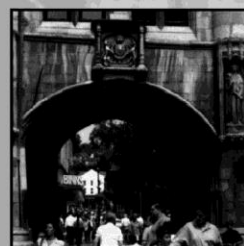




CITY OF
Lincoln
COUNCIL

Council Summons



For the meeting to be held on
Tuesday, 16 January 2024

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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, 16 January 2024 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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Scrutiny Committee

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

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This item is scheduled to be considered by Executive on 15 January 2024.

8. Amendment to Representatives on Outside Bodies	367 - 368
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Present: Councillor Biff Bean (*in the Chair*),
 Councillor Debbie Armiger, Councillor Alan Briggs,
 Councillor Chris Burke, Councillor Sue Burke, Councillor
 Bob Bushell, Councillor Liz Bushell, Natasha Chapman,
 Councillor Martin Christopher, Councillor David Clarkson,
 Councillor Thomas Dyer, Councillor Matthew Fido,
 Councillor Gary Hewson, Councillor
 Rebecca Longbottom, Councillor Bill Mara, Councillor
 Adrianna McNulty, Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Councillor
 Neil Murray, Councillor Donald Nannestad, Councillor
 Lucinda Preston, Councillor Clare Smalley, Councillor
 Hilton Spratt, Councillor Mark Storer, Councillor
 Rachel Storer, Councillor Dylan Stothard, Councillor
 Edmund Strengiel, Councillor Naomi Tweddle, Councillor
 Pat Vaughan, Councillor Calum Watt, Councillor
 Aiden Wells, Councillor Joshua Wells, Councillor
 Emily Wood and Councillor Loraine Woolley

Apologies for Absence: None.

14. Confirmation of Minutes - 25 July 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2023 be confirmed.

15. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pat Vaughan declared a Personal Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Statement of Accounts 2022/23'. Reason: His daughter worked within the Benefits Section and his grand daughter worked within the Finance Section of the City of Lincoln Council.

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

Question from Jessica Bunn, Member of the Public

The science is clear that meat and dairy are major contributors to the climate and ecological emergencies and other councils, for example Oxfordshire County, Oxford City, Cambridge City, Exeter City and Lewisham Borough, are ensuring that all food served at internal events is plant-based, and I'd like Lincoln to do the same.

Therefore, my question is, given the climate emergency and Lincoln's stated aim to reduce their emissions, will the City of Lincoln Council ensure that all food and drink provided at internal events is plant-based by default, as other councils have done? Even if this only applies to refreshments at a very small number of events per year, it will be a small step that sends a powerful message and is the logical and necessary next step after having declared a climate emergency.

Reply from Bob Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place

Councillor Bob Bushell confirmed that all City Council internal and external events, as part of Climate Hope Lincoln and the Lincoln Climate Commission, throughout 2022 and 2023 had served only plant-based menus for lunch and light refreshments which would be continued in the future.

Councillor Bushell explained that Members were committed to working with other teams at the Council to encourage them to provide plant-based food and drink by default. The Council had signed up to Food for the Planet 'Every Mouthful Counts' campaign and had worked through the actions. Councillor Bushell referred to the Lincoln page: <https://www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk/local/lincoln/>.

Councillor Bushell continued that as part of our commitment to the campaign, we had worked with third party catering outlets that provided food and drink in Council owned buildings to increase the range of plant-based items on the menu. We encouraged local businesses that supplied plant-based food and drink to register on the 'Every Mouthful Counts' website to help promote them and encourage more businesses to do the same.

Supplementary

Would you be willing to meet with me to discuss the sustainable future you referenced?

Reply

Councillor Bushell confirmed he remained happy to meet with Jessica Bunn.

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

Councillor David Clarkson to Councillor Naomi Tweddle

Question

Can the executive member explain why the bus stop outside 26 Birchwood Avenue, heading towards the Western Growth Corridor roadworks, has been closed?

Answer

As the Councillor is well aware, this bus stop has been closed during the works on the Birchwood Avenue and Skellingthorpe Road junction to open up the Western Growth Corridor at the request of Stagecoach. City Council officers have been working to get to a position where the bus stop can be re-opened without causing further queuing time delays to traffic at the temporary lights. Officers are hopeful of reaching agreement soon.

Supplementary

Councillor Clarkson confirmed he had contacted the East Midlands Area Business Manager for Stagecoach who had confirmed he had visited the bus stop and

there had been no other requests received. The issue of one bus stop within the Western Growth Corridor development was not insignificant for the individuals that had been affected. Would the Portfolio Holder be willing to meet with both myself and the residents of Hartsholme and Birchwood wards to reach a solution?

Answer

The Portfolio Holder would task the Major Developments Director with contacting Stagecoach as the bus stop was closed at their request. Councillor Twedde confirmed that she remained happy to meet with residents and receive their views.

Councillor Alan Briggs to Councillor Sue Burke

Question

How many prosecutions have been brought in the last 12 months for fly tipping-littering or dog fouling which represent a significant ASB issue within Lincoln?

Answer

We have undertaken the following enforcement activity for these issues in the last 12 months:

• Number of Fly-tipping related Community Protection Warnings (CPW)	9
• Number of Fly-tipping related Community Protection Notices (CPN)	2
• Number of Fly-tipping Duty of Care Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN)	3
• Number of Fly-tipping FPN's	22
• Number of Littering FPN's	0
• Dog fouling FPN's	0
• CPW for dog fouling on private property	1

No cases have escalated past a CPW to court action.

A Community Protection Warning (CPW) is the first stage of official enforcement action under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

A Community Protection Notice (CPN) is the second stage of official enforcement action under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Both our Enforcement Policy and national guidance requires us to take a tiered and proportionate approach to enforcement. Government advice is that where it is appropriate to discharge an offence by issuing a fixed penalty notice then this should be done rather than taking a case to court.

Supplementary

Councillor Alan Briggs offered thanks and confirmed that there had been 42 evidenced incidents specifically related to fly tipping and it appeared that there had been successful movement against the issue.

Councillor Bill Mara to Councillor Sue Burke

Question

The Government have announced that as part of its mission to support more people into work, the Department for Work and Pensions has launched a consultation on changes to the Work Capability Assessment, following the landmark Health and Disability White Paper published earlier this year.

These changes represent the next step in welfare reform, reflecting the rise of flexible and home working and better employer support for disabled people and people with health conditions. These changes also reflect that one in five of those with no work preparation requirements would like to work at some point in the future, with the right support. Does the council support these proposals?

Answer

The Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023, included:

5.26 Work Capability Assessment (WCA) gateway reform – The Government is reforming the activities and descriptors in the Work Capability Assessment for new claimants in Great Britain, to support more people into employment, with implementation occurring from 2025.

The proposals were welcomed by some individuals and concerned from others. Disabilities and medical conditions varied greatly and there had been anxiety expressed that some conditions were more symptomatic on given days. Furthermore, concerns had been shared that the proposals would compel certain individuals to accept terms not appropriate for their condition, such as working from home.

Supporting our residents back into employment who were reasonably able to work was something the Council supported, and officers would continue to work closely with Department for Work and Pensions colleagues to help deliver this aspiration, wherever possible and appropriate.

The Portfolio Holder remained hopeful that Government proposals would enable individuals with disabilities or medical conditions, the positive impact of work.

Councillor Eddie Strengiel to Councillor Naomi Twedde

Question

Can the Portfolio Holder update Council on the progress of the traffic light system at the junction of Birchwood Avenue and Doddington Road as a result of the Western Growth Corridor project?

Answer

The scheme to construct the new permanent signalised junction on Birchwood Avenue/ Skellingthorpe Road remained scheduled for completion in summer 2024, in accordance with the anticipated 52-week period. The programme was being monitored and the works to the junction were currently on programme.

Supplementary

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm how the scheme was funded?

Answer

The scheme was funded through City of Lincoln Council.

Councillor Thomas Dyer to Councillor Ric Metcalfe

Question

Does the Leader warmly welcome the recently announced Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal?

Answer

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council confirmed he welcomed the recently announced Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal.

Supplementary

Given comments made by some of the District Council Leaders, what was the Leader's view on the proposed governance arrangements for the mayoral combined authority?

Answer

Additional money and autonomy from an overcentralised Government was welcomed. The city would benefit from the ability to bid for projects; £28M in year one and £24M in the year thereafter. There would likely be a number of issues however there would be a public consultation in December/January.

An additional power included the levy of precept and residents would expect a fourth layer of Council tax. Democratic legitimacy was important especially given that district Council's in Lincolnshire had experienced difficult conversations with regard to representation with upper tier colleagues which resulted in the securing of four places.

It was likely that speculation would arise in regard to the person appointed as Mayor. It was important that the successful individual recognised and accepted that they would have to run the combined authorities in a collegiate way. It would be a commissioned purchase holding body and there would be reliance on local partners which included local government partners, to ensure the aims of the deal were delivered. The Devolution Deal was welcomed and the city Council remained committed to its success.

Councillor Mark Storer to Councillor Ric Metcalfe

Question

What measures has the council put in place to address the growing number of crumbling walls, damaged and subsiding gravestones at Newport Cemetery?

Answer

For gravestones across all of the city Council's cemeteries there is an inspection regime based on a rolling programme of inspections. Whilst individual gravestones are not the property of the city council, if as part of the inspection, minor repairs are required then the Council will undertake them. If the repairs are larger scale in nature, then the gravestones will simply be laid down on the plot and any surviving immediate family notified.

I can confirm that the programme continues and I will arrange for details of when Newport cemetery will next be inspected to be sent to you as soon as possible.

In terms of the walls in the cemetery, these again are inspected for safety but if there are sections of wall causing a particular concern over their safety, if details can be provided, I will ask officers to investigate further. Things changed between inspections.

Councillor Matthew Fido to Councillor Ric Metcalfe

Question

The City of Lincoln Council continue to use external agency staff to plug the significant holes in the council's recruitment and retention failures. So far this financial year, how much has the council spent on paying for external agency staff?

Answer

Hard to fill vacancies remain an issue nationally within the public sector but we remained diligent and energetic. The national pay scales are impacting on

recruitment and pay is lower than other organisations. Human Resources (HR) continues to review attraction strategies in line with best practice and local partners. In addition, HR work with recruiting managers to ensure the best routes are maximised to seek suitable candidates.

Councillor Ric Metcalfe confirmed that he shared concerns regarding the cost of external agency staff which totalled approximately £744,000 in the current year. It was important to note that such staff did not cover the work of day-to-day unfilled vacancies. It was often the case that agency staff were used for specific pieces of work for short periods of time. This approach allowed the Council to purchase expertise that they did not have and that would be more expensive on a longer-term basis.

For day-to-day unfilled vacancies, the use of agency staff remained only for essential work in order to maintain service delivery. Revenues and Benefits was a service that could not be interrupted; the continuation of benefits payments and successful performance targets were essential. It was possible to utilise overtime however it was not sustainable long term due to risk of staff burn out.

Councillor Metcalfe added that another consideration was that private sector conditions had caught up with local authority working conditions, and as such, the gap between public sector and private sector employment, had closed considerably. A full-time permanent establishment for the authority was preferred, but not always possible.

Councillor Rachel Storer to Councillor Naomi Tweddle

Question

What pedestrian safety measures have been put in place in relation to site traffic using Pig Lane whilst works on the Western Growth Corridor are in progress?

Answer

At present there is a segregated route for the construction traffic indicated by a white line on the top section of Pig Lane, which is being used for access. The contractor will be implementing a physical barrier to further demarcate the construction access, although in some instances, due to the size of the vehicles, the full width of the Pig Lane access will be needed. The contractor also operates a system whereby any large vehicles existing the site have a banksman in place. The site is being operated safely and we will continue to monitor in line with our Control of Contractors policy and our health & safety obligations.

Supplementary

Councillor Rachel Storer confirmed that a number of residents had contacted her and expressed that they had witnessed a number of near misses. Was it possible for the Council and contractor to conduct a safety review?

Answer

Councillor Naomi Tweddle offered her apologies for the reports of near misses and confirmed that it was important that feedback was received in a timely manner. She continued that work with Councillors and residents would continue in an attempt to keep works as unobstructive as possible. A safety review would be conducted.

(Councillor Martin Christopher wished it be noted that he had a family member who lived at the end of the lane).

Councillor Hilton Spratt to Councillor Naomi Tweddle

Question

How much extra private sector investment and extra jobs have been created as a result of the public sector investment in regenerating our city centre?

Answer

The City Centre Masterplan is being fundamentally reviewed in 2024 and this will include an evaluation of its effectiveness since coming into place in 2007. That evaluation will include an assessment of all the investment from public and private sector partners in the city during the past 15 years and will therefore provide a comprehensive response to this question.

The Transport Hub investment impact was assessed independently in May 2019 as having directly created/safeguarded 360 new jobs, 138.5 construction jobs during its development and created 3 new businesses. Indirectly, its impact on the Cornhill Quarter was 58 jobs created/safeguarded with 102 construction jobs with 8 new businesses coming to the city. A total of 76,204 sq ft of new commercial floorspace was also created which is positive for economic stimulus. We are just commissioning a 5-year review which will provide a full assessment of the investment and will be in the Portfolio Holder report next year.

Lincoln's Town Deal programme has already delivered additional investment spend of nearly £3million, 28.67 new jobs (full-time equivalent permanent), a further 2 jobs safeguarded and 104 temporary jobs. A mid-programme independent assessment on the benefits of the programme is currently being completed and will be included in the end of year performance report.

Supplementary

Councillor Hilton Spratt offered thanks to the Portfolio Holder for the information provided. Was the Portfolio Holder in agreement that the amount of money the Government had invested into levelling up was foresight?

Answer

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the investment in Lincoln was not only for the Towns fund but levelling up also. There had been significant investment and time by the city Council to deliver projects and it took considerable work in order to

secure investment. The city Council continued to strive for investment and as a fantastic place to work and live, Lincoln should be on the national stage.

Councillor Martin Christopher to Councillor Donald Nannestad

Question

In light of the Council's dedication to fair and transparent procurement, could the Housing Portfolio Holder provide clarification on the deviation from established policy for direct approaches in the case of the £98,500 contract with Savilles Ltd, for work on the recent HRA 30-year plan?

Answer

There is no deviation from established policy for direct approaches in the case of the appointment of Savilles Ltd in relation to the HRA 30-year business plan. Whilst Contract Procedures Rules, which is the Council's internal policy in relation to how procurement should be undertaken, sets out the processes that must be followed based on the relevant contract value banding (less than £25,000 a direct approach can be made), it also states that this is only relevant where a compliant framework arrangement is not being used. In respect of this appointment a compliant framework was utilised and to clarify, a compliant framework can therefore be more than £25,000.

Supplementary

Councillor Martin Christopher offered thanks to the Portfolio Holder for the information provided. Frameworks needed to go through a tendering process and as such, what processes were in place for the framework that was utilised for the process? The information had not been received further to a freedom of information request.

Answer

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the framework was a provision that had been fully tendered, in accordance with public tender and as such, was legally fully compliant. Procedure rules had been followed.

Councillor Natasha Chapman to Councillor Donald Nannestad

Question

A year ago, Councillor Smalley raised concerns about the prevalence of mould in homes across our city. This issue has the potential to cause significant health problems for residents. Could the housing portfolio holder please provide an update on measures being taken to identify the extent of this problem and to address the issue?

Answer

As a result of a more effective way of working, tested during the pandemic, tenants in the private rented sector who are complaining about housing standards are asked to provide photographs of their disrepair concerns. In terms of damp and mould this gives good intelligence on the extent of the mould and damp that is present at the outset of the referral.

Damp mould and complaints are assessed based on a range of factors which include age of occupants (all persons aged 14 years or under), any known respiratory health conditions, seasonal variation, EPC of property (D or below), review of photographic evidence and compliance history of the landlord.

Consequently, damp and mould complaints will each be determined on an individual basis and higher risk cases will be given appropriate priority. The City Council prioritises service requests on a risk-based approach. High priority are classed as red, medium priority as amber and low priority as green. The level of work demand in the system means that greens and ambers are not currently being looked at until they become an escalated red (when the situation has got worse, or the referral has been waiting some time for allocation to an officer).

Our Enforcement Policy allows us to take action for what are termed 'Category 2 Hazards' as long as we take a tiered approach allowing the landlord an informal opportunity to remedy the Hazards before we take the appropriate formal action. If the case is deemed as low priority at the initial assessment stage, officers do send an advice leaflet to the tenant advising on how damp and mould is caused and how it can be managed.

Officers do work closely with a range of parties to promote good housing standards. We work closely with the University of Lincoln ensuring all student accommodation is safe. Additionally, we regularly attend landlord forums to educate and advise landlords.

We have advice on our website that provides both tenants and landlords information on all aspects of our service including damp and mould and officers are currently reviewing the website to insure it provides the most up to date and relevant information.

Departments within the City Council who will often refer cases to the private sector housing team regarding housing standards as well as outside bodies such as the Fire Service, Police and Social Services who also make referrals to us if they have concerns with conditions of any property they visit.

Finally, we are presently awaiting the results of a new stock condition survey providing more up to date modelling data. This data on the private rented stock will assist us in identifying private rented properties that may have a higher potential for excess cold, damp and mould.

Damp and mould affected all types of properties, both new and old and privately owned as well as rented and social housing. The city Council had two roles in respect of their own social housing stock and a regulatory role in the private rented sector. Robust practices were in place for social housing stock. Damp and mould was complicated and needed to be considered carefully and individually.

Supplementary

Councillor Natasha Chapman offered thanks to the Portfolio Holder for the information provided. Were there figures related to the number of incidents where further action had to be taken against landlords who had not complied in the correct way, to address mould in their properties?

Answer

The requested information would be circulated further to the meeting.

Councillor Clare Smalley to Councillor Donald Nannestad

Question

Can the portfolio holder explain why our drainage system is not properly maintained, resulting in a delayed resolution of a heavily blocked drain (with weeds growing in it) at Shuttleworth House carpark, reported in August, by myself, with a promised fix within three days, yet it was only addressed in October while the carpark was the flooded, following Storm Babet?

Answer

Councillor Donald Nannestad confirmed the reported repairs, since August, relating to the external drainage for Shuttleworth House:

- 08 August 2023 – Attendance on the same day
- 10 October 2023 – Blocked external drains, repairs by HRS on 11 August 2023
- 23 October 2023 – Drain blocked in car park and unblocked by the drainage contractor on 24 October 2023

Further to a number of reports of the same drainage issue, an assessment from the drainage contractor was awaited.

Supplementary

Councillor Clare Smalley requested a copy of the information once the assessment had been received.

18. Motion Under Council Procedure Rule 14 - Lincoln Christmas Market

Councillor Thomas Dyer, Leader of the Opposition, proposed the following motion:

'Earlier in 2023 the Labour City Council Executive took the decision to scrap the much-loved Lincoln Christmas Market – following a successful 2022 Christmas Market that attracted 320,000 people to our city. As we approach what would have been another Christmas Market, there continues to be significant public outcry for the return of our Christmas Market. The City Council's alternative events program does not and will never replace the Christmas Market.'

The City of Lincoln Council formally call upon the Labour Executive to reconsider their decision to cancel the market and make alternative plans for a safe and workable 2024 Lincoln Christmas Market’.

Councillor Thomas Dyer confirmed that Lincoln’s famous Christmas Market placed Lincoln on the national and global stage. He added that the motion had not disregarded the significant health and safety concerns of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and the requirement for change and modernisation. The issues that plagued the Christmas Market were not underestimated.

Councillor Thomas Dyer added that the motion requested the commencement of a process rather than the arrival to a conclusion or disregard of advice. The decision to cancel the Christmas Market continued to be highly debated on social media, despite the passing of many months since the decision was formally taken. Lincoln’s Christmas light were beautiful but they had not been a satisfactory replacement for the market which continued to be sorely missed. The budget for 2024 would not rise in line with inflation and as such, was essentially cut.

Councillor Rachel Storer, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Chris Burke highlighted the deep safety concerns received from the Safety Advisory Group; a multi-agency approach who spoke without ambiguity. He expressed concerns that the Leader of the Opposition had proposed a motion which considered a disregard for safety advice. Lincoln would discover a new way to enjoy Christmas.

Councillor Hilton Spratt confirmed that the city Council’s Executive took the decision to disperse of Lincoln’s famous Christmas Market, in February 2023 when Councillor Neil Murray was Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth. He highlighted that Councillor Murray, as relevant Portfolio Holder at the time, was not consulted with prior to the decision being made. He expressed disappointment that the decision appeared to have been made by a small number of individuals and his view was that it should have been taken on the basis of consultation.

Councillor Chris Burke, in response to Councillor Hilton Spratt, expressed a Point of Order. He confirmed that the decision was taken by the Executive, as a collective and highlighted that Councillor Hilton Spratt was not in attendance.

Councillor Gary Hewson confirmed that Councillors Thomas Dyer and Rachel Storer had expressed their concerns during the subsequent call in, presented to the Select Scrutiny Committee. He added that a detailed report had been received by officers which had considered alternative provisions such as an extension of the event and why that was not feasible. The Health and Safety advice had been made clear. He confirmed that the market could not be carried on in the area that is had been as crowd control could not be ensured. He would not be in agreement to an event that had the potential to cause injury as human

life was valued much more than the Christmas Market. His view was that the correct decision had been taken, not only for the residents of Lincoln.

Councillor Eddie Strengiel highlighted that there was minutes available, of the meeting of the Executive whereby the decision was taken and consideration of the minutes in respect of the discussion, would be useful. He confirmed that the market became a victim of its own success. He added that attendance to large events often required a ticket and therefore, it was not within the realms of impossibility to reintroduce the market as a ticketed event to control visitor numbers. His view was that with the correct management, the market could be a success once again as a great asset to the city. He recognised that Steep Hill caused problems with access however added that on level, flat ground, it would be easier to manage. A great amount of revenue was brought into the city from stall holders. He addressed concerns that stall holder did not make much money and confirmed that it could have been a result of visitor that struggled to access stalls due to continual movement. His view was that the market could be made viable once again.

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council expressed his view that the motion was frivolous and opportunistic. He added that the Council did not disperse of a much-loved event, that had been carefully planned and held in such affection for forty years, without thought and careful consideration. He added that it was not necessary to remind the city Council of the affection held for the market nor the economic significance. He reminded Members that the report presented to the Executive on 20 February 2023, was thorough and detailed. The message received was clear; the predicted increase in visitor numbers for future years would have created an unsafe event. The implications of the advice received could have been serious.

The space in a historic city was restricted and there were 577,000 people movements within Castle Square alone in 2022. He expressed disappointment that a motion would call on the Council to return to an event that evidently damaged safety and the visitor experience of people that visited Lincoln. He referred to the adverse reaction on social media and confirmed that the reputation of the city had become adversely affected.

He added that although not a material consideration of the final decision, infrastructure costs in 2022 were £750,000 to ensure the event was safe and it was expected that costs for 2023 would rise significantly. He expressed an interest in proposals from the Opposition on an extension of the footprint and a predication of associated costs. He concluded that as a responsible public body, it was a situation that could not be allowed and recommended a rejection of the motion.

Councillor Martin Christopher confirmed that a number of residents had contacted him and did not want to see the end of the Lincoln Christmas Market. He added that the Lincolnite had been informed of the decision prior to Members and his view was that it was undemocratic. He confirmed that many residents expressed a desire for a Member vote on the subject. His view was that anything became possible with safety if time and effort were to be invested into it. He felt the

decision had been taken quickly and without the views of Members which he felt was wrong.

Councillor Naomi Tweddle seconded the opposition to the Motion. She confirmed that she represented Minster Ward which covered half of the Lincoln Christmas Market. She shared contact she had received from residents that had welcomed the cancellation of the market and expressed a strong opposition to a proposed return. It was important to balance the debate.

The new events programme had been designed to spread visitor numbers across a full year and attempted to avoid the visitor issues that were experienced at the Christmas market in 2022. As a result, the economic stimulus and social media influence was spread across a full year. In addition, the new events programme offered a diverse choice, ensured there was an event that suited everyone and offered value for money. The city Council continued to support and sponsor Lincoln Pride and Steampunk. The new events programme resulted in approximately 17% increased footfall in September 2023 and had reached over 230,000 people on social media.

The Monster Invasion experienced 63,324 people movements on 28 October 2023 in the Bailgate area alone. During the weekend of 28 October – 29 October 2023 there were more people in the Bailgate area than in the city centre and reached over 800,000 people on social media. She expressed her thanks to Simon Walters, Strategic Director of Communities and Environment and his team for their hard work and feedback received had been positive; some businesses had experienced an increase of over 20%.

Councillor Naomi Tweddle concluded that the Lincoln Ice Trail was upcoming and included a sculpture trail, stilt walkers, characters from Frozen, a carousel and christmas singing. It was hoped that events would encourage footfall in the city centre as well as the Bailgate. Lincoln was a photogenic place.

Councillor David Clarkson confirmed that nobody had suggested an unsafe event. He highlighted that the Safety Advisory Group had confirmed that the Christmas Market was not safe in the form that it was in. He added that an expanded time frame for the event, which included Christmas holidays, would better enable the control of footfall. He confirmed that 17% attended the market on the Thursday, 23.5% attended on the Friday, over 44% attended on the Saturday and 14.7% attended on the Sunday. Therefore, Saturday was almost twice as busy as the Friday. He highlighted that the issue was Saturday, not the other days of the Christmas Market and the motion requested a consultation to be commenced.

He concluded with a comparison to York Christmas Market whereby there had been safety concerns which had been resolved. Other events did not make up for the Christmas Market; an internationally recognised event.

Note: Councillor Hilton Spratt left proceedings at 19:46

Councillor Calum Watt confirmed that further to the cancellation of the Christmas Market, some businesses within the Boultham Ward felt more included and a part

of Christmas in Lincoln. He confirmed that he deemed the motion to be disingenuous, further to the receipt of safety advice from the Police, Ambulance and Fire Service. He added that the resources required for additional infrastructure in order to support a longer market, was not available due to a lack of resources provided by central Government. He acknowledged that there had been disappointment in the dispersal of the Christmas Market, however it was the decision was a responsible one.

Note: Councillor Hilton Spratt returned to proceedings at 19:50

Councillor Rachel Storer, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, using her right to speak, expressed her disappointment in the decision further to a lack of public consultation. The motion did not underestimate the health and safety issues further to the 2022 Christmas Market. The motion sought dialogue to enable Members' participation. She confirmed that the motion did not suggest a return to the market in the historical format. The Safety Advisory Group had confirmed that the market was not safe however offered recommendations which did not include cancellation of the event.

Innovation and Christmas spirit were required to bring back a safe Christmas Market in 2024. She concluded that many businesses in the Bailgate area were unsure of their future due to the cancellation of the Market. The motion sought consultation on views for a workable event in the future.

Councillor Thomas Dyer, Leader of the Opposition, using his right of reply, confirmed that safety had been mentioned in the motion raised and the call in of the decision took place after the decision had been taken by the Executive. He added that there were large scale events all over the world which remained safe. He noted that whilst the new events programme was positive, the focus of the motion was on the Christmas Market and consideration could be given to both.

He expressed disappointment that a debate on the topic had been scheduled for Radio 4 on today's date, however, was subsequently cancelled as the Leader of the Council declined to participate. His view was that the Leader of the Council refused to explain himself to the public. The Conservative party acknowledged and accepted that the Market needed to change. Councillor Thomas Dyer reflected on safety concerns that had been known about for many years prior to the dispersal and therefore, suggested that prior planning should have taken place. He confirmed that he had been a Councillor since 2016 and officers had never before briefed Members on safety concerns.

He added that as a democratic body, this meeting was the first time all thirty-three Members had discussed the Executive's decision. It was positive that all democratically elected members were able to discuss and debate the motion. He concluded that a senior member of the Lincolnshire Police had confirmed, via email, that the Police remained happy to work with event organisers in the creation of a safe Christmas Market in the future.

Councillor Thomas Dyer formally requested a recorded vote on the motion.

Further to a show of hands and in accordance with the prescribed requirements under Council Procedural Rule 19.4, a recorded vote was agreed and taken on the motion, the result of which were as follows:

For (13)	Against (20)	Abstention
Councillor Alan Briggs	Councillor Debbie Armiger	
Councillor Natasha Chapman	Councillor Biff Bean	
Councillor Martin Christopher	Councillor Chris Burke	
Councillor David Clarkson	Councillor Sue Burke	
Councillor Thomas Dyer	Councillor Bob Bushell	
Councillor Matthew Fido	Councillor Liz Bushell	
Councillor Bill Mara	Councillor Gary Hewson	
Councillor Clare Smalley	Councillor Rebecca Longbottom	
Councillor Hilton Spratt	Councillor Adrianna McNulty	
Councillor Mark Storer	Councillor Ric Metcalfe	
Councillor Rachel Storer	Councillor Neil Murray	
Councillor Edmund Strengiel	Councillor Donald Nannestad	
Councillor Aiden Wells	Councillor Lucinda Preston	
	Councillor Dylan Stothard	
	Councillor Naomi Twedde	
	Councillor Pat Vaughan	
	Councillor Calum Watt	
	Councillor Joshua Wells	
	Councillor Emily Wood	
	Councillor Loraine Woolley	

Having been proposed and seconded and being put to the vote it was RESOLVED that the motion be declared lost.

19. Motion under Council Procedure Rule 14 - Lincoln Central Car Park

Councillor Mark Storer proposed the following motion:

‘The Lincoln Central Car Park continues to be plagued with customer facing issues. The lifts are very rarely fully operational, the payment machines have recently had significant down time and on busy days, traffic can build up within the car park – resulting in motorists waiting for over half an hour to get from their parking bay to the exit.

Despite costing a significant amount of money, this car park does not perform in the way that its customers expect.

This Council requests that the City of Lincoln Council conduct a full review of the Lincoln Central Car Park providing a full detailed report to Council – this review must focus on completely resolving the issues that continue to plague the car park more than half a decade after its initial opening’.

Councillor Mark Storer confirmed that the car park was a new gateway to prosperity in Lincoln and had opened 6 years ago but had sadly not provided the high-quality experience for businesses, residents and visitors. A total of £150,000 had been ring fenced for the repair of the lifts which caused concern, given their age. The motion requested a full review which focussed on the issues that plagued the car park.

Councillor David Clarkson seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Martin Christopher confirmed that he was pleased to see the motion. He advised that the city Council's parking services team had not been in discussions of the design of the park. He referred to the payment machines and stated that a person was required overnight in the case of a lost parking ticket. Many of the car parks operated on a park and ride basis.

Councillor Chris Burke highlighted that every car park had issues and everything built could experience issues. He added that it would be unusual for all the lifts and stairs to fail. The car park was superbly built and well maintained. It was important to recognise successes and not to be overly critical.

Councillor Naomi Tweddle, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, commented that central car park had proved incredibly successful. Last year, a total of 181,427 cars visited the car park which far exceeded the volume of any other car park in the city. Customer satisfaction remained high and with such popularity, wear and tear became inevitable.

Equipment had to cope with thousands of transactions a month and there was an increased risk of failure in the cold and damp months. A number of individual payment machines were to be repaired and the oldest fault was from the end of October. Consideration had been given to why the machines had not worked properly. On Remembrance Saturday, there was a large volume of traffic. This circumstance was unique and therefore, not commonplace. Officers had worked on a mitigation plans in the run up to Christmas to alleviate the impact as much as possible. She confirmed that there was a desire to spread demand on other car parks within the city centre and work had commenced to make other car parks more attractive to use. She acknowledged the situation caused frustration to visitors with pushchairs etc.

It was not foreseeable that the North side was used significantly more when compared to the South side. Consultation with specialist contractors had taken place to carry out an assessment of the car park. A quote had been received to enable repair of the two minor parts that needed replacement. The work would be carried out as soon as possible.

Councillor Naomi Tweddle concluded that the park was built to a high standard and was very safe to use. There were reliability issues, but it would be resolved. The car park demonstrated the great transport hub that the city Council had provided.

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council, commented that Members be proud of the high standard car park that was used by many people. He added that

it was clear that the issues highlighted had not discouraged use of the car park. He expressed confusion of a motion that sought to criticise the car park. He acknowledged that it was inconvenient for customers if a lift or payment machine had not worked correctly however the test was how quickly issues were resolved. He concluded that a review wasted officer resources and was premature as the identified issues were in the process of correction.

Councillor Thomas Dyer, Leader of the Opposition commented that Councillor David Clarkson was a fantastic asset to the Council and Conservative group. He confirmed that he had discussed concerns with a parking attendant on the day prior to Remembrance Sunday. He explained that further to discussions, it was a peak occurrence on every busy Saturday. He added that there was a significant amount of concern over the car park and discussions were not intended to criticise. The purpose of the motion was to improve the car parks' success. He offered thanks to Councillor Naomi Tweddle and was pleased to learn that all concerns had been taken seriously however he suggested that there was no harm in a report or a review which offered reassurance to the public and Members. Councillor Dyer expressed disappointment in comments received that the use of the stairs was a suitable alternative to the lift. It was important that the needs of pushchair users, wheelchair users and visitors were considered. The signage was poor and many people were unaware that there were additional lifts.

Councillor Clare Smalley confirmed that it appeared the use of the car park was blamed for the issues experienced. She echoed frustration with comments received that the use of the stairs was a suitable alternative to the lift. Her view was that the city offered other car parks however it may be the case that individuals used the central car park due to disabilities or the requirement of a lift for a pushchair. She concluded that all Members wanted to be proud of all City of Lincoln assets.

Councillor Edmund Strengiel addressed the Chamber with clarification of his umbrage to comments that suggested the Opposition had criticised Lincoln and confirmed that was not intended. He referred to last paragraph within the motion and added that debate was permitted as Members of the Council. He added that all Members were elected Members of the Council and irrespective of political affiliation, all retained the right to conduct a review and debate an issue.

He shared his own experience of attendance to the car park a number of months ago where both sets of lifts were out of order. In addition, there was a large puddle of water by the exit. He confirmed that the motion considered the issues and attempted to resolve them.

Councillor David Clarkson, using his right to speak, confirmed that stairs rarely failed. There had been occasions where both North end lifts had failed at the same time. He confirmed that the Opposition had not criticised and expressed his praise for the car park. He added that the ramps had low level curb stones, unlike Lucy Tower car park which meant that visitors accessed and exited the car park easily. In addition, his view was that spaces had been designed for modern cars and offered plenty of room. The car park was extremely well lit. He explained that there had been incidents of anti-social behaviour and therefore, it was positive that the car park was manned 24 hours a day.

He added that there had been lifts longer than multi story car parks and regular use was not an acceptable reason for failure. He expressed surprise that two minor parts were estimated to cost £150,000 and confirmed that the car park specification should have been designed to cope with the volume of traffic. He shared Members' experiences of the car park on Remembrance Day and confirmed that it took 55 minutes to exit the car park. He confirmed that the two barriers had worked well however issues surrounded the junction that lead to Broadgate. Traffic had been restricted by traffic lights. The motion only requested a review and did not proportion blame. The advice of the designers had been taken and the equipment recommended had been installed.

Councillor Matthew Fido confirmed that the car park was the jewel in Lincoln's crown. He confirmed that with so much revenue generated from car parking, the car parks needed to be accessible to everyone. The scrutiny was in place with democratic oversight.

Councillor Mark Storer, using his right of reply, offered thanks to Councillor Naomi Tweddle for the serious consideration offered of the issues and urged Members considered the motion carefully.

Councillor Mark Storer formally requested a recorded vote on the motion. Further to a show of hands and in accordance with the prescribed requirements under Council Procedural Rule 19.4, a recorded vote was agreed and taken on the motion, the result of which were as follows:

For (13)	Against (20)	Abstention
Councillor Alan Briggs	Councillor Debbie Armiger	
Councillor Natasha Chapman	Councillor Biff Bean	
Councillor Martin Christopher	Councillor Chris Burke	
Councillor David Clarkson	Councillor Sue Burke	
Councillor Thomas Dyer	Councillor Bob Bushell	
Councillor Matthew Fido	Councillor Liz Bushell	
Councillor Bill Mara	Councillor Gary Hewson	
Councillor Clare Smalley	Councillor Rebecca Longbottom	
Councillor Hilton Spratt	Councillor Adrianna McNulty	
Councillor Mark Storer	Councillor Ric Metcalfe	
Councillor Rachel Storer	Councillor Neil Murray	
Councillor Edmund Strengiel	Councillor Donald Nannestad	
Councillor Aiden Wells	Councillor Lucinda Preston	
	Councillor Dylan Stothard	
	Councillor Naomi Tweddle	
	Councillor Pat Vaughan	
	Councillor Calum Watt	
	Councillor Joshua Wells	
	Councillor Emily Wood	
	Councillor Loraine Woolley	

Having been proposed and seconded and being put to the vote it was RESOLVED that the motion be declared lost.

20. Receive Reports under Council Procedure Rule 2 (vi) from Members
(a) Report by Councillor Naomi Tweddle - Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economic Growth

Councillor Naomi Tweddle, Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economic Growth, presented her report to the Council, as detailed at pages 19 – 48 of the agenda.

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

- Recent filming of Napoleon in the City meant that so many people would get to see our beautiful Cathedral.
- The portfolio holder would speak to the Highways Authority to request that workmen refrain from parking their vehicles along Burghley Road at the risk of obscuring the views of elderly residents whilst accessing and exiting the area in their own cars. We must do our best for city residents.
- Thanks were given for the lovely comments regarding our City. Lincoln was a fantastic place to live with so much exciting work going on. The portfolio holder was proud to be a part of this City born and bred.
- The portfolio holder agreed that further roll-out of the Residents Parking Scheme was good news for residents and the City.
- The opening of the refurbished Central Market had been delayed due to a whole month of wet weather in July. Stall holders did not wish to start trading until after Christmas to give them time to prepare. It was important to listen to their wishes.
- Some of the Prosperity Funding available had been awarded but not all. The portfolio holder was 100% in favour of transparency and would provide full information on the data once available.

The content of the report was noted.

(b) Report by Councillor Rebecca Longbottom - Portfolio Holder for Customer Experience and Review

Councillor Rebecca Longbottom, Portfolio Holder for Customer Experience and Review, presented her report to the Council, as detailed at pages 49 – 64 of the agenda.

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

- Members would be supplied with further information regarding the involvement of the Electoral Registration Team in an ongoing trial on behalf of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The trial invited electors taken from the open register in Birchwood, Boultham and Park Wards to participate in the trial of online absent vote applications before the system went live.
- A new set of performance figures were now available since her report was published. The portfolio holder noted that CS3 'Average time taken to answer a call to Customer Services' had improved. Thanks were given to staff and members for their continued support to ensure residents and customers received the best possible service.

The content of the report was noted.

(c) **Report by Councillor Gary Hewson - Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

Councillor Gary Hewson, Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee, presented his report to the Council, as detailed at pages 65 – 68 of the agenda.

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

- Councillor Hewson gave thanks to officers and members for their passion on Performance Scrutiny Committee.
- Special thanks were given to Emily Holmes, Assistant Director - Strategic Development and Michelle Hoyles, Corporate Policy Business Manager for their support.
- Council had lasted longer tonight than Performance Scrutiny Committee which was a record to beat.

The content of the report was noted.

(d) **Report by Councillor Joshua Wells - Chair of Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel**

Councillor Joshua Wells, Chair of Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel, presented his report to the Council, as detailed at pages 69 – 76 of the agenda.

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

- Councillor Wells gave thanks to Graham Rose, Senior Strategic Policy Officer and the eight members of Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel for their support.
- Councillor Wells would check further why residents having applied to be a member of the Citizen's Panel had apparently been rejected as they were home owners and not Council tenants.

The content of the report was noted.

(e) **Report by Councillor Emily Wood - Chair of Policy Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Emily Wood, Chair of Policy Scrutiny Committee, presented her report to the Council, as detailed at pages 77 – 80 of the agenda.

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

- Councillor Wood gave thanks to officers and members for their support resulting in all new policies having been scrutinised.
- Councillor Wood confirmed her involvement in Health Scrutiny Committee work by attending all the meetings, together with a special meeting regarding GP's and Lincoln Hospital Walk-In Centre.

The content of the report was noted.

21. **To Consider the Following Recommendations of the Executive and Committees of the Council**

(a) **Equality Journal April 2022 to March 2023:**

It was moved by Councillor Ric Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor Donald Nannestad that the Equality Journal April 2022 to March 2023 be approved.

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

RESOLVED

That the Equality Journal April 2022 to March 2023 be approved.

(b) Statement of Accounts 2022/23

It was moved by Councillor Ric Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor Donald Nannestad that the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 be approved.

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

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 be approved.

(c) Independent Remuneration Panel - Comprehensive Review of the Members' Allowance Scheme

Councillor Metcalfe referred to the re-issued supplementary report to be considered this evening which replaced the report issued as part of the original agenda bundle, circulated in error. He clarified that the only element of the Members' Allowance Scheme to be considered this evening related to Schedule 2 – Duties for Childcare and Dependant Carer's Allowance.

It was moved by Councillor Ric Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor Donald Nannestad that the Members' Allowance Scheme-Schedule 2-Duties for Childcare and Dependant Carer's Allowance be approved.

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

RESOLVED

That the Members' Allowance Scheme-Schedule 2-Duties for Childcare and Dependant Carer's Allowance be approved.

(d) Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023

It was moved by Councillor Ric Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor Donald Nannestad that the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023 for future elections be approved.

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

RESOLVED

That the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023 for future elections be approved.

SUBJECT:	DEVOLUTION FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE
DIRECTORATE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
REPORT AUTHOR:	ANGELA ANDREWS CPFA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 A devolution agreement has been agreed for Greater Lincolnshire as part of the autumn statement presented to Parliament by the UK Government on 22 November 2023.
- 1.2 Following approval of the agreement at Council meetings for the County Council and the two Unitary Council partners North and North East Lincolnshire Councils, consultation will follow on the arrangements, through to the end of January 2024.
- 1.3 The purpose of the report is to brief Council on the devolution proposal, and to invite Council to engage with the consultation exercise and implementation process.

2. Background

- 2.1 It is generally considered that devolution, or decentralisation, of decision making, policy development and resource allocation, brings benefits to local communities. By way of example, recent reports have indicated that empowering local government to lead on climate action would deliver more cost effectively and quicker than a centralised approach.
- 2.2 The UK is also a party to the Council of Europe Charter of Local Self Government, which advocates for legal and financial independence for local and regional government in Europe.
- 2.3 The 2022 Levelling Up White Paper established the UK Governments current approach to devolution in England, recognising that England is one of the more centralised nations in Europe. The 2023 Levelling Up and Regeneration Act provides the legislative framework for establishing devolution in England progressively through to 2030.
- 2.4 A devolution agreement for Greater Lincolnshire was announced by the UK Government on 22 November 2023. The agreement was agreed by Full Council meetings by the three constituent authorities by 4 December 2023. There is no provision in legislation for district councils, as non-constituent authorities, to approve or otherwise the devolution agreement. The devolution proposal is now subject to consultation, through to 29 January 2024.
- 2.5 The creation of a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) would not result in the merger or take over of councils in the area. They would continue to deliver valuable local services to Greater Lincolnshire residents with some powers used

concurrently by local councils and the proposed combined authority. Transport powers would be brought together with the proposed Combined County Authority becoming the Local Transport Authority for Greater Lincolnshire.

- 2.6 Under this proposal the three upper tier councils along with the City Council and district and borough councils in Greater Lincolnshire would continue to play an important role in relation to powers and funding devolved to the area. These authorities will have specific consenting rights in respect to some of the powers held by the CCA and/or Mayor, ensuring a strong local voice for decision making.
- 2.7 This report summarises: the devolution agreement; governance for devolution; the next steps; recommendations.

3. The Devolution Agreement

- 3.1 The devolution agreement allocates an additional £24million per year to Greater Lincolnshire for 30 years, a total of £720million.
- 3.2 Additionally, £28.4million has been allocated to Greater Lincolnshire, to be allocated prior to the MCCA being established in 2025.
- 3.3 The agreement provides for the devolution of strategy and budgets related to skills, providing local partners with the opportunity to focus on skills development for key local economic sectors.
- 3.4 The agreement also provides for devolution of multi-year transport budgets, with flexibility to allocate funds to local priorities.

4. Governance for Devolution

- 4.1 The agreement provides for the establishment of a Mayoral County Combined Authority, chaired by a directly elected mayor. The constituent authorities (Lincolnshire County, North and North East Lincolnshire Unitary Councils) will each have two seats on the MCCA. District Councils will be allocated 4 seats, via a joint committee of district council leaders.
- 4.2 District Councils will have voting rights other than in relation to transport and the mayor's administrative budget and will have specific consenting rights in relation to some of the powers held by the CCA.
- 4.3 District councils will be allocated seats on a scrutiny panel and several advisory boards.
- 4.4 The devolution agreement, which is the agreement between the Secretary of State DLUHC, and the Constituent Authorities can be found via the links that follow. The devolution proposal, which sets out the detailed proposals for consultation purposes, can also be found via the links below.
- 4.5 It is envisaged that a consultation response from the Council should focus on the following:

- To welcome the alignment of the devolution proposal with the Greater Lincolnshire Vision for 2050, a ‘flourishing future for all’;
- To welcome the focus on employment, skills, and economic development; the environment, homes, and communities; and transport.
- To welcome the establishment of partnership governance via the MCCA, recognising that it is the UK Government option for devolution of powers and resources to local areas.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The consultation process will conclude on 29 January 2024. Links to the consultation survey and information are provided below.
- 5.2 Review of the proposals based on consultation responses will be completed by the end of February 2024, leading to a submission to the UK Government in spring 2024.
- 5.3 The UK Government is due to put in place an Establishment Order for the new arrangements by summer 2024.
- 5.4 The County Combined Authority is due to be established in late 2024, with the election of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayor in May 2025.

6. Consultation Response

- 6.1 To submit a response to the consultation from the Council by 29 January, in line with paragraph 4.5 of this report, with delegation to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader
- 6.2 To engage proactively in the implementation of the new arrangements and the allocation of funds specified within the devolution agreement and proposal
- 6.3 To provide timely and positive public communication, enabling communities to engage in the devolution agenda for Greater Lincolnshire.
- 6.4 To request officers to prepare a report and recommendations on the establishment of a Joint Committee for district councils, for to a future to Full Council in 2024.

7. Strategic Priorities

7.1 Let’s Drive Inclusive Economic Growth

The devolution proposal intends to secure long term funding for infrastructure that businesses need to grow and create jobs.

7.2 Let’s Reduce all kinds of Inequality

The devolution proposal intends to direct funding for adult education to prioritise spending on the needs of people and business rather than on national priorities and

invest in courses that help people to achieve a fulfilling future and provide help to those young people that need it most.

7.3 Let's Deliver Quality Housing

The devolution proposal intends to unlock housing through enhanced infrastructure and supporting regeneration of areas, providing sustainable and affordable housing solutions.

7.4 Let's Enhance our Remarkable Place

The devolution proposal will attract £24 million per annum for 30 years – the City will have the opportunity to bid for funds to be invested in the City.

7.5 Let's Address the Challenge of Climate Change

The Devolution Proposal intends to build upon the success of Greater Lincolnshire's role in energy, decarbonisation and net zero as the low carbon economy and green energy production across Greater Lincolnshire are pivotal to the UK achieving net zero.

8. Organisational Impacts

8.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. Devolution will bring the opportunity to make the case for additional funding for projects within the City, to accelerate delivery of the council's vision and priorities for the City Council. The devolution agreement does not commit the Council to financial liabilities, and the agreement creates an objection for the Mayoral Combined Authority to secure Council approval before it implements projects in the district which could create ongoing financial commitments. The devolution proposal does not introduce risk to delivery of the City of Lincoln's services or priorities, and not does introduce legislative, regulatory or reporting requirements that impact delivery of council services.

8.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

The devolution proposal will create a Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCA) as included in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. MCCAs are a new model of devolution introduced through this Act to reflect specific governance arrangements of areas with two-tier government. District and Borough Councils do not sign off the MCCA as that is the responsibility of the three Constituent Councils (upper tier). A level three devolution deal does not change the current structure of local government in Lincolnshire. It is proposed that District Councils will create a Joint Committee, to appoint four district leaders to the MCCA, and to act as a forum for district councils to consider matters connected to the functional competence of the MCCA. All authorities will have specific consenting rights in respect to some of the powers held by the CCA and/or Mayor, ensuring a strong local voice for decision making. There will be opportunities for district councils to appoint members to serve on a scrutiny panel, and several advisory boards establish to further partnership governance in areas linked to the functional competence of the MCCA.

8.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council has completed an Equality Impact assessment which was submitted to each of their Council meetings – which considers all of the above – this is attached as an Appendix.

8.4 Human Resources

The devolution proposal has no human resource implications for the City of Lincoln Council. Officers linked to priorities for economic development, development management, housing strategy, and services linked to environment, climate action, health and wellbeing may be involved in partnership groups and project collaboration, as they currently are.

8.5 Land, Property and Accommodation

The Devolution Proposal includes powers to acquire compulsorily land in the area to facilitate re development but this will require concurrent consent with the upper tier and City/District where the acquisition is located.

8.6 Significant Community Impact &/or Environmental Impact

The main policy impact arising from the devolution proposal is linked to the Greater Lincolnshire Vision for 2050, centred on a vision of 'a flourishing future for all'. The GL Vision for 2050 is aligned to the Council's Vision 2025, with priorities for climate action, economic development, housing, health, and wellbeing. The focus on the GL Vision creates opportunities for the council to make the case for additional resources for projects linked to Vision 2025 and Vision 2030 and beyond. Specific impacts will be assessed in relation to project and investment proposals, to ensure Council policies linked to equality diversity and inclusion, climate action and sustainability, health, safety and risk, and finance, are fully considered and addressed.

The devolution proposal is open to consultation from 4 December 2023 to 29 January 2024. This report includes proposals for the City of Lincoln response to the consultation.

9. Risk Implications

9.1 (i) Options Explored

There are inevitably a range of options that could be envisaged for devolution. Nevertheless, devolution based on a Mayoral County Combined Authority is the preferred UK Government option and the only route available for devolution at the current time.

The proposal funds into Greater Lincolnshire, and the agreement compares favourably in comparison with similar agreements elsewhere, both in terms of the level of funding available and the increased representation envisaged for district councils compared to other areas.

The agreement creates a platform for further negotiation with the UK Government leading to greater devolution of powers and resources. Council of Europe Charter of Local Self Government.

9.2 (ii) Other Options Considered

Other options that could be considered involve alternatives models for devolution, and a 'do nothing' option at this stage.

The 'do nothing' option has not been considered. The current proposal brings additional investment into Greater Lincolnshire, inevitably the option not to proceed means that further investment will not be available.

Given the framing of the Act, and the White Paper which preceded it, the only alternative option on offer is a 'level 2' agreement, without a model of governance based on the MCCA. This option has the same effect as the 'do nothing' option, in that no significant investment would be available.

The question of alternative options is somewhat academic, given that district councils are not being requested to approve the proposals, as they are not formally constituent authorities.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 Council are asked to debate the contents of this devolution report and to provide comments to submit as a Council response to the consultation by 29th January in line with para 4.5 of this report, with delegation to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader.

Is this a key decision? Yes

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? 5

List of Background Papers: None

Lead Officer:

Angela Andrews, Chief Executive
Email address: angela.andrews@lincoln.gov.uk

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Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal

Subject to ratification of the deal by all partners and the statutory requirements referred to within this document, including, public consultation, the consent of councils affected, and parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of this Deal.



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



**North
Lincolnshire
Council**



Signature Page

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Jacob Young MP

Minister for Levelling Up

Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Leader, Lincolnshire County Council

Cllr Robert Waltham MBE

Leader, North Lincolnshire Council

Cllr Philip Jackson

Leader, North East Lincolnshire Council

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Introduction

1. Greater Lincolnshire holds an important place in the past and future of the UK. Comprising the traditional communities of Lindsey, Holland and Kesteven, it has been at the heart of major events throughout our history including the Roman occupation, the English Civil War, the founding of America, scientific discovery and invention. Known as 'Bomber County' during the Second World War, Greater Lincolnshire is proud of its RAF heritage.
2. The area's great natural assets and habitats, including miles of coast stretching from the Humber to the Wash and vast areas of productive agricultural land provides the opportunity for the area to make a significant contribution to the UK's future. From the world-leading offshore wind energy sector and manufacturers in the north to the centre of the UK's agricultural heartland in the south, Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of our nation as a source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities, and food security.
3. The Government has set itself a mission that, by 2030, every part of England that wants a devolution deal will have a devolution deal with powers at, or approaching, the highest level of devolution, with a simplified, long-term funding settlement. The 2022 Levelling Up White Paper makes clear the case for devolution as the engine room of improved productivity and reduced regional disparities. Devolution will be critical to delivering our twelve headline levelling up missions by strengthening local leadership to act more flexibly and innovatively to respond to local need, whether on transport, skills or regeneration.
4. In the Levelling Up White Paper, the Government published for the first time a devolution framework, which set out a clear menu of options for places in England that wish to unlock the benefits of devolution. This framework places a strong emphasis on the importance of high profile, directly elected local leadership, strong local governance, and joint working across sensible and coherent economic geographies. The most comprehensive package is a Level 3 deal, for areas with a single institution over a sensible geography, with the strongest and most accountable leadership, such as a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) or a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) covering a functional economic area or the whole county geography with a directly elected mayor. The Level 2 offer is for devolution to single local government institutions without a directly elected mayor, such as a combined authority or combined county authority covering a functional economic area or the whole county geography. The Level 1 offer is for local authorities with looser joint working arrangements, such as a joint committee model.

5. This document sets out the terms of an agreement for a Level 3 devolution deal between the Government and the local authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, and North Lincolnshire Council (hereafter “the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA” or “the MCCA”), subject to the coming into force of any relevant provisions in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (where necessary) (“the Act”), ratification of the deal by the Councils and the statutory requirements for making the secondary legislation implementing the deal. This document describes both the offer of functions and funding from the Government, and the reforms and measures that Greater Lincolnshire will need to deliver. Central to this is the election of a directly elected mayor across Greater Lincolnshire, to champion the area’s interests, deliver on local priorities, and be accountable to local people. The statutory requirements for implementing the deal include public consultation, the councils consenting to the secondary legislation implementing aspects of the deal, and Parliament approving it. Once this legislation is approved and made, the devolution deal will be confirmed.
6. Across Greater Lincolnshire, local councils have a shared vision of the future for Greater Lincolnshire’s 1.1 million residents where they have good lives, with independence, wealth and good health. Where communities are connected and working together make a vital contribution to the nation’s food security, supply chains and provide clean energy to power the UK’s homes and economy.
7. Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of the UK as a source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities, and food security. It has a vital role in global trade, securing the nation’s supply chains in key industries:
 - Food, fish, seafood and food manufacturing: Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley. It supplies 70% of seafood consumed in the UK, 30% of the nation’s vegetables, and 18% of poultry. It has a total agricultural output of over £2 billion in 2019, with a seafood processing and trading cluster worth over £1.5 billion to the economy. Greater Lincolnshire will become a world leading food cluster. It has the potential to help the UK become a science superpower through its focus on new food chain automation and digital technology and innovation.
 - Energy, decarbonisation and net zero: Greater Lincolnshire is at the heart of the UK’s offshore renewable energy generation, and with at least 25% of the UK’s energy production it plays a crucial role in enabling the nation to become a net energy exporter by 2040. The low carbon economy and green energy production across Greater Lincolnshire are pivotal to the UK achieving net zero. They are already worth £1.2 billion per annum to the

economy, employing over 12,000 people. Greater Lincolnshire has a fundamental role leveraging investment in the North Sea expanding renewable capacity and innovate in carbon capture.

