had increased tenfold since the incident in Rochdale. The Portfolio Holder agreed to share this information with the Council once known.

Councillor Rachel Storer to Councillor Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place

Question

What progress had been made with the Yarborough Swimming Pool ceiling repairs?

Answer

In January 2022 the Council had made the decision to close the swimming pools at Yarborough Leisure Centre following a routine inspection of the ceiling and roof void. This inspection had raised concerns regarding the structure of the suspended ceiling. Further exploratory investigations had revealed that this was limited to the main pool only, so the learner pool was reopened shortly after and Active Nation had delivered an intensive programme of lessons and public use in that pool.

Work then quickly progressed to identify the issues and solutions to allow the main pool to be reopened and the final works consisted of –

- replacement of the existing suspended ceiling,
- ventilation to reduce the humidity in the roof void, improved and easily accessible lighting,
- moving the pool ventilation tubes to more easily accessible areas for maintenance.

The project had been complex.

In July 22 on site works had started including boarding across the entire pool and erecting scaffolding covering the entire area of the pool and pool surrounds, from ground floor to the suspended ceiling, including some bespoke support trusses.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased to report to Council that the ceiling had now been replaced, new ventilation equipment had been installed, and the scaffolding had almost been completely removed.

The Council was now finalising installation of the new lighting system and waiting for the new ventilation unit to be sited on the pool roof, which should be completed shortly. The project was on target for the pool to reopen by the end of December 2022 and in use by 2 January 2023.

Supplementary

Has the project remained within the allocated budget?

Answer

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the project had remained within the set budget.

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

Question

Could the Portfolio Holder update the Council with its progress to net zero by the deadline it set itself of 2030?

Answer

The Council was delivering on its commitments, as set out in the Climate and Environment Emergency Declaration, which included, working with the Lincoln Climate Commission to prepare a road map to reach net zero carbon for Lincoln by 2030. In September 2022, the Lincoln Climate Commission had produced the 'Lincoln 2030 Climate Action Plan' and accompanying 'Journey to Net Zero' documents that committed to the vision of a carbon neutral Lincoln by 2030, which drew upon expertise in the community (industry, commerce, education, health etc.) and general public to set out the objective, targets and actions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The documents had been published on the Council's website.

The Council's Climate Vision Group had been working on delivering the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan, and actions had been updated in November 2022 and would be available on the Council's Zero Carbon Lincoln webpage.

The Council continued to work with its partners and had recently completed a 'Lincoln Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy', as well as being the lead authority to produce the Lincolnshire Climate Impacts Profile which would be updated annually. Both documents would be published on the Council's Zero Carbon Lincoln webpage as soon as possible.

Supplementary

Given the Council's desire to achieve net zero, how does the Portfolio Holder anticipate this would be achieved given its financial challenges?

Answer

The Portfolio Holder acknowledged this was a challenge but the Council was committed to achieving the target. The Portfolio Holder commented that he was pleased to see that the Government had taken a move away from fracking however, it was felt that funding was required to insulate homes.

**30. Receive Reports under Council Procedure Rule 2 (vi) from Members
(a) Report by Councillor Neil Murray, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth**

Councillor Neil Murray, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, presented his report to Council, which had been set out on pages 15 – 20 of the agenda. Councillor Neil Murray thanked in advance of the event all officers involved in the 40th Lincoln Christmas Market.

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

- The investment into Greyfriars was welcomed and it was acknowledged that the project was positive for the City.
- The Portfolio Holder was not aware of any significant overspends on any of the Lincoln Town Deal projects. However, this would be clarified and all members of the Council would be advised if there were any.
- It was not anticipated that the Council would be offering free car parking for Christmas shoppers on the late night shopping days, as per previous years owing to the impact of the cost of living crisis on the Council.
- The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive would write to Ursula Lidbetter, Lincolnshire Co-op's Chief Executive, thanking her for her hard work within the City and to wish her a long and happy retirement.

The report was noted.

(b) Report by Councillor Naomi Tweddle, Chair of Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel

Councillor Naomi Tweddle, Chair of Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel presented her report to Council, which had been set out on pages 21 – 56.

As part of discussion on the report, it was suggested that whilst the Council had mental health first aiders in place, the specific ongoing mental health crisis and increased suicide rates within the male population would be considered by the Advisory Panel.

The report was noted.

**31. To Consider the Following Recommendations of the Executive and Committees of the Council
(a) Statement of Accounts 2021/22**

It was moved by Councillor Ric Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor Donald Nannestad that the Statement of Accounts 2021/22 be approved.

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

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts 2021/22 be approved.

32. To Confer the Position of Honorary Recorder of the City of Lincoln Upon His Honour Judge Simon Hirst

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

In pursuance of the statutory powers derived from the Court Act 1971 and the Local Government Act 1972, His Honour Judge Simon Hirst be appointed Honorary Recorder of the City.

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

RESOLVED

That in pursuance of the statutory powers derived from the Court Act 1971 and the Local Government Act 1972, His Honour Judge Simon Hirst be appointed Honorary Recorder of the City.