- Ports, logistics and supply chains: Greater Lincolnshire is the UK gateway to Europe for the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse. Benefiting from prime deep water locations, its ports and connectivity advantages have supported the growth of a UK-leading logistics cluster, serving industry sectors including renewables, advanced manufacturing, food manufacturing and energy. The UK economy is highly dependent on the maritime sector, with 95% of goods exports and imports moved by sea, including nearly half of the country's food supplies and a quarter of its energy supply. Greater Lincolnshire is supporting the next phase in the evolution of its ports and the competitiveness of its logistic sector that underpin trade and national supply chains.
8. Growth is fundamental to levelling up Greater Lincolnshire and delivering future prosperity. The public and private sectors in Greater Lincolnshire have a strong history of working together and are already collaborating to tackle common challenges that until now have held back growth. Further powers, funding and flexibility from Government will accelerate progress to address:
- the need to capitalise on economic opportunity through better alignment of skills, employment, and career opportunities;
 - low business productivity affecting investment and earning potential which can be addressed by raising skills level;
 - pockets of unemployment and economic inactivity;
 - the need to manage water as an asset, to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding, and meet the area's unique demands for water to support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture;
 - a population ageing above the national average which will lead to disproportionate demand for care and health services, and a reduced labour market;
 - the attraction and retention of younger workers to maintain a viable workforce for future growth;
 - the costs of rurality and the need to improve connectivity through road, rail, digital and energy distribution infrastructure.
9. The constituent councils of the proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and Government are hereby minded to agree a historic mayoral devolution deal which will provide powers and funding to enable the Greater Lincolnshire area to

unleash its full economic potential and in doing so level up, raise living standards for its communities and make a full contribution to the UK economy. The Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal shows how levelling up can be done in practice – with clear alignment to the headline Levelling Up missions and long-term, devolved funding underpinning it.

10. The Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal will unlock significant long-term funding and give local leaders greater freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities for the people who live and work there. The Government recognises that devolution is a journey, not a one-off event. This agreement is the first step in a process of further devolution. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to deepen their devolution arrangements over time on the same basis as existing Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs), subject to Government agreement.
11. The Government commits to using the platform of this deal to work with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in addressing key local challenges and opportunities, including the delivery of infrastructure and investment to boost growth and create high skill high wage jobs, tackling productivity and skills gaps to spread opportunity, unlocking transformative regeneration and housing opportunities, and working together to tackle climate change.
12. As an MCCA, Greater Lincolnshire will be a key partner of central government to drive regional growth and productivity, joining the existing MCAs in engagement with the Government from the date of this deal.

Summary of the Devolution Deal between Government and the Local Authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council

The Government and Greater Lincolnshire are minded to agree a devolution deal which will provide the area with new powers and funding to increase opportunities and living standards through inclusive growth and productivity improvements.

A devolution agreement is contingent upon Greater Lincolnshire proceeding through the steps necessary to meet the governance criteria required for a Level 3 devolution deal.

This devolution agreement includes:

- The formation of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, and the election of a directly elected mayor to provide overall vision and leadership, seek the best value for taxpayer's money, be directly accountable to the area's electorate and to receive new powers on transport, housing and skills.
- Control of a £24 million per year allocation of investment funding for 30 years, 50% capital and 50% revenue, to be invested by the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to drive growth and take forward its priorities over the long term.
- £20 million capital funding to drive place-based economic regeneration in Greater Lincolnshire, to be allocated over the current spending review period, subject to a business case process.
- £2 million of Mayoral Capacity Funding to support the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in the early stages of this deal.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) planning and delivery at a strategic level from 2025/26, subject to funding, policy and delivery considerations at the next Spending Review.
- New powers to shape local skills provision to better meet the needs of the local economy and local people, including devolution of the core Adult Education Budget, as well as input into the new Local Skills Improvement Plans.
- New powers to drive the regeneration of the area and to build more affordable homes including compulsory purchase powers and the ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations subject to consent requirements.
- £8.36 million for the building of new homes on brownfield land and £228,000 capacity funding to bring forward a pipeline of housing projects, both in 2024/25 subject to a business case process.
- New powers to improve and better integrate local transport, including the ability to introduce bus franchising, control of appropriate local transport functions.

- The mayor will be responsible for a consolidated local transport settlement for the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, which Government will provide Greater Lincolnshire MCCA at the next Spending Review.
- Department for Transport will work in partnership with a new rural transport group to be established by the mayor of Greater Lincolnshire, to identify pilot projects to address rural connectivity and accessibility challenges.
- Government will support Greater Lincolnshire in seeking a new rail partnership with Great British Railways, once established, so their priorities can be taken into consideration in future decisions regarding their local network.
- Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero will provide observer representation on the Humber Energy Board, through which they will support the development of a Net Zero Strategy.
- Relevant government departments and their arm's length agencies will attend as full members of a new Coastal Partnership to ensure that the nature, culture and heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast are given a voice.
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will consider the role of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in ensuring an appropriate balance between sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes. They will meet annually with the UK Food Valley Programme Board and work with the MCCA to deepen engagement with SMEs in food and drink manufacturing.
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will endorse the creation of an Enhanced Partnership to pilot the development of a forum for flood resilience, adaptation and management of the water system in a whole systems approach.
- Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and a subset of Department for Culture, Media and Sport's arm's length bodies will establish a collaborative partnership to share expertise and insight across culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy.

More detail on these commitments is given in the main body of the document below. Further powers may be agreed over time and included in future legislation.

Governance

Introduction

13. Councils across Greater Lincolnshire have a long history of working together to tackle societal challenges and improve living standards and levels of prosperity. By working together, Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, together with the seven district councils across Greater Lincolnshire, business and key stakeholders have developed options for a devolution deal for the economic geography of Greater Lincolnshire. This has been informed by:
- a. Collaboration across all 10 councils in Greater Lincolnshire to develop a long-term vision for Greater Lincolnshire in order to deliver a better future for the communities, visitors, and businesses of Greater Lincolnshire.
 - b. Business Engagement through the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership to gauge the interest, understanding and desire for devolution from local business.
 - c. Involvement of all 10 councils in Greater Lincolnshire including discussions with council leaders and a series of meetings of chief executives to refine proposals for devolution to meet the needs of all parts of the historic county.
14. There is a strong partnership with all councils in Greater Lincolnshire who are clear that devolution will boost prosperity for people and businesses across the whole area.

Governance Model

15. As part of this deal Greater Lincolnshire intends to adopt the Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) model which is provided for by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (the “Act”).
16. By pursuing an MCCA, Greater Lincolnshire unlocks the benefits of a level three devolution deal which brings a substantially greater level of additional powers, influence and funding to Greater Lincolnshire, to accelerate growth and improve prosperity.

17. A key advantage of a single institution, such as the MCCA model, across a functional economic geography is its joint governance arrangements for key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development, and regeneration, which allow for strategic prioritisation across its area and integrated policy development. In addition, a directly elected mayor provides greater leadership, local accountability and decision-making power, working in partnership with the combined county authority itself, local councils and other key stakeholders.
18. It is intended that the first mayoral election for the MCCA will be held in May 2025. The new mayor will be elected by the local government electors for the areas of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council (“the constituent councils”). Mayoral terms will last 4 years.
19. The MCCA institutional model includes upper tier authorities only as of right. Both the Government and the constituent councils place high importance on the MCCA working collaboratively with the seven district and borough councils across Greater Lincolnshire (“the district and borough councils”) and ensuring that they have a voice in the MCCA.
20. This document indicates how this is expected to work in some critical respects, while the constituent councils continue to work with the district and borough councils in the area to develop the detail of the arrangements for appropriate district and borough council input to the MCCA as its detailed constitution is developed.

Membership of the MCCA

21. As the Act enables, the proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will comprise the following members with voting rights conferred by the Act.
- The elected mayor
 - 6 constituent members, consisting of a Lead Member for each constituent council (expected to be the Leader or their nominee), and one further member appointed by each of the three constituent councils from its elected members

In addition, the MCCA will be able to appoint non-constituent and associate members. The maximum number of non-constituent or associate members will not exceed the number of constituent members. It is intended that the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will appoint up to six non-constituent and associate members, which could see:

- 4 non-constituent Members, who will be elected members from the district and borough councils to be appointed by the MCCA following nomination in accordance with paragraph 23 below.
 - 1 non-constituent Member who will be one of the two Police and Crime Commissioners ("PCC") for the area. They will be able to substitute for one another as appropriate.
 - 1 further non-constituent/associate member, to be appointed by the MCCA
22. Each constituent member and each non-constituent member from the district and borough councils will be able to have up to 2 substitute members who will have the same rights, including voting rights, as the members for whom they are the substitute.
23. The district and borough councils within Lincolnshire have an important role to play in levelling up Greater Lincolnshire and delivering the shared vision for the area. It is expected that a joint committee of these councils will be formed and that this joint committee will be designated by the MCCA as a nominating body for the purposes of nominating four non-constituent Members of the MCCA. The term of office for non-constituent members would be a matter for the MCCA constitution, but it is expected that non-constituent Members would be appointed annually, with membership rotated among the district and borough councils. The same joint committee could be used to nominate other elected members from the district and borough councils to other places on forums of the MCCA, including Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees.
24. The Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for Lincolnshire and Humberside have a valuable role to play in the operation of the MCCA and the future prosperity of Greater Lincolnshire. Safer communities are key to the Government's Levelling Up Missions, and so the MCCA will ensure that it engages appropriately with both PCCs as the leaders elected to represent public safety in Greater Lincolnshire. With that in mind, it is expected that one PCC will at any given time be a non-constituent Member of the MCCA. PCCs will be able to nominate each other as the substitute member as appropriate, and both PCCs would be able to attend and participate in MCCA meetings and have access to all meeting papers.
25. To retain and build upon the mature public and private sector partnership working already taking place across Greater Lincolnshire, it is proposed that the remaining non-constituent/associate Member could be appointed by the MCCA from a sector that has strategic relevance to the powers devolved to the area. The MCCA may invite representatives from other sectors to attend (and speak) at any Mayoral Combined Authority meeting.

Voting rights

26. Constituent Members of the MCCA and the mayor must have full voting rights. non-constituent members are non-voting unless the MCCA resolves to give them a vote on any issue, within the restrictions set out in the Act. It is expected that the non-constituent Members will be granted voting rights in accordance with paragraphs 27 and 28 below.
27. The MCCA constitution will specify a number of matters where voting will be reserved to constituent members and non-constituent members will not be granted a vote. Reserved matters are expected to include the mayoral budget and constitutional matters, matters relating to the current functions of the constituent councils and those transport functions that transfer to the MCCA. Other than on reserved matters it is expected that non-constituent members from the district and borough councils will be granted the right to vote where permissible.
28. Subject to appropriate constitutional arrangements, the PCC non-constituent member may be given a vote by the MCCA on non-reserved matters considered by the MCCA that relate to the PCC's remit.
29. As well as the voting rights described above, it is expected that certain decisions of the MCCA will have consent requirements attached to them in which district and borough councils' consent will be required as a condition of the decision. These expected consent requirements are described in paragraph 40 below.

Functions

30. Functions contained in the deal document will be devolved to the MCCA by the Government, subject to Parliamentary approval. Some of these functions will be exercisable by the mayor and some by the MCCA.
31. No local authority functions are being removed from any local authority in the area, other than transport functions, as agreed with the constituent councils. Where other local authority functions are conferred on the MCCA they will be held concurrently with the local authorities in the area to ensure joined up decision making. Arrangements for the concurrent exercise of the functions will be a matter for agreement between the MCCA and the constituent councils as appropriate.
32. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be given powers in relation to:

- Economic development and regeneration functions, including the preparation of an economic assessment for the area; to embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions and to carry out strategic economic planning that clearly articulates the area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths.
- Adult education and skills functions;
- Transport functions, including responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan and to set up and coordinate a Key Route Network (KRN) on behalf of the mayor;
- Housing supply, regeneration and place-making functions, along with provision of housing and land, land acquisition and disposal and the development and regeneration of land functions;
- Power to borrow up to an agreed cap for all functions;
- Data sharing with the constituent councils in areas relating to the MCCA functions
- Power to establish joint arrangements
- A functional power of competence

33. The directly elected mayor for the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will autonomously exercise the functions set out below with personal accountability to the electorate, devolved from central government and set out in legislation. These functions will be:

- Functional power of competence
- Power to establish mayoral joint committee(s)
- Housing and regeneration:
 - Power to designate a Mayoral Development Area leading to the setting up of a Mayoral Development Corporation (subject to consent requirements below);
 - Housing and land acquisition powers (subject to consent requirements below) to support housing regeneration, infrastructure and community development and wellbeing, unlocking housing opportunities and accelerating business growth across Greater Lincolnshire.
- Finance:
 - Power for the mayor to set a precept on council tax to fund mayoral functions (resulting from the setting of the mayoral budget as set out below);
 - Power to charge business rate supplement (subject to ballot);
- Transport:
 - To draw up a local transport plan and strategies (subject to the consent requirements – see paragraph 38 below);
 - Bus franchising powers;
 - Ability to pay grants to bus service operators;

- Power of direction over the KRN.

Arrangements for exercise of mayoral functions

34. The Act sets out how the mayor can exercise their functions.

35. The mayor must appoint a member of the MCCA as deputy mayor.

36. The mayor can arrange for the exercise of their functions by:

- The deputy mayor
- A constituent member of the MCCA
- Where regulations allow, a committee of the MCCA consisting of persons appointed by the mayor whether or not members of the MCCA.

37. The mayor may also choose to establish Advisory Boards to advise them on matters relating to the exercise of their functions.

Conditions on the exercise of mayoral functions

38. The mayor will be required to consult the MCCA on their strategies and this will be subject to the following conditions:

- The MCCA will be able to amend the mayor's budget if 2/3rd of the constituent members (or substitute members) entitled to vote agree to do so or, if a 2/3 majority cannot be reached, if 3/6 constituent members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 Lead Members entitled to vote agree to do so.
- The MCCA will be able to amend the mayor's Transport Plan if 2/3rd of the constituent members (or substitute members) entitled to vote, agree to do so.

39. The following decisions will require the consent of the Lead Member (or a substitute member acting in their place), of any relevant constituent council, in whose area the decision will apply:

- a. Designation by the mayor of any area of land as a Mayoral Development Area leading to the establishment (by Order) of a Corporation (the consent of the relevant planning authority in whose area the decision will apply is also required as included in paragraph 40).
- b. Compulsory purchase of land or buildings by the mayor or the MCCA under any powers (the exercise of compulsory purchase powers will also require the consent of the relevant planning authority as included in paragraph 40).

- c. Any decision by the mayor that could lead to a financial liability falling directly upon that constituent council.
 - d. Such other matters as may be contained in the MCCA constitution, including the adoption of policies and strategies.
40. As well as the requirement for lead member consent in accordance with paragraph 37 the following decisions will also require the consent of any local planning authority in whose area the decision will apply:-
- a. Designation by the mayor of any area of land as a Mayoral Development Area leading to the establishment (by Order) of a Corporation
 - b. the exercise of compulsory purchase powers
41. The mayor and the other MCCA members will be required to work together. Specifically:
- a. The mayor will provide overall leadership and chair combined county authority meetings;
 - b. Members of the MCCA may also act to support and advise the mayor in the exercise of mayoral functions;
 - c. The MCCA may establish an independent remuneration panel to recommend allowances payable to the mayor.

Arrangements for exercise of MCCA functions

42. Unless and until delegated through the MCCA's constitution all MCCA functions that are not mayoral functions will be exercised by the full MCCA and not by any board or committee on its behalf. This includes the adoption of all plans, policies and strategies other than those set out in paragraph 38.

Voting arrangements

43. The allocation of voting rights is dealt with in paragraphs 26 to 29 above. Proposals for decisions by the MCCA may be put forward by the mayor or any MCCA constituent member. The mayor will have one vote as will other voting members of the MCCA. Any questions that are to be decided by the MCCA are to be decided by simple majority of the members present, entitled to vote and voting, unless otherwise stated in this document or provided for in legislation and that majority must include the vote of the mayor.
44. In addition, for the following decisions the majority of members must include the Lead Member (or substitute member) from each constituent council:

- a. Approving the MCCA's budget (excluding decisions which relate to the mayor's budget);
- b. Setting a levy

45. For a decision to carry out a regeneration scheme in an area of a constituent council(s) (with appropriate consultation of a district or borough council where relevant) the majority of members must include the Lead Member (or substitute member) from the relevant constituent council(s).

Delegation

46. The delegation of decision-making within the MCCA will be a matter for the MCCA in approving its constitution. However, the upper tier councils recognise the value of widening involvement in the work of the MCCA and ensuring a range of voices are heard within the MCCA.

47. It is expected that the MCCA will establish a number of decision-making committees or boards aligned with different elements of the devolution deal. It is envisaged that the following committees or boards would be established:

- Transport
- Skills and Employment
- Business and Infrastructure

48. These committees would contain constituent Members, non-constituent Members and Associate Members of the MCCA or their substitutes, together with a number of co-opted members which could include other elected members of non-constituent councils.

49. In addition to decision-making boards/committees the MCCA will have the power to establish advisory boards/committees. It is envisaged that a Greater Lincolnshire Economic Advisory Group/Panel could be established as one means of ensuring a strong voice for business.

Accountability

50. The MCCA must appoint at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee and one Audit Committee in line with requirements set in regulations including on membership and voting. The MCCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have the power to scrutinise decisions of and hold to account both the mayor and the MCCA. The membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) cannot include the mayor or a member of the MCCA.
51. For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) it is expected that 2 members will be nominated from each constituent council. In addition, there are expected to be a total of 4 members nominated collectively by the district and borough councils on each Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Further detail on the approach to nomination of those representatives will be developed in consultation with the district and borough councils in the area. The constituent councils will also consider whether and how best to ensure that the business voice and other relevant stakeholders are represented effectively on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s).
52. The chair and vice-chair of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be appointed by the MCCA following a proposal put to them by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in question. The chair shall not be a member of a registered political party of which the mayor is also a member.
53. The MCCA must arrange for the appointment of an Audit Committee, at least one member of which must be an independent person. Membership of the Committee taken as a whole will be required to be proportional by reference to the balance of political parties prevailing among members of the constituent councils taken together at the time the MCCA appoints the members to the Committee or such other requirements as are required by the regulations.
54. For the Audit Committee it is expected that two members will be nominated from each constituent council. Further members will be appointed to the Audit Committee based on appropriate best practice guidance such as that issued by CIPFA on the composition of audit committees. Further detail on the approach to nomination of further representatives will be developed in consultation with the district and borough councils in the area and included in the proposal to be consulted.
55. As a local government institution with devolved powers, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be subject to the English Devolution Accountability Framework ('the Framework'). The Framework applies to all English institutions with devolved powers. In line with the Framework, the Government, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and other areas with devolution deals will work together to put in place mechanisms

to ensure that local leaders and institutions are transparent and accountable, work closely with local businesses, seek the best value for taxpayers' money, and maintain strong ethical standards.

56. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA should also have regard for the Government's Scrutiny Protocol, which develops the standards and best practice to make sure that scrutiny committees in areas with devolution deals can meet this unique challenge. This is to empower local residents and provide them with the confidence that devolution is leading to improvements in their area.

Working with Others

57. In order to fulfil its role in giving strategic direction to the Greater Lincolnshire area the mayor and the MCCA will work closely with stakeholders in the area including the constituent councils and borough and district councils. The mayor and MCCA will also have formal powers to delegate functions or exercise them formally with other local and public authorities.
58. Where existing functions or resources currently held by the constituent councils are to be exercised concurrently or jointly with the mayor or the MCCA the detail will be agreed between the mayor/MCCA and the constituent councils. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA may exercise functions in relation to its area and may exercise functions outside its area, subject to and in accordance with statutory provisions.
59. The MCCA will explore opportunities for further collaboration with its neighbouring councils, including and especially, any future Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (howsoever named) and pan-Humber working arrangements. The MCCA may invite representatives from other partner councils to attend (and speak) at any MCCA meeting.

Role of the LEP

60. The Levelling Up White Paper announced the Government's intention to support the integration of Local Enterprise Partnership functions and roles into local democratic institutions. On 4 August 2023 Government confirmed its previous 'minded to' decision to withdraw central government support (core funding) for Local Enterprise Partnerships from April 2024 and transfer their functions to local and combined authorities. This deal confirms the integration of LEP functions into the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, subject to agreement of an integration plan by the constituent local authorities and its subsequent endorsement by Government.

61. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be supported to take on relevant functions and roles of the Local Enterprise Partnership in line with published guidance and any agreed interim arrangements. To date the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) has made a significant and valuable contribution to shaping the Greater Lincolnshire economy and the private sector which it represents. Building on these achievements and integrating these important functions into the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will create more integrated, better aligned and empowered local institutions with the tools they need to unlock economic growth and level up at a local level.
62. All parties will work together to ensure the strong, diverse and independent local business voice is maintained, with the business voice to be represented within the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, and with advisory boards representative of the geographies and composition of their local communities. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will ensure that any business advisory board or equivalent structure is meaningfully involved in local decision making, maintaining a culture of constructive challenge and scrutiny with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA assurance framework, and is representative of local business communities.
63. Government funding for integrating LEP functions will be subject to future spending decisions by individual departments and business planning.

Growth Hub

64. The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub in Greater Lincolnshire plays an important role working with local authorities in the area to provide access to a range of grants, expert advice and programmes to support SMEs to grow and boost the local economy. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will continue to provide Growth Hub Services working in collaboration with businesses, local partners, stakeholders and local authorities across the county, subject to future funding from Government.

Implementation

65. In line with the process set out in the Act, the constituent councils will produce a devolution proposal based on the deal. They will publicly consult on that proposal with local communities and business and any other interested stakeholders. They will consider the outcomes of the consultation before deciding whether to revise and/or submit the proposal, alongside a summary of the consultation responses to the Government, for consideration.

66. Implementation of the proposal is subject to the statutory requirements and process set out in the Act together with the Secretary of State being satisfied that the required statutory requirements have been met, the consent of each constituent council being provided, and parliamentary approval of the required secondary legislation.
67. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and Greater Lincolnshire will be able to deepen its devolution arrangements over time, subject to Government agreement and appropriate accountability arrangements. Councils in Greater Lincolnshire view these arrangements as a starting point for further devolution.
68. As part of deepening devolution, the trailblazer devolution deals recently concluded with Greater Manchester MCA and the West Midlands MCA include single funding settlements which give the flexibility and independence needed to deliver locally whilst providing assurance of MCA performance through a single outcomes-based accountability framework. The Government's ambition is to roll a single settlement funding model out to all areas in England with a devolution deal and a directly elected leader over time.

Finance and investment

69. The constituent councils will create a fully devolved funding programme covering all budgets for devolved functions (the “Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund”), accountable to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA.
70. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will use the Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund to deliver a programme of transformational long-term investment. The Government agrees to allocate £24 million per annum for 30 years, 50% capital and 50% revenue, which will form part of the Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund. This will be subject to five-yearly gateway assessments to confirm that the investment has contributed to economic growth and levelling up. Once the Order is made conferring establishing the MCCA and the council has its Assurance Framework confirmed with the Government, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA may have access to the Investment Fund prior to the election of a directly elected mayor, subject to the agreement with the Government of suitable caps.
71. In recognition of the economic opportunities presented by Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, Government will make a further investment in Greater Lincolnshire to drive place-based economic regeneration through a £20 million capital funding pot to be allocated over the current spending review period, subject to a business case process. Priority schemes will cover highway and public transport improvements, green jobs, UK Food Valley, and water management.
72. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have the flexibility to secure private and public sector leverage. As per local government guidance, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also be able to use capital receipts from asset sales as revenue funding for public service transformational initiatives.
73. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be given powers to borrow for its new functions, which will allow it to invest in economically productive infrastructure, subject to an agreed cap with HM Treasury. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will agree overall debt limits with HM Treasury. These limits are subject to review as set out in the debt cap agreements. The MCCA will update HM Treasury about any deviation from its underlying borrowing plans in order to support HM Treasury in its duty to monitor and forecast changes in the fiscal aggregates. Debt The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also provide information, explanation and assistance to support the Office for Budget Responsibility in its duty to produce economic and fiscal forecasts for the UK economy.
74. The costs of establishing the MCCA will be met from the overall resources of the MCCA. To support the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in its early stages of this deal,

the Government will provide Mayoral Capacity Funding of £500,000 in 2024/25, £1 million in 2025/26, and £500,000 in 2026/27. This will be provided on the basis that the establishing legislation has been made and the Assurance Framework confirmed with the Government. Any future capacity funding will be subject to Spending Review, in line with arrangements for other devolution deals. Additional activities or capital allocations from Government will be supported by revenue allocated to the MCCA in line with practice for existing areas with a Level 3 devolution deal.

75. The elected mayor will have the power to issue a precept on local council tax bills to help pay for the mayor's work. This precept can only be raised for mayoral functions.
76. The elected mayor will have the power to introduce a supplement on business rates for expenditure on a project or projects that will promote economic development in the area, subject to a ballot of affected businesses.
77. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be the lead local authority for the planning and delivery of the UKSPF (or 'the Fund') from 2025/26 if there is a continuation of the Fund and the delivery geographies remains the same. The Greater Lincolnshire area's core UKSPF allocation will be subject to a future Spending Review and reconfirmation of overall UKSPF policy and delivery arrangements from 2025/26. If the delivery model remains the same as the previous Spending Review period, it is anticipated that the MCCA will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates in the area, with wide flexibility to invest and deliver according to local needs. In carrying out this role, it will need to engage constituent councils, district and borough councils and other local partners to ensure that the needs of residents can be effectively addressed.
78. The Government understands that Greater Lincolnshire currently has, and will in the future have, interest in applying for funding and other opportunities made available. This includes but is not limited to the Levelling Up Fund. This deal does not preclude participation in these processes where the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA meet the relevant criteria.

UK Infrastructure Bank

79. The UK Infrastructure Bank ("the Bank") will increase infrastructure investment across the UK by partnering with the private sector and local government to help tackle climate change and support regional and local economic growth. The Bank can offer advice and support to local actors, including the Greater Lincolnshire

MCCA, to help deliver on their objectives, including driving investment into net zero infrastructure and innovative local projects. It can also act as a convenor, bringing together local actors for collaborative projects, and where appropriate identifying where projects can be aggregated to achieve greater impacts.

Skills and Employment

80. Both the Government and constituent councils are committed to a whole system approach to employment and skills across Greater Lincolnshire, which helps everyone to be able to gain the job that they want and helps employers to raise productivity and create better jobs that are key to raising living standards.
81. The leading sectors in the Greater Lincolnshire economy have the potential to create high skill, high wage jobs that can level up Greater Lincolnshire. The Government and constituent councils are responsive to the needs of employers, recognising the requirements that employers have to operate productively. Through this deal they will support the provision of:
- a. entry level training and support which helps people into employment.
 - b. access to the right training in the higher-level skills that Greater Lincolnshire's key business sectors need in order to build on their competitive advantage.
 - c. productivity and innovation support to Greater Lincolnshire's key business sectors so that they continue to create the jobs of the future.
82. This deal will support Greater Lincolnshire in ensuring that: there is a pipeline of motivated and competent employees who want to develop their career in the area; training meets the needs of employers; and support makes it as easy as possible for people to gain and remain in employment.

Adult Education

83. Greater Lincolnshire has significant predicted economic growth across its key sectors. This is however set against a backdrop of significant rurality, declining adult participation (20% reduction between 2016 and 2021), lower level 4 attainment (34% of 25-34 year olds compared to 48% nationally), a cohort of the population with no qualifications and the risks (and opportunities) posed by the growth in automation. Thus, widening participation and attainment is Greater Lincolnshire's number one priority.
84. The Government will fully devolve the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to Greater Lincolnshire from academic year 2026-2027 subject to readiness conditions and Parliamentary approval of the required secondary legislation conferring the appropriate functions. Funding for Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) will also be devolved and will be ring-fenced.

85. Prior to full devolution taking place, the Government will work with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to support their preparations for taking on the relevant functions and will make implementation funding available for Greater Lincolnshire but this will be subject to the availability of appropriate central funding including in the next Spending Review.
86. Upon devolution of AEB, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be responsible for making allocations to providers in accordance with the conditions imposed on them, including ministerial directions, and the outcomes to be achieved. The Government will not seek to second guess these decisions, but it will set proportionate requirements about outcome information to be collected in order to allow students to make informed choices.
87. The Government will inform the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA on which basis the existing methodology operates to calculate the size of the grant to be paid to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA for the purpose of exercising the devolved adult education functions.
88. The Government will discuss with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, and other areas with, or which are planning to secure, devolved adult education functions, any proposed changes to its methodology for calculating devolved areas' grants. Any discussions will be undertaken in a timely manner and before decisions are made.
89. In order to proceed with devolution, the Government needs to be assured of the following readiness conditions:
 - a. The Secretary of State for Education and appropriate accounting officer are assured that Greater Lincolnshire MCCA is operationally ready to administer the adult education budget and is satisfied the required statutory tests have been met.
 - b. Parliament has legislated to enable transfer to Greater Lincolnshire MCCA of the current statutory duties on the Secretary of State to secure appropriate facilities for further education for adults from this budget and for provision to be free in certain circumstances.
 - c. Agreement to a memorandum of understanding between the Department for Education and Greater Lincolnshire MCCA that provides appropriate assurance that the named parties will work together to ensure the future financial stability of the provider base, including for sharing financial risk and managing provider failure.
 - d. Learner protection arrangements are agreed between parties.

90. The Department for Education will continue to work with Greater Lincolnshire to commission a local programme of Skills Bootcamps, to be informed by future spending agreements.

Skills and employment

91. Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) will set out the current and future skills needs of the area and how local provision needs to change to help people develop the skills they need to get good jobs and increase their prospects. LSIPs will build a stronger and more dynamic partnership between employers and further education providers and allow provision to be more responsive to the skills needs of employers in local labour markets.
92. Working with the designated Employer Representative Body, and utilising and sharing the local labour market intelligence and analysis developed¹¹, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will support and provide input into the LSIP for the area.
93. Greater Lincolnshire will work with the Department for Education to maximise the number of care leavers in employment. This will include encouraging local authorities and public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire to provide ring-fenced apprenticeships and work-experience opportunities for care leavers; working with DfE's delivery partner for the care leaver covenant (Spectra) and working with local businesses to encourage them to offer employment opportunities to care leavers.
94. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be considered alongside other areas with a Level 3 devolution deal at future Spending Reviews with regard to the devolution of skills funding.

Labour Markets

95. The Government recognises the challenges facing Greater Lincolnshire with a coastal and rural economy experiencing a complex range of issues relating to digital coverage, productivity, upskilling, in-work progression, and connectivity.
96. There is a need to develop and deliver targeted local programmes through devolved funding streams such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Adult Education Budget to address the unique and diverse challenges across the region. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will continue to be expected to work in partnership with local Department for Work and Pensions Jobcentre Plus and

regional DWP Strategic Partnership Managers to develop local programmes that meet local needs and complement national employment provision.

97. The Government and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also work together to better target employment support by understanding and utilising publicly available local labour market intelligence and analysis. As part of the development of the economic framework, the Government is committed to working together on the Greater Lincolnshire's strategic priorities and supporting the development of the region's economic framework.
98. The Department for Work and Pensions and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work together on Greater Lincolnshire MCCA's strategic priorities for employment through:
 - enhanced engagement by way of membership of the joint Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Education Mayoral Combined Authority Advisory Group.
 - continuing regular engagement with DWP Strategic Partnership Managers, the regional Employer and Partnership team in Jobcentre Plus, and strategic labour market partnership teams.
99. The Department for Work and Pensions will also consider what role the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA could have in the design and delivery of future contracted employment programmes.

Career Education and Advice

100. The Government recognises the significant unique opportunities that are developing across Greater Lincolnshire and that, to ensure maximum benefit of the AEB allocation and the area's economic growth, a more place-based and industry led approach to careers education is developed for both adults and young people. Ensuring access to high quality careers, advice and guidance is a crucial element of the Government's long-term ambitions around social mobility, raising aspiration and securing the future workforce our economy needs.
101. In support of this objective, Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Local Authority partners have worked closely on the development of the Greater Lincolnshire's Career Hub. With the folding in of relevant LEP functions as announced in August 2023, the Government and partners within Greater Lincolnshire wish to ensure that there remains a shared focus on careers education and advice for young people. This is particularly crucial given the specific challenges faced in Greater Lincolnshire. This is particularly crucial given the ageing population of Greater

Lincolnshire and the need to increase awareness of new high skill high wage career opportunities across the area and the pathways available to residents to achieve a good quality career. The Department for Education will therefore seek to work with the Department for Levelling Up, Greater Lincolnshire and other relevant partners to support the continuity of activity within the Careers Hub.

102. To ensure a more place-based and joined-up approach to careers education locally, the Government supports Greater Lincolnshire to work with local stakeholders to align careers provision with devolved AEB activities.

Housing and Land

103. Delivering sustainable growth requires development sites to get the right infrastructure at the right time and housing to be delivered at a pace which supports economic growth. Recruiting and retaining a younger workforce to offset the ageing population and deliver future growth requires Greater Lincolnshire to have the right housing in the right locations and access to high quality housing is important to improving the health outcomes and life chances of residents across Greater Lincolnshire.
104. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have broad powers to acquire and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to invest to deliver housing for the area.
105. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have land assembly and compulsory purchase powers, subject to the agreement of the constituent councils where the relevant land is located, and to the consent of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
106. The directly elected mayor will have the power to designate a Mayoral Development Area and to create Mayoral Development Corporations, which will support delivery on strategic sites in Greater Lincolnshire. Where relevant, this power may be exercised only with the consent of the constituent member(s) who represent the area in which the Development Corporation is to be established, and the consent of the local planning authority, if relevant. All members of the Combined County Authority appointed by the constituent councils, or substitute members acting in place of those members, whose local government area contains any part to be designated as a Mayoral Development Area and the consent of the relevant planning authority, including any national park planning authority if their area contains any part to be designated as a Mayoral Development Area.
107. The Government recognises the region's priority to transform town centres and the need to unlock underutilised brownfield land to create vibrant, exciting and connected urban neighbourhoods to support regeneration and address non-viability of sites. Greater Lincolnshire will be awarded £8.36 million of capital funding in 2024/25 to support the building of new homes on brownfield land, subject to sufficient eligible projects for funding being identified.

108. To support Greater Lincolnshire to identify and bring forward a pipeline of housing projects, Government will also provide £228,000 in capacity funding in 2024/25.
109. The devolution of locally-led brownfield funding to areas with a Level 3 deal is a part of the devolution framework. Subject to the agreement of appropriate Brownfield funding with HMT in the next SR, Greater Lincolnshire could expect devolution of locally-led brownfield funding into future years, in line with the position outlined in the devolution framework.

Working with Homes England

110. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and Homes England are committed, with the support of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), to working collaboratively – combining their skills and capacity – to unlock the barriers to affordable housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a pipeline for the region. This will be underpinned by a clear Action Plan setting out workstreams, timescales and milestones, as well as respective roles and responsibilities.
111. Homes England and the Government will explore the potential for investing in the delivery of this pipeline through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Housing Programme.
112. Homes England, DLUHC, and Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also collectively explore how wider measures – including viability assessments and the planning system – could better support Greater Lincolnshire MCCA's plans to increase much needed rural affordable housing supply, and in partnership test how Homes England through its strategic plan could assist in this.
113. Homes England will continue working in partnership with local planning authorities, including North East Lincolnshire Council, where Homes England and DLUHC will use the tools available to support the regeneration of and reuse of Brownfield land in Grimsby, through a place based approach focusing on housing delivery in the town centre and adjacent Alexandra Dock.

Transport

114. Greater Lincolnshire is a large geography combining urban, rural and coastal areas. Whilst constituent councils have made significant investment in local infrastructure, the area has few motorways or dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality.
115. As an area vital to supply chains and specialising in logistics, investment in strategic infrastructure is critical to drive business confidence and to support residents to travel to new high skilled, high wage jobs.
116. Despite its geographical challenges, Greater Lincolnshire has been at the forefront of demand-responsive transport, developing innovative services that it intends to expand further to create a transport network which breaks the link between poor transport connectivity and the skills gap.
117. The Government and constituent councils recognise the vital role of rail across Greater Lincolnshire, especially for passengers to access work and skills, and for visitors to Greater Lincolnshire. Passenger services coexist with significant freight movements on the networks. Strong road and rail networks are essential enablers for business growth. The A1 and the Trans Midlands Trade Corridor alongside East-West movements by rail are recognised as vital connections for the growth of ports, in particular the Humber and East Midlands freeports.

Network North

118. As set out in the recent Network North announcement:
- The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £4.7 billion announced as part of Network North to transform local transport in areas in the North and Midlands outside of the big city regions.
 - The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £1 billion funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North and Midlands.
 - The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £5.5 billion funding to fix potholes in the North and Midlands announced as part of Network North.

Powers of the Local Transport Authority and Local Transport Plans

119. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will become the Local Transport Authority for the new combined county authority area and take on the associated responsibilities and local public transport powers.

120. As part of becoming the LTA, responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan (LTP) will be conferred on Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and exercised by the mayor. The Greater Lincolnshire MCA will develop a provisional area-wide LTP by March 2025 to be finalised by the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA once established. Spending Review is expected in 2024; in developing its case for local transport investment DfT will be engaging the local transport sector. As such, we will look to draw on any emerging evidence base and strategy Greater Lincolnshire is able to make available by that time. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be expected to ensure its LTP aligns with best practice in transport planning including any revised LTP guidance, and to update their LTP as necessary.

Local and Regional Partnership Working

121. Greater Lincolnshire's geography falls into two Sub-national Transport body areas – Transport for the North and Midlands Connect – the membership of which brings important benefits to the region. Greater Lincolnshire is seeking full membership of both Midlands Connect and Transport for the North. The Government is committed to working with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to explore membership options for both STBs by 2025, when the MCCA is established.
122. The Government recognises that local and regional level organisations are often best placed to make practical changes required to meet shared strategic objectives on local economic growth and decarbonisation, ensuring that local communities and businesses are engaged. Transport for the North and Midlands Connect will develop their Regional Centres of Excellence, which will offer bespoke capability support to all Local Transport Authorities in their STB areas. This provides the opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work with Midlands Connect and Transport for the North to establish if Greater Lincolnshire would benefit from capability support.
123. As set out in the National Electric Vehicle Strategy, the Government recognises the aspirations of Greater Lincolnshire to improve public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, which would increase the uptake of electric vehicles and reduce carbon emissions by supporting all motorists in making the switch. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA may also access support from STBs in the region, which have received Government funding to develop a regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure strategy. These EVCI strategies will provide a robust plan of charging needs in Greater Lincolnshire and can be used to underpin any public sector funding proposals including applications for the LEVI Capital Fund. They will also help local authorities in Greater Lincolnshire to develop their own strategies to scale up the rollout of public charge-points in their areas. The

constituent councils within Greater Lincolnshire have also received £7,976 million in capital funding from Government's Local EV Infrastructure Fund and a further £1,288 million revenue funding to increase their capability to plan and deliver public, on-street EV infrastructure. Through the LEVI Fund, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to utilise the LEVI support body for further assistance and upskilling of EV officers.

124. For Greater Lincolnshire, other alternative low carbon fuels, such as hydrogen, will play an important role, particularly for large vehicles that require longer ranges and faster refuelling. The constituent authorities will work with the Sub-national Transport Boards and the mayoral rural transport group to explore this.

Consolidated Local Transport Settlement

125. The directly elected mayor will be responsible for a multi-year consolidated local transport settlement for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA which Government will provide following the next Spending Review. Local transport funding will be consolidated in line with the principles set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and Funding Simplification Doctrine. The quantum of funding and the number/remit of individual funding lines will be agreed through the next Spending Review Process, however we anticipate this will build on the current Level 3 offer of consolidating highways maintenance funding and integrated transport block.

Local Highways Networks

126. Greater Lincolnshire will set up and coordinate a Key Route Network (KRN) on behalf of the mayor. This will allow the most important local roads to be managed in a strategic way to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and introduce traffic management measures to, for example, improve public transport, cycling and walking infrastructure across Greater Lincolnshire. The constituent councils will remain the highway authority for their area responsible for the management and operation of the local highway network. The mayor will hold a power of direction allowing them to direct member highway authorities in the exercise of their highway powers with regard to the KRN.
127. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to enter into agreements with Government, other Local Authorities and National Highways, including to determine shared priorities for its strategic route network roads and KRN.
128. The Government supports the aim for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work with National Highways and Midlands Connect on identifying priority interventions on the A1 and the western A46 around Lincoln:

- a. The A1 corridor is a nationally significant freight artery linking the North and Scotland with London and the South East. The route is particularly vital for connections to major ports on the East Coast, including Felixstowe, Grimsby, Immingham and then Dover (via the M25). The A1 corridor also has a key economic role within the East Midlands, particularly for agri-food, logistics, manufacturing, and tourism, with very significant levels of proposed housing (up to 100,000 units) and employment growth – in addition to the potential ‘Step Fusion’ Facility at the West Burton Power Station site in Nottinghamshire. The A1 through the East Midlands is a dual carriageway ‘A’ road characterised by sub-standard junctions and right turn movements, accident blackspots and a lack of resilience or alternative routes during closures.
 - b. The circulatory road around Lincoln is a recognised priority to serve the Humber Ports and East Coast visitor attractions. Significant local investment has been placed on resolving key areas on the eastern side of the city through the construction of the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and the emerging North Hykeham Relief Road. Strategic improvement works are required on the western side of the city between North Hykeham Roundabout and Carholme Road Roundabout. These required improvements consist of both capacity increases and Active Travel provisions to safely cross the A46 to connect outlying communities.
 - c. The Trans Midland Trade Corridor (A15/A46) north of Lincoln is of national significance as a strategic north-south transport and economic corridor connecting the Humber ports in the north to the wider network in the south via the A46 and A1 at Newark. The current performance of this corridor holds back productivity and is also a barrier to future growth. Delivery of upgrades and improvements to this key arterial route will enable faster, safer, reliable and resilient connectivity to regional, national and international markets.
129. Unless otherwise agreed locally, all operational responsibility for highways will remain with the constituent councils. However, where practical we would expect the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work towards streamlining contractual and delivery arrangements across the region. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA should consider how highways across the region are managed, which may include developing a single strategic assessment plan for local highways in the area, in partnership with constituent councils.

Rural bus services

130. The mayor of Greater Lincolnshire will establish and chair a rural transport group alongside existing Level 3 combined authorities, that will lead the national debate on transport in mayoral rural areas. The group will champion innovation and work in partnership with the Department for Transport to identify pilot projects to address rural connectivity and accessibility challenges.
131. DfT and Greater Lincolnshire recognise the challenges that rural areas face in the delivery of high quality, sustainable bus services. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will develop a strategy and spending plan proposal to DfT in relation to future funding opportunities to develop a rural bus pilot that is intended to act as a policy test bed for other rural areas.

Bus Enhanced Partnerships

132. As the Local Transport Authority, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be responsible for:
- Bus Service Improvement Plans
 - Enhanced Partnerships
 - Subsidised bus services
 - Concessionary fare schemes
- And will, where practical, streamline engagement with bus operators and seek efficiencies in their future contractual and delivery arrangements across the combined area.

Bus Franchising

133. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be empowered to exercise franchising powers in the Transport Act 2000, including the power to consult on franchising without seeking permission from the Secretary of State.

Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs)

134. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £1 billion funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North and Midlands.
135. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with constituent councils to deliver against the existing Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP). Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work towards integrating the existing BSIPs in the area.

Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG)

136. In line with the commitment in the National Bus Strategy, the Government is working on the reform of BSOG. The Government will devolve powers for the payment of BSOG to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA.
137. As the Local Transport Authority Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have powers to run travel concession schemes. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will explore enhanced concessionary fares schemes, including elements for rail and young persons.

Rail

138. Rail services provide vital connectivity for passengers with services connecting communities and growing economic opportunities. Rail freight is nationally significant, with a quarter of the UK's freight passing through Greater Lincolnshire. The Government will support Greater Lincolnshire in seeking a new rail partnership with Great British Railways, once established, so that their priorities can be taken into consideration in future decisions regarding their local network. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, alongside existing Level 3 combined authorities, will be considered a priority for these agreements which will provide the ability to influence the local rail offer. Local priorities will need to be coordinated and compatible with surrounding areas and the needs of the national network. Priorities locally include:
- d. Cleethorpes to Manchester (South Pennine Corridor) line speed improvements are a priority for Greater Lincolnshire. Transport for the North is supportive of the ambition. Further work involving Northern Rail and Trans-Pennine Express is required to develop the business case.
 - e. Cleethorpes to London service is a priority for Greater Lincolnshire, providing access to opportunities and supporting a growing economy. The Department for Transport is considering the case for direct London North East Railways services to and from both Cleethorpes and Grimsby to London, with an opportunity to implement them should the business case be value for money, and funding be available to address timetabling, infrastructure and operational factors.
 - f. DfT are aware that Midlands Connect have developed a business case for line speed improvements between Lincoln and Nottingham, which may realise the potential for journey time savings on the route.

139. The Government recognises the importance of rail freight across Greater Lincolnshire, enabling access to the ports and as part of the national network.

Active Travel

140. To ensure consistency in the quality and safety of schemes, Active Travel England (ATE) will provide support to ensure walking and cycling schemes are designed and delivered to high standards, including compliance with Local Transport Note 1/20 (LTN 1/20). The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with ATE to improve the design quality of all active travel schemes funded by Government and those that are locally funded. All cycling and walking schemes funded by Government must be approved by ATE as complying with LTN 1/20.

Net Zero and Climate Change

141. As part of its Net Zero Strategy and Net Zero Growth Plan, the Government recognises that devolved and local government can play an essential role in meeting national net zero ambitions. Local leaders in the Greater Lincolnshire area and elsewhere are well placed to engage with all parts of their communities and to understand local policy, political, social, and economic nuances relevant to climate action. This is why the devolution framework grants places the opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to deliver action on climate change and the UK's net zero targets.
142. The Local Net Zero Forum, chaired by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and the Local Government Association, is cross-government and brings together national and local government senior officials. Through representative organisations on the forum such as the Local Government Association (LGA), Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), Core Cities and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) – Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will get the opportunity to discuss local net zero policy and delivery issues in the round.
143. Greater Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the UK's offshore energy production, hydrogen innovation and the development of decarbonisation for heavy industry but there is a need to ensure that this is supported by infrastructure such as the energy grid capacity and pipelines that are required to deliver growth. In the delivery of new infrastructure, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will balance environmental, social and economic considerations.
144. The UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021) set out a comprehensive approach to scaling up the hydrogen economy, and in the British Energy Security Strategy (2022) Government doubled its ambition to up to 10GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030. Greater Lincolnshire is committed to establishing one of the UK's first net zero carbon industrial clusters by 2040, which aims to capture and store carbon dioxide emissions as well as developing blue and green hydrogen infrastructure and production.

Energy Networks

145. The Government recognises the need to increase Greater Lincolnshire's electricity network capacity to meet future electricity demand. We are committed to ensuring that local bodies such as combined authorities, including the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, have a meaningful role in planning our future energy system for net zero, alongside other local areas as appropriate.

146. The Government is considering the role of local energy plans, including their role in supporting strategic network investment, working closely with Ofgem as part of its ongoing governance review into local energy institutions and its proposals on regional energy system planning.

Heat networks

147. The Government has confirmed its intention to establish heat network zoning in England. Under the zoning proposals, Zoning Coordinators within local government will be able to designate areas as heat network zones where heat networks are going to be the most cost-effective way to decarbonise heating and hot water within the zone. Local authorities will have powers to require certain buildings to connect to heat networks within the zones. This will enable the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to assume the role of heat network Zoning Coordinator for its locality and play a key role in the delivery of heat decarbonisation infrastructure. The Government is committed to have heat network zoning in place by 2025.
148. The Government will support the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA alongside other local authorities across England to take forward heat network zoning, including collaboration with the private sector on developing heat networks within zones and to help capitalise on unique local opportunities to utilise all available low carbon heat sources, including geothermal energy.

Buildings

149. The Government commits to explore the potential benefits of and design options for a place-based approach to delivering retrofit measures, as part of the Government's commitment in the Net Zero Strategy to explore how we could simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level where this provides the best approach to tackling climate change.
150. This work will involve inviting the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work with the Government through the relevant representative organisations to consider if such an approach could accelerate the meeting of net zero goals and provide better value for money.

Green Jobs

151. Through the Green Jobs Delivery Group, we are working to ensure that workers, businesses and local areas, including Greater Lincolnshire, are supported

through the net zero transition. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA now has the opportunity to deliver green skills interventions at a local level through having a greater role in delivering the Adult Education Budget and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

152. Greater Lincolnshire either incorporates or adjoins some of the greatest opportunities or threats to energy and natural resources this country possesses. It witnesses the largest polluting estuary in the UK (CO₂), one of the most stretched natural water systems in the UK and possesses a portfolio of carbon-based power generation plants. However, it is also home to some of the most innovative thinking on carbon capture, nuclear fusion, water management and energy distribution.
153. Greater Lincolnshire offers opportunity to contribute to UK PLC explicitly through Carbon Capture Storage and Usage and potentially hosting a geological disposal facility; ensuring security of energy supply; reducing costs of energy creation and distribution; Creating Competitive Advantage for its indigenous businesses through new product development and business models.
154. The Government is aiming to reach a policy decision in 2023 on whether to support blending of up to 20% hydrogen by volume into the GB gas distribution networks. If the decision to proceed with blending is positive, Government will look to start the legislative and regulatory process to enable blending, as well as the process to make any physical changes to gas networks that are required. Given timelines, Government does not anticipate blending at a commercial scale to commence before 2025-2026 at the earliest.
155. To further contribute to Government's ambition of capturing and storing 20-30 MtCO₂ per year, Government will continue to develop the Track-1 and Track 2 clusters to increase the benefits they can deliver. Government will launch a process this year to begin further expansion of Track-1 clusters, beyond the initial deployment, identifying and selecting projects to fill the available storage and network capacity anticipated to be available in and around 2030. Additionally, Government has concluded that Viking transport and storage (T&S) system, based in Humber, along with the Acorn T&S based in Scotland, due to their maturity, remain best placed to deliver Government's objectives for Track-2, at this stage, subject to final decisions, due diligence, consenting, subsidy control, affordability, and value for money assessments. Government will set out the process by which capture projects for Track-2 will be selected in due course.
156. The Government is committed to the commissioning of studies to determine the infrastructure improvements that would be needed if a geological disposal facility

were to be sited in Greater Lincolnshire, including flood defences and transport links.

Humber

157. The Humber is one of the UK's most significant industrial areas with several distinctive assets which play an important role for the UK economy. The economy has great potential built around clean energy generation, manufacturing, and globally strategic ports which play on the vital role of the Estuary as an international trading gateway and which benefit from Freeport status and the incentives that brings in supporting trading businesses, attracting inward investment and jobs, as well as wider economic activity to the area.
158. The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero will provide observer representation on the Humber Energy Board, through which they will support the development of a Net Zero Strategy to accelerate the green energy transition across the Humber industrial cluster. This Net Zero Strategy will inform a detailed investment plan for the region, underpinned by strong collaboration between public and private sector partners across the Humber.

Environment, Food, Water and Climate Change

159. Greater Lincolnshire is the second largest county area in England, with a largely rural, low-lying landscape including nationally important natural treasures such as lime woods, chalk streams, saltmarsh, high grade farmland and the only AONB in the East Midlands covering the Lincolnshire Wolds. It is home to the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park and the new Lincolnshire Coronation Coast National Nature Reserve.
160. With coastal and low-lying regions, water management is a crucial aspect of climate resilience, and Greater Lincolnshire has ambitions to become a rural innovation testbed for energy and water management. Managing water as an asset, is important to the area's communities to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding across a low land area and also to meet unique demands for water that support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture.
161. Food production, processing and logistics accounts for a significant proportion of employment, and the location for two of the environmental land management schemes provides the area with a head start in the transition towards a successful nature recovery network.

Environment

162. Lincolnshire County Council has been appointed by Defra SoS as the authority responsible for preparing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the Greater Lincolnshire area. LNRSs will agree priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing habitat for nature; and map proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals. Defra has confirmed total planned funding of £388,000 for financial years 23-24 and 24-25 to cover the costs of strategy preparation, including the required stakeholder engagement. The Government will work closely with responsible authorities to ensure they are supported in preparing their LNRS, including by making available Defra group expertise and data and agrees to consider the role of Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in the LNRS process following establishment of the new body.
163. The Government will ensure that over time locally identified environmental priorities are incorporated into new environmental land management schemes where appropriate.

164. Government encourages Greater Lincolnshire to play a leadership role in attracting private investment into nature's recovery within its area. Greater Lincolnshire will be invited to join a natural capital investment Community of Practice, providing access to information, best practice and learning from the Local Investment in Natural Capital programme, and networking opportunities to support building of local capability.
165. Government welcomes Greater Lincolnshire's ambitions in climate adaptation (in particular in developing (i) a Coastal partnership and (ii) a strategic approach to land use). Defra looks forward to further understanding Greater Lincolnshire's ambitions.

Coastal Partnership

166. Government and partners in Greater Lincolnshire have held the ambition to form a strategic coastal partnership since the publication of a joint report in 2015. The MCCA will convene a Coastal Partnership which will ensure that the nature, culture and heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast are given a voice and consideration to ensure that tourism and economic development can take place in parallel with the restoration of the natural and historic environment. Relevant government departments and their arm's length agencies will attend as full members. The Coastal Partnership will run from the Wash into the Humber.
167. The remit of the Coastal Partnership will be to explore and develop solutions around:
- Using access to nature and cultural heritage as part of schemes to improve public health.
 - Climate Change Adaptation using the national Climate Change Risk Assessment to take a strategic approach to land use.
 - Interpretation, protection, enhancement and promotion of historic and archaeologically significant sites, structures, monuments, places, areas and both seascapes and landscapes, developing the local economic opportunities they provide, whilst maintaining their contribution to local identity and community.
 - Achieving local benefits for the key wildlife sites along the coast – maintaining their importance for tourism and the minimisation of the recreational disturbance of nature.
 - Monitoring and understanding national energy infrastructure along the Lincolnshire Coast (Hornsea 1 & 2, Viking Link, Theddlethorpe, LOR, Humber Freeport, etc) and co-ordinating advice to mitigate environmental

impacts.

168. This work will contribute towards developing Local Nature Recovery Strategies and growing the national Nature Recovery Network.

Food

169. The Government recognises the nationally significant role that Greater Lincolnshire plays in maintaining food security. The region produces one eighth of England's food and has nationally significant clusters in food production, food processing, fresh produce and seafood processing. Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley an initiative which seeks to provide economic benefit to the area based on the food sector's strength whilst also strengthening domestic food supply. Through this deal the Government recognises the ambitions of the Food Valley and supports the benefits that it will bring.
170. Given the particular importance of food production from Greater Lincolnshire to UK food security, DEFRA agrees to consider the role of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in ensuring both sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes, including considering possible place-based research.
171. Government will work with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to deepen engagement with food and drink manufacturing SMEs in the region, to discuss growth opportunities for SMEs in the sector and share best practice.

UK Food Valley programme board

172. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will convene a UK Food Valley Programme Board with senior level representation from organisations including the MCCA, the major food manufacturing businesses in Greater Lincolnshire, and academia. The board will produce a clear and measurable strategy for UK Food Valley. Defra will meet annually with the board to discuss key topics of value to its members.
173. The remit of the board will be to deliver the UK Food Valley strategy by exploring, developing, and commissioning solutions around:
- a. Giving domestic businesses and inward investors the confidence to invest, notably:
 - i. Identifying areas in which the UK is a big net importer of food where domestic production could be sustainably and competitively expanded.

- ii. Taking R&D out of the lab into the field or onto the factory floor, by supporting the innovation to commercialisation journey, increasing skills to adopt innovative technology in industry and by prioritising higher level skills activity in the sector.
- b. Ensuring that industry is supported to invest by addressing key enablers of business expansion, notably:
 - i. Supporting commercial investment in the industry to increase production volumes and modernisation through globally competitive investment incentives including agri-tech, food manufacture, and aquaculture.
 - ii. Supporting the industry with a positive planning framework and premises supply strategy to support businesses from start-ups looking for their first food grade unit, to multi-nationals investing in large scale sites. The MCCA will prepare and deliver an investment programme which provides the right combination of developable sites and ready-to-use business premises for the food sector in the area.
 - iii. Supporting food chain investment with modern infrastructure including access to sustainable energy and water supplies; high speed digital connectivity; and transport infrastructure. Defra will support the board in its aims by being an active champion of the sector across government.
 - iv. Provide specialist food chain innovation to accelerate technology innovation, commercialisation, and adoption. Defra will support this aim by providing updates and information around programmes and incentives for the agricultural sector to diversify into high value food production.

Water

174. Defra will endorse the creation of an Enhanced Partnership, utilising the existing Lincolnshire Flood and Water Management Partnership framework, to pilot the development of a forum for flood resilience, adaptation and management of the water system across all sectors and in a whole systems approach. The enhanced partnership will help Greater Lincolnshire become a testbed to explore and develop options for how flood risk management from all sources, including relevant adaptation activities linked to water sustainability, can best be addressed and accelerated at the local level. This could include:

- Sharing of best practice approaches and learning on integrated water management to inform government reforms to local flood risk management planning.
- Ensuring commitments within the Enhanced Partnership Plan are agreed and signed up to by all partners, to drive the development of Enhanced

Partnership Schemes, within which obligations and delivery timescales on all partners will be agreed by the group, maximising the likelihood of successful delivery.

- Creating the enabling environment needed to develop a place-based flood risk and water sustainability strategy, provide the influence required to develop investment plans to fulfil that strategy, and ensure implementation of those plans, at the required timescales. This will not change the role and responsibilities of existing Risk Management Authorities or existing statutory duties to produce Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.
- Providing a single contact point for engagement with other groups such as agri-food, energy, manufacturing and transport, to facilitate a whole systems approach to utilities and infrastructure coordination and planning.

Culture and Tourism

175. Greater Lincolnshire has a high-quality and varied visitor economy offered across city, coast and countryside. Up to 50 miles of coastline, an area of outstanding natural beauty, and hundreds of visitor attractions contributed to the overall value of £2.62 billion in 2022, supporting over 28,000 jobs.
176. Home to the Red Arrows, Lincoln Castle and Cathedral, rural landscapes including the Isle of Axholme and the Lincolnshire Wolds dotted with market towns and limestone villages, as well as the vibrant coastal resorts of Cleethorpes, Mablethorpe and Skegness – the UK's fourth most popular holiday resort – the area has a rich heritage, cultural and leisure offer. The growth of the visitor economy in Greater Lincolnshire has enormous potential to deliver local economic growth, create local jobs and help drive productivity.
177. Placemaking initiatives in locations like Grimsby, Lincoln, Boston and Grantham have shown the potential of ALBs to deliver transformative programmes in partnership with local authorities, businesses and the third sector. Grimsby's industrial maritime heritage has significant potential for investment and reuse as a new economic focus and source of pride in place, with a Heritage Action Zone providing a legacy of cultural activity from which to develop new initiatives. Lincoln's Cornhill Quarter development, has also showcased the impact of High Street Heritage Action Zones spring-boarding regeneration in partnership with business.

Culture

178. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and a subset of DCMS ALBs will establish a collaborative partnership, supported by DCMS, to share expertise and insight across (some or all of) culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy (as applicable), in order to maximise the impact of funding and policy decisions taken within Greater Lincolnshire by members of the partnership.
179. A key area of focus for the partnership will be for the MCCA and ALBs to share information on their priorities and plans across the relevant policy areas. This will facilitate a shared understanding among the partnership of potential opportunities for alignment, recognising that culture, heritage, sport and the visitor economy all play a strong role in supporting places and communities to thrive – and that this effect is maximised when individual decisions take into account the wider context of other plans and decisions being made for an area.

180. All partnership members will retain their autonomy for individual decision-making. The partnership does not prejudice ALB decisions around national grant funding processes or their national priorities. ALBs will also seek to use the partnership to deliver their national priorities, which will remain paramount. The scale of each ALB's involvement in the partnership will be dependent on the specific context and degree of alignment identified between individual priorities. DCMS will be involved in discussions as appropriate.
181. The partnership will be reviewed annually, and subject to future capacity and appetite may be renewed up to a five-year period.

Tourism

182. VisitEngland and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region to help further develop the region's visitor economy. This collaborative work, across those areas set out in the Government's Tourism Recovery Plan, could include harnessing the region's potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend, encouraging visits throughout the year rather than just during the traditional tourist season, and engaging with the work of the proposed Strategic Coastal Partnership for Greater Lincolnshire given the links between this and tourism development.

Digital

183. The Government is committed to supporting Greater Lincolnshire's digital connectivity ambitions, including through the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy, which was published in April 2023 and sets out a strategic framework for the development, deployment and adoption of 5G and future networks. This includes working closely with places to encourage investment in advanced wireless connectivity and increase its adoption across the local economy and public services.
184. As set out in the National Cyber Strategy 2022, the Government is committed to strengthening the capability of local authorities such as Greater Lincolnshire to buy and use connected places technology securely. In May 2021, the National Cyber Security Centre published the Connected Places Cyber Security Principles, a foundational step in supporting the cyber security of the UK's connected places. Since then, the Government has continued to develop its support of local authorities deploying and managing connected places technologies and in 2022 the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology published the Secure Connected Places Playbook. The Playbook was designed in collaboration with local authorities and helps them to get their cyber security foundations right whilst setting a strong cyber security culture. The Government hopes to continue to work with local authorities such as the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to support the secure and sustainable adoption of connected places technologies. Bolstering the UK's Cyber Ecosystems remains a high priority for the Government.
185. The Government recognises that high quality digital connectivity is crucial for future economic growth and productivity in the region. The private sector will continue to lead on the rollout of broadband and mobile infrastructure, with DSIT supporting delivery in less commercially viable areas. The Government will engage with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA on a regular basis, on delivery plans in the region, particularly where they involve hard to reach rural areas. The Government is committed to achieving nationwide coverage of gigabit capable broadband by 2030 and to ensuring that rural areas are not left behind including in Greater Lincolnshire. Procurements covering Greater Lincolnshire are scheduled to launch in 2023, and regular Project Gigabit programme updates will be provided demonstrating progress in delivering for communities across the area.

Innovation, Trade and Investment

186. The Government is committed to supporting places to realise their entrepreneurial and innovation potential, underpinned by ambitious measures set out in the Levelling Up White Paper.
187. Greater Lincolnshire has a long history of innovation and is known for nationally significant sectors in food-tech and agri-tech, defence and low carbon energy. However, productivity and levels of innovation in Greater Lincolnshire remain one of the lowest in the UK.
188. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA intends to build on existing structures to develop a new place-based Innovation Board, which will bring together local leaders with representatives from research organisations and industry to develop a clear innovation strategy for the MCCA and provide a single voice to strengthen engagement with government and its delivery bodies.
189. In addition, The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will work with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to explore opportunities for closer long-term collaboration in strengthening their local innovation capacity.
190. The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) will work closely with devolution deal areas, including Greater Lincolnshire, to make it easier for businesses to access the information, advice and support they need, drawing on DBT's global and sector offer.
191. DBT recognises Greater Lincolnshire's high ambition to leverage the opportunities presented by the food sector. Greater Lincolnshire will engage DBT early in the implementation of this devolution deal on matters that impact business growth.

Public Service Reform

192. The Government supports the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in its ambition for public service reform, including a focus on creating safe, healthy, resilient communities. The Government commits to working with the region and partners to explore initiatives to improve delivery of public services, such as how best to support residents with multiple complex needs. Where appropriate, and as part of its levelling up agenda, the Government will also consider devolving further powers to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to support public service reform, in relation to the statutory duties held by its constituent councils.

Data

193. Good quality data is essential for understanding local need and the place-specific issues affecting people in an area. As set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and the Government Statistical Service's Subnational Data Strategy, the Government is working to improve the dissemination of subnational statistics to empower local decision makers, including in Greater Lincolnshire, to use data-led evidence to respond to local priorities.
194. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with the Government to understand the existing barriers to data sharing and better use of data in their area, and explore where improvements to the quality of, or access to, data could support them in achieving Greater Lincolnshire's local ambitions. As part of this, the Spatial Data Unit (SDU) will work with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to help support data capability, including in data science, and will engage with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to further understand its needs and priorities.

Relocation of public bodies

195. The Government is committed to relocating roles out of Greater London and closer to the policy issues they are addressing. Relocation will benefit communities across the UK, bringing more diversity of thought into policy making leading to better-informed policy, built on an understanding of the impacts across the UK and drawing on a more diverse range of experiences, skills and backgrounds. The Government will continue to work with departments to consider the potential for any future relocations of Civil Service roles to the Greater Lincolnshire region as part of the Levelling Up agenda.

Resilience and Public Safety

196. Government, the local area and the PCCs have agreed for the PCCs to be a non-constituent member of the MCCA to ensure close collaboration and productive joint working on public safety between the MCCA and the PCCs.
197. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, in partnership with the Government, will work with the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority, and Fire and Rescue Service to agree an appropriate arrangement to ensure close collaboration and productive joint working on public safety between the elected mayor of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and the FRAs. In addition, the MCCA will work with local partners, including the FRAs, PCCs and the Home Office to identify the appropriate long term governance model for fire and rescue services in its area, which meet the principles of good governance set out in the Fire Reform White Paper.
198. The UK Government will work to significantly strengthen Local Resilience Forums by 2030, as described in the UK Government Resilience Framework. This will include a clear role for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and the mayor in local resilience and civil contingency planning, preparation and delivery.
199. This is subject to the conclusion and full consideration of the Stronger Local Resilience Forums pilot programme in 2025/26, and Greater Lincolnshire MCCA having a strong working relationship with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forum.

Commitments Underpinning the Deal

200. The constituent councils will work with the Government to develop a full implementation plan, covering each policy and commitment agreed in this deal, to be completed ahead of implementation. This plan must be approved by the Government prior to delivery. Any issues of concern with the subsequent delivery of this deal will be escalated to ministers and leaders to resolve, in keeping with the letter and spirit of devolution.
201. Together with Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire councils to the north, Government and Greater Lincolnshire recognise that optimising the Humber's economic potential will require strong local leadership, and the public and private sector on both banks of the Estuary working together, with Government acting as a supportive partner. In the period from the signing of this deal and before the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA is formally established, Greater Lincolnshire's constituent authorities therefore commit to (i) reaching agreement with Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Government and appropriate local stakeholders on a strong and enduring approach for pan-Humber working, and (ii) ensuring that the levers in this deal, and more widely, support this. They also commit to working cross-Humber to produce a Humber Economic Plan and accompanying Investment Strategy, prior to the first inaugural election of the Greater Lincolnshire mayor. These strategies will establish a collective vision for the Humber economy and increased focus on specific priorities that will establish a new trajectory for growth. These priorities would include supporting the Green Energy Estuary transition, the establishment of a successful freeport, attracting greater private sector investment to the area, and ensuring communities across the Humber benefit from the proceeds of growth.
202. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be required to evaluate the impact of the Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and the Government will jointly commission an independent assessment of the economic benefits and economic impact of the investments made under the scheme, including whether the projects have been delivered on time and to budget. This assessment will be funded by the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, but will be agreed at the outset with DLUHC and HM Treasury, and will take place every five years. The next five-year tranche of funding will be unlocked if the Government is satisfied that the independent assessment shows the investment to have met the objectives and contributed to economic growth. The gateway assessment should be consistent with the HM Treasury Green Book, which sets out the framework for evaluation of all policies and programmes. The assessment should also take into account the latest developments in economic

evaluation methodology. The Government would expect the assessment to show that the activity funded through the scheme represents better value for money than comparable projects, defined in terms of a benefit-to-cost ratio and considered in the strategic context of local ambitions for inclusive growth across the whole geography.

203. As part of the implementation of the deal, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and Government will agree a process to manage local financial risk relating to the deal provisions.
204. Prior to the implementation of the deal, Government will work with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to give the public and stakeholders – including Parliament – a clear understanding of: the powers and funding that are being devolved to the combined authority, where accountability sits as a result of this deal; and how decisions are made.
205. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and its members will continue to adhere to their public sector equality duties, for both existing and newly devolved responsibilities.

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GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY PROPOSAL

November 2023



Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Proposal

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Appendix A: Table of Powers/Functions

Defined terms

This document has been prepared by Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, working collaboratively with the City, District and Borough Councils in Lincolnshire.

Our Proposal delivers for Greater Lincolnshire

More money, more say, better results for Greater Lincolnshire

Investing in Greater Lincolnshire

- £24 million per annum for 30 years to invest in infrastructure and skills development totalling £720m.
- Multi year transport budget with greater flexibility to spend the money on local priorities.
- Funding for adult education to prioritise spending on the needs of people and businesses rather than national priorities.
- One off £28.4m capital investment in Greater Lincolnshire's priorities.

A stronger voice for our area

- A new Mayor, elected by residents to champion the needs of the area and to make a strong case to the Government for more investment and to pilot new ideas in Greater Lincolnshire.
- A Combined County Authority providing local accountability, transparency and capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills and economic development.
- Enhanced working relationships with government departments to protect our coastline, natural and historic environment and boost tourism.
- A new role leading the national debate on transport for rural communities to address challenges across ours and other areas.

Turbo charging business growth

- Long term funding of the infrastructure that key local business needs to grow and create jobs.
- Identify and agree key route network to speed up the movement of goods and passengers through and around Greater Lincolnshire.
- Government, research and industry brought together to boost business innovation that leads to more high skill high wage jobs.
- A new approach to managing water that supports local business needs and protects communities and business from flooding.

Delivering our potential - Humber to the Wash

- Decarbonise the UK's largest industrial estuary and deliver green jobs across Greater Lincolnshire in carbon capture and storage, nuclear fusion, water management and energy distribution
- National recognition for the UK Food Valley supporting a new generation of high skill jobs and businesses across the food chain.
- Maximising the potential of the Humber Freeport to create jobs.
- Improved transport links across Greater Lincolnshire and provide a trade corridor to the East Midlands freeport and beyond.

High quality skills and jobs

- Careers support that showcases the great opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire and helps people to get a high skill high wage job here.
- Training in higher-level skills delivered in Greater Lincolnshire to boost access to high wage jobs in our growth sectors.
- The adult education budget invested in courses that help people to achieve a fulfilling future and deliver the skills that our local businesses need to innovate and expand.
- Provide extra help to those young people that need it the most, including help for care leavers to get a job.

Unlocking housing through enhanced infrastructure

- Investing in high quality homes, locations and services to retain a younger workforce and support those in later life.
- Investment from Homes England to bring forward the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of local communities.
- Supporting regeneration of areas, providing sustainable and affordable housing solutions for our future workforce.
- A single Local Transport Authority to develop public transport improvements that connect people with homes, work, leisure and learning.



Introduction

Greater Lincolnshire's devolution deal is ambitious

The three upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council secured an ambitious £750 million devolution deal with government on 22 November 2023. The deal signifies unprecedented investment into the area and provides a catalyst for economic growth and improved outcomes for residents and people working in the area.

This is a time of considerable opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire and this Proposal is designed to unlock significant long-term funding and give local leaders greater freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities for residents and those who come to Greater Lincolnshire for work or leisure.

We are at the heart of delivering on vital national growth sectors – through the UK Food Valley, our Freeport and our market leader role in offshore renewables. At the same time, we have a clear focus on delivering against the Levelling Up agenda and transforming our city towns and resorts. Devolution is essential to complement those initiatives through local powers, influence and decision making.

The key sectors of our economy are of strategic importance to the UK. Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of the UK as a source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities, and food security. It has a vital role in global trade, securing the nation's supply chains in key industries:

- **Food, fish, seafood and food manufacturing:** Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley. It supplies 70% of seafood consumed in the UK, 30% of the nation's vegetables, and 18% of poultry. It had a total agricultural output of over £2bn in 2019, with a seafood processing and trading cluster worth over £1.5bn to the economy. Greater Lincolnshire will become a world leading food cluster. It has the potential to help the UK become a science superpower through its focus on new food chain automation and digital technology and innovation.
- **Energy, decarbonisation and net zero:** Greater Lincolnshire is at the heart of the UK's offshore renewable energy generation, and with at least 25% of the UK's energy production it plays a crucial role in enabling the nation to become a net energy exporter by 2040. The low carbon economy and green energy production across Greater Lincolnshire are pivotal to the UK achieving net zero. They are already worth £1.2bn per annum to the economy, employing over 12,000 people. Greater Lincolnshire has a fundamental role leveraging investment in the North Sea expanding renewable capacity and innovating in carbon capture.
- **Ports, logistics and supply chains:** Greater Lincolnshire is the UK gateway to Europe for the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse. Benefiting from prime deep water locations, its ports and connectivity advantages have supported the growth of a UK-leading logistics cluster, serving industry sectors including renewables, advanced manufacturing, food manufacturing and energy. The UK economy is highly dependent on the maritime sector, with 95% of goods exports and imports moved by sea, including nearly half of the country's food supplies and a quarter of its energy supply. Greater Lincolnshire is supporting the next phase in the evolution of its ports and the competitiveness of its logistic sector that underpin trade and national supply chains.

However, Greater Lincolnshire is not without its challenges. Public spending per head is below average when compared against the UK. The economy has an over-reliance on seasonal jobs, whether that is in tourism or agriculture. The area has carbon-rich heavy industry which is critical to the UK, but sees challenges in terms of the green agenda. Skill levels lag behind our neighbours and the rest of the UK with only 29% of our working age residents having a level 4 qualification or above. This is 32% lower than nationally. Whilst upper tier councils have made significant investment in local infrastructure, the area has few motorways or dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality. Costs are often higher and greater investment is required. Greater Lincolnshire also has an aging population which has increased 30% faster than the rest of the UK since 2020. There is a need to both attract and retain a younger workforce and residents to enable local economies to thrive.

Elsewhere in the UK devolution has helped to improve economic performance. Areas with devolution arrangements often have additional opportunities to access new funding and initiatives enabling them to outperform those areas who are yet to enter into devolved arrangements. Now is the time for Greater Lincolnshire to catch up with the most successful areas of the UK. This will be achieved through strong local leadership and a more targeted approach to skills and training, local transport, infrastructure development and regeneration.

Government has offered a range of different devolution models with the benefits reflecting the strength of local leadership. We believe that through a directly elected Mayor Greater Lincolnshire would demonstrate strong leadership and unlock the full benefits of devolution.

We propose creating a Combined County Authority with an elected Mayor to bring together key partners in a long-term arrangement to manage devolved powers and some existing local transport powers across Greater Lincolnshire. Through the proposed Combined County Authority senior councillors from Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council will work collaboratively with the City, District and Borough councils within Lincolnshire and a new Mayor elected directly by residents. Local business and the police and crime commissioners would be key partners at the table informing decision-making and ensuring the right choices are made for Greater Lincolnshire.

The Combined County Authority would direct long-term infrastructure investment, investment in local communities to help them to thrive and investment in green growth, delivering food and energy security to the UK and putting Greater Lincolnshire in a position where it can be at the forefront of renewable and clean energy technologies and production and be a world-leading provider of food, seafood and associated technological innovation. It would also support improvements in the nations supply chains and maximise the strategic advantages of our ports, transforming them into the most smart, clean and efficient port clusters in the world.

Establishing a Combined County Authority is a formal, legal step, allowing upper tier councils across the area to work more closely together on key priorities such as economic development, regeneration and transport. The proposed Combined County Authority would seek to:

- Increase employment opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire
- Improve business productivity
- Deliver efficient services and derive benefits from working at scale
- Build strong relationships with government to draw down more funding and powers in the future
- Greater control over public spending to achieve the maximum benefit
- Develop long term plans to enable faster decision-making and improved performance
- Speed up decision-making

The creation of a Combined County Authority would not result in the merger or take-over of councils in the area. They would continue to deliver valuable local services to Greater Lincolnshire residents with some powers used concurrently by local councils and the proposed Combined County Authority. Transport powers would be brought together with the proposed Combined County Authority becoming the Local Transport Authority for Greater Lincolnshire.

Under this Proposal the three upper tier councils, along with the city, district and borough councils in Greater Lincolnshire would continue to play an important role in relation to the powers and funding that is devolved to the area. These authorities will have specific consenting rights in respect to some of the powers held by the CCA and / or the Mayor, ensuring a strong local voice in decision making. The Police and Crime Commissioners for Lincolnshire and Humberside would also play an active role in the CCA, ensuring that the needs of local communities relating to public safety are represented.

Over the coming months local councils will be working with Government to bring forward a number of improvements for communities across Greater Lincolnshire. This will see investment in infrastructure to support travel and to create opportunities for businesses to grow and new jobs to be created.

Delivering our ambitions

Greater Lincolnshire is a diverse area made up of rural land, urban centres of differing sizes, coastal communities, and market towns. The rurality can make it difficult for some of our communities to access service centres, presenting barriers to employment, health and wellbeing.

Urban centres such as Lincoln, Grantham and Boston provide significant employment opportunities and transport linkages, with around 325,000 people living in these centres. In these areas, 15% of children live in low income households, with 71% of people being economically active across sectors such as advanced manufacturing, food and logistics and public services. However, there are clusters of deprivation where residents suffer from fewer opportunities around work and health.

Our urban industrial centres such as Scunthorpe and Grimsby are built around heavy industry, including oil, gas, chemicals, steel, mining and renewables. Around 253,000 people live in these areas and face challenges in having the skills needed to take up employment in these and emerging industries, resulting in pronounced areas of economic activity and low social mobility. 29% of adults in Greater Lincolnshire's urban centres have no qualifications. Improved targeting of skills and education provision will help to close these gaps.

Greater Lincolnshire benefits from over 50 miles of coastline, with many coastal communities being home to around 29,000 people. The area is at risk of flooding, there is limited infrastructure and often poor-quality housing. These areas see low wage, low skill seasonal employment, high levels of deprivation and lower than average educational attainment levels but will benefit from the targeted investment that the devolution Proposals present.

Much of Greater Lincolnshire is sparsely populated with large areas of open countryside and farmland, interspersed with market towns and hamlets. Over 300,000 people live in rural settings across Greater Lincolnshire, which are often a long way from urban centres. These areas often have lower levels of deprivation but lack the infrastructure to connect them both digitally and physically. This is against a backdrop of younger people moving out of these areas, and older people moving in, placing pressure on service delivery.

Much like our places, the Greater Lincolnshire economy is diverse. It sees 48,735 businesses, with 25% of all employment being in microbusinesses. Greater Lincolnshire contributes £26bn to the UK economy and accounts for £1.36bn of exports. Greater Lincolnshire covers 7,997 sq. km and is more than six times the size of Greater Manchester City Region.

Greater Lincolnshire's low levels of productivity and shrinking working age population create challenges for economic growth and the supply of skilled workers into the economy. The area lags behind the national skills picture with only 25% of the resident population aged 16 plus holding qualifications at level 4 or higher in 2021, compared to 34% nationally. Access to both higher and further education is hampered by poor digital connectivity, limiting the development of the skill-base needed within the population.

The journey for Greater Lincolnshire is not from a standing start. Councils and business in Greater Lincolnshire have a strong history of working together and are already collaborating to tackle common challenges that until now have held back growth.

There are a multitude of projects already underway across Greater Lincolnshire and many of our communities have benefited from investment through the Towns Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Funding - both of which help to address levelling up challenges within Greater Lincolnshire.

However short-term funding pots are not sufficient to achieve the strategic level of change that Greater Lincolnshire needs to see. Our ambitions for devolution seek to deliver the leadership required to address unique long-term challenges across Greater Lincolnshire and maximise the area's opportunities to deliver future prosperity.

The purpose of this Proposal is to provide the powers, funding and flexibilities required to accelerate progress to address long term challenges and opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire. It supports levelling up across the area with a focus improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people who live and work in Greater Lincolnshire. It would see local decision makers creating the conditions for more high wage, high skill jobs, and provides a catalyst to improve learning, training, and pathways into those jobs, raising living standards and levelling up through:

- Local decisions and long term **investment in infrastructure** to **turbo charge business growth** and tackle low business productivity, particularly in key sectors that create high wage, high skills jobs that boost living standards
- Long term strategic planning and investment to protect our environment and **unlock high quality housing in our communities** that meets the needs of younger workforce and supports those in later life
- Local commissioning of **high quality skills**, training and pathways to attract and retain younger workers, meet the significant skills needs of our key industries and capitalise on economic opportunity through better alignment of skills, employment, and career opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire
- **A stronger voice regionally and nationally** to make the case for more investment on Greater Lincolnshire's priorities including the **UK Food Valley, energy, ports and logistics, delivering on the potential of the area from the Humber to The Wash.**
- Managing water as an asset, to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding, and meet the area's unique demands for water to support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture.

Over the next 10 themes, we set out what we would seek to deliver across our key priority areas to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people who live and work in Greater Lincolnshire if this Proposal is approved.

1: Infrastructure which supports the movement of people, goods, and ideas

Greater Lincolnshire is a large geography combining urban, rural and coastal areas. Whilst constituent councils have made significant investment in local infrastructure a step change is needed to deliver the strategic infrastructure critical for growth and jobs.

To level up Greater Lincolnshire we will prioritise investment in infrastructure that can boost growth in key sectors of our local economy, this includes the UK Food Valley, Energy, Ports and logistics, all of which have been identified as priorities for the Greater Lincolnshire and wider UK economy.

As an area vital to supply chains and specialising in logistics, transport infrastructure is essential to maximise the benefit and growth of these sectors.

Identify and agree new key route network to accelerate the movement of goods and passengers through and around Greater Lincolnshire and work with the Government to secure improvements to key priorities for growth identified within the network, including:

- Regionally the Trans Midland Trade Corridor is recognised as a priority and north of Lincoln it is of national significance as a strategic north-south transport and economic corridor connecting the Humber ports in the north to the wider network in the south via the A46 and A1 at Newark. The current performance of this corridor holds back productivity and is also a barrier to future growth.
- The A1 corridor, and its links to the A16, A17 and A52, also has a key economic role within the East Midlands, particularly for agri-food, logistics, manufacturing and tourism, with very significant levels of proposed housing (up to 100,000 units) and employment growth – in addition to the potential ‘STEP Fusion’ Facility at the West Burton Power Station site growth.
- The circulatory road around Lincoln is also a recognised priority to serve the Humber Ports and east coast visitor attractions.

A multi-year transport infrastructure settlement will provide greater funding certainty to deliver local priorities for road, rail, freight and public transport to boost growth in the Greater Lincolnshire economy and keep our residents moving. The settlement will enable us to plan for road maintenance and potholes over the longer term, with delivery of these functions provided by the constituent councils and funding distributed proportionate to existing budgets.

Investment in both physical and digital infrastructure is critical to drive business confidence and green growth, but often relies on bids to government and its various agencies.

Bidding processes are frequently based upon nationally set priorities, there is limited certainty over future funding and locally determined priorities are not necessarily joined up or met.

We will work with Midlands Connect and Transport for the North which received Government funding to develop a regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure strategy. For Greater Lincolnshire, other alternative low carbon fuels, such as hydrogen, will play an important role, particularly for large vehicles that require longer ranges and faster refuelling. We will work with the Sub-national Transport Boards and a new Mayoral rural transport group to explore this.

We will encourage further investment in digital infrastructure such as ultrafast broadband and 5G that the area needs for the future, ensuring rural areas are not left behind.

2: Modern transport services that connect people to learning, business opportunity, jobs, and services

Greater Lincolnshire has few motorways, dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. These reduce the opportunities to travel to work, to learning and leisure, and contribute to greater inequality.

Despite the geographical challenges we face, Greater Lincolnshire has been at the forefront of demand responsive transport, developing innovative services that we intend to expand further as we create a transport network which breaks the link between poor transport connectivity and the skills gap.

A rural transport group will be established that will lead the national debate on transport in Mayoral rural areas, chaired by the Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire. The group will bring together other rural combined authorities to champion innovation and work in partnership with the Department for Transport to identify pilot projects to address rural connectivity and accessibility.

Locally our Proposal would create a single Local Transport Authority for Greater Lincolnshire. This would establish clear transport policies to guide future investment in all forms of transport including bus, cycling and walking to improve travel choices across the area.

The Mayor and members of the combined county authority will work together across Greater Lincolnshire to develop a joined up local transport plan for our area that addresses our challenges and guides future transport investment through a consolidated transport budget.

Recognising the challenges that rural areas face in the delivery of high quality, sustainable bus services, we will develop a rural bus pilot to connect communities and residents to training and employment. Subject to a funding Proposal to Government the pilot will act as a policy test bed for other rural areas.

We will also work to integrate existing bus service improvement plans to streamline contractual and delivery arrangements for bus services across the area. We will explore bus franchising and provide local accountability for spending of the Bus Service Operators Grant.

Rail freight is nationally significant, with a quarter of the UK's freight passing through Greater Lincolnshire. Increasing rail capacity is important to expanding businesses in Greater Lincolnshire and to avoid lack of capacity acting as a constraint on future growth.

Rail services provide vital connectivity for residents with services linking communities and providing access to higher education and leisure activities. Passenger services will, by the nature of our large and predominantly rural area, be less well used than in major urban areas and this could lead to decisions being taken by operators on the basis of simple market forces.

Greater Lincolnshire needs a much stronger voice to articulate the local context to influence and inform provision.

We will seek a new rail partnership with Great British Railways, once established, so that our priorities for passengers and freight can be taken into consideration in future decisions regarding the rail network. The Government will consider Greater Lincolnshire alongside existing devolution areas as a priority for these agreements which will provide the ability to influence local rail services.

Priorities locally include:

- Cleethorpes to Manchester (South Pennine Corridor) line speed improvements are a priority for Greater Lincolnshire. Transport for the North is supportive of the ambition. Further work involving Northern Rail and Trans-Pennine Express is required to develop the business case.
- Cleethorpes to London service is a priority for Greater Lincolnshire, providing access to opportunities and supporting a growing economy. The Department for Transport is considering the case for direct London North East Railways services to and from both Cleethorpes and Grimsby to London, with an opportunity to implement them should the business case be value for money, and funding be available to address timetabling, infrastructure and operational factors.
- Line speed improvements between Lincoln and Nottingham, to deliver journey time savings on the route are important for growth in our historic city and for the visitor economy along the east coast.

3: Investing in high quality homes and communities

The provision of high quality, affordable and well-connected housing is essential to meeting the current and future needs of Greater Lincolnshire residents, as well as the success of our economy.

We need to have the right housing in the right locations to recruit and retain the younger workforce that our businesses need to grow, to offset a shrinking labour pool and our significant ageing population. New and existing residents expect housing to be high quality and energy efficient and this is also important for improving health outcomes and life chances of residents, particularly in our coastal and more vulnerable communities.

Delivering new high-quality housing requires development sites to get the right infrastructure at the right time and requires a new approach which enables housing delivery at a pace linked to economic growth. It requires wider infrastructure investment such as from power suppliers whose plans do not always adapt quickly enough to local need and the commercial realities of site development whether for housing or other uses. We will strengthen communication between local areas and the energy providers.

We will develop a meaningful role in planning our future energy system for net zero and explore how local energy plans could steer strategic network investment in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work with government to explore the potential benefits of and design options for a place-based approach to delivering retrofit measures, as part of the government's commitment in the Net Zero Strategy to explore how we could simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level where this provides the best approach to tackling climate change.

The cost of delivering major housing schemes in Greater Lincolnshire, mitigating against risks of flooding and addressing gaps in utility supply, mean that there are numerous uneconomical/unviable sites and subsequently fewer homes are available for our communities. Funding is required to intervene, bridge, de-risk and accelerate housing and employment sites.

We will work with Homes England to overcome viability challenges and the barriers to housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a pipeline for our area and a clear action plan for delivery. Homes England and the government will explore the potential for investing in the delivery of this pipeline through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Housing Programme.

With Homes England and the Government we will identify how wider measures – including viability assessments and the planning system – could better support Greater Lincolnshire plans to increase much needed rural affordable housing supply, and in partnership test how Homes England through its strategic plan could assist in this.

Combined County Authorities and Mayoral Development Corporations (MDCs) have powers to acquire, develop, hold and dispose of land and property and have powers to facilitate the provision of infrastructure and have been instrumental in unlocking growth in other areas.

The directly elected Mayor will have the power to designate a Mayoral Development Area and to create Mayoral Development Corporations, which will support delivery on strategic sites in Greater Lincolnshire. The Mayor and combined authority will also be able to use powers of compulsory purchase to support development, where they have the consent of constituent councils and local planning authorities.

Where appropriate we will acquire and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration, including investing £8.4 million in brownfield developments.

Culture, heritage, sport and the visitor economy all play a strong role in supporting places and communities to thrive – and this effect is maximised when individual decisions take into account the wider context of other plans and decisions being made for an area.

We will establish a new collaborative partnership, supported by Government and VisitEngland, to share expertise and insight across culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy in order to maximise the impact of funding and policy decisions, supporting 28,000 workers in the culture and tourism industry.

4: Raising awareness, inspiration and access to support our residents to train and upskill for the job they want

Greater Lincolnshire has a clear vision for our future where our residents benefit from the significant career opportunities presented across our geography and we are pivotal in providing food, energy and supply chain security for the UK.

There are fantastic career opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire, but often the pathways to achieve a good quality career are unclear.

In order to meet the significant skills demands predicted from our game changing sectors we will support our residents to understand, and access, a variety of pathways into these highly skilled career opportunities no matter their age or starting point.

We want to inspire young people in Greater Lincolnshire to seek a career here by raising awareness of the range of new industries and exciting opportunities which many of them do not know about.

We want all people living in Greater Lincolnshire to be able to access a high quality careers service so that they can receive information, advice and guidance to access training and development opportunities available to succeed in their career goals.

They are often unaware of what is available, finding the skills system difficult to navigate because of the inconsistent and the “stop start” nature of the funding, often from multiple pots and agencies. Having a single long-term strategic approach aimed at all ages will enable us to overcome those challenges and take people through these arrangements seamlessly.

We will provide long term funding to the Greater Lincolnshire Career Hub to provides high quality, local industry led, face to face careers information, advice, and guidance for all ages.

We will work with the government and partners within Greater Lincolnshire to ensure a shared focus on careers education and advice for young people. This is particularly crucial given the ageing population of Greater Lincolnshire and the need to increase awareness of new high skill high wage career opportunities across the area and the pathways available to residents to achieve a good quality career locally.

We will convene local, regional and national stakeholders to bring business, careers and skills together and align careers provision with devolved adult education commissioning activities to ensure a more place-based and joined-up approach to careers education locally.

5: Growing skills capacity for the future

A proportion of our working age population left school with few, if any, qualifications, often working in seasonal and casual roles. We have lower levels of young people progressing into a traditional higher education pathway, with families needing or choosing to earn rather than learn.

We will reverse this trend by connecting learning to the career opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire, getting more young adults to develop the skills and qualifications that are needed most:

- Providing clean energy for UK homes through a multitude of decarbonisation projects and the growth of our world leading offshore wind farms will only be possible if we can develop a skilled workforce for the future
- We need a pipeline of young people and adults to drive forward the rapid technological innovation in the food sector; whether that be seafood, poultry or fresh produce
- Our ambition to secure the nation's supply chain through our ports and transport network can only be realised if our residents know about, and are able to access, the bespoke technical training required.

We will take responsibility for the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) from academic year 2026-2027. This will provide the freedom to flex and focus funds on local skills and training priorities in a way which is difficult to achieve with regional or national commissioning.

Devolution of this funding will provide certainty to local providers when they take a risk to address local problems without being sure that there will be a long-term market for that provision. Devolution of AEB will also enable us to fund specialist providers, linking to key industries and being flexible to different opportunities (eg the construction phase of major investments will require different levels and skills of staff to the operational phase) and to ensure that learners have the building blocks needed to progress and succeed in higher level learning, leading to better paid jobs.

Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) offer level 3 qualifications designed to help improve job opportunities and could lead to applicants earning a higher wage. Funding for these courses will also be devolved as part of a local joined up approach to learning.

We want the provision of skills in Greater Lincolnshire to be flexible and able to respond to gaps in the labour market, particularly where these restrain growth in our game changing sectors. We intend to build on our expertise to provide a more responsive skills offer that meets the needs of business and residents.

We will work with the Government, employers and education providers across Greater Lincolnshire to deliver on Local Skills Improvement Plans that sets out the current and future skills needs of employers and how local provision needs to change to help people develop the skills they need to get good jobs and increase their prospects.

As a member of the joint Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Education Mayoral Combined Authority Advisory Group we will work together on our strategic priorities for employment and develop the links between job centres and very local job opportunities.

6. Investing to achieve net zero, to drive productivity and to grow jobs

Greater Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the UK's offshore energy production, hydrogen production and innovation and the development of decarbonisation for heavy industry. This offers significant opportunities for local businesses and supply chains to expand and create more high value jobs for Greater Lincolnshire's residents. Growth in these technologies and industries requires new infrastructure such as the energy grid capacity, water supply and pipelines.

We will work with the government to commission studies for infrastructure improvements that would be needed across the whole of Greater Lincolnshire to support growth in green jobs, major energy production sites and a geological disposal facility if it were to be sited in Greater Lincolnshire, including flood defences and transport links.

Greater Lincolnshire's energy and low carbon sectors are national leaders, and our geology provides significant opportunities for further growth. Taking advantage of these opportunities requires input from several different government departments and from global business, higher education, and local authorities.

We will use a commitment from Government to bring these stakeholders together to agree a plan for developing the unique infrastructure required in Greater Lincolnshire to transform the energy intensive industries which are typically found in northern Lincolnshire, enable carbon capture and storage and other green growth as long as it is compatible with the natural environment. The Humber Energy Board would have a key role to play in this.

With these in place we will establish the UK's first net zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040 which will capture and store around 10% of UK carbon dioxide emissions and develop blue and green hydrogen infrastructure, production and associated technology.

Growth in green industries across Greater Lincolnshire is also dependent upon having a skilled workforce that can help business to innovate and expand, creating more high skill high wage jobs. As we establish the UK's first net zero carbon industrial cluster, we will provide residents with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to obtain new green jobs and be part of what has been described as the next industrial revolution.

Through a greater role in delivering devolved funding streams and devolution of the Adult Education functions and administration of funding from 2026, we will train people at a local level in the skills needed to obtain green jobs.

7. Investing to take advantage of our unique natural environment in a responsible way, whilst protecting our communities from climate change impact

With coastal and low-lying regions, our diverse geography is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with high risks from flooding impacting on homes, communities and limiting coastal tourism to the warmer seasons. Inland our ambitions for the UK Food Valley, UK food security and growth in green industries are dependent upon the supply the water needed for agriculture and the growing demand for water for decarbonisation.

Water management is a crucial aspect of both climate resilience and economic growth for Greater Lincolnshire.

We will establish a new enhanced partnership for water that works with Government and seeks to protect the country from food shortages caused by floods and droughts. Our partnership will co-commission flood prevention and water management programmes to support agriculture, tourism, green growth and new housing.

The Greater Lincolnshire Coast is home to important nature reserves including the Lincolnshire Coronation Coast National Nature Reserve, the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park and a variety of sand dunes, saltmarsh, mudflats and freshwater marshes (some of which attract Site of Special Scientific Interest status), which support many breeding and wintering birds, natterjack toads, special plants and insects.

It is also an important energy centre – with the Prax Lindsey Oil Refinery, gas power stations at South Killingholme, Immingham and South Humber, the Viking Link interconnector with Denmark and the Orsted offshore windfarm hub which includes the Hornsea 1 & 2 sites. Hornsea 1 is the largest offshore wind farm in the world.

Government and partners in Greater Lincolnshire have long held the ambition to form a strategic coastal partnership to manage the relationship between nationally significant energy infrastructure and the protection of the natural environment and achieving local benefits for the key wildlife sites along the coast – maintaining their importance for tourism and the minimisation of the recreational disturbance of nature.

We will convene a Coastal Partnership which will ensure that the nature, culture and heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast are given a voice and consideration to ensure that tourism and economic development can take place in parallel with the restoration of the natural and historic environment. Relevant government departments and their arm's length agencies will attend as full members. The Coastal Partnership will run from the Humber to The Wash.

Greater Lincolnshire is a largely rural, low-lying landscape including nationally important natural treasures such as lime woods, chalk streams, saltmarsh and the only area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) in the East Midlands covering the Lincolnshire Wolds. Farmland forms an important part of our working rural landscape. Its protection for agricultural use is hugely important for a significant proportion of jobs in food production, processing and logistics across the area and our ambitions to deliver on UK food security.

Devolution provides the opportunity to work even more closely with Government to identify environmental priorities that could be incorporated into new environmental land management schemes - such as protection for top grade farmland across the UK Food Valley in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work with DEFRA and the farming community to develop a new approach that ensures an appropriate balance between sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes, including considering possible place-based research.

Our long-established and collaborative Local Nature Partnerships with a tradition of working co-operatively provide us with the opportunity to accelerate the drive towards nature recovery, to tackle both climate change and biodiversity loss.

We will work with government and local partners to implement a local nature recovery strategy to promote a balance between biodiversity and growth, strategic natural flood prevention and enable creation of new habitats to offset developments and to attract private investment into nature's recovery within our area.

8: Driving innovation, enterprise and adoption of new technologies

Greater Lincolnshire has a long history of innovation and is known for nationally significant sectors in food and agri-tech, defence and low carbon energy. We want to keep up the momentum of our advancement in renewables, robotics, digital logistics, seafood processing and food agri-tech by increasing the level of innovation, investing in our innovation eco system and by attracting and placing more graduates to work across our growing clusters and contribute to the UK's ambition to become a science superpower.

We want more businesses across Lincolnshire to access innovation programmes and be supported to compete for funding through streamlined processes that can unleash further creative innovation in our key sectors and places.

We want more people to progress into further and higher education and more businesses to take up the opportunities of working closely with a college or university on innovation and technology. We will promote and build on the Graduates into SMEs schemes, further reinforcing the links between education and knowledge transfer whilst also addressing cost and return within smaller business enterprises.

Innovation and growth in our game changing sectors of Food and agri-tech, low carbon energy and decarb, ports and logistics and Defence will add significant economic value to UK plc and the local area. However, Greater Lincolnshire has a high population of micro businesses, who whilst agile and entrepreneurial, often do not have the capacity to engage in innovation competitions and can find bidding for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and other innovation competitions restrictive and a constraint on innovation in fast moving industries.

Our analysis shows that there are significant business investments in innovation which in turn will often drive their supply chain's own investment in innovation. These investments are underpinned by programmes such as productivity Hub, Catapult, Made Smarter, and Freeport Innovation Partnerships. Businesses can also access research and development tax credits, and their motivation to innovate can be driven by legislative changes rather than by business leaders identifying productivity gains. The picture of innovation support and motivation is complicated.

We will develop a new place-based Innovation Board, which will bring together local leaders with representatives from research organisations and industry to develop a clear innovation strategy, and provide a single voice to strengthen engagement with government and its delivery bodies, and ultimately improve access to support and explore opportunities for local businesses. This will develop closer long-term collaboration with The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and other Government agencies.

The government recognises the nationally significant role that Greater Lincolnshire plays in maintaining food security. The region produces one eighth of England's food and has nationally significant clusters in food production, food processing, fresh produce and seafood processing. Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley an initiative which seeks to provide economic benefit to the area based on the food sector's strength whilst also strengthening domestic food supply.

Greater Lincolnshire is home to Europe's largest food agri-tech, automation and robotics research cluster, attracting businesses which are investing heavily in automation. Recognised by the Department for Business and Trade as a High Potential Opportunity (HPO), to design, manufacture and commercialise automation and robotics technologies, growth in these tools will reduce the need for hard to fill low wage seasonal jobs in agriculture and replace them with high skill high wage roles. The area is leading national efforts to reduce carbon emissions from food production and manufacturing, with a focus on how new technology and skills, new energy sources and production processes can be used to reduce the carbon emissions from production, processing, transport, and storage of food.

We will support further growth in the agri-tech sector through an agricultural growth zone, creating a centre to support agriculture and developing a skills pipeline to attract the next generation into the industry. We will work with the Government to ensure an appropriate balance between sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes, including considering possible place-based research and to deepen engagement with food and drink manufacturing SMEs

We will establish a UK Food Valley Board focus to support the sector and attract the right skills needed to deliver new food chain automation and digital technology and wider innovation within the food valley that supports the UK's ambition to become a science superpower. The board will produce a clear and measurable strategy for UK Food Valley. Defra will meet annually with the board to discuss key topics of value to its members.

9: Increasing employment opportunities through recruitment pathways and work-based training into higher skilled employment

We want to maximise the potential of all of our residents in Greater Lincolnshire supporting them whether they are leaving one sector to retrain in another, moving from economic inactivity into training or work, or to train to progress in their existing employment.

As society changes, we know that many jobs across Greater Lincolnshire will be affected in some way, either by being made obsolete, or by the role changing through the introduction of new technologies. It is vital that we develop pathways that help businesses and the workforce to overcome barriers to accessing the wide range of training that Greater Lincolnshire has to offer.

Unlocking the potential and harnessing the knowledge and experience of our residents who are not currently working can also help grow our economy. We need to offer more support to get those of working age to be economically active and provide an appropriately skilled and available labour pool.

We will collaborate with the local Department for Work and Pensions Jobcentre Plus and regional DWP Strategic Partnership Managers to develop local programmes that meet local needs and complement national employment provision.

We want the provision of skills in Greater Lincolnshire to be flexible and able to respond to gaps in the labour market, particularly where these restrain growth in our game changing sectors. To address some of our employment and skills issues and opportunities, we will commission activity which complements, but is not funded by, mainstream programmes.

We will support Greater Lincolnshire businesses by providing Skills Bootcamps to quickly raise skills levels in those occupations which have hard to fill vacancies in critical roles.

We will develop and deliver targeted local programmes through devolved funding streams such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Adult Education Budget to address the unique and diverse challenges across the region.

10: Creating a 'whole system' approach to getting more people into better paid work

Everyone, irrespective of their background, should be able to get the help that they need to get the job that they want. Greater Lincolnshire is a diverse area where social mobility is extremely polarized. This means that people born into low-income families, regardless of their talent, or their hard work, do not have the same access to opportunities as those born into more privileged circumstances.

The constituent councils in Greater Lincolnshire are responsible for caring for the most vulnerable in society, and evidence shows that young people who leave care and transition into good quality employment will often thrive successfully.

All public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire create jobs, and can support young people leaving care to achieve a positive start to their careers and adult life.

We will work with the Department for Education to maximise the number of care leavers in employment. This will include encouraging public bodies across Greater Lincolnshire to provide ring-fenced apprenticeships and work-experience opportunities for care leavers. We will also work with DfE's delivery partner for the care leaver covenant (Spectra) and local businesses to encourage them to offer employment opportunities to care leavers.

Beyond the Deal

If our Proposal is supported, we will be only the second Mayoral Combined County Authority to be established in the UK and one of 11 Mayoral areas.

We will use this as a platform to broaden and deepen devolution opportunities for our area. We will seek additional powers, funding and influence to address identified and emerging challenges, maximising available opportunities that come our way, continually maintaining and building momentum.

The proposed Combined County Authority would work with government and partners across the Area to strengthen collaboration, improve outcomes for the people who live and work across Greater Lincolnshire and demonstrate the ability to take on further powers to deliver for residents and business. This includes seeking to become a rural testbed for future government policy, putting Greater Lincolnshire firmly at the front of the queue for investment that is tailored to our needs.

We will be seeking to work collaboratively with Government at the earliest opportunity to:

- Strengthen transport connectivity, building on the potential offered by Network North and the consolidation of the existing core local transport funding into a multi-year integrated settlement
- Strengthen the local visitor economy, creating an attractive and vibrant cultural and creative sector
- Accelerate the creation of a nationally recognised cluster of innovation-focused defence companies, making Greater Lincolnshire the first-choice destination for defence related industries
- Co-commission future investment plans with Government, National Grid, Western Power and Northern Power Grid that will underpin our strategy for growth
- Test alternative approaches to rural bus provision, enhancing access to services for residents and visitors
- Create further investment into green energy and decarbonisation activities, to maximise growth opportunities in these industries and capitalise on the strategic capabilities within the area
- Co-commission with Government and Innovate UK, activities to further enhance innovation capabilities and outcomes for businesses, protecting their competitive advantage and sustainability
- Seek further devolution of funds for programmes led by DWP, DfE, and other government sponsored training provision to a local level so that they can be commissioned and managed in line with our economic opportunities and are targeted on local need
- Develop a Greater Lincolnshire Skills Investment Revenue Fund and bespoke apprenticeship arrangements that tailor support to businesses to increase apprenticeships across Greater Lincolnshire and overcome barriers to engagement
- Seek new trailblazer powers where we can evidence their benefit to Greater Lincolnshire and a single long term funding settlement that is fair and supports levelling up.



Governance and transparency

Local councils already work collaboratively across Greater Lincolnshire but through this Proposal would see greater responsibility being passed from Government making it necessary to formalise these arrangements and to make them open and accessible to those that live and work here.

Coming together as a Combined County Authority would provide greater visibility and transparency for this work across Greater Lincolnshire and give us the necessary capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development, and regeneration. It would enable focus on the things that will make the biggest difference to the lives of our residents and the businesses within Greater Lincolnshire.

The Constituent Councils have worked collaboratively with the City, District and Borough councils and the two police and crime commissioners to develop governance arrangements for a proposed Combined County Authority. These arrangements would ensure transparency of decision making, effective collaboration between all parties and a strong local voice in all that we do.

To secure all the powers and funding we need in Greater Lincolnshire would require the most robust level of local accountability and so the Combined County Authority will also include a Mayor elected by and accountable to all the residents of the area.

The Mayor would work with the members of the Combined County Authority to deliver the purpose and outcomes set out within this Proposal. They would establish a strong relationship with businesses, skills providers such as our universities and colleges, along with other stakeholders to understand and address local challenges. They would also be a champion for Greater Lincolnshire at regional and national levels, ensuring that our voice, and our needs are heard alongside those of the West Midlands, South Yorkshire and Hull and East Riding.

Name and area

The Combined County Authority (CCA) would be formally known as the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA). It would cover the geographical areas of the Lincolnshire County, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Unitary Councils, which together would form the Constituent Councils of the CCA.

Membership of the CCA

The Combined County Authority would have up to 13 Members in total, comprising:

- The directly elected Mayor;
- 6 Constituent Members (Members appointed by the Constituent Councils, with each Constituent Council appointing a Lead Member (expected to be the Leader or their nominee), and one further member from its elected members);
- 4 Non-Constituent Members nominated by the City, District and Borough Councils within the Area
- Up to 2 further Non-Constituent or Associate Members. One of these will be one of the police and crime commissioners for the area and the other is expected to come from a business background.

The Mayor

The Combined County Authority would have a directly elected Mayor who will be elected by the electorate within the Area every four years. The Mayor would be a member of the Combined County Authority, as well as having a number of powers and functions which may be exercised exclusively by the Mayor (see below). The first Mayoral election is expected to take place in May 2025.

City, District and Borough Councils

There are 7 City, District and Borough Councils within the area of the proposed Combined County Authority. The City, Districts and Boroughs would be empowered to nominate 4 individuals as non-constituent members of the Combined County Authority. The Constituent Councils have worked closely with the City, District and Borough Councils to agree that their nominations would be through the use of a joint committee of the City, District and Borough Councils. The City, District and Borough Councils will all be voting members of the Joint Committee and would nominate four Non-Constituent Members.

The joint committee will also be used as the mechanism for the City, District and Borough Councils to nominate additional individuals as substitutes and representatives on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Audit Committee, who may come from different Councils than the nominated Non Constituent Members.

The inclusion of a mechanism by which the City, District and Borough Councils can have a key role on the CCA ensures that the identities and interests of all of our local communities are fully reflected on the CCA. It is intended that Greater Lincolnshire's City, District and Borough councillors would have the greatest involvement of any Combined County Authority in the country.

Strong voice for local business

The voice of business will be a critical component in the future Combined County Authority, given that a key area of focus will be economy, our key sectors, innovation and productivity. It is expected that the proposed Combined County Authority would consider appointing an Associate Member who can represent the views of business.

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP function would be integrated into the Combined County Authority. The Government guidance is that integration be achieved via the establishment of a business focussed Advisory Board. Whilst the Advisory Board would not be a formal committee of the Combined County Authority, it would be part of the formal governance arrangements and would exist to provide advice to the Combined County Authority on all issues of business and economy relevant to the Combined County Authority. The Combined County Authority could then appoint the Chair of that Advisory Group to the Combined County Authority as an Associate Member representing the views of business on the Combined County Authority.

Police and Crime

The Proposals see the two Police and Crime Commissioners working closely with the Combined County Authority to ensure public safety is considered as part of policy development, and that where appropriate strategies, policies, and action plans can be aligned. The two Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Humberside and Lincolnshire) would be invited to nominate a Police and Crime Commissioners as a non-constituent member of the CCA and the other as a substitute.

CCA Functions

The majority of the functions of the proposed Combined County Authority will be exercisable by the Combined County Authority as a whole.

The proposed functions, powers, consent and voting for the Combined County Authority are set out in full as an appendix to the Proposal. These would include:

The duty to set a budget for the CCA (including funding for the functions of the CCA);

- Economic development and regeneration functions, including the preparation of an economic assessment for the area; to embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions and to carry out strategic economic planning that clearly articulates the area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths.
- Adult education and skills functions;
- Transport functions, including to identify, agree, set up and coordinate a Key Route Network (KRN) on behalf of the Mayor, including traffic regulation, permit schemes and highway, bridge or transport works across the KRN;
- Housing supply, regeneration and place-making functions, along with provision of housing and land, land acquisition and disposal and the development and regeneration of land functions;
- Power to borrow up to an agreed cap for all functions;
- Data sharing with the Constituent Councils in areas relating to the MCCA functions
- Power to establish joint arrangements
- Incidental powers in relation to its functions (the power to do anything which is incidental to the exercise of its functions).
- A functional power of competence (this means that the CCA will have the power to do anything reasonably related to the exercise of their functions).

CCA decision making and voting

The Members of the Combined County Authority would be the main decision-making group of the Combined County Authority. The Combined County Authority would have the power to establish committees to exercise Combined County Authority functions.

It is expected that the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority would establish three committees known as boards to develop policy, review performance and delivery, scrutinise Proposals and take decisions in relation to matters within their remit:

- Greater Lincolnshire Transport Board
- Greater Lincolnshire Skills and Employment Board
- Greater Lincolnshire Business and Infrastructure Board

It is expected that the membership of the Boards would include at least two members nominated from each Constituent Council and at least 4 members would be nominated by the City, District and Borough Councils. Only full Combined County Authority members of the Committee (and their substitutes) will have voting rights on the Committee.

Whilst the proposed Combined County Authority's Constitution will set out voting requirements for the CCA and its committees, the following principles will be applied:

- All of the Constituent Council Members and the Mayor have a single equal vote
- None of the Non-Constituent Members automatically have a vote, but the CCA is able to confer voting rights on Non-Constituent Members and the Constituent Councils are committed to the right to vote being available on some topics for Non-Constituent Members
- Associate Members do not have and cannot be given the right to vote
- Each member of the Combined County Authority will nominate two substitutes who will have the same voting rights as the member they are substituting for
- The quorum for meetings of the CCA will include the Mayor and one member from each of the constituent councils. The quorum for committees will be set in the Constitution
- The majority of decisions taken by the CCA will be subject to a requirement for a simple majority in favour, with the additional requirement that the Mayor must vote in favour
- Certain decisions will additionally require the Lead Member of the relevant Constituent Council to vote in favour, specifically this includes agreeing the CCA budget, agreeing any levy, any decision to compulsorily purchase land by the CCA, agreeing routes for inclusion in the KRN and any decision of the CCA which would lead to a financial liability falling directly on the Constituent Council. Further instances in which there will be a requirement for the Lead Member of each Constituent Council to vote in favour will be set out in the CCA Constitution. Where consent is required for a decision, this will be given at the meeting where the decision is to be taken
- The CCA can amend the Mayor's budget, if a 2/3 majority vote to do so or, if a 2/3 majority is not reached, if 3/6 Constituent Members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 lead members entitled to vote do so
- The CCA can amend the Mayor's transport strategy if a 2/3 majority vote to do so.

Mayoral Functions

Some of the functions of the proposed Combined County Authority will only be able to be exercised by the elected Mayor, and this will be prescribed in the Establishment Order.

Functions, powers, consent and voting for the Mayor are set out in full as an appendix to the Proposal. The main Mayoral functions are as follows:

- Duty to set a Mayoral budget for the cost of exercising the Mayoral function and any Mayoral initiatives (subject to any CCA vote to amend the Mayor's budget).
- Power to impose a business rate supplement on non-domestic ratepayers in the Area to fund Mayoral functions/ initiatives as part of the Mayoral budget (subject to a ballot of business);
- Power to set a precept on council tax on behalf of the CCA (a precept is an amount added to council tax) to provide funding for Mayoral functions in the area;
- Power to provide relief from non-domestic rates in areas covered by a Mayoral Development Corporation;
- Power to pay bus service operator grants and to franchise bus services;
- Power to create a Mayoral Development Area, and to form a Mayoral Development Corporation to take responsibility for planning functions in the part/s of the Area covered by the Mayoral Development Area (the exercise of these functions is subject to the consent of the Constituent Councils and the Local Planning Authorities for the areas included);
- Housing and land acquisition powers to support housing and regeneration (the exercise of these functions is subject to the consent of the Constituent Councils and Local Planning Authorities for the areas included);
- Power to draw up a local transport plan (subject to any CCA vote to amend the local transport plan) and power to direct over KRN
- Functional power of competence (this means that the Mayor will have the power to do anything reasonably related to the exercise of their functions).

Mayoral decision making

The elected Mayor would be required to appoint one of the Members of the CCA as their Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor must act in the place of the Mayor if for any reason the Mayor is unable to act, or the Office of the Mayor is vacant. The Mayor will draw advice from and be supported by members of the combined county authority, all of whom are supported by appropriate officers.

The Mayor is able to arrange for the exercise of any of their Mayoral functions by:

- The Deputy Mayor;
- Another Member or Officer of the CCA;
- A committee of the CCA, consisting of members appointed by the Mayor (which need not be Members of the CCA).

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF)

The proposed Combined County Authority would be the lead authority for the planning and delivery of the UKSPF from 2025/26 if there is a continuation of the Fund and the delivery geographies remains the same. If the delivery model remains the same as the previous Spending Review period, it is anticipated that the CCA will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates in the area, with wide flexibility to invest and deliver according to local needs. In carrying out this role the Combined County Authority would engage Constituent Councils, city, district and borough councils and passport an allocation of funding to each based on the existing funding ratio.

Advisory panels

Both the CCA and the Mayor, may choose to establish advisory panels. Advisory panels are formally constituted groups which form part of the operation of the CCA, but which have no decision-making power.

The Constituent Councils intend that the CCA should establish a Greater Lincolnshire Economy Advisory Panel to provide a strong business voice in decision making. The Combined County Authority would consider whether additional Advisory Panels focussed on other issues are required. The role of any advisory panel established would be to advise the CCA, and possibly also the Mayor, on the exercise of functions in their areas of expertise.

Member allowance

The statutory instrument which would create the proposed Combined County Authority would set out the position on members allowances. It is proposed that no remuneration is to be payable by the Combined County Authority to its members, other than allowances for travel and subsistence paid in accordance with a scheme approved by the Combined County Authority.

The Combined County Authority may establish (or use an existing constituent council) independent remuneration panel to recommend a scheme to the Combined County Authority regarding the allowances payable to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor provided that the Deputy Mayor is not a leader or elected Mayor of a constituent council; and any independent persons who are members of the combined county authority or its committees.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The proposed Combined County Authority would be required to have at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be to monitor the decision making of the Mayor and members and officers of the CCA to ensure that the decision making is appropriately focussed on community needs, and that high quality delivery is taking place for the benefit of the Area.

In accordance with The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and given the role of the Committee its membership must involve different individuals than those who are Members of the CCA. The constituent councils, City, District and Borough Councils would be represented on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Combined County Authority would consider how and whether to represent other bodies on the Committee.

At least two members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be nominated from each Constituent Council of the Combined County Authority. At least 4 members would be nominated by the City, District and Borough Councils. Any members of the Committee not drawn from the Constituent Councils would not automatically have voting rights on the Committee but could be given voting rights by the CCA. The Constituent Councils are committed to the right to vote being available on some topics for Non-Constituent Members

There would be a requirement for political balance on the Committee so that members of the committee taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the Constituent Councils when taken together.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee must be chaired by a person who is independent of the CCA and the constituent councils or is not from the same political party as the Mayor or (if the Mayor is not a member of a political party) the party with the most constituent council representatives on the CCA.

Audit Committee

The proposed Combined County Authority would be required to have an Audit Committee. The role of the Audit Committee is to support and monitor the authority in the areas of governance, risk management, external audit, internal audit, financial reporting, and other related areas to ensure that the financial and governance decision making position of the Combined County Authority and the Mayor is sound.

The Combined County Authority would ensure that the Audit Committee has the right people to ensure effective oversight of the adequacy of the CCAs overall assurance arrangements, and scrutiny of financial decision making by the Mayor and the CCA.

It is expected that two members would be nominated from each Constituent Council. Further members would be appointed to the Audit Committee based on appropriate best practice guidance such as that issued by CIPFA on the composition of audit committees.

Members of the Audit Committee must not be the same individuals as those representatives who are members of the CCA and there is a requirement that one member of the Audit Committee be an independent person.

Membership of the Committee taken as a whole would be required to be politically proportional by reference to the balance of political parties prevailing among members of the Constituent Councils taken together at the time the MCCA appoints the members to the Committee.

Joint arrangements for the Humber

Strong, credible and effective governance arrangements including a clear business voice are integral to the success of Greater Lincolnshire and the development of evidence based Proposals for cross estuary working on clean growth, ports and the Humber Freeport.

The existing Humber Leadership Board (a joint committee of the four Humber Local Authorities) will be enhanced to include broader membership comprising of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor, the Leader and one Executive Councillor from Lincolnshire County Council as a Greater Lincolnshire constituent council, the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner on behalf of both the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner and the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and strengthened business representation.

The intention would be to see these collaborative working arrangements develop further to include similar Combined Authority membership from the north bank of the Humber, should a Devolution Deal be entered between the Government and Kingston upon Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire Councils.

Creating a Combined County Authority

To deliver our ambitions for Greater Lincolnshire we will seek to organise our resources in the best possible way. We proposed to pool some resources into the combined county authority to enable delivery of its key functions for:

- Economic development and regeneration
- Adult education and skills
- Transport
- Housing supply, regeneration and place

This Proposal is not merging or reorganising local councils. Rather, by working at the right level, sharing data and insight, advancing joint ambitions, and focusing on the powers and functions that have been devolved to it, the proposed Combined County Authority has the ability to improve outcomes for Greater Lincolnshire and ensure joined up decision making.

Work is currently underway to define the 'Operating Model' for the proposed Combined County Authority which will describe how it would work, the functions, people, processes, systems and organisational structure.

The following principles will guide our development of the operating model.

1. Efficient use of public resources: The Combined County Authority would be a small strategic body overseeing the effective delivery of growth priorities, working collaboratively with Constituent Councils, non-Constituent Members and other stakeholders. The Combined County Authority would assume the functional powers outlined in the table at Appendix A and best value will be sought for residents in the delivery of these functions.

To discharge its functions effectively and legally, there would need to be sufficient capacity and resources. Funding has been secured as part of the deal from central Government towards the financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. The Mayor would have powers to bring in additional funding and the Combined County Authority would have powers to borrow. It is expected that the running costs of the authority will be met through future central Government support and equal funding from the Constituent Councils.

2. Local Enterprise Partnership Integration: Local councils currently invest in a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) that brings together local business and council leaders. As set out in the Devolution Deal, the functions of the LEP would be integrated into the Combined County Authority. These functions include business growth, innovation, skills strategy and regeneration. In addition there is also a commitment to include an independent business voice, as is currently represented through the LEP Board. Funding for the LEP would be pooled to support the operation of a combined county authority that delivers value for money and can gather the evidence base and business cases required to secure future investment in Greater Lincolnshire. The proposed Combined County Authority will require a high level of partnership working ensuring any arrangements are efficient and proportional and avoid unnecessary duplication. The operating model design will be built upon a foundation of partnership working and inclusion of a strong business voice.

3. Drawing on constituent council expertise: The proposed Combined County Authority will require a range of capabilities to discharge its functions effectively. This will include 3 groups of officers and may include the pooling of some roles from constituent councils to deliver those functions which will be led by the combined county authority.:

- The statutory officers which are legally required to operate a local authority: Head of Paid Service; Chief Finance Officer) and Monitoring Officer.
- Officers directly responsible for delivering the core functions (transport planning, regeneration etc).
- Officers responsible for supporting services, such as: commissioning and contracting, research, intelligence and policy development, finance, human resources, democratic governance and legal services, technology and data, and communications.

In developing the operating model we will not assume that these roles will be directly employed by a Combined County Authority. This will be an option considered alongside others including employment by partner organisations (including Constituent Councils) or contracting from third parties.

4. Concurrent delivery through constituent councils: Where powers are held concurrently with the Constituent Councils, the Combined County Authority will not seek to duplicate service delivery where existing arrangements are already in place. The Combined County Authority will distribute funding for any such functions - including highway maintenance and potholes - proportionate to existing allocations to enable continued delivery for Greater Lincolnshire's residents.

5. A shadow Combined County Authority: to prepare for the establishment of a Combined County Authority, transition arrangements would be set up in 2024. This would not be a legally constituted body, but instead individuals from existing bodies (largely Constituent Councils) will be selected by the Constituent Councils to work collectively. During this time, it will be important that specific individuals are accountable for delivery and have sufficient capacity and support to do so successfully, working with the political Leadership of the three Constituent Councils, as well as working alongside the three Chief Executives of the Constituent Councils.

The establishment of the formal Combined County Authority will be as seamless as possible, ensuring transition arrangements reflect as closely as possible the future structure of the fully established Combined County Authority. The constituent members will elect one of their number to chair the Combined County Authority until the first Mayor is elected in 2025.

A detailed design of the future operating model will be developed subsequently.

The Deal

The Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal can be read in full:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution

www.northlincs.gov.uk/devolution

www.nelincs.gov.uk/devolution

Next Steps

Delivering on our Proposal would involve the completion of a number of steps. Some of these will be managed from Greater Lincolnshire, others will require action from Government and Parliament.

We will consult on the Proposals from December 2023 to 29 January 2024.

Consideration of consultation responses and review of the Proposal to be completed by end of February 2024

Further formal decision making in the light of the consultation and if the final Proposal is approved, submission to Government in spring 2024

Consideration and approval by Government leading to the laying of an Establishment Order in summer 2024

Transition to a formal CCA would follow three stages:

- Stage 1: Establishing transitional arrangements, including those for transport functions which are expected to take no more than 18 months - by summer 2024
- Stage 2: Formal establishment of the CCA - late 2024
- Stage 3: Election of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayor - May 2025

It is important to note that transition to the CCA is dependent on a number of factors including this Proposal being approved and submitted to the Government following public consultation and the final Proposal then being accepted by Government.

Required powers and functions

Set out below is a table of the powers which the Constituent Councils are proposing are available to the CCA and/or the Mayor. The powers are those which the Constituent Councils believe are needed to enable the CCA/Mayor to deliver the purposes outlined in this Proposal. In considering our Proposal the Government, and in particular, specialist legislative counsel, will review the table below and some of the detail set out may be subject to change as the establishment order is drafted.

APPENDIX A: GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE POWERS TABLE

FINANCE, INVESTMENT, INNOVATION AND TRADE

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent Required?	Voting
Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 Whole act, except s3(5)	Power to impose a supplementary levy on non-domestic ratepayers to raise money for expenditure on a project that promotes economic development in the area Imposition of the levy is subject to approval in a ballot of non-domestic ratepayers	Local Authority Greater London Authority (GLA) power (though all Local Authorities also hold these powers)	No – exclusive exercise of the GLA power	Mayor	No	Mayoral power, no voting
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 Section 69	Duty to prepare and a power to revise an assessment of the economic conditions of the area	Local Authority Upper-tier councils	Yes – With upper tier councils	MCCA	No, but requirement in the section to consult and seek the participation of the district/boroughs	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17A Section 115	Duty in exercising functions to have regard to impact on and the need to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour. Misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, re-offending and serious violence in its area (s17A) Designation of the MCCA as a relevant authority thereby authorising disclosures to be made to the MCCA for the purposes of the Act (section 115)	Local Authority	Yes – With upper tier and city/district/borough councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

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FINANCE, INVESTMENT, INNOVATION AND TRADE *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent Required?	Voting
Local Government Act 1972 Sections 101(5), 113, 142(2), 144, 145 and 222	<p>Provision for the discharge of functions jointly with other authorities (s101(5))</p> <p>Power to place staff at the disposal of other local authorities (s113)</p> <p>Power to arrange for the publication of information as to the services available in the area provided by them or by other specified authorities (s142(2))</p> <p>Power to encourage visitors to the area and provide or encourage the provision of facilities for conferences, trade fairs or exhibitions (s144)</p> <p>Power to provide, arrange or contribute to the expense of providing entertainments, theatres, concert halls, bands, orchestras and the development and improvement of the arts (s145)</p> <p>Power to prosecute, defend or appear in legal proceedings and make representations at a public inquiry (s222)</p>	Local Authority	Yes - With upper tier and city/ district/ borough councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Local Government Act 1985 Section 88(1)(a) and 88(1)(b)	Power to carry out research and collect information relating to the area and make that research and information available to other authorities in that area, the government or the public	Local Authority Greater London or Metropolitan Counties only	No - upper tier and city/ district/ borough councils do not have the power	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Local Government Act 2003 Section 1, 3 Section 23(8)(A)	<p>Power to borrow for any purpose relevant to its functions or for the purpose of the prudent management of its financial affairs (s1) and relevant to functions of the MCCA that are specified in regulations (s23(8)(A))</p> <p>Duty to determine and keep under review how much money it can afford to borrow (s3)</p>	Local Authority	Yes	MCCA Mayoral	No No	<p>CCA budget decisions require the Lead Members of the Constituent Council to vote in favour,</p> <p>Mayoral budget decisions can be amended, if a 2/3 majority vote to do so or, if a 2/3 majority is not reached, if 3/6 Constituent Members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 lead members entitled to vote do so</p>



FINANCE, INVESTMENT, INNOVATION AND TRADE *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent Required?	Voting
Local Government Finance Act 1988 Section 74	The MCCA is identified as a levying body under the Act who can be empowered by Regulations to raise a levy against the constituent councils (s74)	Local Authority Bodies identified under regulations	No - upper tier and city/ district/borough councils do not have the power	MCCA	Consent from constituent councils for making of regulations Consent of Lead Member of constituent councils for any decision of the CCA which would lead to a financial liability falling directly on the Constituent Council	CCA budget decisions require the Lead Members of the Constituent Council to vote in favour
Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 39 and 40	Inclusion of the MCCA in the definition of major precepting authority (s39) Power to issue precept but only in relation to expenditure incurred by the mayor in, or in connection with, the exercise of mayoral functions	Local Authority	No - Specific power to MCCA but the county council is also a major precepting authority	Mayoral	No	Mayoral budget decisions can be amended, if a 2/3 majority vote to do so or, if a 2/3 majority is not reached, if 3/6 Constituent Members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 lead members entitled to vote do so
Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Section 13	Members of a committee (other than an advisory committee) who are not members of the authority are to be non-voting members	Applies to any committee established by a relevant authority under s102(1) of the Local Government Act 1972	N/a - this relates to voting rights rather than exercise of powers	MCCA	No	N/a - no voting
Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013	Governs the basis on which scheme employers and individual employees are admitted to the Local Government Pension Scheme	N/a - makes provision for pension arrangements of employees of the MCCA	N/a - this is not a power but an administrative provision to provide for pension arrangements for MCCA employees. One of the Constituent Councils will be identified as Administering Authority for the scheme	N/a - this is not a power but an administrative provision to provide for pension arrangements for MCCA employees	No	N/a - no voting
Local Government Act 2003 Section 31	Power to pay a grant to a local authority in England towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred by it	Public Authority Minister	Yes	Mayor	Where exercise results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required	Mayoral power so no voting

SKILLS AND EDUCATION

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009</p> <p>Sections</p> <p>86 & 87, 88, 90 and 100(1)</p>	<p>Duty to secure the provision of appropriate facilities for education and training suitable to the needs of persons aged 19 years or over (25 where an Education Health and Care Plan is in place) and persons subject to adult detention (s86).</p> <p>Duty to secure the provision of appropriate facilities for education and training suitable to the requirements of persons aged 19 years or over (25 where an Education Health and Care Plan is in place) and do not have a specified qualification including in numeracy and literacy (s87).</p> <p>Duty to secure that a course of study for a specified qualification delivered through facilities provided under section 97 is free to persons covered by s87 (s88)</p> <p>Duty to encourage participation of persons covered by s86 in education and training and to encourage employers to participate in and contribute to the costs of such education and training (s90)</p> <p>Power to make financial provision in relation to education and training provided under these sections (s100(1))</p>	<p>Public Authority</p> <p>Secretary of State functions</p>	<p>Section 86, 87 and 88 are transferred</p> <p>Sections 90 and 100(1) are exercised concurrently with Secretary of State</p>	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
<p>Education Act 1996</p> <p>s13A , 15ZA, 15ZB and 15ZC</p>	<p>Duty to secure that education and training functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards, securing fair access to opportunities and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential (s13A)</p> <p>Duty to secure enough suitable education and training for persons over compulsory school age but under 19 or over 19 and an Education Health and Care Plan is in place (s15ZA)</p> <p>Duty to co-operate with other authorities in the fulfilment of the s15ZA duty (s15ZB)</p> <p>Duty to encourage participation of persons covered by s15ZA and employers in such education and training (s15ZC)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier councils</p>	<p>Yes - With upper tier councils</p>	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

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SKILLS AND EDUCATION *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
Education and Skills Act 2008 Sections 10, 12, 68, 70, 71 and 85	<p>Duty to exercise functions so as to promote the effective participation in education and training of persons who are over compulsory school age but under 18 and have not achieved a level 3 qualification (s10)</p> <p>Duty to make arrangements to identify persons covered under section 10 who are not participating in education and training (s12)</p> <p>Duty to make available to young persons and relevant young adults for whom it is responsible services to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of those persons in education or training (s68)</p> <p>Power to enter into arrangements with other authorities to provide services or otherwise provide services to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of young persons or relevant young adults in education or training (s70)</p> <p>Power to provide the above services conditional on a learning and support agreement (s71)</p> <p>Duty to co-operate with other relevant partners in relation to the provision of 14-19 education and training (s85)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier councils</p>	Yes - with upper tier councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Further and Higher Education Act 1992 Section 51A	Power to require a further education institution providing education to persons over compulsory school age but under 19 to provide education to specified individuals	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier councils</p>	Yes - with upper tier councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

HOUSING AND PLANNING

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent
Localism Act 2011 Sections 197, 199, 200, 202, 204, 214, 215, 216, 217, 219, 220, 221, and paras 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 of Schedule 21	<p>Power to designate any area of land in the area as a Mayoral Development Area (MDA) leading to the establishment by the Secretary of State of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) (s197)</p> <p>Power to vary the boundaries of an MDA to exclude land (s199)</p> <p>Power to transfer property, rights and liabilities of specified bodies to an MDC (s200)</p> <p>Power to decide that an MDC will be the local planning authority for an area and to confer planning functions on the MDC (s202)</p> <p>Power to decide that a power conferred on an MDC under section 202 shall cease or be subject to restrictions (s204)</p> <p>Duty to review from time to time the continued existence of an MDC (s215)</p> <p>Power to make a transfer scheme to transfer property, rights and liabilities of an MDC to a permitted recipient (s216)</p> <p>Power to request revocation of an order establishing an MDC where no property rights or liabilities are vested in the MDC (s217)</p> <p>Power to give guidance to an MDC on the exercise of its functions and to revoke such guidance (s219)</p> <p>Power to give general or specific directions to an MDC as to the exercise of its functions and to revoke such directions (s220)</p> <p>Power to give vary or revoke consents (s221)</p> <p>Provisions governing membership, terms of appointment, staff, remuneration of staff, committees and proceedings and meetings of an MDC (paras 1,2,3,4, 6 and 8 of Schedule 21)</p>	Local Authority London Mayor equivalent powers	Yes. With London Mayor only	Mayor	<p>For s197(1), requires consent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead member of the MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains any part of the area to be designated a mayoral development area; - Each district council whose area contains any part of the area to be designated as a mayoral development area <p>S199(1) requires consent of Lead member of MCCA designated by A constituent council whose local government area contains any part of area to be designated a mayoral development area;</p> <p>S202(2) to (4) require consent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead member of MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains any part of area to be designated a mayoral development area; - Each district council whose area contains any part of the area to be designated as a mayoral development area <p>Where exercise results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required</p>

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HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990</p> <p>Sections 226, 227, 229, 230(1)(a), 232, 233, 235, 236, 238, 239, 241</p>	<p>Power to acquire compulsorily land in the area to facilitate development re-development or improvement of the land or necessary for the proper planning of an area in which the land is situated (s226)</p> <p>Power to acquire by agreement land that could be compulsorily acquired under s226 (s227)</p> <p>Power to appropriate common land or a fuel or field garden allotment (s229)</p> <p>Power to acquire land for the purposes of giving in exchange for land appropriated under s229(s230(1)(a))</p> <p>Power to appropriate land held for planning purposes to other purposes (s232)</p> <p>Power to dispose of land held for planning purposes to secure the best use of that or other land or building or works built or to be built on it or secure the carrying on it of building or works needed for the proper planning of the area of the authority (s233)</p> <p>Power to construct or carry out works on land held for planning purposes and repair, maintain and insure any building or works on such land (s235)</p> <p>Effects of compulsory acquisition on rights in respect of land so acquired (s236)</p> <p>Power to use consecrated land that has been the subject of a relevant acquisition (s238)</p> <p>Power to use burial ground land that has been the subject of a relevant acquisition (s239)</p> <p>Power to use common land, open space or fuel or field garden allotment land that has been the subject of a relevant acquisition (s241)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier and City/District/Borough Council powers</p>	<p>Yes - with upper tier and City/District/Borough Council powers</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>Use of section 226 requires consent of lead member of CCA designated by a constituent council whose area contains land subject to the acquisition, and of City/District/Borough councils in whose area the land subject to the acquisition is located</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

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HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Housing and Regeneration Act 2008</p> <p>Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (excluding 9(2)), 10, 11, 12, paragraphs 19 and 20 of Schedule 3 and paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 17 and 20 of Schedule 4</p>	<p>Power to provide or facilitate the provision of housing or other land (s5)</p> <p>Power to develop, regenerate or bring about the more effective use of land or facilitate them (s6)</p> <p>Power to provide and facilitate the provision of infrastructure (s7)</p> <p>Power to carry out or facilitate activities of acquiring, holding, improving, managing, reclaiming, repairing or disposing of housing or other land, plant machinery, equipment or property or carrying out building or other operations (s8)</p> <p>Power to acquire land by agreement (s9)</p> <p>Requirement to achieve the best consideration reasonably obtainable on disposal of land except by way of short tenancy or with Secretary of State consent (s10)</p> <p>Application of Schedule 3 to the exercise of land powers (s11)</p> <p>Application of Schedule 4 relating to Statutory undertakers (s12)</p> <p>Power to use burial ground land in accordance with planning permission (para 19 Schedule 3)</p> <p>Power to use consecrated land other than burial ground land in accordance with planning permission (para 20 Schedule 3)</p> <p>Power to give notice to extinguish rights or require the removal of apparatus of statutory undertakers (para 1 Schedule 4)</p> <p>Power of statutory undertakers to serve counter-notice and object to notice under para 1 above (para 2 Schedule 4)</p> <p>If no counter-notice is served rights are extinguished and apparatus can be removed (para 3 Schedule 4)</p> <p>If counter-notice is served the original notice can be withdrawn or application made to the Secretary of State to confirm the notice by order (para 4 Schedule 4)</p> <p>If order is made by the Secretary of State the rights are extinguished and/or the apparatus can be removed (para 6 Schedule 4)</p> <p>Power to serve counter-notice objecting to a notice from a statutory undertaking that development will require removal or re-siting of apparatus (para 10 (Schedule 4)</p> <p>Power to make representations on the extension or modification of functions of specific statutory undertakers (para 17 Schedule 4)</p> <p>Duty to publish a notice following representation made under paragraph 17 (para 20 Schedule 4)</p>	<p>Public Authority</p> <p>Powers corresponding to powers conferred on the Homes and Communities Agency (Homes England)</p>	<p>Yes - with the homes and communities agency</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

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HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 Section 9(2)	Power to acquire land compulsorily	Public Authority Powers corresponding to powers conferred on the Homes and Communities Agency (Homes England)	Yes	Mayor	Requires consent of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead member of MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains any part of the relevant land; - Each city/district/borough council whose area contains any part of the relevant land. Where exercise results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required	Mayoral power, so no voting
Housing Act 1985 Sections 8(1), 11, 12, 17 (excluding 17(3)) and 18	Duty to consider housing conditions and the needs of the area with respect to the provision of further housing accommodation (s8(1)) Power to provide board and laundry facilities in connection with the provision of housing accommodation (s11) Power to provide shops, recreation grounds and other building having a beneficial purpose in connection with the provision of housing accommodation (s12) Power to acquire land for housing purposes (s17) Duty to ensure that buildings acquired that are houses or may be made suitable as a house are made suitable and used as housing accommodation (s18)	Local Authority City Council and District/ Borough powers	Yes - with city/ district/ borough councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

Continued next page . . .

HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Housing Act 1985 Section 17(3)	Power to acquire land by agreement or compulsorily for housing purposes	Local Authority City Council and District/ Borough powers	Yes - with city/district/borough councils	Mayoral	<p>s17(3) (acquisition of land for housing purposes) requires consent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead member of MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains the relevant land; - Each city/district/borough council whose area contains any part of the relevant area <p>Where exercise of 17(3) results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required</p>	Mayoral power, so no voting
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TRANSPORT

In the following Table references to the transition period are to a period, the length of which is to be determined between the making of the SI and the coming into effect of the full proposal in relation to powers

Legislative Provisions	Summary of provisions	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent required before MCCA or Mayoral exercise	Voting	When?
Part II Transport Act 2000							
Local transport plans and bus strategies (sections S108-113) (sections 110 to 11 repealed)	LA obligation to provide safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport options within their area. LAs must continue to review and replace their plan as they see fit. When developing their plan, LAs must take into consideration any guidance from the Government.	Local Authority Upper tier councils	No - Transferred from upper tier councils	Mayor	None	S108-113 unanimous during transition period, otherwise 2/3 majority can amend the mayoral LTP	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.
Bus services: advanced quality partnership schemes (sections 113C to 113O)	These provisions relate to powers to make an advanced quality partnership scheme, the nature of such a scheme, the circumstances in which they can be made, the method by which they can be made, effect of schemes and powers to vary schemes. The provisions also provide that regulations may be made by the Secretary of State in respect of schemes and that local transport authorities must have regard to any Secretary of State guidance in relation to carrying out their functions.	As above	Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.

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TRANSPORT *Continued*

Bus services: franchising schemes (sections 123A to 123X)	<p>A franchising authority or two or more such authorities acting jointly, may make a franchising scheme covering the whole or any part of its area. The arrangements are akin to the system operated by Transport for London.</p> <p>A franchising scheme is one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · under which the authority identifies the local services that it considers appropriate to be provided in an area under local service contracts; · by virtue of which those services may only be so provided in accordance with such contracts (subject to s.1230); · by virtue of which the authority may grant service permits for other local services which have a stopping place in that area (subject to s.123H(5)); and · under which it identifies additional facilities that it considers appropriate to provide in that area. <p>If the authority decides to make a scheme it must make the scheme and publish it. It must specify the area to which it relates, the local services intended to be provided under local service contracts, the date on which the contracts may first be entered into and the minimum periods between the making of a contract and the provision of the service under it, it may specify sub-areas; the scheme may except specific services from regulation arising because of the scheme</p>	As above	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent from the affected constituent council	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Bus services: advanced ticketing schemes (sections 134C to 134 G)	Details the provisions around using ticketing schemes on buses, consultations, notices and how to implement the scheme	As above	Concurrent during the transition and continuing with upper tier councils	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

Continued next page . . .

TRANSPORT *Continued*

Bus services: enhanced partnership plans and schemes (sections 138A to 138S)	<p>An enhanced partnership plan is a plan that: (a) specifies the area and the period to which the plan relates; (b) sets out an analysis of the local services provided in that area; (c) sets out policies relating to local services in that area; (d) sets out objectives as regards the quality and effectiveness of local services provided in that area by reference to that period; (e) describes how the related enhanced partnership scheme or schemes is or are intended to assist in implementing those policies and achieving those objectives; and (f) describes the intended effect of the related scheme or schemes on areas neighbouring the area to which the plan relates</p> <p>A plan or scheme must state whether it is to be reviewed and, if so, how and when this is to be completed. A plan must include a description of the authority's plans for consulting representatives of users of local services in order to seek their views on how well the plan and any related scheme are working</p>	As above	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Bus services: provision of information (section 139 to 141A)	Each LA must provide the general public with information about their local bus services – like routes, timetabling, fares and information about concessions, facilities for disabled people etc	As above	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis

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Bus services: miscellaneous (sections 142 to 143B)	Covers regulations on reducing or limiting pollution and requesting information about the services from local providers	As above	Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Mandatory travel concessions for journeys not beginning on the London bus network (sections 145A to 150 (145 repealed)) (except 145B and 147 (Wales only))	covers people travelling on a concession where their trip starts outside of London. This section gives details on what an eligible journey is. Further sections provide some definitions to help understand what people and journeys fit the criteria and how operators will be reimbursed	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.
Financial and competition provisions (sections 152 to 159 (156 and 158 repealed) in so far as they contain functions of the constituent councils as local transport authorities	s.152 gives further details on the outsourcing of public transport detailed in s.89 onwards. S.153 deals with competition tests between LAs who have joined in ticketing schemes, quality partnership scheme etc. S.154 states the Secretary of State with the approval of the Treasury (as respects England) or the National Assembly for Wales (as respects Wales) may make grants to operators of eligible bus services towards their costs in operating those services. S.155 details sanctions that can be imposed on service providers for various infringements. S159 repeals s.3-5 transport act 1983	As above	Concurrent during transition period Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis

TRANSPORT *Continued*

Grants to bus service operators (s154)		Public Authority Secretary of State	Concurrent and continuing	Mayor	None	None	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Supplementary (Section 161 to 162)	Gives more guidance on statutory definitions, regulations and orders	Public Authority Secretary of State	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Chapters 2 and 3 of Part 3 (Workplace parking levy, General and supplementary) and Workplace Parking Levy (England Regulations 2009)		Local Authority (charging authority which is the traffic authority (charging schemes can be made by a non-metropolitan local traffic authority (or jointly by more than one non-metropolitan local traffic authority), by an Integrated Transport Authority or combined authority and one or more eligible local traffic authorities, or the Secretary of State [or a strategic highways company]; a licencing authority or licencing authorities)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with the upper tier councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with consent of the affected constituent council	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis

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TRANSPORT *Continued*

Highways Act 1980							
Section 6 Highways Act 1980 (Delegation etc. of functions with respect to trunk roads etc)	This section deals with the highway authority's or minister's authority to delegate their functions to an LA for the maintenance and improvement of certain trunk roads. The delegation will be in agreement with the LA and the section expands on what cannot be delegated	Public Authority Minister of Crown [or a strategic highway company]	Yes - with upper tier councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Sections 8 of the Highways Act 1980 (Agreements between local highway authorities [and strategic highways companies] for certain works)	Local highway authorities and strategic highways companies may enter into agreements with, for, or in relation to the construction, reconstruction, alteration, improvement or maintenance of a highway for which any party to the agreement are the highway authority	Local Authority Local highway authorities [and strategic highway companies]	Yes - with upper tier councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.
Part IV Transport Act 1985							
<i>Passenger Transport Areas (section 57 to 62)</i>	Provisions relating to passenger transport areas s.59 allows for PTEs to form a company in order to manage transport in the area but they'll need the approval of the SoS before this can take place. The SoS may also give direction on what the company should consider important in their strategy Once a company has been formed the SoS may request that the PTE shall cease s.61 and 62 provide more details on the running of the newly formed company, protection of employee benefits and division of the undertakings by the company	Local Authority (In a non-metropolitan county in England and Wales, the county council, a non-metropolitan district council in England, Passenger Transport Executive for any integrated transport area, council operating a bus undertaking, public transport company or its controlling authority, a Passenger Transport Executive or a council or local authority)	Concurrent during the transition period with upper tier councils Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period	MCCA		Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis

Continued next page . . .

TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p><i>Passenger Transport in other areas (sections 63* to 71)</i></p>	<p>It is the duty of each county council to secure the provision of such passenger transport services as the council considers appropriate to secure to meet any public transport requirements within the county which would not in its view be met apart from any action taken by the council. Once the public transport requirements have been identified, the county council is entitled when deciding the appropriate level of public transport in its area to take into consideration the funds available and the source of the funds</p> <p>As soon as practicable after any occasion when they formulate new or altered policies for those purposes, any such council shall publish a statement of all policies so formulated by them</p> <p>Any non-metropolitan county or district council and Transport for London may enter an agreement with each other under which the council (or TfL) undertakes to contribute towards any expenditure incurred by the other party in providing subsidies for public passenger transport services</p> <p>s.66 removed the powers to run bus undertakings from non-metropolitan district councils in England or county or county borough councils in Wales specified in an order made by the Secretary of State, from a date stated in the order</p> <p>s.69 covers joint undertakings and transferring responsibilities to the company which has been formed under s.67 to run the council bus undertakings. Further sections explain some more of the regulations and exemptions with regard to council undertakings</p>	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with upper tier councils	MCCA	For s63-64, exercise of the MCCA's power is subject to the consent of the Constituent Councils	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
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TRANSPORT *Continued*

<i>Further Provisions (sections 72 to 79)</i>	<p>These provisions deal with the role of the controlling authority over the various transport companies that have been formed. It covers, who they should manage, how and for what purpose</p> <p>s.74 also provides rules on the directors of the public transport companies being elected as a council member</p> <p>s.75 deals with the power to acquire and dispose of shares in the companies which have been set up</p> <p>s.76 covers the auditing of the public transport companies – it's the duty of the controlling authority to arrange for this to happen</p> <p>s.78-79 covers entering into other agreements with other companies and the ability to guarantee loans</p>	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with any relevant controlling authority	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
<i>Miscellaneous (section 80* to 87)</i>	<p>Integrated Transport Authorities and Passenger Transport authorities must behave in a way that does not inhibit competition in the services of public transport sector.</p> <p>They must also provide adequate facilities so that buses can be properly maintained and that there are bus stations which are in their area.</p> <p>s.84 covers compensation for loss of employment.</p> <p>s.85 covers incorporation of passenger transport executives in authorities for their area. The SoS may by order make provision for the transfer of all functions, property, rights and liabilities of the Passenger Transport Executive for any integrated transport area or passenger transport area specified in the order to the Integrated Transport Authority or, as the case may be, the Passenger Transport Authority for that area</p>	As above	<p>Concurrent during the transition period</p> <p>Transferred after the transition period</p>	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis

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TRANSPORT Continued

Part 5 of the Transport Act 1985

<i>Expenditure on public passenger transport services (sections 88 to 92)</i>	<i>Refers to the spending on public passenger transport services and the ability to put these out to tender</i>	Local authority (Any authority responsible for expenditure on public local transport, any local authority or any two or more local authorities acting jointly, Passenger Transport Executive, a county or district council operating any public passenger transport service, a parish council or community council, the Secretary of State)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	During the transition period, only exercisable with the consent of affected constituent councils	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
<i>Travel Concession Schemes (sections 93 to 101 (102 repealed))</i>	<i>Refers to any concessions the LA may want to introduce on public transport, the administration of these concessions working in conjunction with the service provider</i>	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of affected Constituent Councils.	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
<i>Travel concessions apart from schemes (sections 103 to 105)</i>	<i>Concessions which may fall outside of the schemes in the earlier section</i>	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of affected Constituent Councils.	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

Continued next page . . .

TRANSPORT *Continued*

Traffic Management Act 2004						
Section 33	Relates to the bodies that can prepare and authorise a permit scheme	Local Authority (local highway authorities)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Section 33A	Details when a scheme can be put into action and who has authority to authorise a scheme	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Section 36	Details the different bodies which have the power to vary or revoke a permit scheme	As above	Concurrent and continuing	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Part 6 (Civil Enforcement of Traffic Contraventions) and paragraph 10 (designation of civil enforcement areas for moving traffic contraventions) of Schedule 8 (civil enforcement areas and enforcement authorities outside Greater London)	Details of what traffic infringements are able to be enforced	Local Authority (enforcement authority)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s)	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

DEFINED TERMS

MCCA / CCA

Mayoral Combined County Authority / Combined County Authority The proposed model of Governance for Greater Lincolnshire

Constituent Councils

Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council

GLCCA

Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

The Deal

Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal signed on DD MM 2023

Functional Economic Area

FEA – areas that share a number of similar economic factors with boundaries that ideally reflect the drivers of the local economy

Greater Lincolnshire is a FEA covering the communities and economy of Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire

GLA

Greater London Authority

GLLEP

Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership

GVA

Gross Value Added – this is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in the area, industry or sector of an economy

MCA / CA

Mayoral Combined Authority / Combined Authority - A similar model used in other areas such as North Yorkshire but not applicable in Greater Lincolnshire

The Area / CCA Area

The Area covered by the proposed Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

LEP(s)

Local Enterprise Partnership – partnerships between local authorities and businesses to help determine local economic priorities and undertake activities to drive economic growth and create local jobs

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY PROPOSAL

November 2023



Have your say: Greater Lincolnshire Devolution

The consultation will run from 4 December 2023 until 5.00pm on 29 January 2024

Across the country, devolution is moving important choices about local investment, infrastructure and training from government to local decision makers.

Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council have secured a devolution deal with government worth over £750 million which, if progressed, means money and power can move from government to decision-makers in Greater Lincolnshire.

To seek this level of powers, money, and a say in how we spend it, local councils must produce a draft proposal and consult with you on it. The proposal sets out to government how devolution could work in Greater Lincolnshire including the creation of an independent body called a mayoral combined county authority.

The Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Proposal (the proposal), can be seen, in full at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution

We are now seeking views before deciding whether to submit the proposal to government either in its current form or in an amended form. Whilst this consultation document summarises the proposal, **you should read the proposal in full before answering the questions.**

The proposal explains how we believe, if adopted, using powers and deciding how to spend money locally would improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people who live or work in our area through:

- improved local transport and roads
- improving training to ensure local people can take advantage of the new jobs
- help improve the environment and achieve net zero
- the provision of good quality housing
- boosting the economy by supporting local businesses to create new, high paid, high skilled jobs; and,
- enhanced digital services, like broadband

This initial proposal means:

- £24 million per annum for 30 years – worth £720m to level-up the whole of Greater Lincolnshire
- a stronger role in setting and delivering Greater Lincolnshire's priorities
- control over a range of powers and budgets currently administered by central government

- additional powers to tackle challenges and make the most of our economic potential so everyone who lives and works here benefits
- one-off £28.4m capital investment in Greater Lincolnshire's priorities
- a new mayor to give Greater Lincolnshire a louder voice, more influence, and a higher profile, locally, nationally and globally
- a combined county authority providing greater transparency and capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development and regeneration

The proposal would not mean removing or merging local councils. Each council would continue to exist and would still be responsible for most public services in the area. There will be no transfer of district and borough powers as part of the draft proposal.

What do you think?

This consultation is an opportunity for everyone in the area to have their say about the devolution proposal. It is open to people who live or work in Greater Lincolnshire, businesses, community and voluntary groups, and other organisations in the area.

You can have your say by:

- Completing our online survey at www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution
- Completing this hard copy consultation document and returning to us in an envelope, to our freepost address by 29 January 2024

If you need support to take part, please contact 01522 555222.

At the end of the consultation all three councils will consider your views before deciding whether to agree our final proposal for submission to government. Following submission of the final proposal it will be considered by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. If the secretary of state is happy, laws are put in place so that the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority can be set up and start work with the election for a mayor in May 2025.

Your responses to this survey are intended to be anonymous. When completing open text responses, remember not to include personal or sensitive information.

Section 1 – New jobs and business growth

The proposal, if adopted, would see decisions for infrastructure and economic growth projects in Greater Lincolnshire being taken locally. This would see some funding transferred to the area with investment locally prioritised to boost growth in key sectors of the local economy, including the UK Food Valley, Energy, Ports and logistics.

We believe that this will stimulate trade and economic growth, creating high skill jobs and improve living standards. The proposal includes:

- an investment fund of £24 million per annum over 30 years, worth £720m, which could speed up economic growth and innovation, and create opportunities for people, businesses, and communities
- a UK Food Valley Board to support the sector and attract new skills to deliver food chain automation and innovation

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to new jobs and business growth?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Section 2 – Education and training

The proposal, if adopted, will mean all the funding central government spends on adult skills and training in Greater Lincolnshire will be controlled and allocated locally.

If we have local control, we can work more closely with schools, colleges, universities, training providers and businesses.

The proposal details how doing this means in Greater Lincolnshire we could:

- develop work-focussed curriculums which give people access to the training local businesses need
- support residents to identify career opportunities and train or re-train so they have the skills they need to get good local jobs
- better meet local business needs by making sure Lincolnshire residents are equipped to take up exciting, new, skilled jobs
- encourage and provide mentoring, funding and other resources for entrepreneurs and small businesses
- work with public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire to support young people leaving care to achieve a positive start to their careers and adult life

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to education and training?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Section 3 – Roads, buses and transport

The proposal, if adopted, means the mayor and Greater Lincolnshire leaders could use their knowledge of the area to design a local transport plan which we believe would create better integrated road, rail and air travel for people, businesses and goods.

This could include improved walking and cycling options for residents, visitors and businesses and with the money and decision-making local, we believe the plan is more likely to become a reality.

The proposal includes plans for the combined county authority to become the local transport authority and address the matters residents tell us are important to them, for example:

- more affordable travel
- smart tickets on public transport to make moving around Greater Lincolnshire easier
- more reliable journeys, supported by investment in key routes across the area
- connecting people of all ages to family, friends, work, education, health, and leisure facilities
- improvement to transport in rural areas and improved services for rail passengers and freight

The proposal includes a multi-year transport budget that provides greater funding certainty to deliver local priorities, boost growth in the Greater Lincolnshire economy and keep people moving.

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to roads, buses and transport?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Section 4 – Homes and communities

The proposal, if adopted, means more local housing decisions could be made in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work with local authorities, Homes England, landowners, developers and the full range of housing providers to promote regeneration and create good quality housing options to meet current and future demand.

Local leaders would be able to bring forward investment in the infrastructure needed to unlock sites, support housing growth and develop housing projects that meet residents' needs and consider the area's environment and landscape.

It also explains plans to prioritise:

- working closely with planning authorities to identify, buy and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration
- the regeneration of areas and strategic sites through 'mayoral development areas' and 'mayoral development corporations'
- appropriate housing development to make sure residents can find suitable local homes
- new and existing homes that make sure sustainable building practices and green design standards are used to minimise environmental impact and promote energy efficiency
- a balance between development need, improved public transport and preserving green spaces and existing communities

The proposal includes £8.4m of funding, controlled locally to support and encourage new homes being built on brownfield land.

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Question 4 is on the next page >

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to homes and communities?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Section 5 – Environment

The proposal, if adopted, would support local leaders to balance economic development and the protection of the natural environment.

The proposal includes:

- plans for investment in conservation
- bringing together partners to agree and plan for the infrastructure required in Greater Lincolnshire that would support growth in green jobs
- a new partnership for water that focuses on flood prevention and water management programmes to support agriculture, tourism, green growth, communities and new housing
- a coastal partnership that promotes the natural and cultural heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast and tourism
- work with government to identify environmental priorities that could be incorporated into new environmental land management schemes - such as protection for top grade farmland across the UK Food Valley in Greater Lincolnshire
- implementing a local nature recovery strategy

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to the environment?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Section 6 – Governance

If the proposal is adopted, in order to get funding and powers to make the above ambitions a reality, something called a combined county authority (CCA) would be set up and a mayor would be directly elected by Greater Lincolnshire residents.

We believe this organisation would:

- receive the powers and money from central government and provide transparent local leadership
- simplify decision-making on strategic matters affecting Greater Lincolnshire
- promote Greater Lincolnshire and give us one, strong voice locally, nationally and internationally
- make it easier to work together locally and with central government
- secure even more long-term investment, including borrowing
- be able to generate revenue locally through a precept or levy, subject to certain conditions being met

- make sure things are done for the benefit of the whole of the Greater Lincolnshire area, representing residents, their communities and their interests

If the proposal is adopted, the CCA would be made up of:

- the mayor
- two representatives from each of North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, and Lincolnshire County Council who would have a vote on all matters
- four representatives from districts councils who would have a vote on some matters
- a police and crime commissioner
- a business leader

Some of the decisions would be made by the mayor with the majority being made by the CCA as a whole – the proposal sets out a number of safeguards that seek to manage the use of the new powers and funding and ensure the efficient and effective operation of the mayoral authority.

Section 4 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to governance?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Q7. Please use this space to briefly share your comments or views about the Greater Lincolnshire devolution proposal or any of the questions above.

Please write in the box below (please use additional paper if you need more space)

About you

So that we can ensure we capture a diverse range of views through this consultation, it would be helpful if you could provide some information about yourself. This information is not compulsory, so please complete the questions where you feel comfortable.

Q8. How are you responding to this consultation?

- ☐ I am responding on behalf of, or as a representative of, a business or organisation (go to question 9)
- ☐ I am a member of the public, giving my views as an individual (go to question 10)

Only answer question 9 if you are responding on behalf of a group or organisation

Q9. Please select the sector that best describes your group or organisation:

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Voluntary and community sector
- ☐ Elected representative
- ☐ Civil service or government
- ☐ Charity
- ☐ Academic
- ☐ Action group
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Business (please answer Q9b-Q9d)
- ☐ Something else
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If 'something else' please state:

Q9b. If you selected 'business' – please select the sector that best describes your business

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Manufacturing
- ☐ Food and drink manufacturing
- ☐ Creative and digital
- ☐ Health and life sciences
- ☐ Low carbon and environmental

Options continue on next page >

- ☐ Financial and professional services
- ☐ Something else
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If 'something else' please state:

Q9c. What size organisation?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Large – a business with 250 or more employees
- ☐ Medium-sized – a business with 50 to 249 employees
- ☐ Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) - a business with 0 to 49 employees

Q9d. Within which local authority area is your business located?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Boston Borough Council
- ☐ City of Lincoln Council
- ☐ East Lindsey District Council
- ☐ North East Lincolnshire Council
- ☐ North Kesteven District Council
- ☐ North Lincolnshire Council
- ☐ South Holland District Council
- ☐ South Kesteven District Council
- ☐ West Lindsey District Council
- ☐ Other/out of area, please state:

If you have completed as a business or group this is the end of the survey.

Please return your completed questionnaire to us in an envelope via our freepost address: Freepost GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION by 29 January 2024.

Please complete the following questions only if you are responding as an individual.

Q10. Please tell us in which local authority area you live (this is the council that collects your bins).

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Boston Borough Council
- ☐ City of Lincoln Council
- ☐ East Lindsey District Council
- ☐ North East Lincolnshire Council
- ☐ North Kesteven District Council
- ☐ North Lincolnshire Council
- ☐ South Holland District Council
- ☐ South Kesteven District Council
- ☐ West Lindsey District Council
- ☐ Other/out of area, please state:

Q11. How do you describe your gender identity?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Prefer to describe as, please state:

Q12. How old are you?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q13. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Please tick all that apply

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, a learning disability
- ☐ Yes, a mental health disability
- ☐ Yes, a sensory impairment (for example hearing or vision)
- ☐ Yes, a physical disability
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q14. What is your ethnic group identity?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ White – English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- ☐ White – Irish
- ☐ White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ White – Roma
- ☐ White - Any other white background, please state:

- ☐ Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ Mixed – White and Black African
- ☐ Mixed – White and Asian
- ☐ Mixed – Any other Mixed background, please state:

- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Indian

Options continue on next page >

- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Chinese
- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Any other Asian background, please state:

- ☐ Black or Black British – Caribbean
- ☐ Black or Black British – African
- ☐ Black or Black British – Any other Black background, please state:

- ☐ Other ethnic group, please state:

- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q15. What is your religion?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ None
- ☐ Christian (all denominations)
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Any other religion
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q16. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Heterosexual or straight
- ☐ Gay or lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Prefer to describe:

Q17. Do you think the proposal could have a positive or negative impact on you or someone you care for, or support, with regard to any of the following?

Please select all that apply.

	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	Don't know
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex (gender)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (ethnicity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have identified any potential impacts, please tell us more about it and include any suggestions about how any negative impacts could be reduced:

Thank you. What you have told us will help decision makers choose what happens next. Please return your completed questionnaire to us in an envelope via our freepost address: Freepost GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION by 29 January 2024.



SCAN



ME

A 2050 Vision for Greater Lincolnshire

A flourishing future for all

November 2022

Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of our nation as the source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities and food security. This vision is our chance to set a new standard for what a good life is in the 21st century.

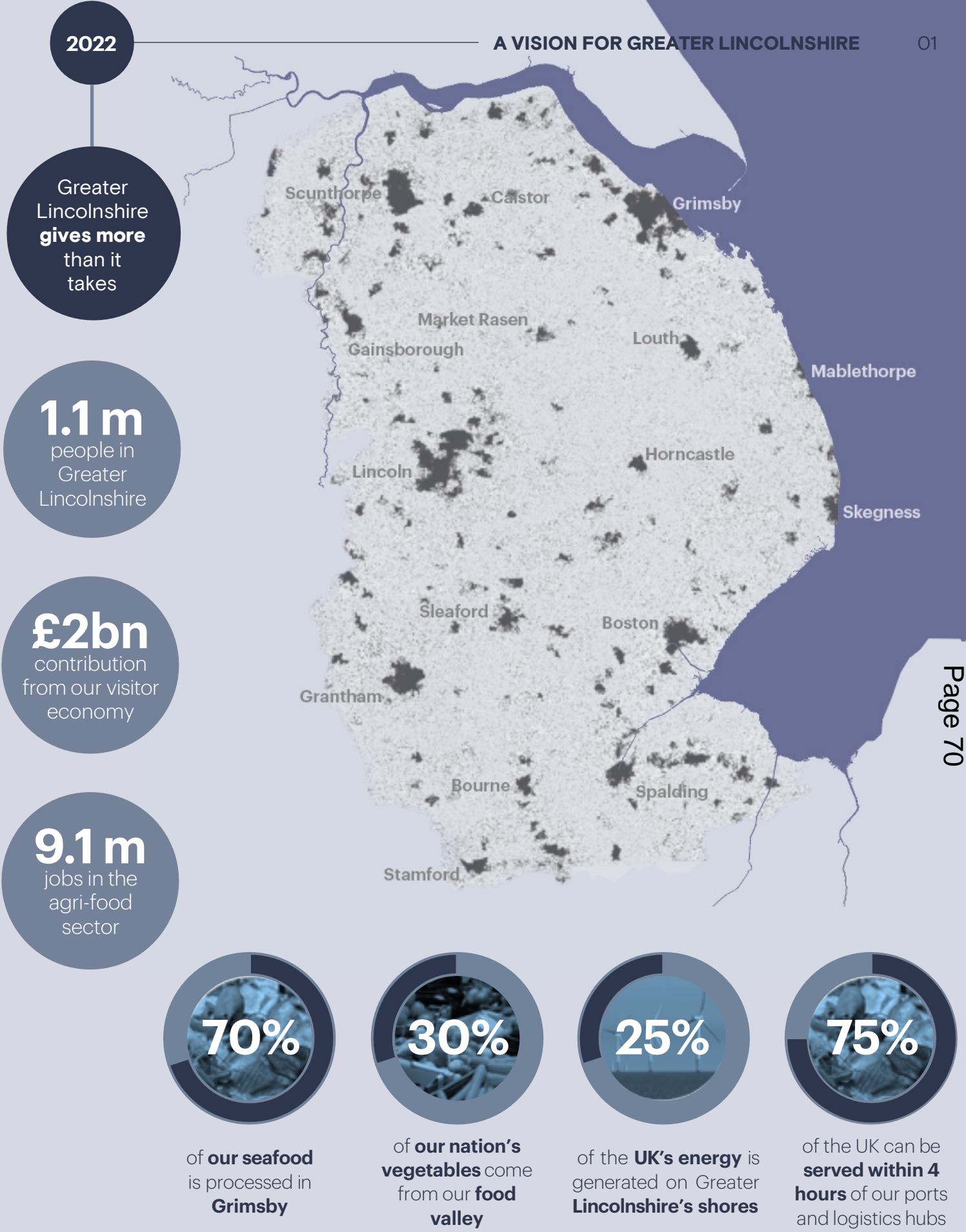
We are a diverse place of places powering and feeding the nation. As of the early 2020s, we are home to 1.1m people, with 60% of residents living in our many market towns, seaside settlements and the historic city of Lincoln. We have a unique place in the future success of our nation as the source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities and food security.

We have top-rated education in 2022, a visitor economy worth over £2 billion per annum, and we are leaders in ports, logistics, defence, engineering, food production, and energy production. Many of us enjoy easy access to our beautiful countryside, miles of coast and our wide beaches. From the Humber to the Wash, life is good for many.

Yet the economy doesn't work for everyone and the potential of Greater Lincolnshire is more significant than what is currently realised. As of the early 2020s, around 150,000 residents are economically inactive with lower

opportunities to come back into the workforce. 7.4% of Greater Lincolnshire residents have no qualifications (compared to 6.2% nationally). This is a particular challenge in the east and north. For example, 30% of residents in Skegness and Mablethorpe have either no qualifications or NVQ level 1. We are ambitious to support all working age adults to have opportunities to enhance their skill levels.

Eight out of nine authorities rank in the worst 15% nationally for coronary and cardiovascular issues and 13.4% of households in Greater Lincolnshire are fuel poor. Our lack of public transport connectivity and infrastructure holds back our economy, contributes far too much air pollution and compounds isolation and loneliness for some of our more vulnerable residents. Services are expensive to deliver and Greater Lincolnshire does not get its fair share of government funding to deliver services across our large area, which creates a risk that too many people are dependent upon the state or charitable



We have always been pioneers. From Isaac Newton's role in the enlightenment and modern science, to draining the fens and agricultural mechanisation which has enabled us to feed the nation. Now we are on the cusp of a unique innovation-led economy that will help address climate change and hunger. It is time to harness our creativity and ingenuity together to make the most of our natural assets.



Lincolnshire Wolds

donations. Thousands of our homes and businesses, and hectares of productive land are at risk of coastal erosion, sea levels rising and flooding.

As we emerge from a global pandemic, we need to reframe our ambitions. Greater Lincolnshire's many assets, not least our population, huge areas of productive land and unique natural environment can be harnessed. They can help create a future that works for every one of us living here whilst being at the forefront of respecting and enhancing the wellbeing of the planet.

Greater Lincolnshire's vision is to create a flourishing future for all.

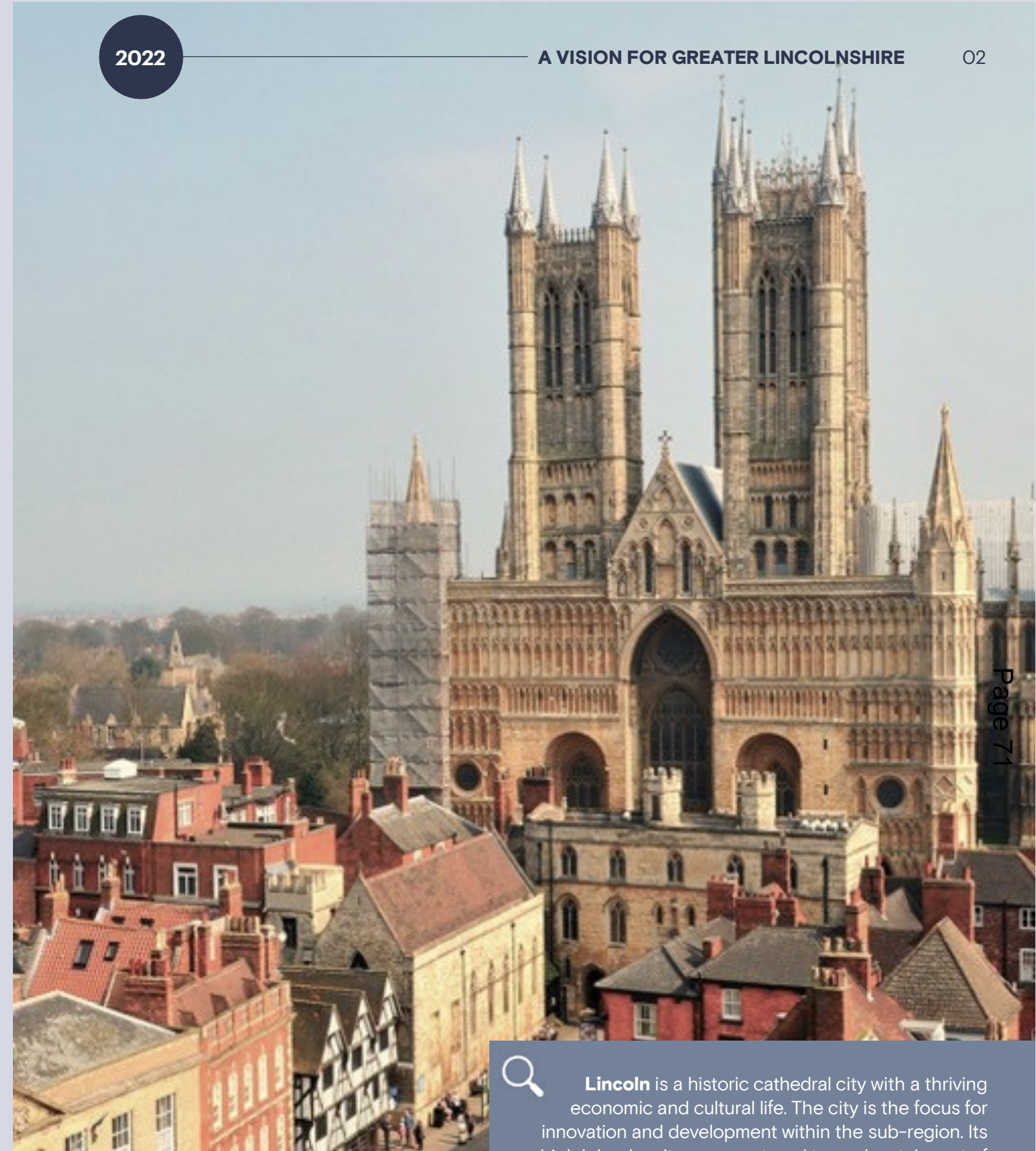
We will do this by drawing on our great natural assets, common purpose and history of ingenuity. We will harness our vibrant areas while setting new standards for a regenerative economy: a system where we give much more than we take.

Together, we are a connected place of places, powering and feeding the nation.

Together, we enable our residents to be independent and achieve wealth and good health.

Together, we protect and enhance the wellbeing of the world.

In 2050 we will look back to a turning point in the 2020s where we asked, "what does a good life look like for everyone?". We will be proud to have taken rapid and decisive action to deploy technologies, policies, and our collective skills to set us on a path to meet our own, local version of the UN sustainable development goals for the **community, moving and living well**, developing an **innovation-led economy and shared prosperity**, and protecting our **ecology and ecosystem**. The choices we made put Greater Lincolnshire first, realised our needs, and placed us at the centre of UK innovation.



Lincoln is a historic cathedral city with a thriving economic and cultural life. The city is the focus for innovation and development within the sub-region. Its high jobs density serves a travel to work catchment of more than 350,000.

WHAT IS IN A VISION?

This is the first 2050 vision for Greater Lincolnshire covering from Humber to the Wash. This vision draws on many sources of information and inspiration including our public health responses to the pandemic and associated challenges, our Local Economic Partnership (LEP) Economic Recovery and Renewal Plan together with business engagement. It draws upon work with service providers and resident engagement.

From this collaboration, it has never been clearer that the complex challenges we face as a society can only be solved through working together, tackling them in partnership with one another, and drawing on our strengths to create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. In order to guide our journey, we need to know our destination. It is that destination that is described here.

What is this vision?

- An ambition for life in Greater Lincolnshire in 2050 upon which future opportunities can be built
- A focus on Humber to the Wash, cherishing that we are a place of places, powering and feeding the nation
- Something that grapples with the big issues and ensures we are well prepared for change, together
- Something to inspire and invoke courage and innovation
- Something that helps us harness local assets and resources in ways that help us achieve our shared goals

What is it not?

- A plan to override all other plans, but it can act as a strategic framework
- Just about place or economy, but rather it is first and foremost about people
- Owned by just one organisation, or just the public authorities – ownership lies with us all including employers, the third sector and every resident.
- Perfect or something that has all the answers

OUR PLACE, OUR HISTORY, OUR ASSETS



Woolsthorpe Manor



Stamford



Lincolnshire Food Valley



RAF Cranwell

Lincolnshire has a rich history of innovation and independence of mind.

Isaac Newton's family home is famously situated here and was the location for many of his truly ground-breaking experiments. The story of the pilgrim separatist movement that founded the United States started in Gainsborough and Boston. Our county was at the forefront of mechanising agriculture through the invention of the tractor, which later revolutionised our national security with the adaptation of tractors to tanks.

We have been the home of many reformers

from political leaders such as John Wesley to Edith Smith, the UK's first female Police Constable. Our towns feature in British literary classics by world renowned authors including D. H. Lawrence and George Elliot. Stamford's Georgian architecture is so outstanding that it was designated the UK's first conservation town. We can even claim the world's first rock festival, with Jimmy Hendrix headlining Spalding's Barbeque 67, two years before Woodstock.

In the early 2020s our economy was worth more than £20bn per annum.

The strengths and opportunities in specific sectors were agri-foods, energy and water, ports & logistics, the digital economy, visitor economy, and health & care. In all these sectors, Greater Lincolnshire was experiencing positive jobs growth and business birth rates. We were increasingly recognised as an agri-food centre of excellence and our ports and logistics hubs already acted as gateway to other regions including the Northern Powerhouse.

Our history has shaped the communities that have settled here and our local economy.

Many areas in Greater Lincolnshire, such as Sleaford, Grantham and Lincoln, have a rich military history, and continue to be home to an extensive defence network that includes army and RAF bases. These sector-specific opportunities, together with relatively low house prices and an outstanding natural environment make Greater Lincolnshire a very attractive place to call home.

A CASE FOR CHANGE

Every great place faces challenges. Every great vision makes the big calls to tackle threats head on and capture opportunities arising from its assets and the changing world we live in.

The cost of public services is growing.



Greater Lincolnshire has 20-26% higher levels of inactivity among residents over 55 than the rest of England, which is one of the top risk factors for preventable disability.



Coastal erosion, extreme weather patterns and sea level rise.

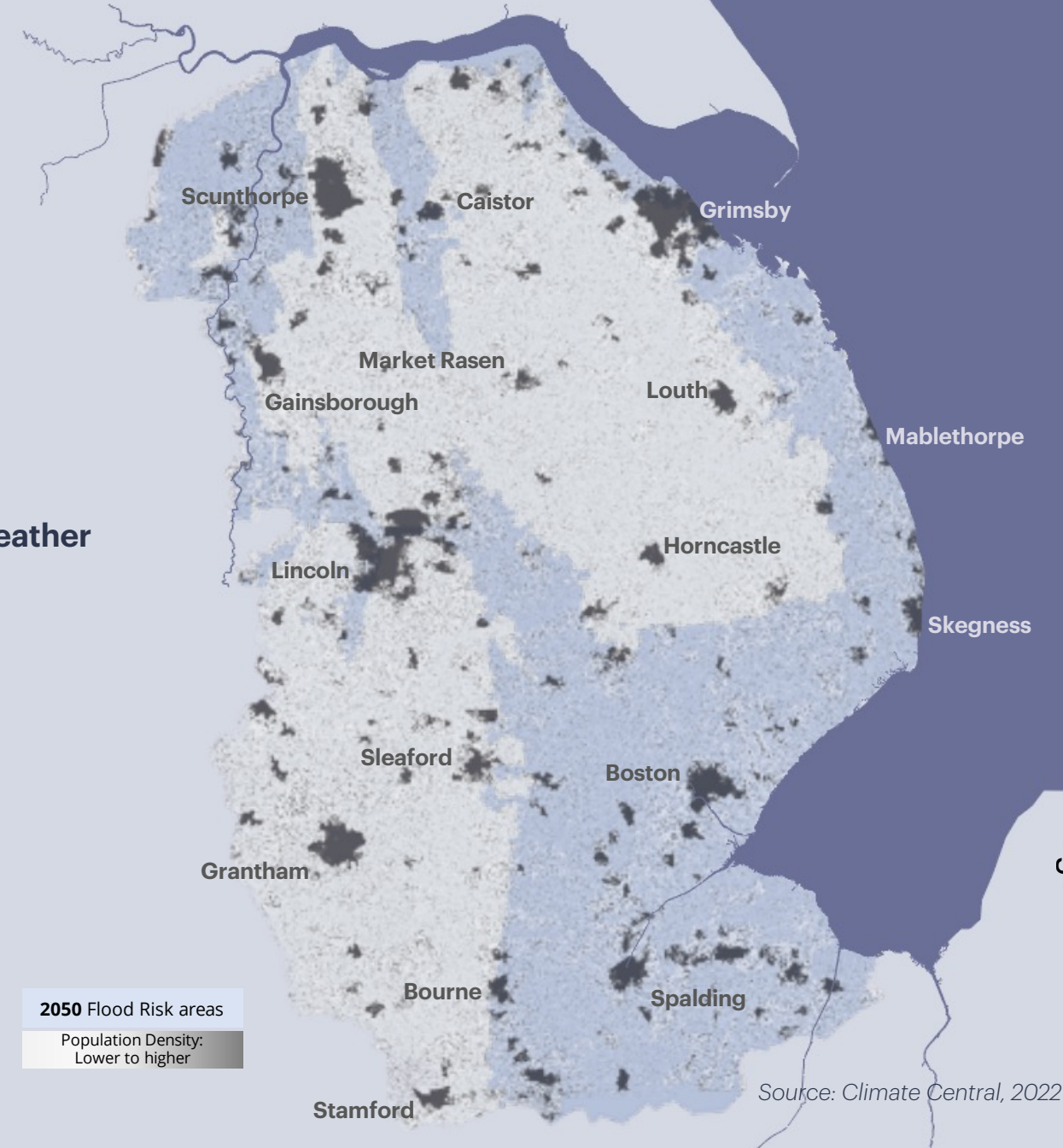
“

I'm worried about stories of floods. I want to keep our home, and hopefully one day extend it as our family grows.

”

2050 Flood Risk areas

Population Density:
Lower to higher



Source: Climate Central, 2022

The threat of coastal erosion, extreme weather patterns and sea levels rising also presents an opportunity to be a global leader in climate adaptation. Forecasts indicate that without mitigation, nearly one third of Greater Lincolnshire including Grimsby, Mablethorpe, Skegness, Boston as well as parts of Cleethorpes, Lincoln, Scunthorpe, Gainsborough, Woodhall Spa, Immingham and more are at risk of being below annual flood level in 2050 . This could translate to hundreds of thousands of homes, businesses, livelihoods, and productive land at risk and could create a negative spiral of decline and retreat. Our natural assets in these areas are a strength which we want to protect. In the past Lincolnshire has made a virtue of low lying areas and managing it through dams, dykes, ditches, and pumps to create fertile land to feed our nation. We will invest in exceptional water management alongside renewable energy technologies and become a global leader in the field of climate adaptation, an industry that is worth billions of pounds.

The underlying cost per person is higher in rural areas than cities. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) rural studies suggest transport service provision becomes more expensive in areas with lower population densities . This is also true of the cost of providing social care, which is higher in rural areas than urban areas. We must rethink how services are provided, what preventative measures are in place for certain families, where and how future populations live. We can be world-leading in innovation in the delivery of digital rural health and care. A thriving economy is also vital - ensuring we capture that growth locally for reinvestment is crucial.

A CASE FOR CHANGE

Every great place faces challenges. Every great vision makes the big calls to tackle threats head on and capture opportunities arising from its assets and the changing world we live in.

Aging population



“

Since my health issues impacted my mobility, I have socialised a lot less. I'm often waiting for family to visit as I can't get out and about like I used to.

”

We have an aging population that needs care. The aging population in Lincolnshire has increased 30% faster than the rest of the UK rate since 2020. Within 20 years, a number of areas in Greater Lincolnshire will have significant proportions of their population aged 65 or older. Older populations often increasingly suffer from loneliness and contribute less to the economy. We can become a leader in innovation and research in the delivery of healthcare in rural communities, linked to our aging better programme. To avoid a negative economic spiral, we can tackle isolation and loneliness, focus on the right support, and simultaneously make efforts to attract more young people to stay or set up in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work together to understand the challenges we face, including the changing needs of our communities, and tackle them head on.

We are undergoing rapid change in technologies.



Over 16,000 Lincolnshire residents are employed in a digital role with over 8,250 specifically within the digital sector experiencing a 17% increase in just three years

Cloud computing, artificial intelligence, robotics, and gene editing are changing industries and the world of work. Some jobs can be done from anywhere. As more activities are automated some jobs won't exist. This will challenge some traditional industries and livelihoods. However, technology has the potential to transform Greater Lincolnshire's core industrial sectors of farming, food, ports and logistics, manufacturing, and water management. In the food, agriculture and tourism sectors, highly physical work can be unsuitable for people in later life, but new technology can support an older workforce in these industries. Greater Lincolnshire has an opportunity to place itself at the forefront of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

OUR 2050 VISION FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE IS TO CREATE A FLOURISHING FUTURE FOR ALL.

We embrace the 21st century and set new standards for a regenerative economy: we give so much more than we take. We are critical to the success of the UK. Our uniqueness creates opportunities for all.

Together we are **an interconnected place of places powering and feeding the nation.**

Together our residents have good lives, with **independence, wealth and good health.**

Together we ensure **national food security and clean energy supply** to power the UK's homes and economy.

Together we **protect and enhance the wellbeing of the world.**

Our missions



We will achieve this by simultaneously protecting our ecosystem and making good use of our great natural assets, including miles of coast and vast areas of productive land.

Through ground-breaking sustainable water management, leading the transition to clean

energy, locally grown healthy produce and an increasingly circular economic model we have a net-positive ecological impact.

We will help the wellbeing of the world through the shift to renewable energy, slowing of sea levels rising, and provision of food technology.

COMMUNITY

Our focus on boosting the Community means we have resident-led transformation in our market towns, city, seaside resorts and rural villages. We are renowned for our ingenuity, shared values and mindset that have driven positive change, reinforced self-help and resident-led solutions, and helped us all live a great life.

Our past local heroes give us great inspiration and confidence that we can achieve great changes. We are even more inspired by today's heroes. They are the carer, the conservationist, the retailer, the farmer, the world leading environmental engineer, the local architect, the artist, the digital entrepreneur, the firefighter, and the emergency care volunteer.

We cherish the diversity and important role of the many unique places from Humber to the Wash. The historic beauty of Lincoln the industrial heritage of Scunthorpe, connectivity of Grantham and grand past of Grimsby

and Gainsborough make us proud. The shared family holidays in Skegness, Mablethorpe, Cleethorpes, as well as the Wolds, bring us closer together. The world-leading, high-tech industries of the Humber Bank and Boston inspire us.

We cherish the diversity of the people in our places, the skills they bring, the kindness they show and the stories they tell. Together we are helping each other lead a good life. Together we are feeding and giving energy to the UK. Together we are supporting the wellbeing of the world.

“

I have made the most of what Lincolnshire has to offer. I have my own business, bought a house and can get to the beach most summer evenings.

- 2022 ”



CULTURE

All residents and visitors are provided with access to a high-quality, diverse art and cultural offering. Several towns are renowned for their culture and arts scene. Young people and all our children become acquainted with and inspired by art & culture.



Boultham Park, Lincoln

“ I have been spending time in nature after it was prescribed by the GP. Meeting people along the way helps me feel part of a wider community.

– 2022 ”



RESIDENT RESILIENCE

People are proud of the places they live and their fellow residents. We work together with a spirit of high trust, care and focus on wellbeing. Inequalities no longer exist.



INDEPENDENCE

People enjoy their independence, promote diversity, participation, collaboration and reciprocity.



IMPROVED OUTCOMES

We have reset a new relationship with our residents.



VOICE

Residents have an increased say, involvement and role in deciding what happens and how it gets implemented.



HERITAGE

Restoring historic buildings and assets – making the most of what we have.

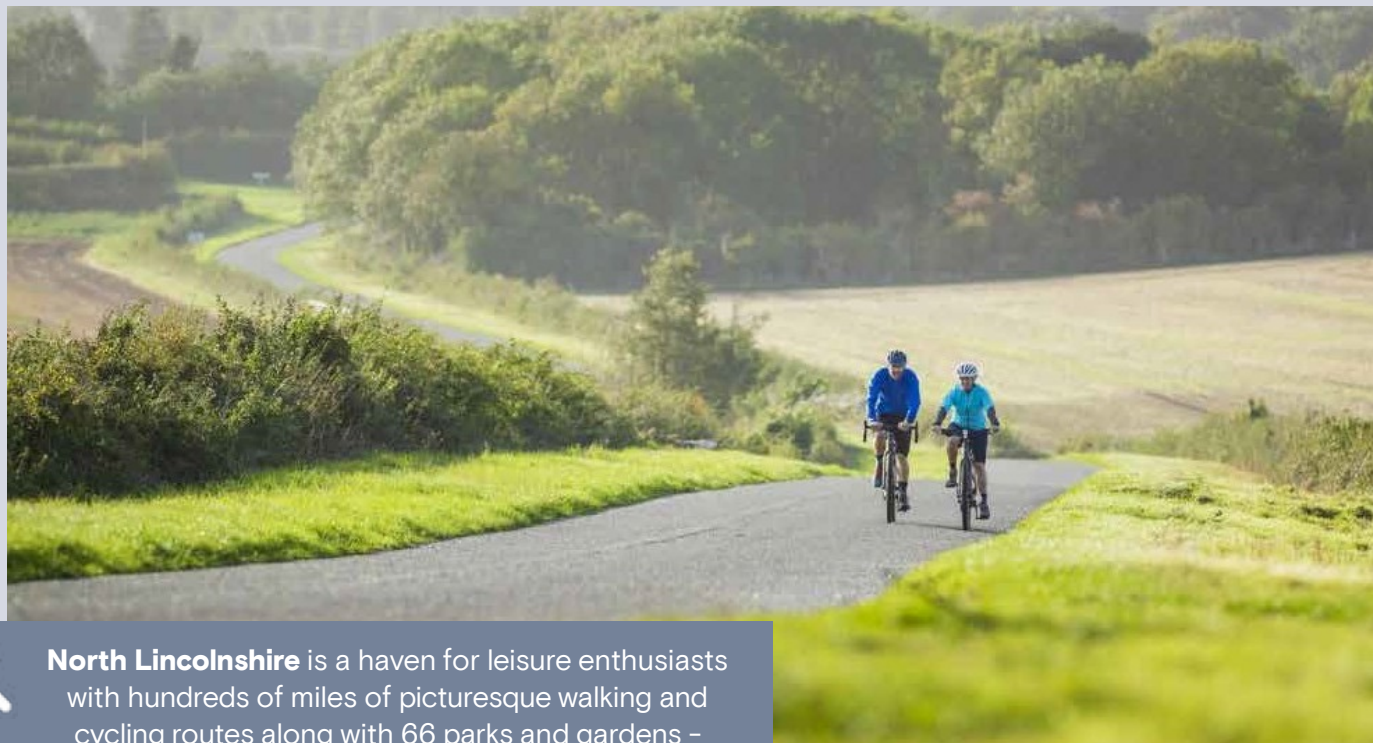


PEACE & JUSTICE

Every town is a safe and livable for residents and visitors.

MOVING & LIVING WELL

Our great places are connected by zero-carbon public transport. Neighbourhoods fulfil everyone's needs by providing places to meet and build our networks, homes, places to work and fair access to the services we need, including digital connections. All of which gives us independence and joy. Active travel is the norm and there is a well embedded infrastructure to encourage it. Our city, towns, villages, resorts and ports, and high-tech hub are accessible and interconnected within Greater Lincolnshire, to the UK and the world.



North Lincolnshire is a haven for leisure enthusiasts with hundreds of miles of picturesque walking and cycling routes along with 66 parks and gardens – including five holding the prestigious green flag award.

Travel solutions are abundant, sustainable and green. Trains have been upgraded, are more frequent and we have invested in other modes such as rapid bus transit schemes. Zero emission cars are available to all. Hydrogen powered vehicles move freight rapidly between producers, ports and consumers using a network of modern infrastructure. Cycleways are very well used because most of us use our bike or walk for journeys less than a mile. This means we have vastly reduced congestion and our air is always clean. This has reinforced Greater Lincolnshire as an active, healthy, independent population.

We live in great towns and neighbourhoods that fulfil most of our regular needs within a modest walking distance. With everything easily accessible and great places to socialise, we have eliminated loneliness. Our resident spirit is considered the best in the country, and we all have a huge amount of independence, self-sufficiency and joy.

We have capitalised on our assets and brought buildings back into use to strengthen our residents. New homes, streets, parks, the places we work and our civic buildings are all well designed, developed at a 'human scale' with minimal impact on the local

or global ecosystem. We have renewed our neighborhoods and regenerated our town centres.

Our towns, villages and city high streets are hives of activity. They are great places for people to meet, and for young and old to spend their leisure time safely together. We have seen the creative reuse of buildings like department stores into spaces to live, work, and play, which seamlessly blend marketplaces and co-working spaces. New entrepreneurs are starting out on their journey, taking advantage of the creative community, and digital connectivity, inspired by their work-live opportunities. Our seaside is renowned as the best promenades in the UK, rivalling any in Europe.

We have all the homes that people need and want, in the right place. We have deployed clever thinking, new material, and the wise use of technology to create new types of housing for all. Residents take pride in their homes and places so the buildings we do have are well maintained, decent, safe, and warm places to live, and the places we create are well-designed to benefit residents and communities.

Our buildings and streets are fitted with the latest smart devices to help those who need it. Our streets, waste, lighting, transport systems are all monitored and guided by smart technology, helping ensure public services are well directed and timely. Everything is transparent so residents are able to see the information and help themselves. Resident pride means we all look after our public spaces.

We do not take access to the countryside for granted or inadvertently neglect our urban spaces. We have planted trees in every street. Our parks are well maintained. Some things have not changed. We still cherish our neighbourhoods in bloom. We still love leaning over the fence to catch up with our neighbours. However, our renewed towns, villages, and city are healthy, safe and welcoming for every user.



“ My proudest achievement is that I do not own a car, and don't intend to. I'm making the most of my bike and the limited public transport available. It would be good if we could have more

- 2022 ”



DESIGN QUALITY

Homes, public spaces and other infrastructure are well designed and sensitive to their context, so that they benefit residents and communities.



MOBILITY

Every town is accessible to everyone via public transport, in a safe and sustainable way.



CONNECTIVITY

A digitally connected place where the infrastructure is as important as any basic utility and skills are outstanding so we are all connected to the world.



HOMES

There are enough of the homes that people need and want, which are decent and dignified to live in.



HEALTH

All residents have an equal chance of living a healthy and active life, regardless of socioeconomic status, or background.



FOOD

All residents have access to healthy food choices that are affordable to them.

INNOVATION-LED ECONOMY AND SHARED PROSPERITY

We are world leading in energy, green technology, digital technology, and water management. We have ensured the UK has decarbonised and is self-sufficient in food and energy. Everyone has a well-paid, fulfilling job. Our modernised infrastructure no longer holds back growth, it only holds back the water.

Our renewable energy derived from wind, sun and tidal movement, alongside new hydrogen fuel and biomass technology, is powering production in our local economy and the UK as a whole. We export our expertise all over the world to tackle climate change and this has driven up GDP. Thanks to investment and innovation in our world class ports and logistic sector, seafood and food industries through the Food Valley and A15 agri-tech growth corridor initiatives we are feeding the nation and the nation is a net exporter of agricultural services and produce.

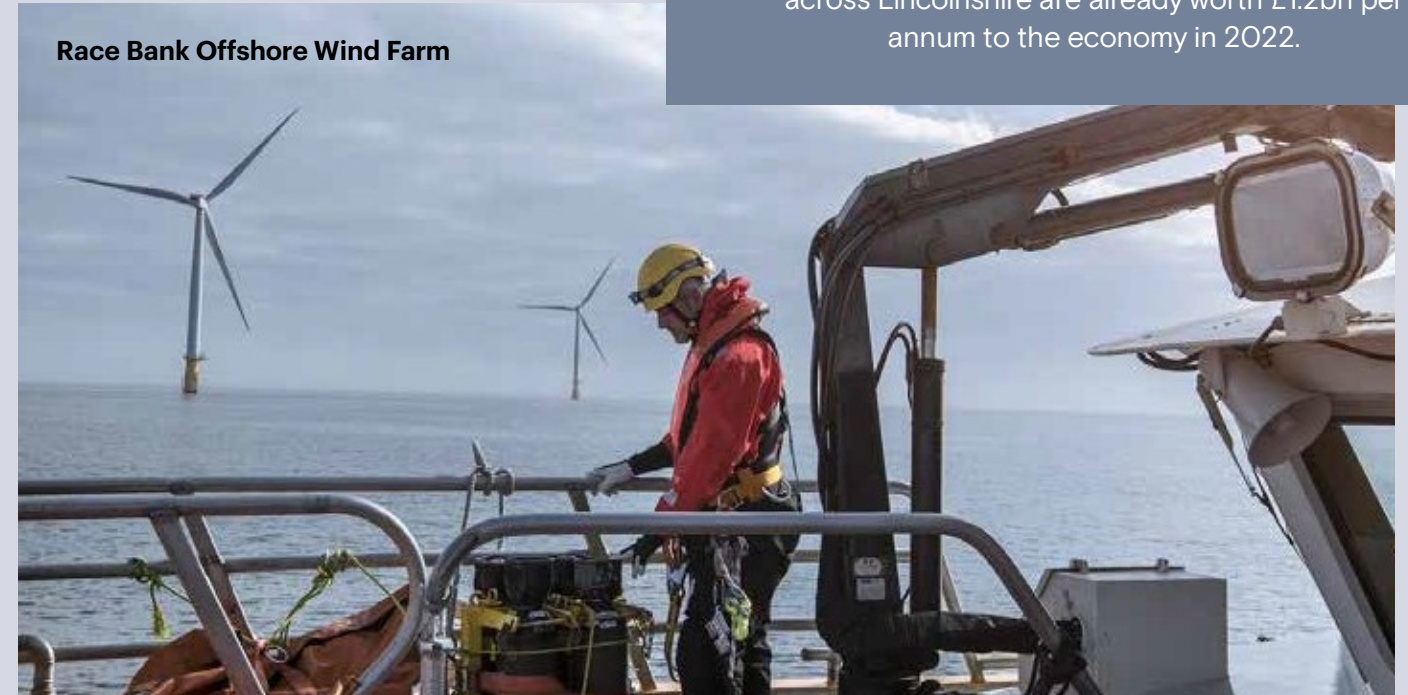
We are proud to have turned the very real local risk of sea levels rising into an opportunity using our spirit of ingenuity and embracing new technology. This includes AI, robotics and genomics in industry. It includes adopting new materials and construction techniques. In taking decisive action in the 2020s to save our local homes, business premises and

productive land from sea levels rising, we developed the means to save the wellbeing of billions of people across the planet.

Being at the forefront of the fourth Industrial Revolution means we have created a high growth, high-wage economy that is the envy of the country. We have made sure it has benefited everyone through outstanding school education and expanded post-16 skills training. Fully integrated work between universities, colleges and employers is the norm and technology transfer is driving innovation. Lincolnshire Universities have expanded into many local towns. Branches of other world-leading universities have set up in our area.

Every school is excellent and our universities are global leaders in research and teaching. No one is left without a well-paid, fulfilling job. Food banks are a thing of the past that we look back on with dismay. All

Race Bank Offshore Wind Farm



The low carbon economy and energy production across Lincolnshire are already worth £1.2bn per annum to the economy in 2022.

but the most vulnerable are self-reliant and independent, and we have taken extraordinary measures to focus on early intervention and preventative support for those people. Resident resilience coupled with a successful economy means there is always help and support for the vulnerable among us.

We have created an entrepreneur's paradise and are considered the number one best environment to set up and grow small businesses. Digital connectivity is second to none. That means people have chosen to move to Lincolnshire to enjoy our work life balance. It is the access to nature and wide beaches that remains an outstanding part of the draw to the most talented people. Our town centres are hubs of cultural activities, there

is a vibrant night-time economy and historical buildings have been carefully repurposed for work and pleasure. This has attracted young people to stay after university and inspired local young people to stay and build their career. They take advantage of good value homes and great prospects of working in fulfilling jobs.

We are one of the top tourist destinations including food tourism. Our visitor economy has been transformed through investment and benefits from more reliable employment for workers in the sector. Our attractions and unique landscape make us a regular feature in international tourist guides. We are the ongoing subject of a world renown documentary maker's series about innovation-led economy.



JOBS

Everyone enjoys a fulfilling job.



EDUCATION

Every child receives an excellent education, in a high quality environment. Every adult is able to refresh and improve their skills in order to stay actively employed.



75k employees in farm to factory gate supply chain which is, proportionally to the total number of jobs, 3x higher than national figures



INCOME

Everyone is financially secure, enabling them to be independent and support their families. They will be supported on occasions where they cannot provide for themselves.



WORLD LEADING FOOD & FARMING

World leading provider of food, associated technological innovation, enabling the UK to reach food security and exporting our produce, technology and skills to the world.



CLEAN, GREEN ENERGY

World leading provider in renewable and clean energy providing the UK with energy security and exporting our energy and skills to the world.



WORLD-LEADING WATER MANAGEMENT

World leader in water management ensuring Greater Lincolnshire's industry and residents are resilience to flooding and we are exporting our skills to the world.



TOURISM

Destinations are thriving and prize-winning. Secure at least one truly world-beating attraction that makes it into every Tourist Guide to the UK/Europe.



ENTREPRENEURS & GREEN INNOVATION

Established national green tech cluster. Entrepreneurs enjoy an outstanding business environment with access to finance, facilities, infrastructure and focus on environmental and social impact.

ECOLOGY & ECOSYSTEM

We will achieve our vision by simultaneously protecting our ecosystem and making good use of our great natural assets. Through ground-breaking sustainable water management, leading the transition to clean energy, locally grown healthy produce and an increasingly circular economic model we have a net-positive ecological impact. We will help the wellbeing of the world.

Lincolnshire's natural environment is our biggest asset. The sun, wind, and waves have powered our renewable future. The sea keeps us connected to global markets, supporting our economy, which in turn supports a good life for all. The verdant, fertile land and access to the sea enables us to feed the nation. Our coastal Salt Marshes stores more carbon per unit of area than rainforests. They also reduce wave energy as a natural defense against flooding. The beaches attract people to live here and visitors to spend time and money here. We know how precious this resource is, hence, we treat it with the utmost respect.

Habitats are protected and have been enhanced. We have primarily built our homes and industry on previously used land and deployed clever technologies and policies that led to

rapid decarbonisation in the 2020s. It was in our interest to be good global residents and meet our commitments in the 2015 Paris Accord to keep global temperature rises to 1.5c.

Our economic growth sectors have thrived on strong environmental and social agenda.

For example, our food production focuses on making us well, through whole foods and better nutrition rather than fatty, high-sugar fast food. It's also the thousands of small things that have mattered. We have planted street trees, cherished our parks, shifted our waste management to a circular economic model through resident-led change. Zero food waste schemes bring unloved food together in resident projects that promote cooking classes, bringing people, together to tackle loneliness and provide meals for people that cannot provide for themselves.



Lincs Offshore Wind Farm



Greater Lincolnshire is a key player in the global green energy revolution, within an eco-system that supports hundreds of high-skilled, well-paid, sustainable jobs.

MISSION TARGETS



DECARBONISATION & AIR POLLUTION

Meet our 2015 Paris commitments through rapid action and working within carbon budgets. Support our industry through carbon capture or energy transition. Manage ozone depletion. Reduce air pollution.



COASTAL EROSION

Learn to effectively protect our coast and areas at risk of flooding and in doing so become world leaders.



SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

Concentrate on sustainable forms of development and land use. Protect and expand natural low carbon landscapes.



PROTECT OUR WATER

Curb excessive use of fertilizers, reduce carbon emissions to address ocean acidification and only use the fresh water we need.

WHAT WILL ENABLE US TO IMPLEMENT THE VISION

This vision and these enablers and responsibilities have been developed by the ten Local authorities in Greater Lincolnshire. It will be continue to be developed with partners and stakeholders. By embracing change and committing to this vision we will set a new standard for what a good life is in the 21st century, right here in Lincolnshire. Together, as a broad-based coalition of civil society, businesses, local political leaders and Members of Parliament, we will turn this vision into a reality. The enablers and responsibilities we've identified are a starting point and will continue to evolve with partners, working together. We will use these four enabling factors to make progress.

1. Work together, adopt the best behaviours

The complex challenges we face as a society can only be solved through working together and drawing on our strengths. Effective partnerships are built on trust, common endeavour, respect, and they are maintained through good communication. From the very start we will:

- Bring together civil society, business and political leaders to guide progress towards this vision.
- Consider this as a shared, guiding mission.
- Build and maintain trust.
- Take a 'can-do' attitude, seek opportunities and take them.
- Carry out our commitments to high standards.
- Value each other's positive contributions.
- Have a shared sense of responsibility for people, place, and planet.
- Proudly promote Greater Lincolnshire, our places and our people.

2. Focus on the things that unify us

There is much to unite us all who live and make a living in Lincolnshire. To deliver this vision we will identify the things that unite us and work together to celebrate, maintain and enhance them.

- To be identified

3. Align our policies and actions

Aligning our policies and plans will add to this vision's clear sense of direction. It will translate it into action faster. We see the way our vision links our policies and our day-to-day activities as a 'golden thread' connecting ideas to action, leading to tangible results.

- As the policies of each partner are reviewed and renewed they will be designed
- to help achieve the vision.
- Where policies warrant complete consistency throughout Greater Lincolnshire we will consider adopting a joint approach.
- Where policies require local specificity we will do what's right for the local area,
- whilst seeking to be in general conformity with the vision.

4. Secure the maximum resources and invest wisely for the benefit of our communities

By working together we will secure our fair share of resources and give ourselves the maximum freedom to invest it where it is needed the most. We recognise that together we can be an investor at scale and we can ensure the right resources are in the right place to deliver the vision.

- We will ensure we have maximum resource including the devolution of fiscal powers and we will seek to remove central rules and regulations so local professionals can deliver better services.
- We will carefully consider pooling and aligning budgets and resources of agencies where it is effective to do so.
- Over time we will increasingly align our investment programmes to focus on achieving the vision.
- In due course we will carefully consider how we use our collective purchasing power, property and other assets to achieve the vision.
- Lobbying to central Government through our local MPs.

TARGETS	LEAD BODY / PARTNERSHIP	STAKEHOLDERS (UNDER CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT)
DESIGN QUALITY: Homes, public spaces and other infrastructure are well designed and sensitive to their context, so that they benefit residents and communities.	Local Planning Authority	Communities, County Council, Developers / Utilities / Funders / Business , Historic England, Government, Woodland Trust, Active Links
MOBILITY: Every town is accessible to everyone via public transport, in a safe and sustainable way.	Local Transport Authority	District Councils , Service Providers / Operators / Utilities
CONNECTIVITY: A digitally connected place where the infrastructure is as important as any basic utility and skills are outstanding so we are all connected to the world.	GL Joint Committee (e.g. MCCA) - Public body facilitator	Skills providers Business Provider BDUK Communities
HOMES: There are enough of the homes that people need and want, which are decent and dignified to live in.	Local Planning Authority	Communities, County Council, Developers / Utilities / Funders / Business Government
HEALTH: All residents have an equal chance of living a healthy and active life, regardless of socioeconomic status, or background.	Integrated Care Board	Health Trusts, Integrated Care Partnerships, Emergency and essential Services, Early Years providers, Employers, Civil Society, Local Authorities
FOOD: All residents have access to healthy food choices that are affordable to them.	Integrated Care Partnerships	All Councils, Schools, Civil Society, Food producers, retailers
HERITAGE: Restoring historic buildings and assets – making the most of what we have.	Local Planning Authorities	Historic Lincoln Trust, Heritage Lincolnshire

TARGETS	LEAD BODY / PARTNERSHIP	STAKEHOLDERS (UNDER CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT)
JOBS: Everyone enjoys a fulfilling job	GL Joint Committee (e.g. MCCA)	Councils, Schools, FE/HE, Skills provider, Civil Society, LEP, Business, DWP
EDUCATION: Every child receives an excellent education, in a high quality environment. Every adult is able to refresh and improve their skills in order to stay actively employed.	GLLEP	Councils, Schools, Academy Trusts, Church Schools, skills providers, civic society, employers
INCOME: Everyone is financially secure, enabling them to be independent and support their families. They will be supported on occasions where they cannot provide for themselves.	All Councils	Councils, Schools, skills providers, civic society, employers
WORLD LEADING FOOD & FARMING: World leading provider of food, associated technological innovation, enabling the UK to reach food security and exporting our produce, technology and skills to the world.	GL joint committee (e.g. MCCA)	Councils, Schools, skills providers, civic society, employers, University of Lincoln, GLLEP, NFU
CLEAN, GREEN ENERGY: World leading provider in renewable and clean energy providing the UK with energy security and exporting our energy and skills to the world.	GL Joint Committee (e.g. MCCA)	Opportunity Humber, energy providers, GLLEP, FE/HE
WORLD LEADING WATER MANAGEMENT: World leader in water management ensuring Greater Lincolnshire’s industry and residents are resilience to flooding and we are exporting our skills to the world	Environment Agency (MCA, when created)	Local Planning Authority, Flood Management Authority, IDBs, neighbouring Authorities, Canal and River Trust
TOURISM: Destinations are thriving and prize- winning. Secure at least one truly world-beating attraction that makes it into every Tourist Guide to the UK/ Europe.	Destination Lincolnshire	LEP, DCMS / Heritage England, Local Authorities
ENTREPRENEURS & GREEN INNOVATION: Established national green tech cluster. Entrepreneurs enjoy an outstanding business environment with access to finance, facilities, infrastructure and focus on environmental and social impact.	GLLEP (MCA, when created)	Businesses, Councils, Universities

2020

2050

A VISION FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE

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TARGETS	LEAD BODY / PARTNERSHIP	STAKEHOLDERS (UNDER CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT)
CULTURE: All residents and visitors are provided with access to a high-quality, diverse art and cultural offering. Several towns are renowned for their culture and arts scene. Young people and all our children become acquainted with and inspired by art & culture.	Cultural Arts Partnerships	Councils, Schools, Further Education, Higher Education, Visit Lincolnshire, local venue, creative enterprises, Magna Vitae
RESIDENT RESILIENCE: People are proud of the places they live and their fellow residents.	All Local Authorities	Businesses, communities, VCS, Town and Parish Councils, Brand Connection
INDEPENDENCE: People enjoy their independence, promote diversity, participation, collaboration and reciprocity.	Health & Well Being Board	Councils, public health, housing network provider
IMPROVED OUTCOMES: We have reset a new relationship with our residents.	All Local Authorities	Community Paradigm, Parish Councils, third sector
VOICE: Residents have an increased say, involvement and role in deciding what happens and how it gets implemented	All Local Authorities	MHLDA (Health), (locally elected leaders)
PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE: Every town is a safe and livable for residents and visitors.	PCC x 2	All councils (including town and parish), schools, businesses



TARGETS	LEAD BODY / PARTNERSHIP	STAKEHOLDERS (UNDER CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT)
DECARBONISATION & AIR POLLUTION: Meet our 2015 Paris commitments through rapid action and working within carbon budgets. Support our industry through carbon capture or energy transition. Manage ozone depletion. Reduce air pollution.	GL Joint Committee (e.g. MCCA)	Councils, al major emitters, Government, Humber Leadership Board, communities
COASTAL EROSION: Learn to effectively protect our coast and areas at risk of flooding and in doing so become world leaders.	Environment Agency	Councils, landowners
SUSTAINABLE LAND USE: Concentrate on sustainable forms of development and land use. Protect and expand natural low carbon landscapes.	Local Planning Authority	Councils, landowners
PROTECT OUR WATER: Curb excessive use of fertilizers, reduce carbon emissions to address ocean acidification and only use the fresh water we need.	Environment Agency	NFU, MCA, all Councils, businesses, LWLT

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Equality Impact Analysis

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- (i) help decision makers fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and
- (ii) for you to evidence the positive and adverse impacts of the proposed change on people with protected characteristics and ways to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts.

Using this form

This form must be updated and reviewed as your evidence evolves on proposals for a:

- project
- service change
- policy
- commissioning of a service
- decommissioning of a service

You must take into account any:

- consultation feedback
- significant changes to the proposals
- data to support impacts of the proposed changes

The key findings of the most up to date version of the Equality Impact Analysis must be explained in the report to the decision maker. The Equality Impact Analysis must be attached to the decision-making report.

****Please make sure you read the information below so that you understand what is required under the Equality Act 2010****

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 applies to both our workforce and our customers. Under the Equality Act 2010, decision makers are under duty, to have due (that is proportionate) regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics.

Protected characteristics

The protected characteristics under the Act are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010

Section 149 requires a public authority to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share those characteristics
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The purpose of Section 149 is to get decision makers to consider the impact their decisions may or will have on those with protected characteristics. By evidencing the impacts on people with protected characteristics decision makers should be able to demonstrate 'due regard'.

Decision makers duty under the Act

Having had careful regard to the Equality Impact Analysis, and also the consultation responses, decision makers are under a duty to have due regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics (see above) and to:

- (i) consider and analyse how the decision is likely to affect those with protected characteristics, in practical terms.
- (ii) remove any unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other prohibited conduct.
- (iii) consider whether practical steps should be taken to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences that the decision is likely to have, for persons with protected characteristics and, indeed, to consider whether the decision should not be taken at all, in the interests of persons with protected characteristics.
- (iv) consider whether steps should be taken to advance equality, foster good relations and generally promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics, either by varying the recommended decision or by taking some other decision.

Conducting an impact analysis

The Equality Impact Analysis is a process to identify the impact or likely impact a project, proposed service change, commissioning, decommissioning or policy will have on people with protected characteristics listed above. It should be considered at the beginning of the decision-making process.

The Lead Officer responsibility

This is the person writing the report for the decision maker. It is the responsibility of the Lead Officer to make sure that the Equality Impact Analysis is robust and proportionate to the decision being taken.

Summary of findings

You must provide a clear and concise summary of the key findings of this Equality Impact Analysis in the decision-making report and attach this Equality Impact Analysis to the report.

Impact

An impact is an intentional or unintentional lasting consequence or significant change to people's lives brought about by an action or series of actions.

How much detail to include?

The Equality Impact Analysis should be proportionate to the impact of proposed change. In deciding this ask simple questions:

- who might be affected by this decision?
- which protected characteristics might be affected?
- how might they be affected?

These questions will help you consider the extent to which you already have evidence, information and data. It will show where there are gaps that you will need to explore. Ensure the source and date of any existing data is referenced.

You must consider both obvious and any less obvious impacts. Engaging with people with the protected characteristics will help you to identify less obvious impacts as these groups share their perspectives with you.

A given proposal may have a positive impact on one or more protected characteristics and have an adverse impact on others. You must capture these differences in this form to help decision makers to decide where the balance of advantage or disadvantage lies. If an adverse impact is unavoidable, then it must be clearly justified and recorded as such. An explanation must be stated as to why no steps can be taken to avoid the impact. Consequences must be included.

Proposals for more than one option

If more than one option is being proposed, you must ensure that the Equality Impact Analysis covers all options. Depending on the circumstances, it may be more appropriate to complete an Equality Impact Analysis for each option.

The information you provide in this form must be sufficient to allow the decision maker to fulfil their role as above. You must include the latest version of the Equality Impact Analysis with the report to the decision maker. Please be aware that the information in this form must be able to stand up to legal challenge.

Background information

Details	Response
Title of the policy, project or service being considered	Devolution to a Greater Lincolnshire (GL) Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA).
Service area	Joint assessment by Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council (LCC, NELC & NLC respectively)
Person or people completing the analysis	Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) - Lee Sirdifield, Samantha Long, Matthew Garrard, Justin Brown, Daniel Larkin, Marie Mettam, Sarah Moody, Kate Sobstyl, and Samantha Hardy North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) - Stephen McGrath, Ian Hollingsworth, Paul Ellis North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) – Sophie Day
Lead officer	Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director for Corporate (LCC)
Who is the decision maker?	Three Upper Tier Councils/Executives (LCC, NELC and NLC)
How was the Equality Impact Analysis undertaken?	Kick off Meeting (22 May 2023) Workshop Meeting (06 June 2023) Review Meeting (04 July 2023) Review Meeting (20 September 2023) Review Meeting (16 October 2023) Other sessions as relevant After the consultation TBC Analysis taken in conjunction with devolution deal asks and statistics from GL population. This is a live document and will be reviewed throughout the process.
Date of meeting when decision will be made	The decision regarding whether to proceed with the devolution deal will be taken by mid-2024 We will review and update this document at all major milestones including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deal agreed • Proposal agreed • Consultation mid way point (January 2024) • Consultation results (February-March 2024) • Statutory Instrument passed through Parliament

Details	Response
Is this a proposed change to an existing policy, service, project or is it new?	GL is proposing a new Deal with the Government for devolved powers across GL, managed by an MCCA.
Version control	v.1.2
Is it LCC directly delivered, commissioned, recommissioned, or decommissioned?	Joint assessment by Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council (LCC, NELC & NLC respectively)
Describe the proposed change	A proposal for the establishment of a GL (GL) Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). A proposal to devolve powers and budgets from the UK Government to GL to be managed by a new MCCA. The deal proposes changes in six key areas, as outlined in the Growth, Energy and Food vision document.

Equality Impact Assessment Context

This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted in the context of the proposed GL Devolution Deal agreed between Central Government and the 3 Upper Tier Authorities of the region (Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council).

This deal will implement a transfer of funding and powers currently held at the level of central government and bring them closer to local people and controlled at a Greater Lincolnshire Level through a Mayoral Combined County Authority.

All 10 Local Authorities (Upper and Lower Tier) will see no change to their current structure and continue to have authority and responsibility over everything that they presently do, with the exception of transport powers which will transfer from the upper tier authorities to the Mayoral Combined County Authority. There will be no change to day-to-day practice. The GL MCCA if established, will consult with, and work alongside the Local Authorities in the GL area.

This EIA is a process to identify the impact or likely impact of this project upon the people of GL who are part of one of the protected characteristic groups listed above, and it seeks to consider a large variety of possible implications to ensure that it reflects and considers the diversity of GL.

The EIA will be updated following the public consultation, and additionally updated both at the mid-point of the consultation and following its conclusion to ensure that any additional impacts that are identified are given due consideration within this document.

Understanding those with an interest in the decision

The EIA shows due consideration to those who have an interest in devolution to GL which covers a wide range of demographics. This emphasises the importance of making the entire process accessible and understandable for all within the region, and where negative implications have been identified it seeks to provide mitigations to limit any negative possible effects.

This EIA will sit alongside the public consultation process. The consultation will be open to all residents across GL and will seek their views on the devolution proposal that has been agreed with government, which will then be considered locally and nationally before moving forward.

The consultation will be available in a variety of forms, including but not limited to; online access, hard paper copies in public locations, easy read for those with any form of learning disabilities, and a British Sign Language (BSL) version. This will give due consideration to all groups of people within GL.

Greater Lincolnshire Geography, Statistics and Challenges

Summary

GL is a large geographical area combining urban, rural and coastal areas. GL has coastal and low-lying regions and our diverse geography is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with high risks from flooding impacting on homes, communities and limiting coastal tourism in the warmer seasons.

GL's population has grown by almost 55,000 people in the 10 years to 2021. Lincoln City area grew the most (11.1%) increasing by over 10,000 since the 2011 Census. North East Lincolnshire was the only area with a decreased population, dropping over 2,000 (-1.7%).

16% of the population (175,000) (as of the 2021 census) are aged under 15 years. There are more people in this age group compared with 2011. However, as a proportion of the overall population, the size of the group has decreased (170,000, 16.4% in 2011).

61.1% of the GL population in 2021 (669,000) were aged 15 to 64 years. There are more people in this age group compared with 2011 (when 664,000 were aged 15 to 64 years), but as a proportion of the overall population there has been a decrease in the size of this group (63.8% in 2011).

The ageing population trend has continued, with more people than ever before in the older age groups. 22.8%, (249,000) of the population in 2021 were aged 65 years and over, up from 19.8% (206,000) in 2011. The size of the population aged 90 years and over (11,100 or 1.0% of the population) has increased since 2011, when 8,800 or 0.8% were aged 90 and over. GL's ageing population has increased 30% faster than the rest of the UK since 2020.

More people in GL define themselves as being religious compared to those who do not. 596,727 said that they were affiliated to a form of religion. This is equal to approximately 54.5% of the entire population.

According to 2021 Census Data 10.4% (approximately 113,880) of the population belong to what would be identified as minority ethnic groups in GL which is less than the England figure of 18%.

GL has a higher rate of disability than the national figure, with a total of 211,250 people having a form of disability which either limits them a little or a lot. This equates to 19.3% of the population of the area and therefore above the national figure of 17.7%.

The 2021 Census information confirms that 24,207 people identified with an LGB+ orientation ("Gay or Lesbian", "Bisexual" or "Other sexual orientation"). This equates to 2.7% of those eligible to answer this question in GL, which is slightly lower than the England and Wales figure of 3.2%.

Census data analysis reveals that 62,648 people (approximately 6.3% of GL) don't have English as their main language.

GL faces increasing challenges which are not helped by the rurality and unique geography of the region. GL has few motorways, dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality. Costs are often higher and greater investment is required. Access to both higher and further education is

hampered by poor digital connectivity, limiting the development of the skill-base needed within the population.

There are also currently 149,700 people in GL (22.7%) that are economically inactive when compared to the UK figure of 21.3% which presents a wide challenge.

Public spending per head is below average when compared against the UK. The economy has an over-reliance on seasonal jobs, whether that is in tourism or agriculture. The area has carbon-rich heavy industry which is critical to the UK but sees challenges in terms of the green agenda. Education attainment lags behind our neighbours and the rest of the UK with only 29% of our working age residents having a Level 4 Qualification or above.

Positive impacts

The proposed change may have the following positive impacts on persons with protected characteristics.

Protected characteristic	Response
Age	<p>Young People (0-25)</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>In GL 16.0% of the population (175,000) are aged under 15 years according to the 2021 census¹. This generation will see the greatest impact of climate change on the environment in their lifetime. GL is pivotal to the nation becoming a net energy exporter by 2040 and achieving net zero. Devolution to GL is a fundamental part of investing in the North Sea and the onshore infrastructure required to expand our renewable capacity and innovate in carbon capture.</p> <p>Through working towards net zero and investing in renewable energy in GL, younger people will benefit from a green future, cleaner air and opportunities for highly skilled jobs, allowing them to develop a career locally. Through devolution, we are asking for a more co-ordinated approach between relevant stakeholders to the environment and green growth. This will enhance the reputation of GL as a technology leader in renewable energy and carbon capture, attracting further investment and people to the area which will secure a strong future for young people.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>The average increase in median age in 2021 when comparing to the 2011 census across GL was approximately 1.7 years^{2,3}.</p> <p>West Lindsey, East Lindsey and South Kesteven all saw their median age increase by 3 years. The use of devolved funds for programmes led by DWP, DfE, and other government sponsored training provisions to a local level will enable support to be tailored to specific areas so that training can be commissioned and targeted on local need. The City of Lincoln was the only local authority area that saw a decrease in its median age, and this was by 1 year from 34 to 33.</p> <p>Over 45,500 children under the age of 16 in GL were living in relative low-income families in 2022, equating to an average figure across all local authorities of 25% in</p>

¹ Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

² 2011 Census: Key Statistics for Local Authorities in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³ Population and household estimates, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>GL. These figures were high across almost all areas, particularly Lincoln 30.5%, East Lindsey 31.4% and Boston 31.1%⁴.</p> <p>The development of an industry-led GL Careers service will benefit people of all ages and will positively impact on those who may not currently be able to access career services.</p> <p>Given that all areas apart from the City of Lincoln district have shown increases in the average age of the population from the 2011 Census to 2021, this has the potential to impact greatly on the population of GL and it is important that our residents are aware of the wide range of opportunities available to them.</p> <p>The potential to innovate and adapt loans and allowances and funding rules to encourage more adults to train, will help support an increasingly older population, along with a devolved Adult Education Budget.</p> <p>The addition of the opportunity to work with Government to test and design viable solutions to the workforce challenges faced by further education and adult education, will support to remove those barriers faced by those who may be prepared to leave industries and teach the new generation of learners.</p> <p>The roll out of higher-level technical qualifications, working with the area's further education colleges in the area's priority economic sectors will support a more diverse range of ages through the range of educational opportunities. The use of Skills Bootcamps will help to raise skills levels in those occupations which have hard to fill vacancies in critical roles. The development of bespoke apprenticeship arrangements will further diversify the range of opportunities available to those who may have missed out on educational opportunities earlier in life.</p> <p>Of specific benefit to younger people is the proposal to establish a duty to co-operate to enable support for employment and training provisions for those leaving care, along with increased support to access apprenticeships. This will benefit vulnerable young people in their transition from care to training and career or job opportunities.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>The environment is of great interest to young people. Woodland Trust research published in March 2023 found that 16-24s are more likely to be 'very worried' about climate change, so devolution plans to address environmental matters will help this passion to be harnessed⁵. Taking local control of environmental policy will</p>

⁴ DWP Stat-Xplore, Children in Low Income Families, local authority by age and ONS Nomis, Population Estimates, local authority by age

⁵ Young People's Climate Anxiety Soaring - Woodland Trust

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>help improve and accelerate green economy benefits, in which northern Lincolnshire is a global leader. Ultimately young people and future generations will benefit most from protected resources and investment.</p> <p>Nature is close to most of our residents. However, a survey by Natural England in 2019 found that GL had the second lowest level of residents in England spending time visiting a nature site over the previous month that was recorded⁶. Having a variety of accessible wildlife sites that are well promoted is important for improving the physical and mental health of our residents.</p> <p>It is important to promote nature sites and coastal resorts in order to encourage residents to take part in physical activity. GL has statistics comfortably above the national average when considering weight and obesity levels. According to the latest public health data (2021/22), South Holland and West Lindsey have the two largest percentages of adults classed as overweight or obese in England. South Holland with 77.6% and West Lindsey with 77.3%. North East Lincolnshire is 11th on the list with 73.5%¹⁰. All but two local authority areas in GL have a score of over 70% with South Kesteven and East Lindsey the only two below this level with scores of 64.3% and 68% respectively¹¹.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Of the 175,000 people aged under 15 years⁷, many rely heavily on public transport to get them to where they need to be and require an improved and reliable service which a devolution deal will allow GL to provide. The Campaign to Protect Rural England found 86% of the 16-25 year olds who want to leave rural areas surveyed cite infrequent and unreliable public transport as an important concern⁸.</p> <p>The devolution proposal put forward has requested a multi – year transport infrastructure settlement to be devolved to local leaders to support the delivery of a joint local transport plan which covers road, rail, freight, public transport, walking and cycling. The freedom of controlling these powers and funding locally will allow the resources to be directed into the areas that need them most and support many of the young people who need these services. GL MCCA is also requesting, a multi– year transport and travel settlement to be devolved to local leaders which is to include all funding for public transport and active travel, all of which are currently disparate.</p>

⁶ Monitor_Engagement_Natural_Environment_2018_2019_v2.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁷ Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

⁸ Rural eastern England a public transport desert, MPs told - BBC News

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Additionally, a devolved and consolidated integrated local transport budget for GL, to provide long term certainty and commitment to transport will assist young people.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>The growth of the Innovation and Trade sector in GL will be extremely positive for young people. It is important that the area is seen as a good place to live and work when young people are working through school and obtaining qualifications. In the devolution proposal we have requested to pilot four centres of innovation targeting food technology (Holbeach), advanced manufacturing (Scunthorpe), decarbonisation (Stallingborough) and defence (Lincoln). These cover wide ranging sectors and offer variety to young people who are looking for possible careers in GL. GL also wants to see a Regional Defence and Security Cluster which will be a positive option for those young people looking to move into GL's rich heritage of defence.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>More than three-quarters (76%) of young people who want to move away say that poor digital connectivity has influenced their desire to leave their rural area, according to research commissioned by the Campaign to Protect Rural England⁹. Speeding up access roll out as part of devolution could help slow this rate of departure and the resulting loss of skills.</p> <p>Through a devolution deal for GL, additional funding will allow for a planned approach to strategic and long-term investment in digital infrastructure that closes the gap with other areas of the UK. The positive impact of this for young people will be that businesses will have the confidence to invest and relocate to the area and it will enable existing businesses in the area to improve productivity. This will enable them to provide more opportunities for young people to access highly skilled jobs in the future and build careers locally.</p> <p>Improved digital infrastructure will also give young people greater choice and flexibility over how they choose to work in the future and the jobs they can access. Reliable high-speed connectivity and mobile signal opens up learning and job opportunities outside of the area that would otherwise mean relocation was necessary. Young people will also benefit from the improved connectivity in educational and social settings which will enrich their life experience. Parents being able to access highly skilled, high wage jobs in the GL will also benefit young people through growing up in an area with a thriving local economy which attracts investment and offers greater experiences and quality of life.</p>

⁹ CPRE survey reveals the factors pushing young people out of the countryside - CPRE

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Housing</p> <p>National data shows how young people struggle to access housing in all areas, but especially rural places. Of the 16-25 year olds surveyed by YouGov (alongside The Countryside Charity) in 2021, 72% of those living in rural areas say affordable housing is their top concern. 84% of those who want to leave their rural homes say it is an important factor in making their decision. Investment as part of devolution will make affordable, decent homes available in the right places to address this challenge¹⁰.</p> <p>Working aged people</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>By devolving the Adult Education Budget, we aim to widen participation of adult learning, improving access to better paid employment and higher-level qualifications. This will enable GL to access improved Higher Education (HE) & Further Education (FE) provisions through the devolution of the Adult Education Budget.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>61.1% of the GL population in 2021 (669,000) were aged 15 to 64 years¹¹. The working age population in GL will benefit from the devolution asks mentioned above in similar ways to young people. In addition to these asks, devolution also presents opportunities to ensure that timely investment decisions can be achieved locally to enable new technologies to come to the market faster, this will benefit working age people in terms of the environmental benefits of these technologies as well as new job opportunities and access to greener, more secure forms of energy and water.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>GL is a large geography with limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality. There are 149,700 people in GL (22.7%) (Q3, 2022 data) that are economically inactive when compared to the UK figure of 21.3%¹². This has the possibility of being offset by the development of an improved and accessible transport offer, to encourage people to return to or remain in the workplace.</p>

¹⁰ CPRE survey reveals the factors pushing young people out of the countryside - CPRE

¹¹ Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

¹² ONS Annual Population Survey, Q3 2022

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>GL is also requesting a devolved and consolidated integrated local transport budget, to provide long term certainty and a commitment to transport. This certainty and reliability is crucial for residents knowing that they can get from A to B without any concerns and this is what we strive to achieve through the freedom of devolution.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>Working Aged people will benefit extensively from a GL Devolution Deal. We believe that it will allow our key sectors to grow and become internationally competitive. GL is a High Potential Opportunity for industrial decarbonisation, and aquaculture. These sectors will continue to grow through devolution and produce skilled jobs for the population. Domestic and Foreign Investment will make GL a key player in these industries and will be hugely appealing to the working aged population.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>With greater digital skills and access, brought about by devolution supercharging, flexible working opportunities will be enhanced for this group, which demonstrably enhances quality of life.</p> <p>Working age people will benefit from the devolution asks around digital infrastructure and connectivity in a similar way to young people in terms of greater opportunities to access highly skilled and high wage jobs and the benefits of greater business productivity and investment in the area. Working age people will also benefit from GL having the ability to develop a more collaborative approach to smart cities, smart homes and connected places. Smart cities use data and technology to create efficiencies, improve sustainability, create economic development, and enhance quality of life factors for people living and working in the city, this can be achieved with access to modern digital infrastructure.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>The devolution deal will see a partnership with Homes England and the agreement of a pipeline of housing development. This will include a focus on affordable housing which could be of particular benefit to young adults.</p> <p>GLs housing asks have the ambition of enabling the possibility of home ownership to reach as many people as possible. This comes through the development of more affordable housing through collaboration with the private sector.</p> <p>Older people</p> <p>There is an ageing population in GL, with more people than ever before in the older age groups. 22.8%, (249,000) of the population in 2021 were aged 65 years and over, up from 19.8% (206,000) in 2011. The size of the population aged 90 years and</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>over (11,100 or 1.0% of the population) has increased since 2011, when 8,800 or 0.8% were aged 90 and over.¹³</p> <p>Employment and skills</p> <p>Older workers looking to regain employment or to progress their skills, will also benefit from the devolution of an adult education budget.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Older people are known to be most at risk from climate related effects such as exposure to air pollution and overheating. In the past two decades, heat-related deaths among people aged 65 and above have almost doubled globally, reaching approximately 300,000 deaths in 2018. The 2022 European summer resulted in 9,226 heat-related deaths among people aged 65-79 years with an increase to 36,848 deaths for those aged 80 and over¹⁴. Devolution to GL and the opportunities this presents to expand our renewable energy capacity and develop carbon capture technology locally, will help to mitigate these effects and give older people a greener environment to help them live healthily for longer.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>In GL we want investment in public transport connectivity and infrastructure so that it no longer holds back our economy, with improvements reducing isolation and loneliness for our more vulnerable residents.</p> <p>The asks of the GL devolution deal want to see a planned approach to strategic and long-term investment for transport which will be achieved effectively with decision makers, funders and influencers and help deliver for all our residents including the older age group. Improved transport will also give greater access to healthcare, reduce isolation and improve independence for GL's older population.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Older people are less likely to use or have skills to use the internet and therefore devolution investment in this area might enhance their skills to benefit their lives.</p> <p>Older people will also benefit from business sustainability and investment in GL, which will make it a place where people will continue to want to live and retire to. Access to reliable high-speed digital connections will have a positive impact on older</p>

¹³ Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

¹⁴ Why older people are some of those worst affected by climate change (theconversation.com) (Gary Haq
Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>people since it will allow them to stay connected to friends and family. Improved digital connectivity allows for the development of more smart homes, with assistance around the home that will allow older people to stay and manage in their own homes for longer and avoid having to move into specialist facilities or care homes.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Innovation, net zero target control and energy security that form part of the proposal will reduce costs, helping those older people currently living in fuel poverty. In 2022, the Centre for Ageing Better reported that an estimated 2.5million over 60s would be in fuel poverty in 2023¹⁵.</p> <p>Excess winter deaths are highest among older people. Housing is a known wider determinant of health and therefore providing decent, efficient homes can improve health and reduce negative outcomes for this group in particular.</p>
Disability	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>A more comprehensive industry led approach to GL's careers service will lead to a higher awareness of jobs that can be performed by those with different abilities. This is of particular importance within GL as there is a higher rate of disability than the national level, with GL having a total of 211,250 people having a form of disability which either limits them a little or a lot¹⁶. This equates to 19.3% of the population of the area and therefore above the national figure of 17.7%.</p> <p>Being able to innovatively use funding will open more possibilities to direct resources to tackle employment barriers for people with disabilities. East Lindsey is the area where the highest percentage of the population had a form of disability, with 22.2%, which translates to 31,591 people. South Kesteven saw the lowest figure in relation to this with 17.1% of the population or 24,521 residents¹⁷.</p> <p>Within the area of GL, all three upper tier local authorities have a higher than average figure for the disability employment gap in 2022/23. Lincolnshire at 28.2%, North Lincolnshire at 33.8% and North East Lincolnshire at 29% are all higher than the UK figure of 28%¹⁸. The devolution proposal to work with Government to test and design viable solutions to workforce challenges would provide significant benefit to those with a disability as they traditionally face greater workforce challenges. The pilot will include supporting those with a disability into the teaching</p>

¹⁵ Ageing Better responds to new statistics showing 25% increase in fuel poverty among over 60s | Centre for Ageing Better (ageing-better.org.uk)

¹⁶ [Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/disabilityandlongtermhealth/bulletins/disabilityinenglandandwales/2019)

¹⁷ [Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/disabilityandlongtermhealth/bulletins/disabilityinenglandandwales/2019)

¹⁸ [The employment of disabled people 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\) \(Table LMS008\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/the-employment-of-disabled-people-2023)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>workforce from industry. In addition, it could support carers of those with a disability to overcome workforce challenges.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>Nature benefits everybody including people with disabilities. This is a simple and effective way of enhancing well-being. Increased promotion and accessibility of the Lincolnshire Coast and Humber Estuary, as well as natural assets across GL, benefit everyone. Natural England has already begun to investigate how to improve coastal access along a 53km stretch of the Norfolk and Lincolnshire coast between Hunstanton and Sutton Bridge¹⁹, in addition to a 92km stretch of the coast between Sutton Bridge and Skegness²⁰.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>The devolution deal will positively impact those with disabilities in GL and help make their lives in terms of the journeys they make, as easy as possible. Devolution will present the ability to work with agencies and providers to improve the transport arrangements within Greater Lincolnshire over time, which will be of a significant benefit to those with disabilities.</p> <p>A multi-year transport infrastructure settlement devolved to local leaders will support the delivery of a joint local transport plan which covers road, rail, freight, public transport, walking and cycling and crucially help the large number of those in our area that are disadvantaged and help to make it as accessible as possible.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>People with disabilities will benefit from improved digital connectivity through increased reliability of access, allowing them to stay connected more easily. Improved digital connectivity could open up more employment opportunities for people with disabilities as it gives them more flexible working options including the ability to work from home full time if they desire.</p>

¹⁹ King Charles III England Coast Path: Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

²⁰ King Charles III England Coast Path: Sutton Bridge to Skegness - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>People with any type of disability can also benefit from GL having further ability to develop more smart homes as a result of improved digital connectivity which will be supported by a devolution deal. For example, those with more minor care requirements could be aided by support through digital means, for instance where a carer may need to provide advisory help rather than physical assistance. This will also help to provide a more efficient care service and particularly help those with more complex needs.</p> <p>Digital improvements will allow people in some instances, to manage more easily around the home, have more choice over their living arrangements, and the ability to stay in their own homes for longer. This is particularly relevant in more isolated, rural areas where if digital connectivity can be improved and can be relied upon, help and assistance can more easily be provided but it will also ensure people can maintain independence for themselves.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>There are 1,924 people in GL who have a gender identity that is different to birth. In addition, a total of 4,082 people across the region either have a different gender identity to birth, are Transgender, Non-Binary or other gender identities. There were 709 Trans Women in GL in 2021 and 732 Trans Men. 422 Identified as non-Binary and 295 identified as Other²¹.</p> <p>A high quality, industry led careers service as part of a devolution deal will help to encourage more diverse workforces and contribute to breaking down stereotypes which may exist in certain industries, therefore opening up more career prospects for all.</p> <p>The impact of being able to adapt and use innovative approaches to funding would mean we could target training to address any imbalance in the workforce in our local industries as there will be increased opportunities to train. This would be further supported by having flexibility with how the Adult Education Budget (AEB) is spent and would mean GL could target training to support adequate representation in relation to our local industries.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is recognised that the positive impacts on wellbeing created by the availability of great natural environments is a benefit for all people.</p> <p>Transport</p>

²¹ Gender identity, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>An improved transport system through devolution makes the life of residents better. GL Devolution will allow funding and powers to be locally controlled and targeted at those areas and people who need help the most. It's important that any developments have a positive impact on this group and in GL there is creation of a transport system that is open to all and is more wide-ranging to cater for the needs of all groups, which a multi-year transport and travel settlement as well as an infrastructure settlement will allow GL to do.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposals will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<p>The proposal should benefit people across the area irrespective of their marital or civil partnership status.</p> <p>It will be beneficial to monitor this protected characteristic when carrying out the consultation which is planned, to build a stronger evidence base upon which to assess potential impacts on these individuals.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits to all residents, it is unlikely that these proposals will see a particular impact for this protected group. However, this will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised.</p> <p>North Kesteven had the highest value of eligible people who had been either married or in a Civil Partnership with 50.6%. The City of Lincoln had the lowest number with 39.1% of the population falling into this category and incidentally had the highest number of those who had never been married or been in a civil partnership with 39.8% compared to the England and Wales figure of 37.9%²².</p>

²² Marriage and civil partnership status in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>However, many jobs are focused in the City of Lincoln area and many residents of GL choose to commute. Therefore, these people need to be supported with simple access routes into the city. We want to see a devolved and consolidated integrated local transport budget for GL, to provide long term certainty and commitment to transport in GL which allows people to trust and rely on the system in place. We have requested a multi-year transport which will include all funding for public transport and active travel, all of which are currently disparate.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>GL as of 2021 has a birth rate of 1.62 children per woman. The England and Wales figure was 1.61²³.</p> <p>A Government Equalities Office Report from 2019 showed that nationally, fewer than one-in-five of all new mothers, and 29 per cent of first-time mothers, return to full-time work in the first three years after maternity leave. This falls to 15 per cent after five years²⁴. It is important that any devolution deal for GL helps to improve these figures and make the workplace accessible for those returning.</p> <p>The Proposal in relation to investment, employment and skills, may also benefit women who wish to re-enter employment after having a family. The availability of good and reliable public transport can be particularly important for families which have no access to their own vehicle or to single vehicle owning households, to enable them to access services. The improved choice and availability of housing will also offer more flexibility for extended families.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>The use of devolved funds to shape and delivery a high quality, industry led GL careers service will provide more flexible opportunities and support for parents returning to work following a career break. Additionally, where retraining is needed for career switchers, innovative use of loans, allowances and funding rules along with the development of boot camps could support parents returning to work. This advantage will also be contributed to by flexible use of the Adult Education Budget (AEB).</p> <p>Working with Government to test and design viable solutions to the workforce challenges faced by further and adult education can help get residents moving from low value jobs that can be automated, into high value jobs.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>A multi – year transport infrastructure settlement will allow GL to make the improvements necessary to public transport to assist pregnant women and those on</p>

²³ Births in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

²⁴ How women's employment changes after having a child | Understanding Society

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>maternity leave with young children to access better transport facilities and receive an improved service.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Although not a replacement for in-person pregnancy and maternity care, improved digital connectivity in GL will help expectant and new mothers to access services where they are offered online to support the midwife and hospital care they receive in-person. Health visitor activities (where appropriate) could be delivered through a digital means, for example roles where the Health Visitor is acting in an advisory or review capacity where they do not need to see the child in person. An improved digital offer through devolution will help to improve the efficiency of the service on offer.</p> <p>This can help prevent them from having to travel long distances to clinics, especially if they live in rural areas. Services like online forums to ask questions to midwives and health care professionals can be made easier for people to access with reliable, high-speed connections and improved mobile network coverage.</p>
Race	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>According to 2021 Census Data 10.4% (approximately 113,880) of the population belong to what would be identified as minority ethnic groups in GL which is much less than the England figure of 18%²⁵.</p> <p>It is the ambition that the proposal will help to encourage more diverse workforces and open up more career prospects for all. There is an opportunity through a more aligned careers service, led by industry, to ensure that there is a greater understanding of which sectors are actively trying to increase their BAME representation. The opportunity to use devolved funds to work with DfE to shape and deliver a high-quality industry led careers service, will support this. This, in turn, has the opportunity to increase the diversity of the area.</p>

²⁵ Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Transport</p> <p>According to 2021 Census Data those who identified as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British across GL totalled 981,636 out of the total population of 1,095,000, a percentage of 89.6% in this group. Some areas have a distinctly higher representation of this group, with East Lindsey for example totalling 95.6% of its population. The lowest figure was seen in Boston with 74.5% of the population in this data set²⁶.</p> <p>62,648 people (approximately 6.3% of GL) don't have English as their main language^[08]. A better-connected transport system will allow people from all backgrounds to travel easier between areas of GL allowing different communities to connect in a simpler way.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is important that the engineering and other sectors within GL is made more diverse and accommodates all groups of people since currently this is not the case on a wide scale. The asks within the devolution deal particularly around the development of the infrastructure to enable carbon capture and storage innovation and the development of the renewable energy sector in GL, presents a unique opportunity to do this in a way which promotes accessibility for the long term. This will help to give people from minority ethnic groups more opportunities to forge a career in this sector.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
Religion or belief	<p>The Proposal should benefit people across the area irrespective of their religion or belief.</p> <p>When analysing religion, more people in GL define themselves as being religious compared to those who do not. 596,727 said that they were affiliated to a form of religion. This is equal to approximately 54.4% of the entire population²⁷.</p>

²⁶ Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

²⁷ Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>The total of non-religious people was 432,787 which is 39.5% and is just above the England and Wales figure of 37.2%²⁸.</p> <p>Christianity was the most prominent form of religion. 572,106 people were classed as Christian, which was 52.2% of the entire population and represents 95.9% of the entire religious community in GL²⁹.</p> <p>Islam was the next most leading single religion in GL with 11,534 people, which is just under 1.1% of people, and this represents 1.9% of the overall religious population³⁰. The largest number of Muslims reside in North Lincolnshire with 2.5% of the population in this area identifying as following Islam (36.4% of the entire GL Muslim population)³¹.</p> <p>Buddhists total 2,647 (0.2%), Hindus 3,337 (0.3%), Jewish Population 623 (0.1%), Sikhs 1,430 (0.1%). Other religions total 5,050 people (0.5%)³².</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>Although accepting that the proposal will help to encourage more diverse workforces and open more career prospects for all, it is believed unlikely that the proposal will result in any significant impacts with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Improved transport would improve connectivity for different groups to their religious communities which a multi – year transport infrastructure settlement will be able to contribute to as we want this to cover road, rail, freight, public transport, walking and cycling, so that there is accessibility for all.</p> <p>Improved transport would improve connectivity to religious communities, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected</p>

²⁸ Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

²⁹ Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³⁰ Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³¹ Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³² Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>The improved digital connectivity that will be made possible through the devolution asks could benefit people who practice a religion as it will give them the ability to connect more easily with people of the same faith both locally and further afield. The ability to do this is a positive benefit as not all people are able to attend a place of worship.</p> <p>Improved digital connectivity will also allow places of worship to connect with people and make them aware of community worship, events, without having to find the funds to do so as they will have the opportunity to spread their message at low cost online.</p>
Sex	<p>The gender pay gap within the East Midlands in 2022 stood at 11.6%. This is much lower than the levels of 1997 where the figure was 20.7% (full-time employees)³³. This figure is higher than the 2022 UK figure of 8.3%³⁴.</p> <p>A devolution deal has the potential to help aid the reduction of the gender pay gap through the availability of more skilled jobs, greater training opportunities and re-skilling. A place-based and joined-up approach to careers education locally will allow GL to further develop a specialised local offer which encourages all sexes into our key sectors (such as engineering and manufacturing). These sectors are in need of skilled individuals.</p> <p>These skills-based proposals will help to get more women into higher paid jobs in the long-term and help to reduce the pay gap locally.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>Within GL, gender is almost evenly split, across the entire area the figures are 536,952 for Males and 558,058 for Females which is an approximate split of 49% Male and 51% Female which directly matches the national average for England and Wales³⁵.</p> <p>A high quality, industry led careers service will help to encourage more diverse workforces and contribute to local industries as there will be increased</p>

³³ Gender pay gap in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³⁴ Gender pay gap in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³⁵ Sex - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>opportunities to train. This would be further supported by having flexibility with how the Adult Education Budget (AEB) is spent and would mean we could target training to support adequate representation in relation to our local industries.</p> <p>The use of Skills Bootcamps to target less represented groups will lead to more choice for our residents and therefore more fulfilling careers for all genders.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>The GL devolution deal will help to protect the natural environment of our area for all who want to utilise it. Whilst there is no obvious additional impact on an individual sex in this area as a result of a devolution deal, undoubtedly the proposal will seek to keep the natural environment accessible and sustained for everyone.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>An improved transport offer through a GL devolution deal will benefit all those who currently have difficulty from getting to place to place within our large area. Additionally, further development of active travel will allow everyone to access healthy forms of travel to promote a more active lifestyle for all.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>A devolution deal can help deliver the skills which our area needs to sustain the environment not just regionally but nationally with the move to net zero. This will be delivered with the involvement of all residents from all backgrounds. This can be approached in a way which prioritises and embeds equality, diversity and inclusion for the long term, providing more opportunity for all to forge a career in this sector.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>The Proposal should benefit people across the area irrespective of their sexual orientation.</p> <p>The Census 2021 information confirms that 24,207 people identified with an LGB+ orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or “Other sexual orientation”). This</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>equates to 2.7% of those eligible to answer this question in GL, which is slightly lower than the England and Wales figure of 3.2%³⁶.</p> <p>815,857 people in GL who answered said that they were straight or heterosexual. This is the equivalent to 89.9% compared to the England and Wales figure of 89.4%. North Kesteven, South Kesteven and West Lindsey had the highest number of straight/heterosexual residents with 91.3%, 91.3% and 91.2% respectively. The City of Lincoln had the lowest figure with 84.7%³⁷.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>A devolution deal for GL will seek to upskill and offer a variety of new opportunities to people from across GL from all different backgrounds in order to help improve their quality of life and to give them every chance of success.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>A GL devolution deal will help to protect the natural environment of our area for all who want to utilise it. Whilst there is no obvious impact on individual sexual orientation as a result of a devolution deal, undoubtedly the proposal will seek to keep the natural environment accessible and sustained for everyone.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>An improved transport offer through a GL devolution deal will benefit all those who currently have difficulty from getting to place to place within our large area. Additionally, further development of active travel will allow everyone to access healthy forms of travel to promote a more active lifestyle for all.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant positive impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be</p>

³⁶ Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³⁷ Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.

If you have identified positive impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.

Positive impacts
<p>Business community</p> <p>The Proposal specifically aims to help generate and improve the area's economy to attract financial investment, improve skills and address skills shortages. They will also seek to ensure that land and resources and transport are improved to support investment by the private sector in GL.</p> <p>This is intended to support the expansion and development of businesses and industry, modernising the area's economy and making it more competitive. Dependent upon the different approaches which are taken, this could mean that individual businesses and sectors of the economy receive financial and other support as well as investment.</p> <p>This will also be the case for housing developers and contractors stemming from the housing related priorities.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>The development of an industry led GL careers service will lead to people thriving in a career that is better for them and the area and will clearly lead to benefits for the local economy and business community.</p> <p>The connections between learning, training and employment will be enhanced and the requirements of the business community are much more likely to be met. Subsequently there will be increased potential to attract more business to the area as they will know that innovative approaches are being used to meet demand.</p> <p>With the economic difficulties faced within the area of GL at the same time as the exciting opportunities which exist moving forward, the proposals relating to employment and skills have the opportunity to drive a significant positive impact on the business community.</p> <p>Many of our key sectors are already struggling to recruit and the predicted growth in our game changing sectors means that that the gap will widen further. By having a GL careers service and greater AEB flexibility we can work with our businesses to develop talent pipelines.</p> <p>The opportunities outlined in our prospectus, in the energy sector, our ports and the UK Food Valley, have the potential, collectively, to create over 50,000 brand new jobs.</p>

Positive impacts

- UK's Food Valley: ambition to deliver 11,000 jobs by 2030 (Local Skills Report 2022³⁸)
- Humber Freeport: ambition to deliver on 7,000 jobs by 2040 (Local Skills Report 2022)
- Energy through maximising offshore wind, decarbonisation, and hydrogen opportunities, to create over 32,000 jobs by 2040 across the Humber (Offshore to create approx. 10,000 by 2030; taken from Humber Offshore Wind Cluster)
(Decarbonisation 22,800 by 2040, from Humber Industrial Cluster Plan³⁹).

Additionally, over this time, we will experience considerable growth of opportunity within the workforce.

Research shows that between now and 2035 around 250,000 jobs will need to be filled because of people retiring. (Local Skills Report 2022)

Nature

The proposal to develop the Lincolnshire Food Security and Natural Capital Delivery Group will support biodiversity and agriculture in protected landscapes for a number of years. The new Environmental Land Management Scheme and Biodiversity Net Gain are opportunities to provide new funding in this area. This group will help ensure a strategic overview is achieved and best practice from the Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), informs projects across the rest of GL therefore serving to benefit the business community in GL.

The strengthening of partnerships between GL and government agencies is key to delivering more coherent and better outcomes and to assist in finding the right balance between economic growth and protecting and enhancing our natural assets.

Environment

Around 45% of employment in GL is in businesses with fewer than 50 employees, far higher than the national figure⁴⁰. The devolution deal looks to specifically help SME's (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) through piloting an investment model which incentivises the switch to low or non-carbon energy models, the cost of which could be prohibitive otherwise. The ability to switch to low or non-carbon energy models will have positive consequences for the environment and give SME's the ability to trade with larger organisations seeking green supply chains allowing them to grow, provide more jobs and invest in the future.

Digital

Businesses in GL are currently hampered by poor digital connectivity and mobile phone signals, through devolution, this problem can be tackled in a much shorter timescale which will enable businesses to improve productivity. Greater availability of high-speed connectivity will also drive business growth, innovation, and sustainability which in turn, will attract businesses and skilled

³⁸ [Greater Lincolnshire Local Skills Report January 2022.pdf \(greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk\)](#)

³⁹ [Talkbook portrait template \(humberindustrialclusterplan.org\)](#)

⁴⁰ Analysis of enterprises in the UK by SME employment size band for specified unitary and local authorities in the East Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber regions and LEPS 2022 - Office for National Statistics

Positive impacts

people to invest in the area as they will have access to excellent high speed digital technology. Improvements in digital infrastructure in GL will also contribute to improved movement of goods across the UK from the ports and field to support the UK economy as a whole which will bring wider benefits to businesses and communities.

Armed Forces Community (Veterans, reservists and those still serving)

Approximately 59,500 GL residents have served in the armed forces (6.6% of the eligible population) as of 2021⁴¹; one of the highest figures in the UK and significantly higher than the UK number of 3.8%. Given the commitment of the constituent authorities to the Armed Forces Covenant and the recent introduction of the Armed Forces Public Duties, the MCCA will engage with this community and ensure that within its functions, it takes account of the duties, especially those relating to employment and housing.

Employment and Skills

Traditionally there has always been Armed Forces presence in GL and there is a significant Armed Forces Community with specific needs to support them.

An industry led GL Careers service will lead to people thriving and will provide the Armed Forces community with more career options. This is particularly the case for those who are leaving the forces and will serve to open opportunities that may not have been available. In addition, the Adult Education Budget (AEB) will be of particular importance to adults from a variety of marginalised groups such as veterans and should make a significant impact on their choices and future development.

A number of proposals, including the availability of greater opportunities for accessing alternative high-level qualifications in the area's priority economic areas, as opposed to university, and the development of bespoke apprenticeship arrangements may be of particular value to the Armed Forces community. These proposals have the potential to create opportunities that otherwise might not be available to them by widening participation, access to training and subsequent highly skilled jobs that they may not have previously known about. Additionally, skills bootcamps will support further widening of participation and will support those adults without Level 3 qualifications to train in an in-demand sector.

Although the whole area has significant proportions classed as part of the Armed Forces Community, North Kesteven had the second highest figure for percentage of the population that had served in any of the UK Armed Forces nationwide, at 10.2% or 10,009 people⁴². Through devolved funds, the creation of skills programmes specific to local need with greater alignment between services, will benefit individuals that are unemployed where they currently have several service providers with similar offers.

⁴¹ UK armed forces veterans, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

⁴² UK armed forces veterans, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Positive impacts

Nature

It is recognised that the positive impacts on wellbeing created by the availability of great natural environments could serve to benefit those groups known to suffer higher levels of distress and ill health. Having a variety of accessible wildlife sites that are well promoted is important for improving the wellbeing of all people.

Deprived communities

In North East Lincolnshire, 19.0% of the population was income-deprived in 2019, this is approximately 29,800 residents. Of the 106 neighbourhoods in North East Lincolnshire, 42 were among the top 20% most income deprived in England. North East Lincolnshire overall ranks 26th most income deprived out of all the 316 local authority areas in England. Of the 57 neighbourhoods in the Lincoln local authority area, 19 of these were in the top 20% most income deprived in England and Lincoln overall ranked 66th most income deprived. East Lindsey also ranked highly on this list (56/316), meaning it has high levels of income deprivation⁴³.

The proposal should specifically impact positively on people living in the area's poorest and deprived communities, and it would be expected that significant focus is placed, especially within skills related activities, transport, and housing on improving opportunities for people from these communities.

Employment and Skills

There are significant areas of deprivation within the GL area and the importance of employment and skills to make a difference cannot be understated.

The greater alignment of a careers service which means better access to training and support to employment, can help to make a positive impact upon the levels of deprivation within GL. The Adult Education Budget (AEB) will be of particular importance to adults from a variety of marginalised groups, including those from deprived communities. The proposal works to provide greater opportunities for access to careers and to improve the availability of alternative high-level qualifications.

Those in deprived areas often lack qualifications and a range of proposals seek to address this including skills bootcamps, creating skills programmes specific to local need and widening participation in apprenticeships to those without Level 3 qualifications, will serve to greatly improve the life chances and options available. Additionally, a total of 45,500 children under the age of 16 in GL were living in relative low-income families in 2022 this equates to an average figure across all local authorities of 25% in GL. These figures were high across almost all areas, particularly Lincoln 30.5%, East Lindsey 31.4% and Boston 31.1%⁴⁴.

⁴³ Exploring local income deprivation (ons.gov.uk)

⁴⁴ Children in low income families: local area statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Positive impacts

Specifically in relation to younger people, the improved access to training and support to employment will lead to those from deprived communities being able to access more flexible opportunities for their own development.

Nature

Having a variety of accessible wildlife sites that are well promoted is important for improving the wellbeing of all people. Innovation and net zero targets that form part of the proposal will stabilise energy security and reduce costs, which will also likely impact families on lower incomes.

Digital

In a similar way to businesses in GL, deprived communities are also hampered by poor digital connectivity and mobile phone signals. Deprived communities, particularly in rural areas will benefit from the many and varied improvements realised by faster fixed line and mobile connectivity. Through devolution, powers over infrastructure and resources could be held locally to create investment in infrastructure, accelerate growth and level up opportunities for all. Improved digital connectivity will open up opportunities for deprived communities through easier access to services to support them and improved opportunities to make their voices heard and collaborate on the things that will make the biggest difference to their lives.

Visitors

Those visiting GL will be offered better public transport infrastructure and connectivity which will also benefit local businesses.

Digitally Excluded

Most parts of GL are classified as rural. According to Quickline's spring update in 2023, they deployed ultrafast fixed wireless access broadband to 4000 rural premises in postcode areas prefixed by LN and DN. By the end of 2023, this number will rise to 8000 and devolution has the potential to accelerate this further⁴⁵. It is also important to consider that older people are more likely to be digitally excluded. The proposal will encourage further investment in digital infrastructure in ultrafast broadband and 5G that GL needs for the future, ensuring that within the region, digital connectivity improves.

Employment and Skills

The devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) aims to widen participation of those furthest from the labour market. This may include supporting those that are digitally excluded by flexing the funding rules to support people's access to digital training offers.

Digital skills are part of the core AEB entitlement offer and will remain free for adults to access.

⁴⁵ Rural Broadband Update: Postcodes LN and DN Areas – Lincolnshire County Council

Positive impacts

Having an open access careers service, that is face to face, rather than website based, will help to support those that are digitally excluded by having a contact that can support and signpost them to the training that they may need.

Nature

People living with a disability have been identified as more likely to be digitally excluded and many of these people, including people with severe mental illness, already experience health inequalities.

In addition, there are many rural areas across GL that find it difficult to connect to the internet. Research from Ofcom (Digital Exclusion Review, 2022⁴⁶) found that younger and less affluent groups were likely to have difficulty affording connectivity due to the cost. These individuals are having to find other activities to undertake at low or nil cost, such as walks and visits to the countryside in their locality.

Coastal or rural communities

In 2021, the then Chief Medical Officer highlighted deprivation issues in coastal towns and the impact of this on physical and mental health. As well as experiencing poorer health, higher disability rates and shorter life expectancy, access to healthcare was also limited by a lack of skilled staff and services. There were 14.6% fewer postgraduate medical trainees, 15% fewer consultants and 7.4% fewer nurses per patient in coastal towns when compared with the national figures.⁴⁷

Employment and Skills

The devolution of the Adult Education Budget in conjunction with an aligned careers service, aims to ensure that those in our rural and coastal communities can benefit from the same learning and career opportunities as the rest of GL.

Some providers are unable to reach those in smaller communities due to the viability of funding small, remote classes. Devolution would enable the MCCA to flex the funding rules of certain courses or for certain geographies to ensure equality of provision.

The current fragmentation of the careers service means that the access to high quality careers guidance is limited for our rural and coastal residents, and aligning this service to a GL Careers service aims to increase access for these groups.

Nature

The development of a Coastal Partnership for GL will bring together the many interest groups along the coast in GL and serve to benefit coastal communities within GL.

⁴⁶ [Digital exclusion: a review of Ofcom's research on digital exclusion among adults in the UK](#)

⁴⁷ Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2021 - Health in Coastal Communities
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

Adverse or negative impacts

Protected characteristic	Response
Age	<p>Employment and skills</p> <p>Budgets and decisions will move from Government to the GL MCCA, which will focus on young and working-aged people. No specific decisions have yet been made about where investment will occur to generate employment opportunities or in education and improving skills, but it's likely that it could disproportionately benefit those under the state retirement age.</p> <p>Mitigation – Adult education will target all age groups. The additional income generated from higher pay and therefore higher taxes will benefit those who are over state retirement age by contributing to their services. The new MCCA will need to establish mechanisms for considering and ensuring that investment is appropriately distributed across all areas. These mechanisms will be reinforced and bolstered by the proposed governance arrangements and decision-making processes set out in the proposal.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this. The different themes have interdependencies so investing in transport and roads will make access easier for younger and older people for example.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Housing</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Relying solely on digital engagement could reduce participation among young and older people. Surveys yield very low response numbers from young people and proportionally more from over 50s, which could lessen the young person's voice and distort results.</p> <p>Approximately 11% of Lincolnshire county's population is aged 15-24⁴⁸. In strategic surveys undertaken on Let's talk Lincolnshire in the last two years, the average proportion of responses from under 25s is 2%.</p> <p>Mitigation – The use of a range of engagement methods to include all stakeholders and undertake direct engagement with young people through services for them, education establishments, and partner promotions to encourage representative contributions.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Whilst there are many benefits to greater digital connectivity, not all ages have the skills and confidence to use digital technology to its full advantage and those in older age groups may feel they are being left behind and feel more excluded. This needs to be researched further and understood so that skills gaps can be identified, and people can be signposted to programmes to help them improve their skills, to enable all ages to realise the benefits of improved digital inclusion.</p> <p>Younger and/or people on lower incomes may be adversely impacted due to the current cost-of living crisis resulting in them having difficulty affording the digital technology. This will need to be further researched and understood in terms of locations and scale of this problem.</p>

⁴⁸ Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS

Protected characteristic	Response
Disability	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this. However, when more detailed decisions are taken, it's crucial that people with disabilities are seen as a priority group within the work and projects to support employment, skills, and qualifications.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Some engagement methods make it harder for people with disabilities to take part.</p> <p>Mitigation – A range of engagement methods will be utilised such as, screen readers, accessible venues and tools, and telephone calls to include all stakeholders should they wish to be involved.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Digital</p> <p>People with disabilities are identified as more likely to be digitally excluded.</p> <p>Mitigation- This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>Continuing misunderstanding means that some may not wish to participate or feel able to benefit from devolution. YouGov data (working alongside the charity Stonewall) from 2018 shows that one in eight (12%) trans people had been attacked in work. Almost a third of non-binary people (31 per cent) and one in five trans people (18 per cent)⁴⁹ don't feel able to wear work attire representing their gender expression. There is a possibility that heterosexual people might benefit more from changes resulting from devolution.</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part in engagement on devolution. When more detailed decisions are taken, people whose gender is not the same as was assigned at birth are seen as a priority group within the work and projects to support employment, skills and qualifications.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be</p>

⁴⁹ [lgbt_in_britain_work_report.pdf \(stonewall.org.uk\)](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/reports/lgbt_in_britain_work_report.pdf)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>For the reasons highlighted by data in the employment and skills section above, some people might not feel comfortable taking part in face-to-face consultation.</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part in engagement on devolution. The use of inclusive, non-judgemental venues will ensure everyone feels welcome, and no one feels they will face ridicule or discrimination. An online engagement and telephone offer will also be available should people decided not to join face-to-face events so that everyone has the opportunity to express their views in their preferred way.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme areas, although we will monitor this during the consultation will help check this.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme areas, although we will monitor this during the consultation will help check this.</p>
Race	<p>Decisions are currently made centrally, based on national populations which are more diverse than Lincolnshire. Moving decision making closer to local people can benefit a majority, but misconceptions and lack of awareness/understanding could unintentionally disadvantage some cultures.</p> <p>Mitigation – To ensure all protected characteristics are considered when proposing and making key decisions and significant changes. This is already part of the pre-decision reports, and robust analysis of impacts will be vital.</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>A national CIPD report found that BAME employees are significantly more likely to say your identity or background can have an effect on the opportunities you're given than white British employees⁵⁰, particularly those from an Indian/Pakistani/Bangladeshi background.</p> <p>Mitigation- To reach out to different communities so people feel more comfortable taking part. Face to face engagement should take place in a mix of welcoming, non-judgemental venue-types. An online engagement offer will also be available, should people decided not to join face-to-face events, so everyone can express their views in their preferred way.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Census data analysis reveals that English proficiency for residents whose main language is not English is lower in Lincolnshire than in England. In England, 79.7% of</p>

⁵⁰ 36057 (peoplemanagement.co.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>people who speak a foreign language could speak English well or very well, compared to 77.5% on average for GL. Census data analysis reveals that 62,648 people (approximately 6.3% of GL) don't have English as their main language. 5.2% of the population in Boston cannot speak English and across GL the average figure is 3%. Subsequently, there are still significant numbers who will be excluded from understanding the technicalities if translations are not available⁵¹.</p> <p>Mitigation – A subscription to DA Languages services is in place so that key devolution information can be translated for those speaking the top languages in target areas. Accessible html pages can be added to the council website for easy translation and Let's talk Lincolnshire has an inbuilt translation tool so potential respondents can see text and questions in their chosen language. Working with representative bodies to reach non-digital audiences will be key.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
Religion or belief	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme area, although monitoring this during the consultation will help ensure this is still the case.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Different religious and belief groups may not feel directly addressed by the specifics of the proposal, so it is important that they are involved and consulted throughout the process.</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to communities via leaders and organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part. Face to face engagement should take place in a mix of welcoming, non-judgemental venue-types. An online engagement offer will also be available, should people decided not to join face-to-face events, so everyone can express their views in their preferred way.</p>
Sex	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme area, although monitoring this during the consultation will help ensure this is still the case.</p>

⁵¹ Language, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
Sexual orientation	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>A 2018 Stonewall report showed that more than a third of LGBT staff (35%) have hidden or disguised that they are LGBT for fear of discrimination and nearly two in five bisexual people (38%) have not disclosed their sexuality to anyone at work. There is a possibility therefore that they might not benefit from employment and skills improvements to the same extent as their heterosexual colleagues⁵².</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part in engagement to identify the best methods to address the issue.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Continuing discrimination means that some may not wish to participate in open engagement.</p>

⁵² [lgbt_in_britain_work_report.pdf \(stonewall.org.uk\)](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/reports/lgbt-in-britain-work-report.pdf)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part. Use inclusive, non-judgemental venues so everyone feels welcome, and no one feels they will face ridicule or discrimination. An online and telephone engagement offer will also be available should people decided not to join face-to-face events so that everyone can express their views in their preferred way.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>

Negative impacts
<p>There is a risk that the exercise of certain functions by the GL MCCA will mean that decisions will be taken further from those groups and individuals who are most reliant upon the services provided by local government in the area.</p> <p>However, this risk will be mitigated by the safeguards set out in the proposal, which include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Constituent Councils' membership of the GL MCCA • the role and participation of district and borough councils in the GL MCCA • the role and participation of other groups and voices in the GL MCCA • the GL MCCA's proposed governance arrangements and decision-making processes, and the phased transfer of some powers to the GL MCCA over time <p>Armed Forces Community (Veterans, reservists and those still serving)</p> <p>Those belonging to the Armed Forces Community may not feel that the proposal directly addresses their concerns. Therefore, sustained consultation with this group is essential in order to keep them informed.</p> <p>Mitigation – The MoD will continue to make operational decisions and support this community. All three upper tier councils are committed to the Armed Forces Covenant and the recently introduced Armed Forces Public Duties, so their needs will be considered at all stages of the deal, including a variety of ways to participate in engagement and test assumptions made in this EIA.</p> <p>Businesses</p> <p>None envisaged for businesses. They are already actively involved in stakeholder conversations.</p> <p>Environment</p>

Negative impacts

It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on the business, armed forces, or deprived communities. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.

Digital

Despite the overall positive impact that devolution will bring in terms of digital connectivity, there could still be people who are digitally excluded because their income level prevents them from being able to afford the digital technology they need to benefit from digital infrastructure improvements and full fibre roll out, leaving them feeling more excluded.

Mitigation-This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.

Deprived Communities

There is potential for the MCCA to be formed and high-profile projects to be developed, but for the poorest and most deprived to miss out on the potential benefits as funding may be used in different areas, i.e. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The MCCA will need to ensure that this does not happen.

Mitigation – A range of plain English messages and engagement methods will be used to encourage participation in consultation to test this assumption.

Visitors

Whilst improved transport will aid visitors in the long term, in the short-term travel disruption through road repairs & development will cause delays for those visiting GL.

Mitigation- To keep those who may be affected, informed of any changes.

Digitally excluded communities/individuals

Moving to a digital first approach can prevent some people benefitting from devolution and participating in engagement about it.

Mitigation – A range of engagement methods will be used and promoted to ensure everyone can take part. For example, the spring 2023 County Views survey was included in County News, which is delivered to all households in the county of Lincolnshire. North and North East Lincolnshire have similar tools to do the same. Devolved budgets to enhance and speed up digital inclusion will themselves help to resolve issues of skills and access for many in the longer-term.

Summary

This EIA shows clearly the wide and varied population of GL and the importance of keeping residents as informed as possible as devolution progresses. It is clear from the findings that a devolution deal for GL can have a positive impact on a wide number of protected characteristics groups in a variety of ways.

The proposal will reduce barriers to upskill the local labour force across all age groups and reduce the productivity gap which GL faces nationally. The power to be able to innovatively use funding will open more possibilities to direct resources to tackle employment barriers for people with disabilities. The impact of being able to adapt and use innovative approaches to funding would mean we could target training to address any imbalance in the workforce in our local industries, as there will be increased opportunities to train. There is an opportunity through a more aligned careers service, led by industry, to ensure that there is a greater understanding of which sectors are actively trying to develop a representative workforce.

Improved digital infrastructure will also give people greater choice and flexibility over how they choose to work in the future and the jobs they can access.

Improved transport infrastructure will provide GL residents with reliable means of getting from A to B, whether this be to school, work or socially, throughout the region. An improved transport system will also give the older generation greater access to healthcare, reduce isolation and improve independence. The ambition is to also improve accessibility to public transport for those who currently don't feel it meets their needs and requirements.

The EIA also clearly identifies some possible negative implications which will need due consideration before full implementation of the changes that arise as a result of devolution in GL.

Across many areas, budgets and decisions will move from Government to the GL MCCA. Within Employment and Skills for example, no specific decisions have yet been made about where investment will occur to generate employment opportunities or in education and improving skills. It is a possibility that this could inadvertently benefit one group over another. Therefore, due consideration and process must take place prior to implementation of any policy to ensure that this risk is reduced as much as possible.

When striving to improve digital connectivity there is a risk that those who aren't currently confident with the technology could be left further behind and feel more excluded and subsequently increase the gap that currently exists. Therefore, it is crucial that this is researched further so that skills gaps can be identified, and people can be signposted to programmes to help them improve their skills to enable people of all ages to realise the benefits of improved digital inclusion.

Public consultation will be used to seek a representative sample of responses to the plans set out within the devolution proposal. A wide range of engagement methods will be utilised to obtain views. This includes a series of public events, direct engagement with representative groups, and extensive information sharing through a wide range of media channels. The feedback from the consultation will be used to review the content of this document and recommend amendments to the proposal where needed.

Stakeholders

Objective(s) of the EIA consultation or engagement activity
<p>This EIA has informed the devolution deal consultation stakeholder analysis.</p> <p>To ensure everyone has a fair and open opportunity to share their views on the devolution deal.</p> <p>To test assumptions made about potential impacts of devolution on the general population, but particularly those with protected characteristics and additional communities identified in this document or as part of stakeholder conversations.</p>

Who was involved in the EIA consultation or engagement activity?

Detail any findings identified by the protected characteristic.

Protected characteristic	Response
Age	<i>To be added from consultation plan – do we need to repeat, or can this have a link to a different plan?</i>
Disability	
Gender reassignment	
Marriage and civil partnership	
Pregnancy and maternity	
Race	

Protected characteristic	Response
Religion or belief	
Sex	
Sexual orientation	
<p>Are you confident that everyone who should have been involved in producing this version of the Equality Impact Analysis has been involved in a meaningful way?</p> <p>The purpose is to make sure you have got the perspective of all the protected characteristics.</p>	
<p>Once the changes have been implemented how will you undertake evaluation of the benefits and how effective the actions to reduce adverse impacts have been?</p>	

Further details

Personal data	Response
Are you handling personal data?	No
If yes, please give details	

Version	Description	Created or amended by	Date created or amended	Approved by	Date approved
V5	Cleaned up core version created after input from representatives from across GL.	Samantha Long & Equality Impact Analysis Team I	11/07/23		
V0.06	Review	Daniel Larkin	21/08/23		
V.0.7	Reviewed version in preparation for review meeting	Samantha Long	22/08/23		
V.0.8	Reviewed and partially cleaned up	Daniel Larkin	25/08/23		
V.0.9	Meeting to discuss the text for positive impacts	Samantha Long & Equality Impact	20/09/23		

Version	Description	Created or amended by	Date created or amended	Approved by	Date approved
		Analysis Team			
V.0.9	Reviewed and developed further	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	28/09/23 – 29/09/23		
V0.10	Legal comments considered and reviewed	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	04/10/23		
V0.10	Version further developed during meeting	Equality Impact Analysis Team	16/10/23		
V0.11	Questions from meeting addressed and meeting and cleaned up	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	18/10/23		
V1.0	Final cleaning up for version 1.0	Samantha Long	20/10/23		
V1.1	Amendments following legal review	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	14/11/23		
V1.2	Final editing and proofread	Daniel Larkin	17/11/23		

COUNCIL

16 JANUARY 2024

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

**REPORT BY COUNCILLOR BOB BUSHELL – PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR
REMARKABLE PLACE**

Introduction

I am pleased to report that in general terms, despite a few ‘glitches’ at times in specific service areas, as is to be expected with such a complex range of services, the services provided by Community Services staff and associated contractors have remained at a good standard for the public over the last year.

My overall approach to the provision of street scene and open space services has remained the same throughout, in that I am keen we have a clear set of base standards set out in the contract specifications, and that these are the base from which other initiatives can then build.

As members will know, both from my report last year, and from the all-member workshops, the reletting of the Council’s street scene contracts is presently of the highest priority. Set-up times for contracts have lengthened considerably on the back of greatly extended vehicle procurement times. As a result, although the new contracts won’t start until September 2026, it is necessary to award them in 2024, or early 2025 at the very latest. Early letting not only assists with vehicle procurement, but of course also smooths the transition period, and permits better budget planning.

Full document reviews have now taken place for the waste/recycling management and street cleansing contract, and this is out to seek market interest now. After reviewing any potential bidders with due diligence checks, it is intended that tenders will be received and evaluated, with the intention of being in a position to let the contract formally by July next year.

The grounds maintenance contract documents are still in development phase, with an anticipated award date that will follow on, in early spring 2025 at the latest.

Outside of this considerable body of work, services under existing contracts have continued as usual, with several initiatives worthy of note.

As is now customary, to aid clarity with my report I have sought to divide the relevant work areas under my remit into clear service blocks. Clearly there are some interdependencies and overlap of resources, as staff frequently work across areas, but I hope members continue to find this approach helpful.

In closing the introduction, I should make reference to the timing of this report. It is unfortunate that it falls towards the end of the year, not in the spring. Officers produce reports for me on certain aspects of service routinely, but several key aspects, such as the volunteer hours, events programme, and operation of the camp site, only have the end of year report published at the end of the calendar year for obvious reasons. This is not good timing for this report, and means that data is often partial, or lagged

by up to a year. The committee may wish to consider the timing their request for this report accordingly to see if moving the date of the next report to early spring 2025 would be helpful. It might also prove to be of assistance in terms of updating on reletting details for the street scene contracts.

Open Spaces.

Parks and Open Spaces- General

Lincoln has retained Green Flag Awards for its three main parks, along with an additional Green Heritage Award in Boultham Park. January is the annual submission time for Green Flag status, and this year we intend to add an extra submission for the City's new Hope Wood. This will add an extra challenge, but I am sure all members wish officers every success with gaining the recognition this exciting project, which will increase the areas identified as key parks, by one. The key parks now being Hartsholme Country Park (and Swanholme Lakes), Arboretum, Boultham Park, Birchwood Nature Park and Hope Wood.

Before getting into detail, it is worth noting that Lincoln has continued its plan to establish some 20Ha of land for rewilding. These are areas that are transitioning from regularly cut grass to a wildflower encouraging sward. These areas, many of which will now be in their third year of care in this way, can be identified by the length of the grass in the summer. They are allowed to grow up, developing flower and providing habitat, before the grass is cut late summer/autumn, and removed. This removal of the cut grass gradually impoverishes the fertility of the ground, and thereby reduces the ability of the more aggressive plants to smother out the more desirable wildflowers. It takes time, and not all areas are suitable, so some experimentation is required, but this initiative is proving successful in most areas, and is both welcomed and popular with the public generally. It is hoped to expand on this gradually as opportunities permit.

Linked to this, last year I made members aware of the potential impacts of the Environment Act with regards to open spaces, including the need for the Council to begin preparations for the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Although formally vested in LCC as a statutory requirement, it is incumbent on City of Lincoln Council (CoLC) to develop plans to feed into that, so as to make the plan robust and to ensure that any developer funding arising from Biodiversity Net Gain projects in the city has options to protect and enhance biodiversity within the city's boundaries wherever possible. This work is progressing well, and in partnership with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (who are developing a joined-up approach for Lincolnshire) I am pleased to say that we are as well prepared as any. That isn't to say considerable work is not still required, but there is reassurance in that we have a solid foundation with a trusted authoritative body, in readiness to meet our anticipated obligations.

This summer's Citizen Panel satisfaction survey showed satisfaction with general open spaces (very satisfied or just satisfied) at 83.5%. Of the sub sections satisfaction with our management of trees was the lowest score, but still a respectable 71.2% (see arboriculture section below).

The general score is up very slightly on last year (80%), but still down a little on the peak higher scores that we achieved a few years ago. This is encouraging in some ways, but disappointing in others. I feel in that it does not seem to reflect the vast amount of work done in all our open spaces, including at Hope Wood. I have therefore been keen to explore why this is in greater detail, and detailed assessment of individual comments received seem to suggest a perception that our contractor could perform better on our behalf, not least in how they present themselves. I have asked the Assistant Director to take this up with the contractor, and to develop a clear action plan. The requirement for this is highlighted by their contractual score so far this year.

Contractor performance YTD

Indicator	22/23 target	After Q2
Contractor performance points score	50- 150 points	Cumulative 125

We have also discussed the strategic direction of open spaces (see horizon scanning below), and the need for not only a clear plan for the future, but also how we better promote the work of the section and the value of the services. We have expanded our social media profile for parks and open spaces very recently, and need to build on that, and are looking at branding for specific sites and projects.

Key Location - The Arboretum.

Retaining the high standards of past years, it remains as a vital open space for many, especially those local to it in the east of the city. It's fantastic heritage as one of Lincoln's very oldest public spaces means development opportunities will always be restricted, but it remains a valuable asset, fulfilling the same objectives for local residents that parks were intended to do when they were first developed as a concept.

In my last report I noted that the Arboretum Advisory Group was struggling a little for membership/volunteers, and to some extent that is still the case, but there has been some greater interest of late, and whilst still weakened, I'm pleased to say that prospects look more promising than at this stage last year.

Key Location - Boultham Park

Last year I reported on closure of phase one of the Boultham Park project, and this year I'm equally pleased to report successful closure of phase two; the lake restoration. Whilst I am sad to see this project come to an end, the work it has delivered in terms of consolidating and transforming the park for the benefit of the wildlife in that area, and of course wider community, has been truly inspiring.

As a project that has received long term cross-party support, I think the Council as a whole can be genuinely proud of what has been achieved here, and I take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported the projects throughout, including members, staff, formal partners such as Linkage Trust and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, as well as the Park Advisory Group, and all the very many volunteers that have made it such a success. Thanks to this collaborative effort it has been possible to sustain

the energy necessary to make a wonderful thing happen which has changed lives already, and will continue to do so for many years to come. Long may that remain the case, and be a beacon to what can be achieved when we work this way.

Key Location - Hartsholme Country Park / Swanholme Lakes and the Camp Site

Still the top-ranking park in terms of visitor numbers, the site continues to suffer from the pressures of high demand. This is evident from such as the widening of pathways, and the exposure of tree roots in pathways, simply due to wear. This is adding to pressures of work for the ranger service at the site, and adding a pressure to budgets which is being closely monitored.

2023 has seen major investment in the lake outlet. The need to expand the capacity for outflow was identified in the routine reservoir inspections, but the challenge has been how to do this reliably, at the lowest cost, and with the least disruption. Ultimately a suitable plan was developed which involved some significant engineering work. I am pleased to say that staff have project managed the contract for this work well, and the outcome has of course been tested recently in the wide spread flood events. The new outlet proved to work well, and while we cannot say that it will always prevent flooding of the area, we have met our statutory obligations, which should give local residents some comfort I hope.

However, our work relating to flooding in the park does not stop there, and on the back of the recent events we will be both looking at the flood plan we have, the communications we action surrounding that, and also at what else, if anything, we can do. Whilst we do not own all the land/water courses in the area, it is recognised that flood events are likely to become more prevalent in the future, and so we plan to map land ownerships, and seek co-operation to ensure that all dykes and ditches in the area are adequately maintained wherever possible.

I am pleased to report that this year Hartsholme has not been subjected to incursions by unauthorised encampments. Last year an additional automatic pop-up bollard was added to the existing ramp and CCTV cameras as an additional security measure. Whilst stopping such access into a public car park and camp site can never be stopped completely, it seems that the extra measures taken may have had a positive deterrent effect. Only time will tell.

Unfortunately, these deterrents do not cover the entrance close to the road, and so were of no effect in deterring two notable thefts of contractor vehicles while they were working on the installation of the new dam outflow. Whilst the loss of this plant/equipment was a setback, it did not prevent completion of the works close to programme, and so I can now confirm that not only has the outlet been expanded in line with the council's legal requirements to do so, as required by the reservoirs inspector, but we also have installed telemetry which will alert officers if water levels get so high as to pose a risk of flooding. This should in turn permit the council to warn local residences much more quickly than would have been the case previously, should a flood risk event ever occur. I hope members will consider the investment in the expansion of the outlet and the early warning telemetry a wise investment given the effects of climate change now been seen in all walks of life.

The camp site operational have all but returned to normal now, post covid, but it seems from the annual camp site report, that last year actual usage was still recovering. Whilst up again on the previous year, we were still to see a recovery to pre-2019 levels, which represented our highest levels of use so far. We are presently at about 76% of 2019 in terms of income. However, things look positive, and anecdotal feedback on use in 2023 looks promising, despite the prolonged periods of wet weather.

Some good note-worthy results have been seen in relation to the PODS on site, with usage up , and it has been pleasing to see satisfaction with those using the site being high. With respect to cleanliness, staff and value for money they all scored over 90%.

Also, good to see is that 63% of users had been before, and 97% said they would stay at Hartsholme again in the future.

Development of a Master Plan for the site, although currently un-resourced, does remain as an objective of the council within its strategic plan.

Key Location - Commons

This year has seen significant work take place on the commons; all of this being reported to the Commons Advisory Panel (CAP), as is normal practice. The commons continue to benefit from additional income derived from an agreement with LCFC for car parking on match days, with this income set aside for work on the commons. The CAP are routinely given options and have set priorities for the income, and this is aligned with the Commons Management Plan.

The work of Carholme Golf Club (CGC) operating as they do on West Common land, have been a subject of discussion at CAP as they have still to develop an Environmental Management Plan, as is required of them. Some members of CAP attended a CGC committee meeting to try and press home the importance of them progressing to a more sustainable form of course management. They have committed to abide by the terms of their lease, and I hope for an improved position over coming months.

Key Location - Hope Wood

This new site is progressing well as a key plank in the Council strategy to provide more natural habitat in the city. The accessible land can be visited off Newark Road, via the cycle way, and sits adjacent Boutham Park. The project is making use of Levelling Up parks funding and is seeing a 3.5Ha site of low lying poorly grazed grassland transformed into a nature reserve with tree and shrub planting.

Last year's tree planting formed phase 1, and is establishing well, and the area to be recovered and planted will be extended this year as a part of phase 2. Again , it will be volunteers who are doing the planting.

Additionally, some interpretation boards are being brought to site shortly, along with a new sign, based loosely on some of those seen in Boutham Park, giving the site its own clear identity.

It will take some years to establish, but the site is already taking on the look of an informal nature site and attracting visitors. This is another exciting development in support of the council's climate change aims.

The project is being delivered in conjunction with the Woodland Trust, and with support from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

Key Locations - Allotments

As at the end of September 2023 the council's allotments had an occupancy rate of 95%. Those not let are in low lying areas that cannot be gardened without significant investment in terms of drainage. This level of performance will not therefore be exceeded in the near future.

All plots that can be used are being used, or are in the process of reletting, and there continues to be a steady demand for allotment tenancies which is expected to increase if the cost-of-living crisis continues in the long-term.

Working with the North Lincoln Horticultural society we are to trial a revised letting process based on an 'open day' system. Traditionally we have stuck to a waiting list system, with those longest on the list getting priority. That won't change, but we will seek to accelerate the time taken for making a decision, as some who are given an option on a plot take a very long time to decide they don't want it. On such occasions the plot can become overgrown before it is let, making it unnecessarily harder for a new tenant, or even putting prospective tenants off.

Alongside this we are exploring use of volunteers to tidy plots, and/or assist those who are having trouble maintaining their plot. This initiative is in its infancy, but we hope it will develop into a self-help system for allotment communities.

Last year I reported that we would be tightening up on enforcing plot maintenance, post covid. We have done this gradually and continue to press on with this, incrementally tightening up the rules again. Few objections have been received so far, and it has been broadly welcomed.

Key Locations - Equipped Play Areas

The Council maintains 28 equipped play areas across the city, ensuring that British Standards are maintained at all times for installation, inspections and maintenance.

High levels of responsibility and care unfortunately means relatively high costs, and this does impact on the council's ability to expand the service and expedite repairs at times. Working closely with the Property Services section, who order the repairs, safety is always the number one concern for this service. It is necessary to close play areas off at times, and officers are under clear instruction not to bow to public pressure to re-open sites unless the necessary safety requirements are in place.

The major refurbishment of Whitton's Park play area was completed, and declared a success, only for that acclaim to be dashed by faltering issues with the new zip wire.

The result has been sporadic closure of parts of the equipment, leading to a robust exchange with the installation company. I am pleased to say that they have responded well now, and the outstanding issues have been addressed. No further problems are anticipated for this site.

Key Location - John Dawber Gardens

This important site, commemorating as it does some of the city's historic twinning links, has been in need of refurbishment. Last year I reported that we had been approached by a local group who are in the process of establishing a formal charitable trust with the aim of taking on and attracting funding for the site's rejuvenation.

I am pleased to say that this has come to fruition now as a partnership, and the group have agreed and taken up a management agreement for the site. We have been happy to work with them on formalising this, and with agreeing aspects of ongoing support. Their work is already clearly visible in the improvements on site, which are magnificent to see.

Events and Activities

In 2023 from January to November a total of 11,000 individuals (approximately 4100 Park organised and 6900 self-led) attended events held at Hartsholme Country Park and Swanholme Lakes Local Nature Reserve, Boultham Park and the Arboretum. A total of 70 park-led events and 400 self-led events have been held to date.

The most well attended self-led events held at Hartsholme to present were the weekly walking groups which use the network of paths within the park and had 1700 individuals attend.

Other organisations which held events at Hartsholme came from a variety of sources which included, the University of Lincoln, Hartsholme Electric Model Boat Club (HEMBC), local schools and charities such as the RSPB and British institute for the Deaf (BID),

Again, this year we hosted several networking and picnic type of events held by the Ukrainian Culture Centre which have provided invaluable support for the community and the incoming families. Also, several events to increase a sense of wellbeing and mental health have taken place within the parks such as yoga, Sketching for wellbeing and silent discos.

The Park-led event participants most favoured in the annual events calendar to date was undoubtedly the easter egg hunt (780). Disappointingly the Halloween Trail was cancelled this year due to storm Babet rendering most of the footpaths unusable.

Other events with high attendance figures in the 2023 included Toddler Time (200), and several adult activities such as the History events, Easter Wreaths and Obelisk workshops, also attracted good attendance figures.

Education

In total 1290 people to date (Ranger Led 590 and Self Led 700) attended an educational visit at Hartsholme Country Park and Swanholme Lakes Local Nature Reserve.

In total twelve groups came from a variety of sources which included several local and non-local schools and the Home Education network and Lincolnshire County Council.

Self-guided educational events which proved popular in 2023 had 700 individuals taking part in a wide range of activities including Shelter building, Orienteering and self-guided walks on various subjects.

The most popular Ranger led activity undertaken in 2023 was Terrific Trees and Mini Beast Hunt, followed equally by Shelter Building, and Woodland Art.

In 2023 a continuation of the already successful education program which took place at Hartsholme was expanded to Boultham Park. Thirty-six events (1080 individuals) to date have been programmed in and delivered within Boultham Park by the Education Ranger in partnership with the Boultham Park Restoration Project and a local school (Sir Francis Hill), and local Scout, Cub, and Beavers groups as part of the Outdoor Classroom Project.

Volunteering

In more recent years all volunteering for open spaces has been co-ordinated through a single post, ensuring consistency of approach in-line with Council policies, and co-ordination of resources. The development of this role has been invaluable to the Council and it has grown over time, to the extent that it is now at capacity.

The Volunteer coordinator submits an annual update on performance/progress at the end of the year, so one has not been produced yet for 2023. However, I am pleased to report the outcomes in terms of volunteer hours from 2022 below. These are easy to capture when we have large groups for a fixed period, but less easy to measure when people give time in less structured ways, so we know for example that the efforts of the Park Advisory Groups are not always captured. For this reason, these should be considered to be slightly low, but they remain a great indicator as to how important volunteers are, and how highly we value their engagement and support.

Boultham Park total volunteer hours=1246

Hartsholme Country Park total volunteer hours=2175

Birchwood Nature Park total volunteer hours=522

Swanholme Lakes total volunteer hours=420

Commons total volunteer hours=296

Total Hours for all sites 2022 = 4695

It has been especially pleasing this year to see, not just the long term established stalwarts at places like Hartsholme and Boultham fully finding their feet again after covid, but also new groups established and committed to sites like Hope Wood. Figures for them will of course come through in next year's report.

As is becoming customary now, through this report I would very much like to give my thanks to all those who willingly give their time in support of open spaces in the city. This may be by work as a member of a Park Advisory Group, or by direct action in delivery tasks on site with the Volunteer Co-Ordinator. It may even be by time they give to other organisations who do good works in the parks. All of them deserve recognition for helping to look after and maximise the benefits that can be derived from open spaces.

Arboriculture

This last year has seen an increasing pressure on tree services, both in terms of advice and works.

The Council's two arboricultural officers have dealt with many requests (some of which are by necessity very detailed), in relation to planning applications and conservation area consents, as well as the wider and more general requests.

They have, so far this year, received 426 direct case requests/enquiries. They have also filed reports on 96 TPO cases. In addition, they have addressed 19 other planning related enquiries.

This has resulted in the issue of 512 orders for works so far, all of which have to be monitored and assessed for accuracy/quality.

With regret, by necessity their work involves removing some trees for a wide range of reasons, but it also involves the planting of trees too, as required by Council policy.

Over winter 2022/23 I'm pleased to report that the Council planted 110 trees to replace losses from the 2022 year, and additionally, over 1000 new trees and shrubs were planted in the new park at Hope Wood.

This calendar year, the number of trees removed (including in schedules submitted to Planning Committee to 30th of November 2023) is 164 so far. Unfortunately, the Sooty Bark Disease outbreak has compounded that number significantly, requiring another 98 trees to be removed, many of which were either dead or succumbing to the disease. This year's tree planting programme will, as usual, be no less than one tree for each tree removed.

Of special note this year, over and above routine works, we have addressed three important issues.

Firstly, members may be aware that our contractor was having difficulty resourcing arboricultural work, with the result that significant delays were being seen in waiting

for works after orders were placed. Whilst sympathetic to any organisation who cannot find the necessary skilled staff to fulfil contractual obligations, the outcomes were not acceptable. This was raised at the highest levels with the contractor, who has drawn on wider resources, advertised more widely, and ultimately been able to develop a second tree works team. Delays for work are now back within tolerances, although still under strain, not least due to the pressure created by Sooty Bark Disease (see below).

Secondly, we have encountered a very problematic tree disease this year, which goes by what is perhaps the deceptively friendly name of Sooty Bark Disease (SBD). This disease, which is most prevalent in affecting the genus *Acer* (so includes such common trees as Sycamore and Norway maple) is increasingly common. However, it can be slow to emerge, and healthy trees are less susceptible than weakened one. Last year's long dry summer led to many trees being weakened, so the disease was able to overcome many trees and have a much bigger impact than would normally be the case. This was especially notable in areas where a high number of *Acers* are found, such as Hartsholme Country Park. Making the problem more pressing and complex was the need to handle the diseased trees and timber with special care, as the spores from the disease fungi can affect people if they are susceptible to respiratory issues.

A specific action plan was therefore drawn up and has been delivered. Replacement trees are being ordered to be planted this winter. *Acers* will of course be avoided.

Although some infected trees are still being identified, and will continue to be so indefinitely now, no further large scale clearances are expected.

The third point of note in this section is the progress made on proactive tree surveys. Usually reactive only, the Council now has a proactive tree survey budget, and it is the intention that all City Council owned trees (wherever the responsibility for the tree has not been vested in another body by way of lease or tenancy agreement) will receive a cyclic inspection. These are being documented, and all works recorded for future reference. Members will note the size and scale of the task, but it is hoped that with just a few years now the Council will have mapped and have data on all trees in the city, aiding us to improve their care, and so better protect them as an asset for future generations.

Finally, I would make members aware that whilst the council has a policy for open space and tree management, it has not been reviewed for some years. It is my intention that a dedicated policy for tree care be brought forwards this next year.

Travellers

In recent years, the council has suffered a number of unauthorised encampments by the traveller community. The numbers fluctuate. In 2021 we had four incursions, but in 2022 this fell to one, although a secondary attempt to access some land was thwarted. In 2023, up to the time of drafting, we have had no encampments.

In 2021 we began a programme of 'target hardening', in an attempt to make access by such encampments more difficult. This has included a new automated pop-up

bollard in Hartsholme, and a new heavy weight height barrier at the entrance to Skellingthorpe Road playing fields. We are aware that one group tried to gain access to the Skellingthorpe Road field, but it seems the new barrier was a suitable deterrent, so they went elsewhere. The work to add further deterrents is continuing.

Local Landscapes, Hidden Histories

I cannot close the open spaces section of my report relating to open spaces without updating members on an important new initiative; that of Local Landscapes, Hidden Histories (formerly called Lincoln's Green Museum). This project has arisen on the back of learning from the Arboretum restoration, and of course most recently Boultham Park's restoration. It also dovetails well with established history recording in Hartsholme Park.

In essence it is a three year project that seeks to engage the public in the important history of some of our key parks and open spaces, by imaginative means. It also has as a key objective, not only uncovering more of the history of the sites, but also recording them in a formal archive system. Key partners include Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln University, and a wider range of established heritage bodies in the city.

An events/activities programme for next year will be published shortly, and all members are of course welcome to engage and attend these.

This is a very exciting project for the city that will mean the Council can establish an accessible archive of all we know about our key parks and open spaces, but more than that, it offers a great opportunity to promote these sites and hopefully reach people who might not otherwise have used them. The benefits of using open spaces responsibly and respectfully do, as we all know, bring real and lasting benefits for both individuals and communities.

Horizon Scanning

Mindful of the pressures on our open spaces, and resources more generally, I have been discussing with officers the need for us to be able to take a longer term approach, so we can plan our resources as effectively as possible.

We have agreed that a high level overarching open spaces strategy would be helpful, but that, because of existing pressures on our resources, we cannot wait for that before putting other aspects of policy in place more quickly. So, although perhaps not coming forwards in the order I would have preferred, members will have seen that a policy for income generation for open spaces has already been consulted upon. A complex issue in itself given the range of possible sites, the options for use, and the potential 'customers,' this first attempt at a policy will, I am sure, need further refining based on learning from its application. It is however, potentially, a catalyst for greater change if we can develop new income streams, large and small, in support of our parks and open spaces. Members are invited to note that any/all income achieved is ring-fenced for this purpose. Beyond the adoption of the income policy, an action plan is also required to ensure opportunities are properly developed.

I have also asked officers to draft a policy for tree care. Tree care is a hot topic currently, and a vital aspect of the Council's environmental ambitions. I feel it will be helpful to make transparent how we will be looking after this asset now, and for future generations.

Street Scene

This section covers a wide range of services prominently, but not exclusively, associated with cleansing and waste management.

Infrastructure.

This includes the provision and maintenance of street name plates, art installations, and the maintenance of bus shelters. The city currently has 111 bus shelters (66 Adshell/ 45 City Council), and 29 pieces cared for as art installations, of varying sizes, spread across the city.

Historically there are two tiers of bus shelter provision. A contract for free provision of those where the advertising pays for the shelter, and those which the council has to manage and pay for. The budget for council-provided bus shelters was removed a number of years ago, when it was acknowledged that these should be a county highways function, and the city Council could no longer afford to maintain bus shelters. LCC has not adopted the shelters, so as a stop gap, shelters damaged beyond repair are removed, and we continue to seek imaginative way to maintain and protect what we can. Ultimately the second tier of bus shelters will be removed over time unless other funding sources can be found.

Waste/Recycling

In terms of statistical performance of existing services, performance remains acceptable. Please note that data is always lagged. This report reflects data up to end of June 2023 (Q1).

Domestic general (residual) waste disposed of has reduced again, year on year. (this includes for growth in new properties). The winter season will be a slightly higher volume, as is usual, but it is not expected to offset the fall, which is a trend expected to continue as a result of the financial climate.

Financial years per household.

20/21	547.6 Kg /pa	136.9 Kg/hh av per Q
21/22	530 Kg/pa	132.5 kg/hh av per Q
22/23	507.5Kg/pa	126.89Kg/hh av per Q

The Lincoln City Profile data set makes use of data from 2021/22 only, but none the less confirms the above picture and compares this favourably with the average across the East Midlands. By this I mean that we have a lower volume of general waste being disposed of per capita, which is good news in terms of waste minimisation.

Bucking the trend, the number of residents using the garden waste service has increased this year. There has been a gradual decline in numbers which is thought to have been as a result in a drop in disposable income, but this year has thrown up something of an anomaly. The marketing has been stronger this year, highlighting the benefits of the green bin scheme, and it might be that residents are now realising that the charge offers excellent value for money, compared with paying a contractor to dispose of the waste, or the time and effort required to take the waste to a HWRC. No increase in the charge is proposed for next year at this time.

Number of bins being emptied:

2017	18,241
2018	17,794
2019	17,405
2020	17,514
2021	17,744
2022	16,785
2023	18,559

The increased buy-in to the green waste service seen above (calendar year) has not yet been reflected in the data for tonnages collected (see below) which reflects April 22 to March 23.

Financial years

20/21	6231.28 Tonnes	16.17% of total waste stream
21/22	5787.32 Tonnes	15.65% of total waste stream
22/23	4740.00 Tonnes	13.68% of total waste stream to date.

The fall last year is in line with the drop in customers to that point. As the general domestic waste tonnages are down, and so are recycling tonnages (see below), there are grounds to suggest that the vast majority of garden wastes is still going into HWRCs.

Recycling Tonnages

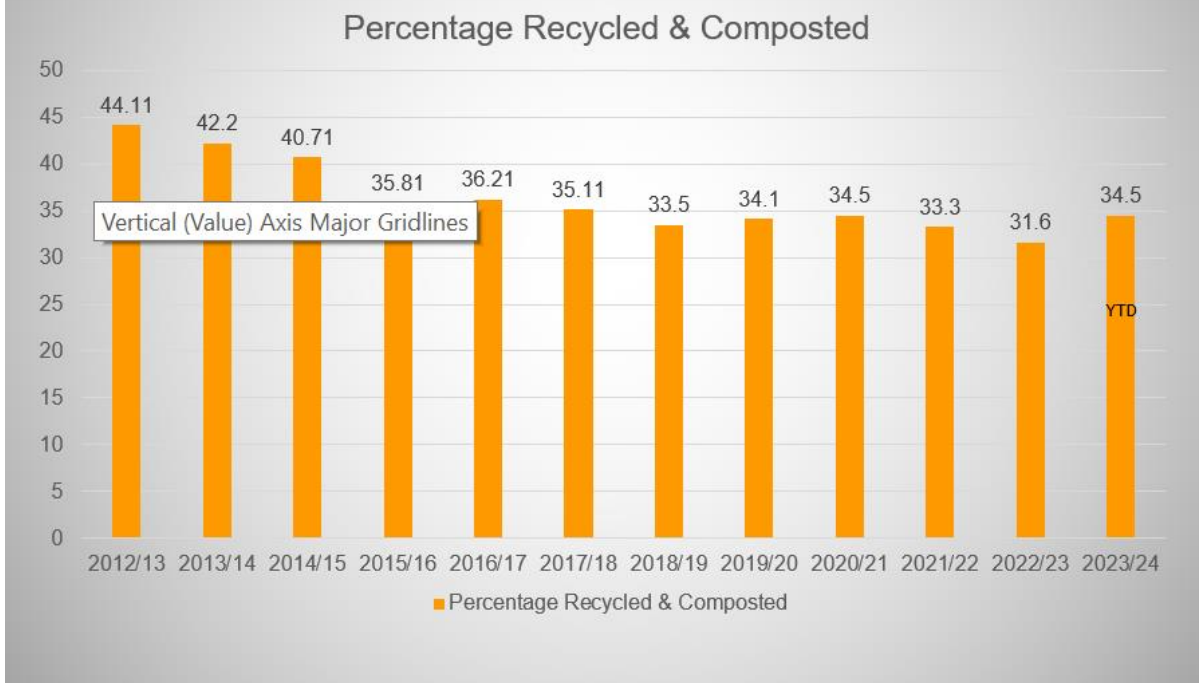
Below are the tonnages collected in MDR after contamination has been removed. The fall reflects the picture for general domestic waste.

Financial years

20/21	7048.09 Tonnes	18.29% of total waste stream
21/22	6543.86 Tonnes	17.70 % of total waste stream
22/23	6193.00 Tonnes	17.88% of total waste stream

The graph below shows combined performance for dry recyclate and composting and suggests that there has been a general levelling out of performance in the low to mid 30s. The final bar representing 2022/3 is not indicative of actual outturn for the year yet, as it only takes data to the end of June 2023.

Percentage of waste recycled and composted



Undesirable materials (contamination) are still being found in significant quantities in the MDR. LCC's data, which has traditionally been derived from the MDR processing contractor, has suggested this for some time. As government has now prescribed a national standard for the sampling method, LCC have moved to a new system of sampling. The early results seem to suggest that, whilst different to that reported by the contractor, there are still very high levels of 'contamination' being found, especially on certain days/rounds.

Joint comms teams continue to work on education programmes, and our own staff, working with the contractor, are escalating the numbers of bins being rejected due to contamination found within bins. Contamination is expensive for LCC to handle, so joint work, which will aid CoLC's recycling rate, and assist LCC's cost burden is of mutual benefit.

The Lincoln City Profile 2022/23 notes the percentage of dry recyclate sent for processing only (not combined) , and suggests that Lincoln is now at the lower end of the 'near neighbour' league table for performance in straight percentage terms.

However, the highest performing council identified uses exactly the same waste collection system (mixed MDR) as Lincoln, so the reasons why there is a discrepancy is unclear. It is known that the contract for recyclate processing (operated by LCC) suggests Lincoln has a relatively high contamination rate, but no contamination information is available for the top performing council, so it is not possible to know if this is, in some way a part of the reason.

We are also investigating if LCC's contact for the processing of recyclate materials is more restrictive in some way, perhaps focusing on the recovery of higher value materials, rather than just maximising recyclable materials. We are looking into this with LCC.

For clarity, whilst numerous indicators are collected and reviewed for the service as a part of day to day operations, the departmental KPIs are:

Indicator Q1 outturn (April – June)

Percentage of Waste Recycled /composted (target)34% to 37% 35.54%

Contractor performance points score 50 to 150 points (low is good) 125

Imminent Changes.

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership has been active this last year in the delivery of the action plan underpinning the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Lincolnshire (JMWMS). This document prioritises the work which drives change for waste services across the county, and ensures a joined-up approach is taken, so reducing any risks of confusion.

The plan is now due for refresh, but the main aims are unlikely to be changed greatly.

At the request of LCC districts have, over recent years, been looking at options for the introduction of separate paper and card collections. Often referred to as 'twin stream,' these collections have a separate (purple-lidded bin), whose emptying alternates every fortnight with the collection of the mixed dry recyclate (MDR). So, for residents in a 240L standard wheeled bin area, this means weekly collections based on: week 1 - Residual waste. week 2- MDR week 3- Residual waste week 4 - Paper and card. The cycle then repeats.

This keeps paper and card cleaner, and so reduces contamination, which aids recycling rates. As the commodity is cleaner it gives the disposal authority (LCC) an income, rather than a disposal cost.

In Lincoln, the collections are not as simple as for many neighbouring districts, as due to the urban compact nature of many of our streets, over a third of the city are on smaller bins with weekly collections. The usual system could not therefore be applied for these areas. Additionally, we have noted that LCC have asked for a number of additional conditions attached to the introduction of the extra, purple-lidded bins, such as a strict enforcement code with supporting actions, to keep contamination low. This work, and other associated actions with having an extra 30,000 bins in circulation (IF we just did 240L areas), would require extra resources at a cost to CoLC. Given our budgetary constraints, taking on an additional cost burden at this time is not possible. We have therefore asked LCC what financial support they might make available, given that this work will cut their costs and bring them a new income stream. Positive discussions are ongoing.

Over and above the local action plan, we have of course been awaiting clarity on the implications arising from the Environment Act 2021, which proposed some fundamental changes in a few key areas of waste/recycling policy. Covid has delayed this, but the initial national consultation concluded, leading to an announcement in late October on a few key issues.

Things we already knew:

1. A public body will be established to collect income from packaging companies for dissemination to those dealing with the effects /processing of waste packaging (Councils).
2. To obtain funding councils will be required to prove they are operating “effectively and efficiently,” which will be predicated on a consistent list of materials.
3. We will be required to collect food waste weekly (timescale for implementation was to be determined)

Important points of note about the above.

Point 1. Levels of funding are not yet set out, but where income is being achieved this will be netted off against costs.

Point 2. Will be assessed, but the exact criteria remains unclear.

New information:

1. Food waste collections will be a statutory requirement for all households, and must be introduced by no later than April 2026
2. Free garden waste services will not be part of the legislation. All organic waste can go into the same collection. Garden waste services must be provided fortnightly (at least 26 per year).
3. There is a clear materials list that must be collected as recycling, but there is no requirement to separate these into different bins (as many Councils do). A MDR collection, as we have in Lincoln, is acceptable and no additional justification for this is required (a TEEP assessment- see below).
4. Plastic film will be added to the list by no later than April 2027.

Important points of note about the above.

1. Food collections will be the biggest upheaval in our waste stream management for many years. It is about an extra 2.4 million collections each year. New burdens funding will be subject to the Council proving collections are “effective and efficient” but they haven’t said what that means yet.
2. No pressure for kerbside sortation (the way to get the highest recycling rates but at the highest cost). Removing the need for Councils to report why they collect the way they do under a Technical, Environmental, Economical Practicality (TEEP) assessment is helpful and gives us greater flexibility.
3. The recycling materials list is confirmed as the same as we understood it to be, so no change there for now, but the addition of taking plastic film from April 2027 is noted.

The impact of this, and the pressure that will be exerted on waste /recycling services in the next few years should not be underestimated. Not only are we in the process of reletting these contracts now, with a new contract starting September 2026, but before then, unless the legislation changes again to include for some greater flexibility, we will potentially need to implement food waste collections to every house, and, if ultimately LCC wish to fund paper and card collections, see if that can be adopted too. Certainly, challenges lie ahead of us now, and this is without reference to any other initiatives we may wish to implement to try to improve our recycling rate, as the national challenge is still 55% by 2025 and 65% by 2035.

I wish to be active in pursuit of these challenging goals on behalf of the Council, but will have to be realistic about what can be achieved with the resources we have. This is the subject of ongoing planning discussions with senior officers.

Central to, and of course most important to us within the work on programming is the effect of the contract letting timetables, and it is not lost on me that we will now need to look at bringing in food waste collections before the end of the existing contract. I will not rehearse the difficulties of the predicament here, as most will be obvious, but I have asked officers to contact DEFRA to make them aware that this is troublesome, and potentially costly for us. It will also potentially impact our ability to be “effective and efficient” for the funding programme.

The response has been unequivocal that there will be no dispensation or transitional allowance for Lincoln, so we remain instructed to comply.

As a footnote to the new legislative requirements, I should make brief note of a new digital waste tracking system that is being implemented nationally, as a part of a program to tighten the issue of waste licenses/permitting.

Horizon Scanning

To a large extent the immediate future for these services has been prescribed by government. However, whilst the new policies set out what government will and will not mandate, they are not transparent on exactly how it expects each authority to reach the challenging national targets. So, looking beyond what is essential for us in terms of the drafting and letting of the new contracts, and the introduction of food waste collections (and other associated lesser changes required), we do need to retain a focus on reducing the volumes of waste produced, and contamination levels within what is produced. It is accepted that the Council is only one player in one makes up the complex waste production, collection, and processing stream, but none the less it has influence beyond just collecting the wastes, and I believe it must continue to show leadership in the promotion of waste reduction and recycling initiatives. I hope to be able to expand this work via various media sources in the next few years, to showcase our good work and ease the necessary transitions in services.

Street Cleansing

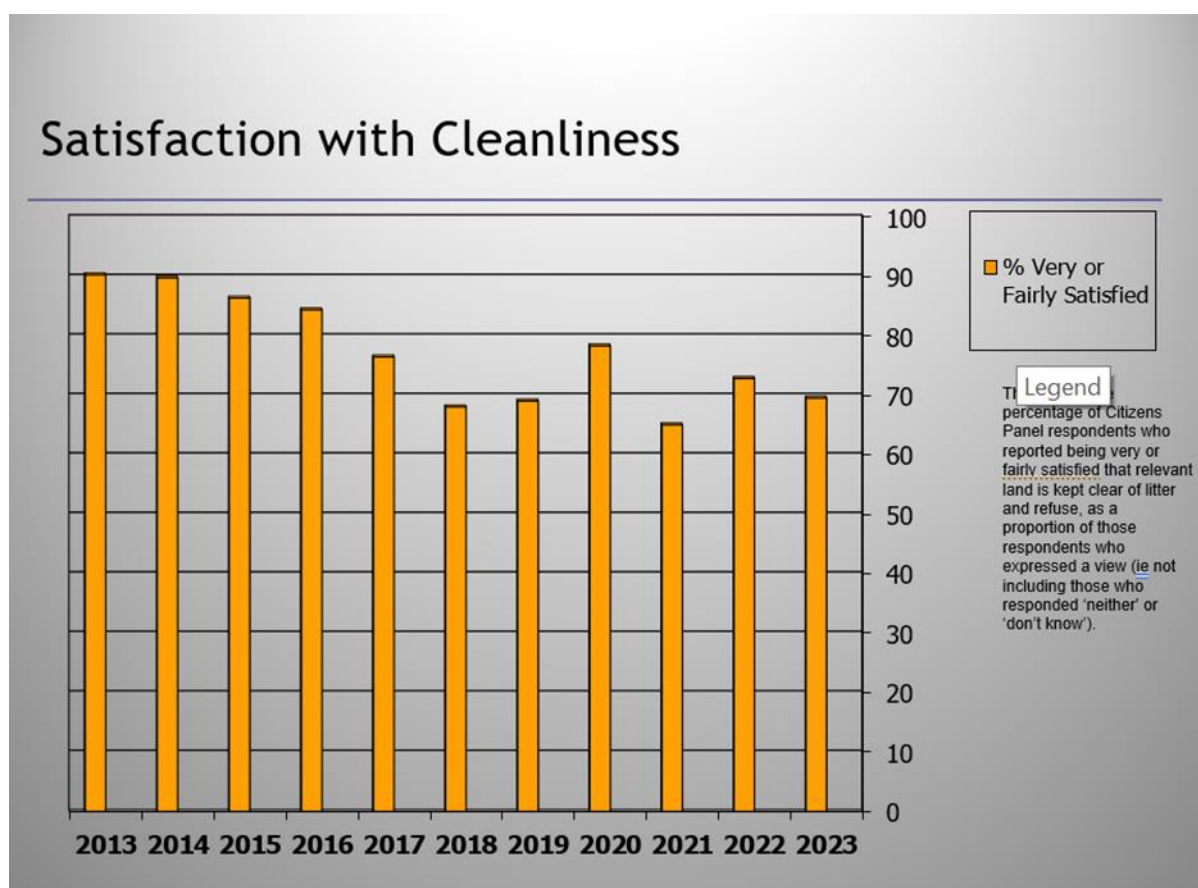
This section covers all areas of street cleansing, including street sweeping, litter picking, litter bin emptying, fly tipping, and the removal of graffiti and abandoned vehicles.

In the summer Citizens Panel survey 2023, 69.5% of respondents who expressed a view reported being very or fairly satisfied with the cleanliness of the city, a small fall of 3.3% on last year, but last year was up a little on the year before, suggesting a norm around this level has been established.

I will be working closely with the staff and contractor to seek out further incremental improvements this next year. Assessment of the feedback provided means that the focus will continue to be on leaf clearance work, fly tipping, and graffiti.

For clarity, whilst numerous indicators are collected and reviewed for the service the departmental KPIs are:

Indicator	22/23 target	Latest recorded outturns (may not be full year)
Contractor performance points score	50 to 150 points	70 Q2
Satisfaction with cleansing services	68% to 78%	69.5%



Graffiti

Under lockdown we saw a drop in graffiti, but alas that has not been sustained. We remain committed to graffiti removal as a mainstay of showing commitment to a clean environment. However, getting graffiti cleared is not easy, as much of it is on private property, and as such it is the landowner's responsibility to clear it or at least to give permission for us to do so. Some choose not to, and others won't respond to offers of help from the council.

The below includes all graffiti removed (apart from utility boxes) so far this year. The figures are consistent with an average year.

2023 Non-Offensive Graffiti – 37 cases

2023 Offensive Graffiti – 9 cases

TOTAL = 46

This year has seen us trial some solar compactor bins. Six bins are now operating in the High Street, located where we are aware we get the most litter, and the highest number of complaints about overflowing litter bins. These bins use the electrical power harvested from the sun to drive a compacting arm within the bin, so they can take several times more material than a standard bin. This means that bins don't need emptying so often, and therefore remain accessible for longer.

These bins are more expensive to rent (but can be bought), but can be cost effective by reducing the amount of emptying required, and of course improving the quality of an area. Being a 'smart bin' means that it measures how full it is, and every time the doors are opened for emptying. This data is transmitted to staff, so they can see how each bin is performing, and when it needs emptying/attention.

We are working with Biffa to assess their viability, and expect to make a longer term decision on them later next year. To this point they have proven well used and popular.



Horizon Scanning.

As a part of the preparations for the new contracts I have considered at some length what we might face in the term of the next contract. Waste/recycling are fast changing areas of work, but less so street cleansing. However, that does not mean it won't be

subject to change and new demands, as aspirations grow. I therefore think that the exploration of new ideas is wise, and the innovation offered by such as compactor bins has real potential.

I am also especially keen that we look at the disposal of litter wastes. At the moment we are unable to recycle these in any way, but I feel this is a lost opportunity, and whilst current cultures (not to mention disposal contracts) prevent it, I believe that it is something that will emerge in the next few years, and we would be well to be preparing for this.

Finally, I have asked officers to pay special attention to the rise in the number of shopping trolleys now blighting some areas of the city. Officers are exploring legal routes to recharge supermarkets for their return, as an incentive for the supermarkets to take action. I expect to be able to report positive progress on this in my next report.

Public Toilets

Following the delivery of the required savings plan, as expected, resilience is now much depleted adding to the burdens on remaining staff. The cause has been the inability to recruit to a post, which despite numerous adverts, has not yet yielded a suitable candidate. We are hopeful that, with the changing jobs market, a high quality candidate can be secured soon.

Charges of 20p per use have been in operation at the Bus station, Castle Square and Tentercroft street since January 2017, and the table below shows the income received so far. It does not cover the cost of provision, but is of help to offset operating costs. Covid lockdowns affected income at times, as can clearly be seen below.

	Castle	Lucy Tower	Tentercroft Street	Bus Station	TOTAL
2016/17	£1,731.93	£988.20			£2,720.13
2017/18	£10,029.31	£4,588.02	£917.65	£3,115.35	£18,650.33
2018/19	£8,354.97	£2,278.05	£9,176.03	£17,843.46	£37,652.51
2019/20	£8,380.77	£172*	£9,207.88	£18,179.43	£35,940.08
2020/21	£6,134.30	£0	£77	£12,806.74	£19,018.04
2021/22	£9,587.07	£0	£8,504.37	£20,508.21	£38,599.65
2022/23	£5,530.17	£0	£7,134.45	£16,176.74	£28,841.36
2023/24 (end Oct)	£3,853.83	£0	£3,646.46	£8,753.09	£16,252.83

This service has again achieved high standards for those facilities entered into the Loo of the Year awards, with Tentercroft and Castle Square achieving Platinum standard, and the Bus Station achieving Platinum Plus standard.

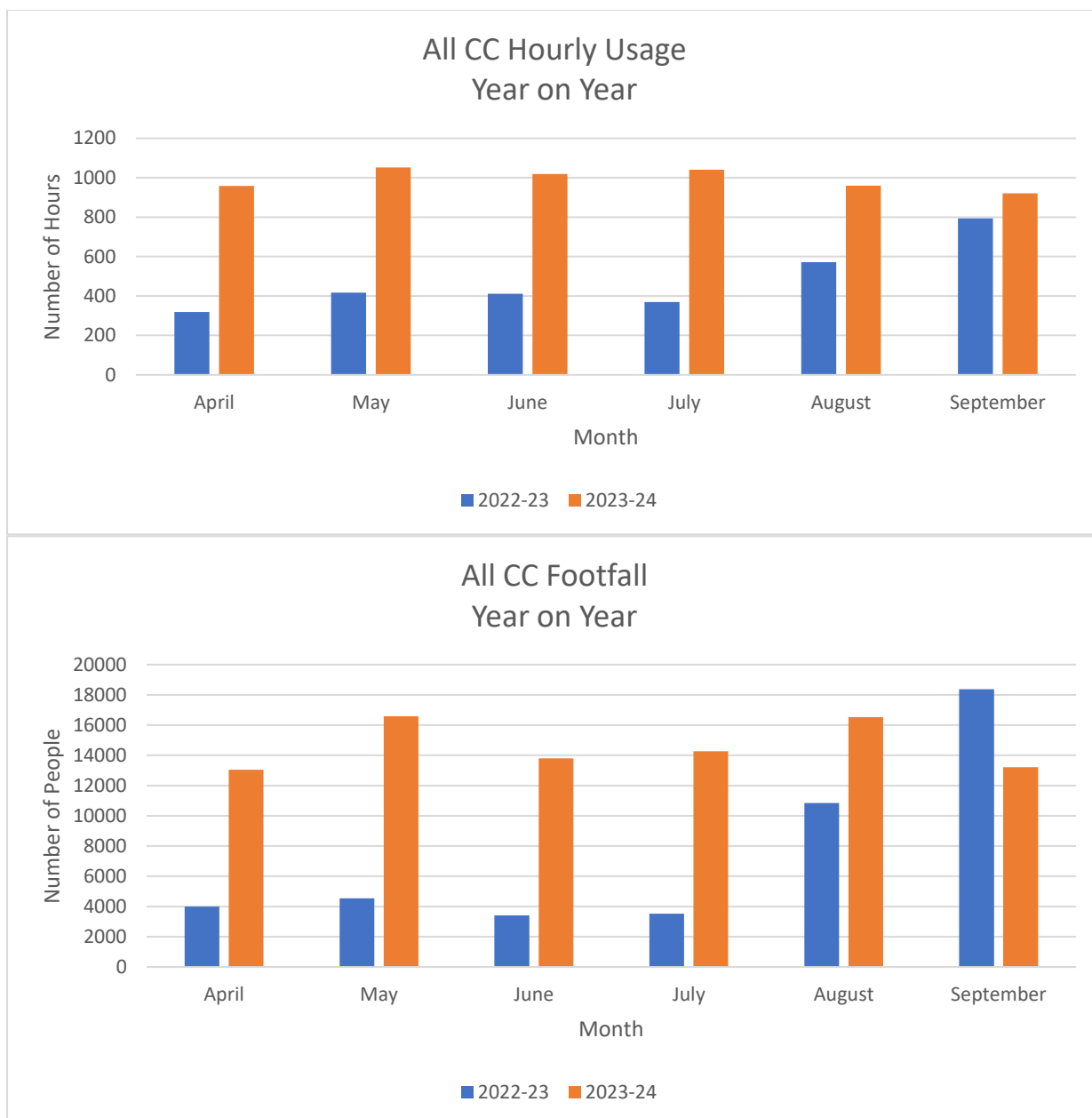
Community Centres and Recreation Grounds.

Recreation and Leisure Team

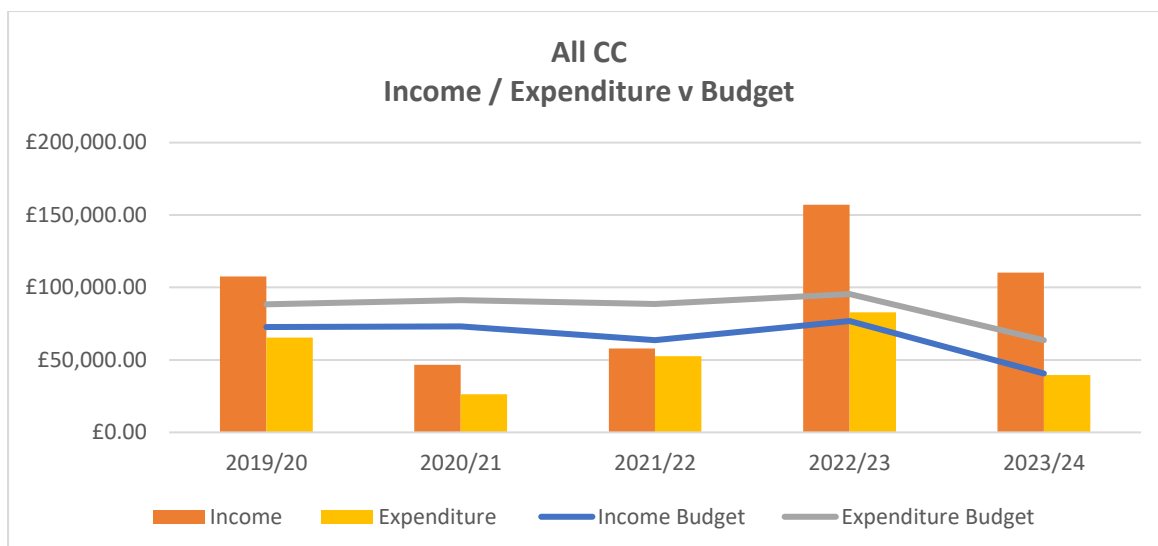
Community Centres

1. Since my report last year, the stock of Community Centres operated by the City Council has been reduced by one facility. A long-term lease was agreed with the YMCA for St Giles Community Centre from September 2023. St Giles CC will see a £1.5 million investment in the fabric of the building. The YMCA will supplement this capital investment with a comprehensive programme of activities particularly targeted at the young people in the area. We are hopeful that this work will be completed, and the newly refurbished St Giles re-opened by the end of 2024.
2. The remaining Community Centres have experienced a continuing growth in their usage, footfall has increased at all Community Centres, particularly for use by community groups, health, sport, education, training, religion and party bookings.

All CC Community Provision (Hourly Usage Q1 & Q2)			
	2022-23	2023-24	% Increase
Community	541.5	628.25	16%
Health	1159	2948.5	154%
Sport	671.25	709.25	6%
Education	19.5	83.5	328%
Training	60	384.25	540%
Religion	147	899.75	512%
Environment	0	0	0%
Music	255.25	243.75	-5%
Party	28	54	93%
Total Hours Usage	2881.5	5951.25	107%



3. All Community Centres now have Wi-Fi connections available to hirers, this has proved to be a popular addition for new and existing hirers.
4. The number of hirers undertaking keyholder training thus avoiding extra caretaker charges has also increased, thus reflecting this year-on-year increase in demand.



Office Space within Community Centres

Local Community Centres are not solely available for the use of community groups, sport, training and religion. There is also the opportunity to use the facilities for office space within the local community.

City of Lincoln Council employees may benefit from having a local space available to meet with residents or an accessible area to complete work outside of City Hall. This provision would negate the time spent travelling between sites, City Hall and car parking provision.

Many companies have Head Offices based in larger cities and require an office to meet with Lincoln based employees, for appraisal, one to one meetings and disciplinary requirements.

The small meeting rooms at Bud Robinson, Sudbrooke Drive and Moorland Community Centres are ideal for this provision and now hirer Wi-Fi is available at all centres, upon request, the areas are very desirable.

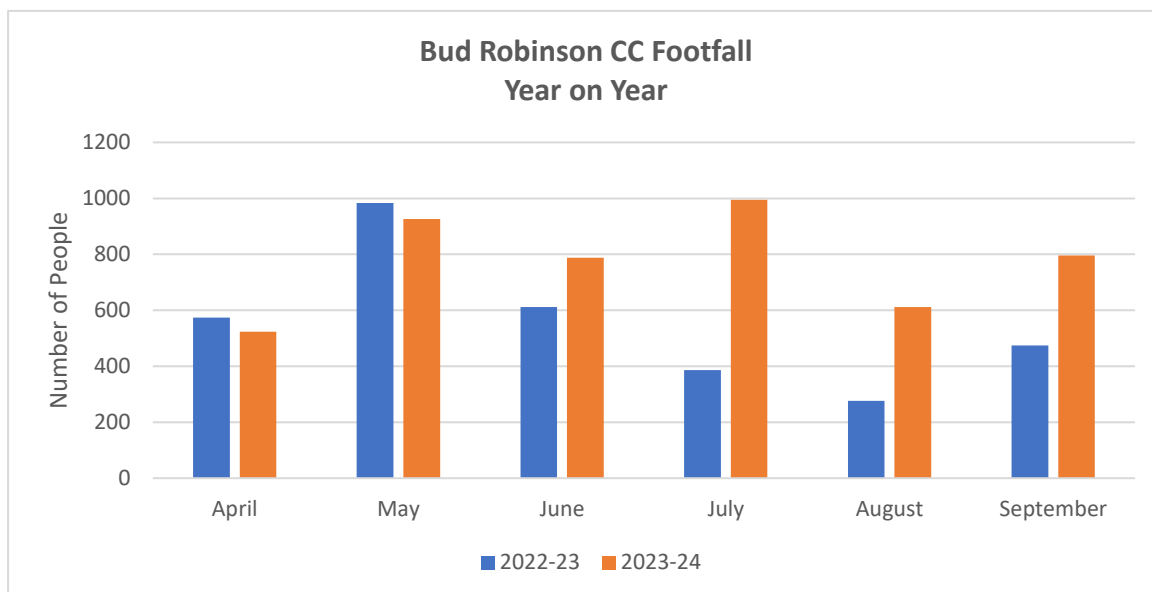
Bud Robinson Community Centre

Growth (New Bookings)

The growth is in meeting room booking requests, the plus point to using the Bud Robinson CC is that a caretaker is not required between the hours of 8am and 5pm, this makes the charges competitive price to businesses.

Bud Robinson Community Centre is also used on a regular basis by community groups, such as the Alzheimer's Society and Forget Me Not Café who offer support and guidance to families and people living with dementia.

*(other booking categories are shown in the overview of all centres later in the report).



Grandstand Community Centre

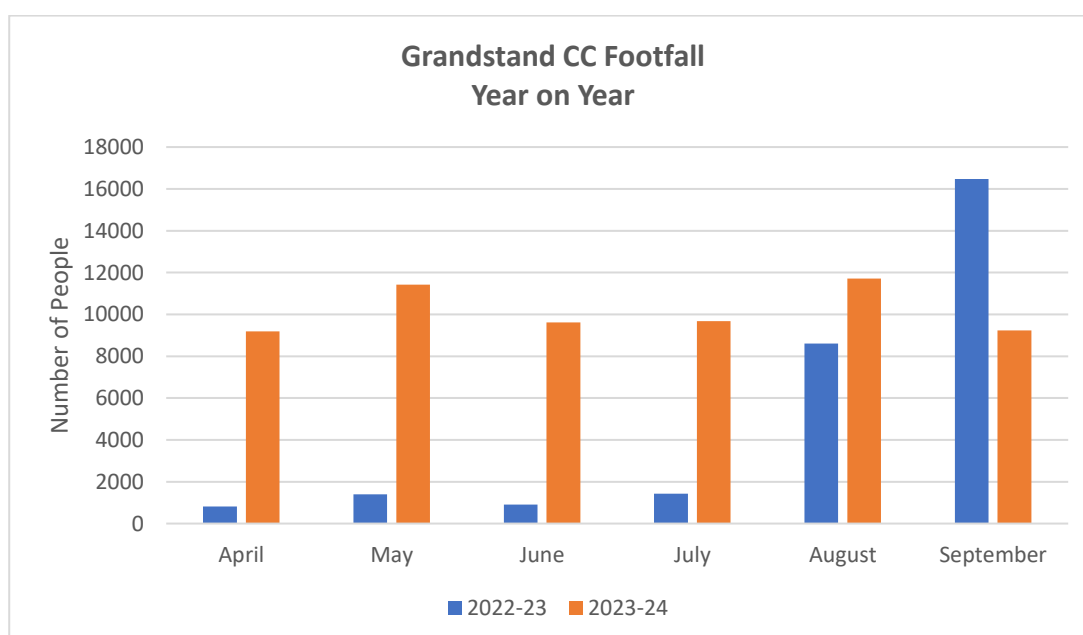
Growth (New Bookings)

One off bookings are rising as an example, AA Record Fairs – a commercial booking offering vinyl record sales, from national dealers, all in one room.

The continuation of existing groups such as Slimming World – promoting a healthy lifestyle to encourage weight loss.

The NHS Vaccination Centre is currently active with the Autumn COVID vaccination schedule. Bookings currently go up to the end of March 2024.

*(other booking categories are shown in the overview of all centres later in the report).



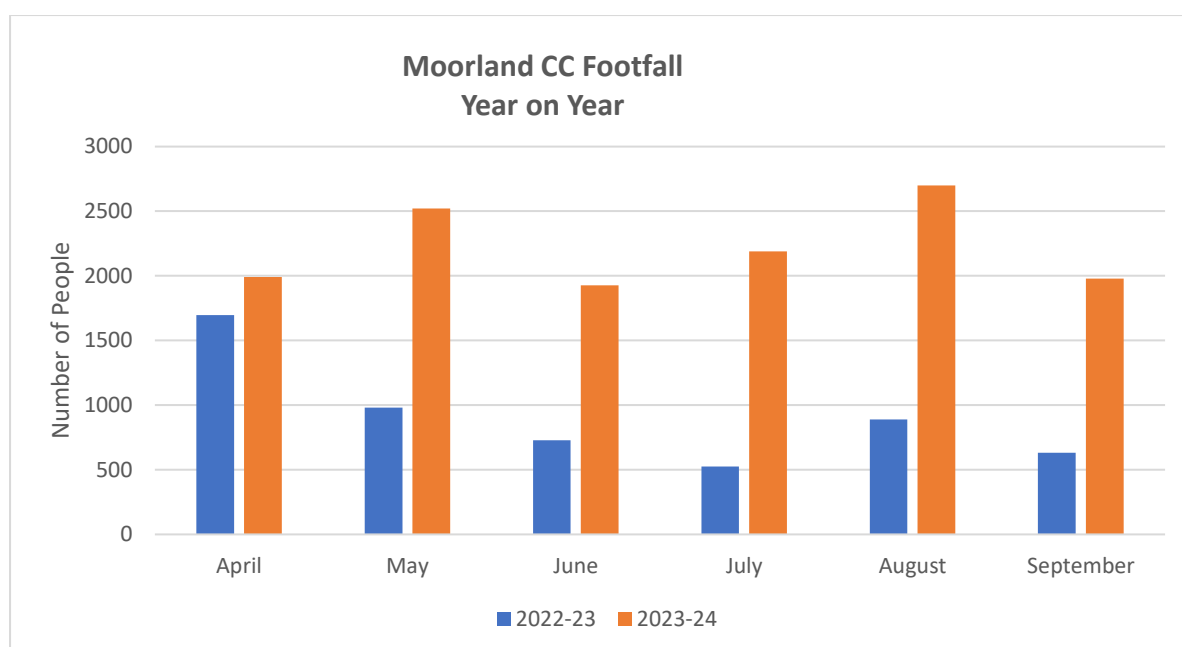
Moorland Community Centre

Growth (New Bookings)

Positive Futures – From September 2023, offer a weekly, term time youth/sport provision.

A temporary booking from the Moorland Children's Centre after suffering a devastating blow to their usual venue when they experienced serious flooding. Temporarily their affected provision moved into Moorland Community Centre throughout Q1 and Q2 to ensure they were able to continue offering Early Year's children's services to the local area.

*(other booking categories are shown in the overview of all centres later in the report).



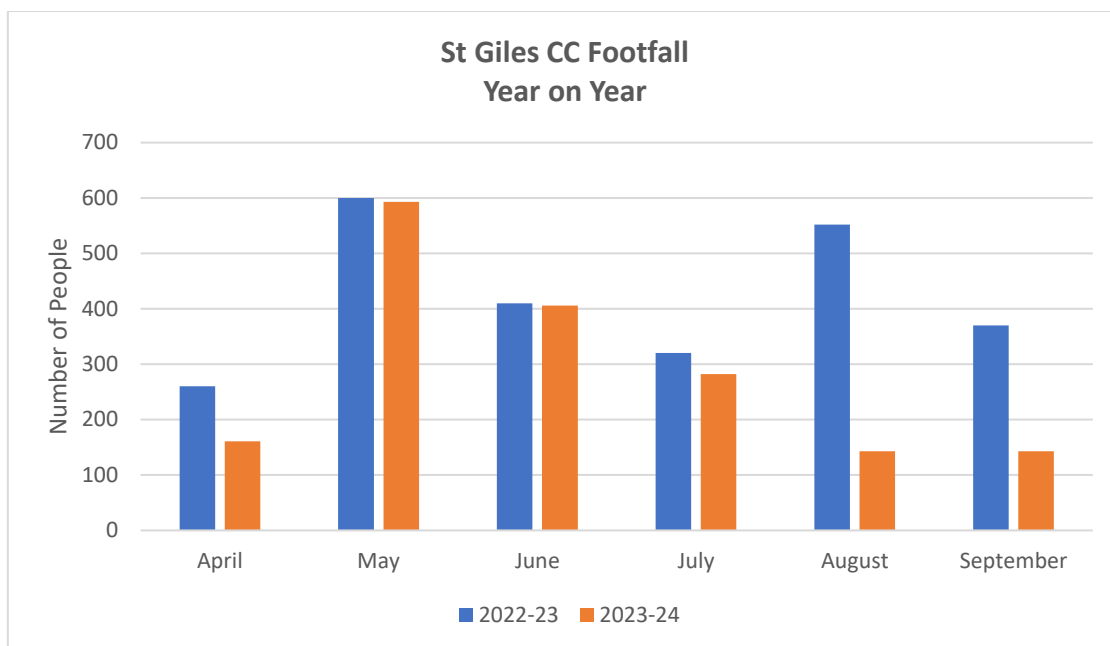
St Giles Community Centre

Use of the Centre Pre Handover.

The transfer of St Giles Community Centre to the YMCA was officially completed on the 18th September 2023.

Regular bookings were offered available space at other community centres to continue their community provision with the closest being Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre. A number of these bookings, Ward Surgeries, Consilium Training, Positive Futures and LCC Youth Club, were unable to transfer due to funding constraints requiring them to remain on St Giles Estate.

Badminton bookings were successfully transferred to Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre.



Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre

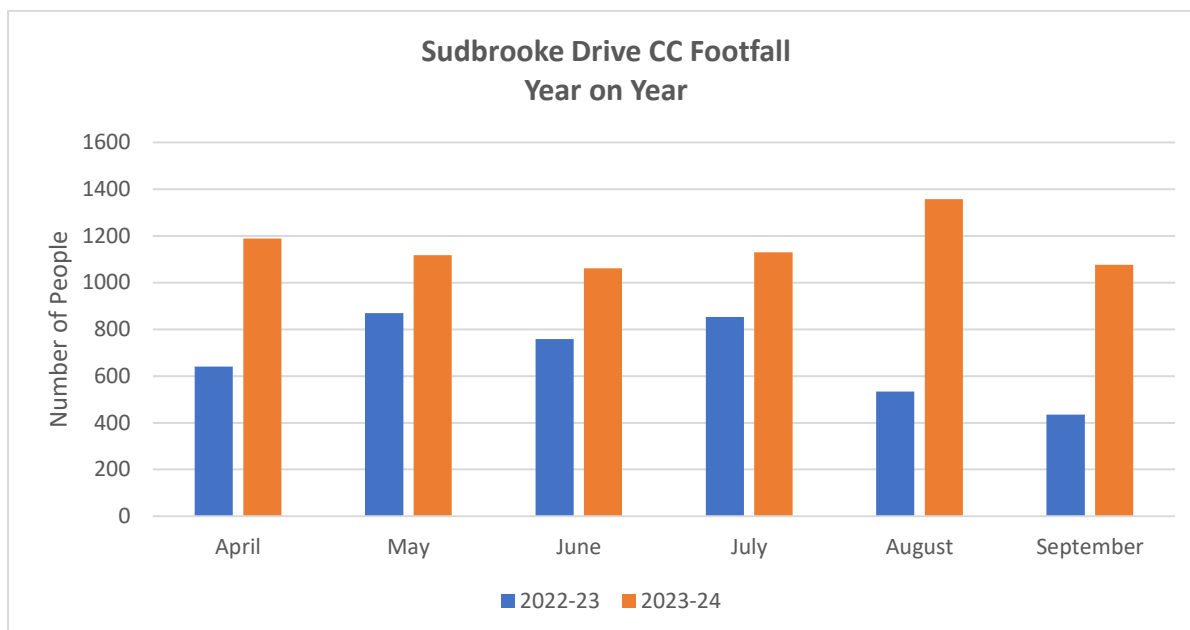
Growth (New Bookings)

Moksha Yoga – Promoting healthy lifestyle with Hatha and Vinyasa yoga designed to align, cleanse and calm body, mind and spirit. As they are currently offering classes on a ‘pay as you can afford’ basis, City of Lincoln Council are supporting their booking with a 3-month standard rate charge, dependant on pricing remaining the same, to aid establishment of group.

Lincoln Concert Orchestra – music rehearsals

Badminton – Increased usage by City of Lincoln Council staff who are offered historically a discounted a rate of 50% to promote both physical and mental, health and wellbeing within the workforce.

*(other booking categories are shown in the overview of all centres later in the report).



Recreation Grounds

West Common Cricket Pitch and Pavilion

Successful season with 4 teams scheduling games, this is a slight decrease in income (-5%)

Football Pitches – King George, Sudbrooke Drive, Skellingthorpe Road and Moorland

Currently mid-season with provision at all venues in use by 13 Adult and 13 Junior teams.

Lincoln Sunday League have 9 teams allocated to King George, Sudbrooke Drive and Skellingthorpe Road as their home venues.

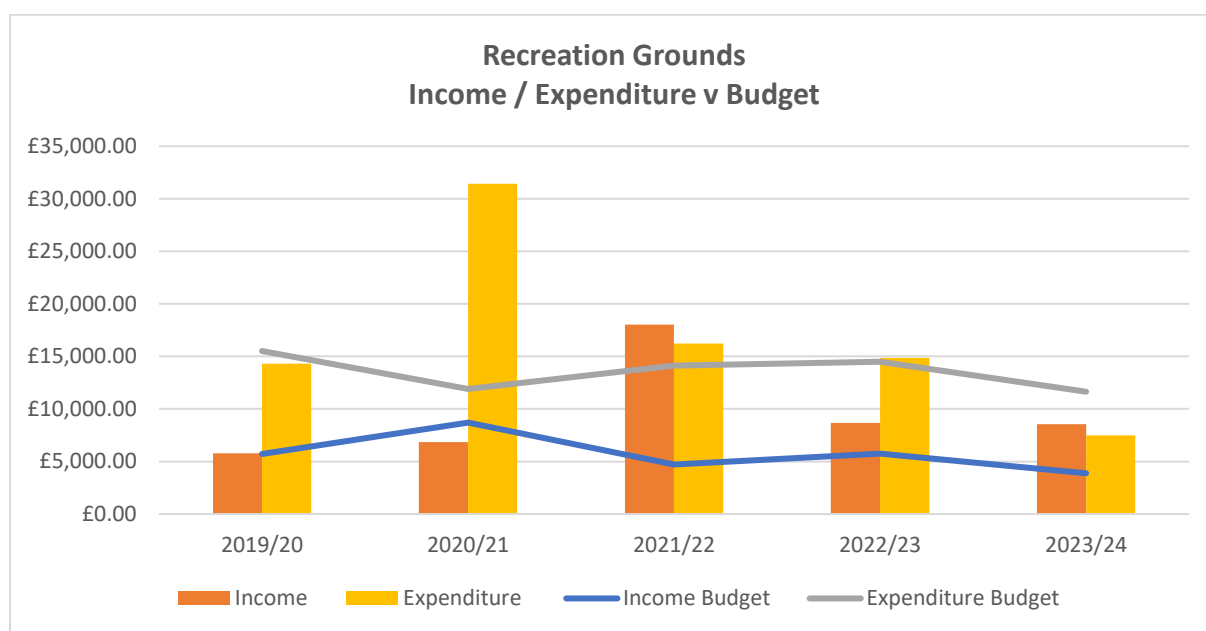
Lincoln Griffins Ladies have an adult team and 3 junior girls teams allocated to Moorland.

St Helens FC's ten junior teams regularly use Skellingthorpe Road pitches as their home venues.

University of Lincoln Men's Football have 3 teams using Skellingthorpe Road as their home venue.

Income currently a 17% increase on 2022-23 however this will increase as University of Lincoln book pitches on a game-by-game basis.

Financial Information



Physical Activity Strategy

‘To deliver, support, facilitate and above all inspire Lincoln residents to be more active, more often and make physical activity part of everyday life.’

By providing a community space, facilitating the delivery of exercise classes and providing adequate space for health professionals and community groups to offer guidance and support for those living with health conditions, City of Lincoln Council Community Centres play an important role in the delivery of the Physical Activity Strategy.

The NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board continue to deliver the vaccination hub at the Grandstand Community Centre, Weighing Rooms and are scheduled to attend until April 2024, providing a clinical environment, accessible, vital care to the local community.

Zumba, an exercise based, dance class has been a long running booking at the Grandstand Community Centre and the recent introduction of Yoga at Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre, offer an alternative to attending a gym facility for local communities looking at improving physical and mental wellbeing.

Badminton hire is available at both Moorland and Sudbrooke Drive Community Centres. Primarily used by Council employees, with a benefit of 50% discount, promoting physical wellbeing within the workplace. Regular weekly bookings are keyholder trained so a caretaker is not required, reducing barriers to the hirer.

The recent rise in popularity of Pickleball has resulted in enquiries for the hire of Badminton courts to facilitate games. The Recreation Officers have purchased Pickleball equipment to allow for newcomers to access the game within the centres.

Pickleball is a sport that can be enjoyed by children and adults encouraging family activity.

Martial Arts groups continue to be regular hirers of the centres, offering weekly classes to both adults and children, promoting exercise, a healthy lifestyle and confidence building within a community setting. The number of groups has recently increased to four regular, weekly classes.

Lincoln City Foundation, a local charity dedicated to creating healthier, happier and inspired communities, offer Kurling and Carpet Bowls on a weekly basis at Moorland Community Centre. As a part of the EFL Trust, Extra Time initiative these activities are aimed at making a positive difference to the lives of retired and semi-retired people, providing them with the opportunity to meet like-minded people from the local area. One You Lincolnshire currently provide a strength and balance programme, aimed at people over the age of 65 years, at Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre. By providing local, affordable rooms to facilitate these free services City of Lincoln Council aid people requiring support to make sustainable changes to improve their health and wellbeing and live a longer, happier life.

The Alzheimer's Society and Forget Me Not Café offer fortnightly sessions at Bud Robinson Community Centre to provide support and guidance for those people living with dementia and Alzheimer's, as well as their family and friends.

The Recreation Grounds are another area regularly used for seasonal, sporting activities. West Common Cricket Pitch continues to be used by the two main Cricket Clubs in Lincoln, Rustons and Carholme Cricket Clubs, as well as standalone clubs, such as Monks Cricket Club. Skellingthorpe Road Playing Field, Sudbrooke Drive Playing Field, King George Playing Field and Moorland Backies are currently home grounds to 13 Adult and 13 Junior teams, including Lincoln Griffins, an all-girls team and the University of Lincoln Men's football. Working in partnership with the Lincoln Sunday League and University of Lincoln to offer regular football provision.

As detailed earlier in this report, statistics are being gathered monthly to establish the current offering of community provision, both in hourly usage and footfall, at the Community Centres. The data has been broken down into nine key areas, community, health, sport, education, training, religion, environment, music and party, to monitor usage and highlight areas requiring improvement, as well as those areas excelling.

Sport and Leisure

1. This past year has been a challenging year for Sport and Leisure both locally and nationally. There has been a continuing slow recovery from the coronavirus pandemic which saw the sector significantly impacted as shown in the usage statistics. In addition to the slow return of customers exercising and working from home, the economic difficulties meant that some families were having to make hard choices for their household budgets which meant health and exercise costs were hard to justify. Part of the economic issue was caused by world events and has resulted in a huge exponential increase in utility costs (three to four times the cost of pre pandemic levels) which for leisure facilities with swimming pools has been very challenging.

2. Active Nation, our Leisure providers managing the Birchwood and Yarborough Leisure Centres have worked hard to manage this reduction in usage numbers and increase in utility costs. In partnership with the City Council, we have applied for over £1.5 million of swimming pool support funding from Sport England.
3. Locally the main swimming pool at Yarborough Leisure Centre was shut in January 2022 due to emergency repairs following a routine inspection of the ceiling and re-opened on January 3rd, 2023.
4. The City Council have met and continue to meet with senior members of the Active Nation management team to explore the many and various ways we can support them through these difficult times.

Leisure Centre Stats

Quarterly usage Yarborough	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Pre pandemic	188,529	190,051	174,255	169,64
2021/22	39,879	87,485	76,946	*66,896
2022/23	*51,958	*60,934	*57,864	73,612
2023/24	99,520	103,392		
*Main pool closed for ceiling works				
Quarterly usage Birchwood				
Pre pandemic	57,774	57,138	57,321	57,144
2021/22	20,230	34,549	33,393	39,613
2022/23	33,468	37,616	31,185	35,483
2023/24	38,209	42,118		
AGP hours usage both sites				
Pre pandemic	520	555	612	630
2021/22	895	790	806	775
2022/23	689	635	806	728
2023/24	761	663		

Lincoln 10k

The Lincoln 10k Road Race took place on the 16th April 2023, with 3500 entries for the main race and 74 entries for the Junior Race.

The Team Challenge attracted 245 participants organisations, athletics clubs and the university.

Numbers dropped during the pandemic, however, are slowly rising and it is hoped a return to current levels will be achieved in coming years.

Participants were offered to opt for whether they wanted T-shirts and or Medals, as well as sugar cane goodie bags with cartons of water. Run For All has implemented these changes to help meet the Councils sustainability targets.

Next year's race is set for the 14th of April.

Crematorium

1. The Crematorium experienced another busy year with over 1800 cremations taking place throughout the year. The Bereavement Service team also undertook 130 full body and 170 cremated remains burials, these being carried out throughout our various Lincoln cemeteries.
2. Most of our cemeteries are now full for new full burial graves apart from Long Leys Road, but we continue to carry out reopen burials and burials in pre-purchased graves in all our cemeteries.
3. Officers have been busy since the installation of the new cremators last year, there has been a number of staffing changes in the year. These new staff have been brought in from outside the service area and have now been fully trained, all achieving their Cremator Technician Qualifications.
4. The installation of the new cremators last year replaced the old cremators that had been in place for almost 25 years. These new cremators are more efficient machines that also allow for larger coffins to be cremated. With the new cremators we have been looking at ways to use them in the most environmentally efficient way to reduce our carbon footprint, the staff are able to monitor the gas usage on each cremation and plan each day to reduce as much standing time between cremations.
5. In an attempt to improve the Crematoriums service to the public, the crematorium management team have been further analysing the service offered and as a direct consequence have made a number of improvements. New promotional and informational leaflets have been produced to ensure the public know about the services offered.
6. The team have also improved the signage around the grounds and buildings to make it easier for visitors to navigate the site and to ensure that they attend the correct service in the correct chapel. .
7. In addition, a new software system has been introduced to improve the booking procedures for funeral directors. This new system will in time also enable the public to view and search for the services they want without the need to call the office.

Licensing

During the financial year 2022-2023, the licensing team have:

- Issued 409 Vehicle Licences
- Issued 688 Test Certificates
- Issued 3 Private Hire Operator Licences
- Issued 234 Private Hire (PH) Driver Licences
- Issued 21 Hackney Carriage (HC) Driver Licences

- Processed 183 Premises Licence Applications
- Processed 99 Personal Licence Applications

The above data shows the output of the Licensing team in relation to new applications received over the past year. It doesn't consider the management of the various categories of licences which are already in effect during the same period.

During the last year 13 drivers were referred through to the private hire and/or hackney carriage subcommittee. The breakdown of the outcomes of the 13 subcommittees is as followed:

- 9 Licences granted
- 2 Licences revoked
- 2 Licences Refused

The below table shows the number of licences that were active at the end of quarter 4 of the financial year 2022-2023:

Licence Type	Number of Licences
Premises	405
PH Drivers	409
PH Vehicles	290
PH Operator	22
HC Driver	33
HC Vehicles	31

The performance indicators for Licensing were refreshed at the end of 22/23. The comparison data for previous financial years is not available but will be included in future reports.

The financial year 22/23 saw Private Hire Vehicles and Drivers, that were registered in other areas, appearing in the City. This is currently being discussed at a national level due to the inability to effectively monitor the drivers when they are operating outside of their registered area. Private Hire Drivers that are registered with Lincoln and operate within the Lincoln are put at a disadvantage as they are subject to higher fees than those drivers that have registered at an authority such as Wolverhampton, which can offer considerably lower fees due to the significantly higher demand.

Food, Health and Safety Team Report 2023

The Food, Health and Safety Team continue to prioritise protecting public health, taking a risk-based approach, in line with the Food Law Code of Practice. This allows the service to focus on those businesses that present the greatest risk to public health.

Food, Health & Safety Team Resources

In terms of staff resources, the team currently consists of the Food, Health & Safety Team Leader, 2 Environmental Health Officers and 1 Food Safety Officer. There is currently a Food Safety Officer vacancy, however we are using a contractor to help fill this gap.

FSA Recovery Plan

For the first 3 months of this year the team were operating in accordance with directions outlined in the Food Standards Agency's (FSA), Local Authority Recovery Plan, which was brought in during the Covid 19 pandemic. This required us to concentrate on the most non-compliant business (FHRS 0, 1 or 2) and although this is how we were already working already, it did have an effect on the service and the delivery of official controls in lower risk businesses.

Post Pandemic

Since 01 April 2023, we have reverted to operating in accordance with the Food Law Code of Practice, which has brought back into the inspection programme those low-risk businesses that were given a low priority during the pandemic.

At the end of March 2023, there were 200 overdue low risk businesses, most of which had been due to be inspected during the pandemic. These businesses are currently being contacted using an Alternative Enforcement Strategy (AES), which provides flexibility for dealing with lower risk establishments. This is helping to bring down the number of outstanding inspections.

The AES is detailed in the Food Law Code of Practice and permits us to alternate between physical inspections and remote assessments of low-risk businesses. Remote assessments are being carried out of these businesses but if they fail to complete the questionnaire that we send them or we are concerned about the answers given, then physical inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance.

Volume of Work – Food Safety and Public Health (01/11/22 – 31/10/23)

Service Requests (e.g. Food and health & safety complaints, food hazard warnings and requests for advice on food safety , health & safety and public health related matters)	1337
Food Hygiene Inspections (Official Controls)	568 of which 49 were remote assessments as per the AES
New food business registered	222
Food and Environmental Samples Taken	125
Infectious Disease Notifications	15
Health & Safety Inspections where matters of evident concern found	2
Accident Notifications	44 of which 1 required investigation.

Official Food Controls Delivered

Between 01 November 2022 and 31 October 2023, 519 physical inspections were carried out and 259 written warnings were issued.

Examples of Food Safety & Public Health Complex Cases

During this period, the team have dealt with a number of complex cases with between 12-15 non-compliant businesses at any one time. Other complex cases include the following:

- A 5 rated food business allegedly sending food to online customers from a 0 rated food business. This was a joint investigation with Trading Standards.
- A recurring problem with flies in a national chain coffee shop that required working with their head office to find the source of the problem and rectify it
- Several complaints about rats and pigeons being in and around food businesses in the city centre
- Complex food complaints, for example a bolt in a quiche that has resulted in changes to the producer's food safety management system to prevent a reoccurrence from happening.
- Pest control issues regarding rats and cockroaches at a residential unit within Lincoln
- Working with other agencies i.e. Trading Standards, Police, NCA, Gangmaster etc. regarding illegal workers, modern day slavery, counterfeit alcohol and illegal tobacco etc.
- Investigation of a case of Ecoli in a 8 month old baby to establish how it was acquired and issues around getting suitable clearance for the baby to return to nursery setting
- There has been an increase nationally in Cryptosporidium cases and cases that we have had required enhanced surveillance

Examples of Health & Safety Complex Cases

- A business was served with a Health & Safety Prohibition Notice due to employees and members of the public being exposed to Carbon Monoxide, a major investigation is ongoing.
- University of Lincoln Student's Unions hosted the first Tattoo Convention in the City over the weekend Saturday 21st and 22nd October, 45 tattoo artists from across the Country attended the event. A health and safety inspection was completed during the event but there no issues, the officer worked closely with the organisers to make sure that it was run safely. It is anticipated that this will become an annual event for the City.
- Cases of flooding and water ingress into businesses, causing health and safety concerns
- Complaints about invasive beauty treatments that had allegedly gone wrong, we are currently restricted on what we can do in terms of enforcement, but we are awaiting new powers so that we can require licensing of practitioners.

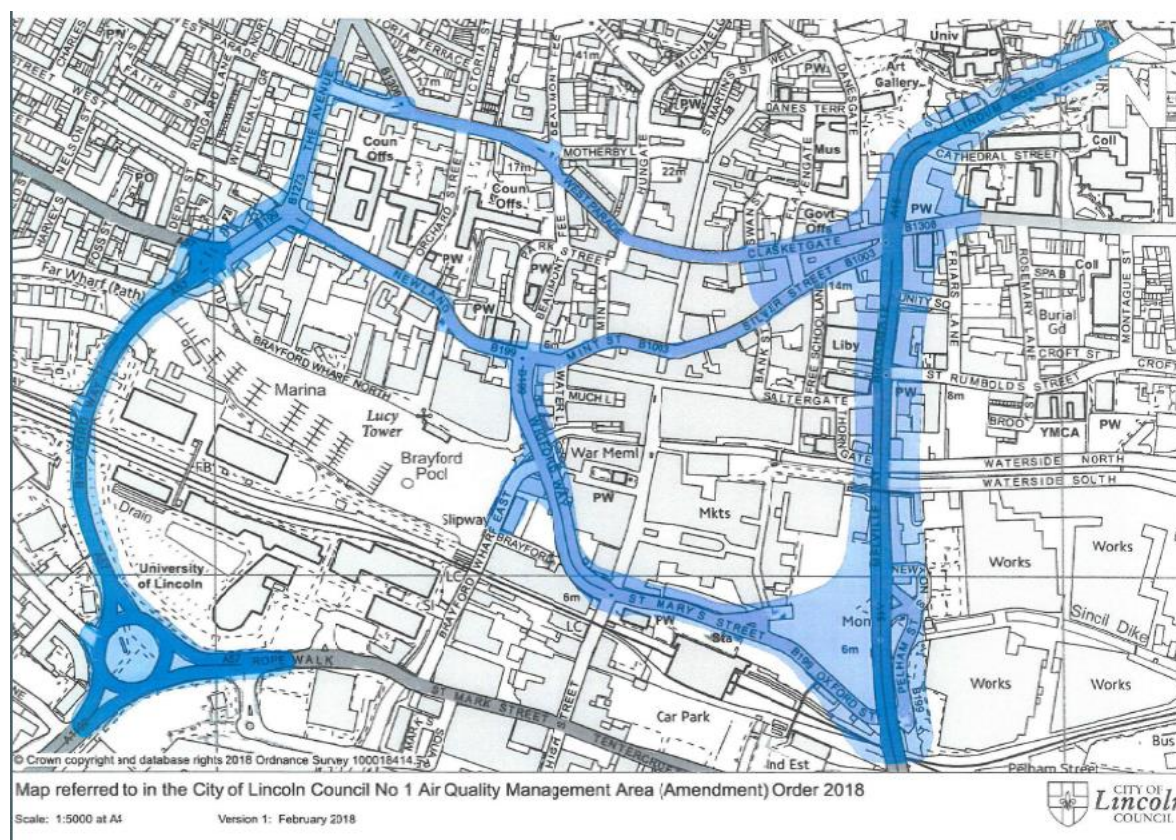
- We sought and were granted permission from the Secretary of State for Health to extend the skin piercing byelaws to include cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin colouring treatments
- Two Informal Notices were issued for matters of evident concern.

Local Air Quality Management

The Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995) places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the national air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Local authorities are required to produce an Annual Status Report (ASR), which details the current air pollution levels and provide updates on measures to improve air quality and any progress that has been made.

Where an exceedance is considered likely the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.

The Council currently has one AQMA in place due to historic exceedances of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide, a pollutant closely associated with road traffic (as well as other combustion sources). The AQMA closely follows the main road traffic routes through the centre of the city as can be seen on figure below.



Our monitoring network has not identified any likely exceedances of the national air quality objectives since 2018. No other monitoring location within the city has seen an

exceedance of the air quality objectives since 2013. The most recent verified data (Annual Status Report 2023) was submitted to, and accepted by, Defra during the summer. I now propose to review and revoke Air Quality Management Area 1 and the associated Air Quality Action Plan and have asked officers to consult with relevant agencies with a view to bringing a report back into the committee process.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all staff involved, across the authority, in service delivery, often with dwindling resources.

Councillor Bob Bushell
Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place

REPORT UNDER RULE 2(VI) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**Annual report by Cllr Sue Burke
- Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequality****1 Introduction**

Over the past year our residents have continued to face many challenges due to the ongoing cost of living pressures. As a direct result of this we have seen an increased number of residents turning to the City of Lincoln Council and our key partners locally for support to help them through this challenging time.

Subsequently, the necessity for the council to provide this support has had a direct impact on our services, some of which have been required to deliver additional support schemes and services alongside the business as usual support they already provide.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our staff, elected members and our partners for continuing to provide this vital additional support at a time when resources are already under significant pressure. This dedication makes me feel proud to be an elected member and the Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequalities.

In my report below I have provided an update on each of the council services, which fall under the responsibility of my portfolio. These updates focus on the key developments and success stories over the past 12 months.

Performance information has been included where available within the service updates I have provided. Additionally, Appendix C at the end of my report includes the latest performance measure outturns for those strategic performance measures linked to my portfolio.

I would like to thank officers for their support in helping to produce this report.

2 Welfare and Benefits Advice

- 2.1 During the past year, the Welfare Team has had two very experienced advisers leave their roles, for retirement and opportunities elsewhere in the county. This reduction in staffing has had an impact on the ability of the team to deliver debt casework, but happily recruitment has been successfully completed and the team will soon be back up to full strength.
- 2.2 The team works across both Lincoln and North Kesteven, providing advice and assistance in claiming benefit, with a focus on helping residents to navigate the complex rules and entitlement conditions of the full range of welfare benefits. Additionally, the team provides advice on pensions, grants, charitable payments and tax credits. In the past 12 months the team has had conversations, appointments, or home visits with a total of 6,949 Lincoln customers.
- 2.3 The debt casework undertaken by the team is managed within the regulations set out by the Financial Conduct Authority and the council is a member of the Community Money Advice organisation who provide training for the debt advisers and who monitor our quality by undertaking regular visits and an annual report. The 2023 report was

positive and congratulated the advisers on their work. A file audit was undertaken with a 100% rating for quality of advice given and outcome achieved.

3 Welfare Reform and Cost of Living Support

3.1 Our Welfare Reform Support Team has continued to provide vital support to the residents of Lincoln over the last 18 months. This support has been delivered during a challenging time due to the rising cost of living and the significant financial challenges this presents. Provided below is an update on each element of support provided by the Welfare Reform Support Team and our partners focusing on the past 12 months.

3.2 Household Support Fund –

A significant initiative delivered by the Welfare Reform Support Team has been the Household Support Fund. This is a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) funded scheme, delivered throughout the county. The scheme has been delivered working closely with Lincolnshire County Council and other district councils.

3.3 Household Support Fund wave 3 was delivered in Lincoln in the latter part of 2022/23. Applications for support were taken from our referral partners and vouchers / payments allocated accordingly.

Additionally, for those in receipt of Housing Benefit and not entitled to the national Cost of Living payment, a £250 voucher was issued (via the Post Office) to these households. Officers worked with partner organisations to deliver these monies promptly, effectively and to those identified / referred as being most in need, with over £300,000 being delivered. The table below outlines the allocation of these payments:

Category	Allocation
Number of families without children	609
Number of families with children	590
Households on Housing Benefit only	623
Total amount of award	£301,250
Total paid	£301,250

3.4 In his Autumn Statement 2022, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an extension to the Household Support Fund, running from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. Guidance was issued to local authorities on 20th February 2023, along with the allocations for this round of funding. For Lincolnshire, Household Support Fund 2023/24 funding is £10,929,370, which is to cover the whole financial year.

3.5 In Quarter 1 2023/24, Lincolnshire County Council confirmed plans in respect of Household Support Fund wave 4 2023/24 (HSF4), and updated its HSF website page ([Household Support Fund – Lincolnshire County Council](#)), which included the following:

- *Approximately 43% of the funding will be delegated to schools and early years providers to support children eligible for benefit-related free school meals, early years pupil premium and families with a 2-year-old eligible for early years entitlement.*
- *Approximately 44% will be directed through Lincolnshire's district councils to provide financial support to housing benefit only claimants not in receipt of other support provided via the national scheme.*

- 1% of the grant funding will be used to provide financial support to eligible care leavers in supported living accommodation.
- The remaining grant funding will be directed towards other vulnerable households via local schemes, with approximately 11% of the local grant made available to district councils on a proportionate basis. District councils and other third sector / voluntary organisations will work to provide an application-based process to ensure this funding is distributed through local channels in line with the grant conditions. Further details on this process will be published on district council websites once agreed.

3.6 For Housing Benefit recipients in Lincolnshire who were not entitled to the national Cost of Living Payment 2023/24 ([Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cost-of-living-payment-2023-24)), the intention is that this payment (subject to available funding) will be replicated in three phases. The first payment (£301) was made to Lincoln residents in August / September 2023 via Post Office vouchers, and the second payment (£300) in December 2023.

3.7 In terms of district councils' separate allocations of HSF4 to be utilised to work with partners to provide payments, including through an application-based process in part (a requirement of the national HSF4 guidance), these have been communicated to district councils' HSF4 lead officers - for City of Lincoln £202,676 has been allocated – this does not include the Cost of Living Payments being made to Housing Benefit recipients (see paragraph 3.6).

3.8 Officers have been in discussions with an established range of referral partners, as well as some new partners / routes, to ensure these HSF4 monies (through vouchers, food parcels, energy top-ups etc.) are delivered to those identified as in need. A key focus is again to reduce foodbank dependency wherever possible, working with partners to help signpost residents to other means of support (e.g., money advice), as well as supporting a drive to further increase usage of Lincoln Community Grocery. In monetary terms from August 2023 to the end of November 2023 a total of £247,488 was delivered through HSF4 in the City of Lincoln.

A strategic aim of HSF4 is also to try and leave a 'legacy' of impact, as there is no guarantee of HSF5 (or of another form of local welfare provision) from 2024/25 onwards. No announcement was made within the Chancellor's Autumn Statement 2023 with regard to extension of Household Support Fund into 2024/25. However, this does mean there could now be a further announcement in advance of April 2024.

In terms of an 'open application' scheme, the first wave was delivered in October/November 2023, with a further 'wave' to be considered for early 2024.

3.9 **Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS AF) / Alternative Fuel Payment (AFP) -**

In October 2022, central government announced an Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS AF) scheme intended to provide the £400 of support for households across the UK that would otherwise miss out on the Energy Bills Support Scheme, which the vast majority of households were already receiving as they did not have a domestic electricity contract.

- 3.10 The government also announced a further £200 Alternative Fuel Payment (AFP) to help those households in Great Britain using alternative fuels such as biomass or heating oil to meet energy costs.

Households who may benefit from these schemes could include those such as:

- Care home residents
- Residents of park homes
- Tenants in certain private and social rented homes
- Homes supplied via private wires
- Residents of caravans and houseboats on registered sites
- Farmers living in domestic farmhouses
- Off-grid households

These payments were made by our Revenues and Benefits Shared Service. For Lincoln the following allocations / payments were made:

Energy Scheme	Applications Approved	Total Paid
Energy Bills Support Scheme – Alternative Fund	253	£101,200
Alternative Fuel Payment – Alternative Fund	13	£2,600

3.11 Council Tax Support Fund 2023/24 –

On 23rd December 2022, central government provided guidance to local authorities regarding a £100 million Council Tax Support Fund for 2023/24, whereby awards of up to £25 are to be made to Council Taxpayers in receipt of Council Tax Support, with an element of funding also to be made for discretionary local funds in 2023/24. The funding allocation for City of Lincoln, being £222,303.

Payments of up to £50.00 (the prescribed maximum was £25.00) were made to City of Lincoln and taxpayers as part of the 2023/24 Council Tax annual billing process. Remaining funding is being delivered by a local discretionary scheme in 2023/24.

4 Housing Benefit / Council Tax Support

- 4.1 Our Benefits Team continues to administer a significant number of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support claims – the caseloads currently being 3,919 and 8,330 respectively. Our Council Tax Support caseload rose sharply as a result of the initial Covid-19 lockdown, then plateaued somewhat before falling and returning back to pre-pandemic levels. However, with the ongoing cost of living pressures on residents there is the potential that the number of Council Tax Support recipients may begin to increase again.
- 4.2 Despite the challenges, pressures and demands on the Benefits Team, including significant numbers of Universal Credit related documents requiring action, New Claims and Changes of Circumstance continue to be processed promptly, with positive average processing times being achieved – New Claims are currently being processed within an average of 15.65 days and Changes of Circumstance in 5.81 days (as at the end of

November 2023). These rates of performance compare favourably ahead of national average processing times.

- 4.3 Our Benefits Team also process Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) applications – essentially to assist customers requiring additional help with housing costs, usually on a short-term basis only. Payments are limited to a fund provided by central government each year. Any payments above this figure are a direct cost to the council.
- 4.4 Despite rising rents in the city as well as a national ‘freeze’ on Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates (used to assess Housing Benefit and Universal Credit housing costs entitlement), funding has decreased in recent years, meaning officers regularly need to review guidance regarding making awards. LHA rates have been unfrozen for 2024/25, as announced in the Autumn Statement 2023.
- 4.5 On 23rd February 2023, DWP announced DHP government grants for 2023/24. For City of Lincoln this is exactly the same amount as for 2022/23, and the announcement also stated that the national DHP allocation for 2024/25 will be the same as for 2023/24. Therefore, individual local authorities may well receive the same figures for 2024/25. Confirmation of the DHP allocation for 2024/25 is likely to be received in December 2023 or January 2024.
- 4.6 The table below includes the confirmed 2023/24 allocations, alongside previous years’ grants.

	City of Lincoln Council central government DHP grant
2023/24	£132,330
2022/23	£132,330
2021/22	£186,707
2020/21	£250,113
2019/20	£178,674
2018/19	£208,624
2017/18	£242,505
2016/17	£173,675
2015/16	£139,678
2014/15	£194,308
2013/14	£199,741
2012/13	£98,865

- 4.7 In 2023/24 all of the £132,330 government allocation was spent, plus a further £8,278, a total of £140,608.

5 Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

- 5.1 A ‘Business Rates Growth Policy’ was approved by Executive on 23rd July 2018. The policy provides a time-limited rate relief discount to new and extended business premises within the city, in the interest of building the Business Rates base, supporting economic growth and job creation. Eligibility for this scheme is dependent on the extent of the business premises creation or extension, location and the impact of the new business or expansion plans on the local economy.

- 5.2 The impacts of Covid-19 meant applications under this policy understandably reduced. In 2021/22, a total of £19,338 was awarded under this policy. However, in 2022/23 eight businesses received this relief, totalling £42,345. In 2023/24 so far, six businesses have received a total of £42,924.

6 Financial Inclusion

- 6.1 Financial inclusion continues to be a key objective and factor in many areas of our Revenues and Benefits Shared Services work. The Lincolnshire Financial Inclusion Partnership (LFIP) is currently chaired by our Assistant Director for Shared Revenues and Benefits, which brings together organisations and partners to promote and raise the profile of financial inclusion across the county. LFIP aims to ensure that everyone has the capability and opportunity to access appropriate financial services and products needed to participate fully in society, as well as developing, implementing and, when available, gain funding for positive solutions to improve financial inclusion for all people within Lincolnshire. LFIP also provides a forum for sharing good practice and information.
- 6.2 Two key areas of high-profile engagement by LFIP in 2023/24 include:
- Co-ordination of 'Talk Money Week' activities in Lincolnshire during the week-commencing 6th November 2023: <https://maps.org.uk/talk-money-week/>
 - A conference to be held on 20th February 2024 (in Grantham), to follow-up from the highly successful conference held at the Jakemans Community Stadium in Boston in February 2023.
- 6.3 Also, officers are currently working with the Greater Lincolnshire Food Partnership (<https://lincolnshirefoodpartnership.org>), regarding how City of Lincoln Council may potentially be able to support the aspiration of 'Food as a public good'.

7 Safeguarding

- 7.1 During the past year many safeguarding issues have continued to be reported across the council. This is very positive and demonstrates both our officers' awareness of the importance of safeguarding and their confidence identifying and reporting safeguarding concerns.
- 7.2 Safeguarding continues to be embedded, with regular training updates for all staff tailored to their roles and responsibilities. This approach helps the council to ensure our positive approach to safeguarding is maintained, and that our staff have the knowledge and skills to protect the city's most vulnerable people from harm.
- 7.3 The authority also continues to be represented on a number of multi-agency meetings across the county, working closely with colleagues at a range of partner organisations including Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Police and the NHS.

8 Skills and Training

8.1 The Network

During the past 12 months the council has continued to support The Network. The Network provides career and related advice to young individuals in the Not in Education

or Employment (NEET) group. The Network office is located on the ground floor at City Hall.

- 8.2 The Network has provided the key statistics in the table below for this service for the period September 2022 to September 2023. During this period The Network supported 233 clients. In comparison between October 2021 and October 2022, The Network supported 185 clients.

The Network – September 2022 to September 2023	
Clients total (all projects)	233
Initial assessments	128

Outcomes	
Job outcomes	21
Apprenticeships	4
Training	18
Volunteering / work experience	15
Traineeships	9

- 8.3 The Network has reported that usually during the summer holidays the service sees a decrease in referrals as individuals have plans for college or are on holiday. However, during summer 2023 The Network saw a continuing increase in referrals to them for help and support.
- 8.4 Additionally, The Network has also reported that the level of complexity, with the compounding issues of the cost of living crisis and the after effects of the pandemic, can't be understated with The Network also seeing more housing issues and mental health concerns with increased severity.
- 8.5 To help ensure support is reaching The Network's service users, during the past year The Network has launched some group peer-peer support sessions at the Link Up in St Marks. These sessions have been focused on helping to tackle social isolation amongst 18-24 year old NEETs with social anxiety, and/or who belong to marginalised groups e.g. transgender, neurodiverse. These sessions are reportedly going really well.
- 8.6 The Network has also highlighted the progress of the young individuals using the service is really amazing, which is especially encouraging to hear. During the past year some of The Network's young individuals are taking up volunteer roles locally to help and support other individuals to become comfortable and confident in themselves. Volunteering sessions include crafting, together with a session where attendees play table top role play games, which are great for social confidence.
- 8.7 In terms of funding for this valuable service, like other support providers The Network has reported that it is feeling the pressure and strain of the current financial landscape. The removal of European Social Fund for charities has been hugely and negatively impactful. In The Network's case, this is further compounded by challenges around long term funding for increasing their capacity – this is especially important as The Network has reported that they feel that this is only the beginning of a wave of problems for young individuals post-pandemic.

9 Allocations, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

- 9.1 The volume of work in the Allocations, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping services has continued to be very challenging over the past year.

To ensure the customers' needs are accommodated as best as possible, the services have continued to connect with customers remotely and in person at City Hall during the year. The Allocations, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping services have also reintroduced home visits where this is the most appropriate course of action.

- 9.2 Additionally, the services have also been working with a specialist consultant to develop a new Homelessness Strategy for the city. This has been a challenging process but has already resulted in the implementation of some useful actions, which have yielded benefits in relation to our prevention work, our use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation and access to the private rented sector.
- 9.3 The new Homelessness Strategy is currently out for consultation and will progress through the Policy Scrutiny and Executive approval process in early 2024.

10 Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- 10.1 Members will recall that the council has been actively involved in the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme during the past year, having provided accommodation for two families from Syria and three families from Afghanistan.
- 10.2 Additionally, the council has also been heavily involved in the response to the conflict in Ukraine, having worked closely with Lincolnshire County Council and the other Districts to undertake property checks and safeguarding processes to ensure Ukrainian Refugees are coming to safe and suitable accommodation in the area.
- 10.3 Over recent months, much officer time has been devoted to liaison with the Home Office, East Midlands Councils and Serco with regard to the National Asylum Dispersal Scheme and the proposed large site at RAF Scampton.

11 Neighbourhood Working

11.1 Sincil Bank Revitalisation Programme

Work continues to develop the key projects agreed as part of the Sincil Bank Revitalisation Programme. Included below is an update on the progress of this work.

- 11.2 **Highways Infrastructure** – Funded by the Towns Fund, Lincolnshire County Council has received £3.1m to make changes to the highways infrastructure in the area. Consultation events within the community have taken place that will inform a number of public realm improvements including the development of a Green Corridor along Sincil Bank. The Neighbourhood Team will continue to support this engagement and the delivery of a number of the improvements.
- 11.3 **Residents Parking** – Lincolnshire County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee approved a residents parking scheme in Sincil Bank on the 5th December 2022 and the scheme was successfully implemented in the area on the 1st September

2023. The Neighbourhood Team has supported residents to apply for permits and also helped to communicate the scheme to residents in the area.

- 11.4 The images below show one area of Sincil Bank prior and post the implementation of the Residents Parking Scheme.



Before



After

- 11.5 **Open Spaces** – A partnership including the University of Lincoln, Sincil Community Land Trust and Bridge Church continue to explore ways to develop the areas of land under Pelham Bridge. A meeting with the National Lottery took place in August 2023 and the partnership submitted an application in mid-November to their 'Awards for All' programme to fund a feasibility study.
- 11.6 Sincil Community Land Trust also remain open to leasing the open space on Chelmsford Street. Before doing so, the council will need to resolve land ownership issues with a local developer. A report from Community Services will be submitted to the Executive later in the year.
- 11.7 **Hermit Street** – This will see the creation of eleven much need family homes in the area. Works started in October 2023 and the scheme will be completed by September 2024.
- 11.8 **Other key updates linked to the Sincil Bank Revitalisation Programme –**
- Alongside these physical interventions, the Neighbourhood Team continue to work hard to engage with the community and build trusted relationships.
- 11.9 **Sincil Bank Community Hub** - Located on Portland Street, the Sincil Bank Community Hub continues to build relationships with residents and is established as a well-known location to seek advice. Although the data is not captured, the team estimate over 75% of customers they support through the Hub do not speak English as their first language. Whilst at the Hub customers receive help and guidance on a wide range of topics, and are also supported to understand local information, such as initiatives taking place to improve the local area.
- 11.10 For the period September 2021 to September 2022, Sincil Bank Community Hub welcomed 495 visitors. In comparison, between April & September 2023 the Hub has welcomed 1,263 visitors, highlighting the importance of the Hub in providing support at the heart of the community. It is important to note the figures recorded are not unique

individuals and the team do have some people that attend on more than one occasion due to the support that they require. Additionally, the figures also include visitors who attend outreach surgeries delivered by Citizens Advice. This occurs each Thursday morning between the hours of 9am and 12pm.

- 11.11 Between 2019 and 2022 a postal survey was conducted to help understand local priorities and measure the impact of the support provided to communities in the Sincil Bank area. Some of the key findings from this survey are provided below:
- An 18.85% increase in respondents who state that they know which organisations to contact if they have a problem.
 - A 9.6% increase in respondents who state that they know what to do if they have a problem with fly tipping.
 - A 10.9% increase in respondents who state that they know where to get help if they have a problem with housing.
 - Over 4% increase in respondents who feel very strongly / strongly that they belong to their community.
 - An increase of 4.4% of respondents who believe that their neighbourhood is improving as a place to live.
 - An increase of 5.6% of respondents who are very satisfied with their neighbourhood and 2.1% decrease in those that are very dissatisfied.
- 11.12 **Sincil Community Land Trust** - The Place Shaping Framework introduced the idea of a local organisation capable of owning assets in the area. Initially Sincil Community Land Trust leased the council owned land on St Andrews Close. The Sincil Bank Community Land Trust have now successfully purchased their first property on St Andrews Close. This acquisition will hopefully be the first of many that will see an increase in good quality family accommodation in the area.
- 11.13 **Lincoln Embracing All Nations (LEAN)** - The need to support our culturally diverse communities is demonstrated to the team on a daily basis. The Neighbourhood Team has been instrumental in creating an organisation called Lincoln Embracing All Nations (LEAN), which is a long term solution to support the needs of our culturally diverse communities. LEAN has appointed two members of staff to advance the organisation and support the various groups that support our communities in the city. LEAN is a city-wide service and also supports residents and groups outside of the Sincil Bank area including the Islamic Association and Arabic School.
- 11.14 Monthly immigration surgeries continue to be delivered, which are constantly at capacity. Groups have been supported to host events and work continues to deliver the longer term aspiration of LEAN having a city wide location that will act as a focal point for our diverse communities.
- 11.15 **Community Chest Funding** - During the past twelve months, the remaining Community Chest funds have been allocated to community projects. One of the last organisations to receive funding was Green Synergy. Green Synergy delivered a consultation exercise with residents to identify how they would like to utilise the open space on Chelmsford Street. Projects funded during the previous year have gone from strength to strength. Most notably the Portland Street Project where Sage Gardener worked with local residents to improve the appearance of the flats on Portland Street. This project was supported by donations from local businesses. The lead resident for the project has recently received recognition from BBC Radio Lincolnshire.

The Community Chest schemes operated in Sincil Bank have influenced a city-wide Community Chest that has been jointly funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Investors in Lincoln.

- 11.16 **Community events and activities** - The team has supported a number of events in the area and funded Lincoln City Foundation to deliver activities at St Andrews Gardens. To further improve the physical activities available to young people within the Sincil Bank area, the Neighbourhood Team has also helped to establish the Sincil Bank Football Club, with under 7 and under 8 teams participating in the mid-Lincs football league.

12 Equality and Diversity

12.1 Employer Perspective

Over the past twelve months the Human Resources team has continued to offer support, advice and guidance on equality, diversity and inclusion at the council.

During this time there has been focus on men and women's health. Andy's Man Club, a men's suicide prevention charity, has delivered presentations to City Hall and Hamilton House and the successful Menopause Café has been relaunched as the Health and Wellbeing Café (women through the ages) to widen scope for discussions.

- 12.2 Training continues to be reviewed and the "looking after your teams mental health" training has now been developed into an e-learning package and is available for all staff. The training explores the concept of mental health and provides practical guidance for those who may be struggling with mental health issues.
- 12.3 A LGBTQ+ community group has been launched to provide a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community (or those questioning) to come together to support each other, discuss a range of topics and potentially arrange events and socials.
- 12.4 The Human Resources team has been involved with the co-creation of a set of contemporary STRIDE EDI Standards to evidence progress towards being more inclusive, more diverse, and operating in a way that ensures employees are treated fairly and with respect for the UK business / public sector.
- 12.5 The council successfully retained accreditations as a Mindful Employer, Disability Confident Employer, Foster Friendly Employer and has retained the Carers Quality Award.
- 12.6 The council's workforce as of 31st March 2023 stood at 600 staff members, of which 269 were males and 331 were females. 31 members of the workforce declared a disability and 20 were from all other ethnic groups combined. The largest age group was 50 to 59 years of age, with 170 staff members in this age group.
- 12.7 The Human Resources team has continued to provide advice and guidance, monitor recruitment and workforce data and review HR policies and procedures during the past 12 months.

12.8 Service User Perspective

Alongside my role as the Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequalities, I am also the vice chair of the council's Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel. One of the key roles of this panel is to monitor the council's progress towards meeting its five Equality Objectives on a rolling basis, together with meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a reminder the council's Equality Objectives are as follows:

1. Our services are accessible and do not discriminate on any unjustifiable grounds.
2. Local communities, partners and stakeholders are empowered to influence the way our services are provided to them.
3. Equality and Diversity is at the heart of decision making at all levels within the city council.
4. Our workforce at all levels reflects the makeup of the local community.
5. Equalities, Social Inclusion and Community Cohesion have all improved within our communities.

12.9 Each year the council develops an Equality & Diversity Action Plan, which contains the key actions the council is delivering during the current year towards meeting these objectives. The plan is a 'live' document with new actions added throughout the year as they arise.

12.10 At the time of writing this report, out of the 26 actions included within the current Equality & Diversity Action Plan 2023/24, which runs from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 –

- 16 actions are currently being progressed
- 2 actions are complete
- 8 actions are yet to be started but are scheduled to start in the near future as planned

12.11 Following each plan coming to an end, the activity progressed by the council towards meeting its Equality Objectives is reviewed within an annual Equality Journal, which is published on the council's website. The latest 2022/23 Equality Journal was published in December 2023 following review and approval by Council in November 2023. This details the equality & diversity activity progressed by the council during the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

12.12 During the past year across the council managers have continued to use the Equality Analysis Toolkit, which ensures all equality and diversity impacts are considered when making changes to existing services or introducing new services. During June 2023 Equality Impact Assessment Awareness Training was delivered to key officers across each directorate. This training was a success and helped to reaffirm the importance of undertaking Equality Impact Assessments and the consequences of completing these assessments incorrectly or not at all.

13 Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour (PPASB Team)

13.1 The PPASB Team operates to protect individuals, the community, and the amenity of the city. The team operates over a broad range of areas, with the core services providing a combination of both proactive and reactive activities.

These areas include:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Noise
- Animals
- Pests / conditions of gardens
- Accumulations of waste
- Fly-tipping investigations
- Licencing consultations
- Bins on streets
- Littering Fixed Penalty Notices

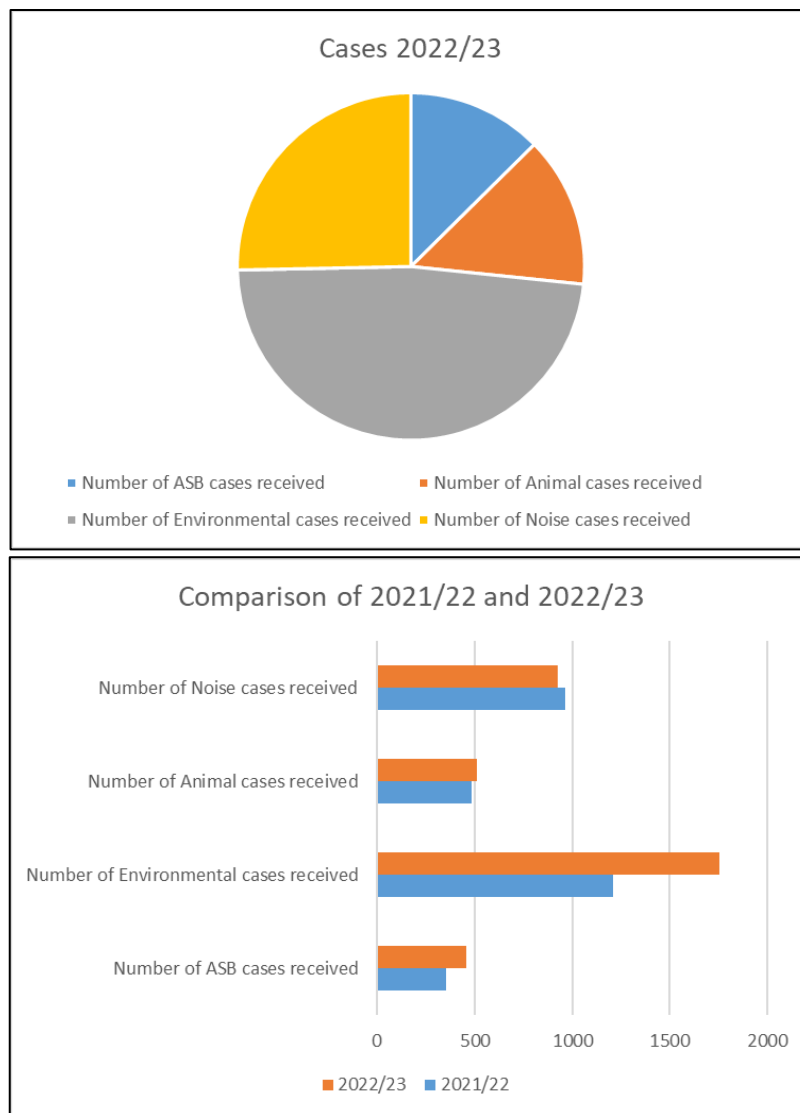
13.2 Service Demand

From 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 the PPASB Team received 4,049 requests for service across all their service areas including Anti-Social Behaviour, noise nuisance, animal related concerns, environmental issues such as fly tipping, and pests. Below shows the number of requests for service each year between 2017/18 and 2022/23 for comparison –

Year	PPASB Team service requests
2017/18	3,205
2018/19	3,183
2019/20	2,781
2020/21	2,523
2021/22	3,815
2022/23	4,049

The figures above show that during Covid, service requests reduced, however, service demand has now exceeded pre-Covid levels. When comparing the pre-Covid demand of 3,205 (year 2017/18) with the last financial years demand of 4,049 (year 2022/23), service demand has increased by 26.3%.

- 13.3 Focusing on the current year, service demand for Quarter 1 of 2023/24 also remained high with 966 service requests during this quarter. This suggests demand will also be high for the remainder of the year 2023/24.
- 13.4 The charts below provide an indication of the service demand by category for the year 2022/23 -



13.5 Enforcement Action

In most cases it is possible for the team to resolve complaints without taking formal enforcement action. This is done through advice and guidance, through letters, visits, informal mediation, agreeing parameters and seeking support from partners.

In 2022/23 the PPASB Team served a total of 228 Community Protection Warnings (CPW's), which is an example of how early warnings and intervention can resolve issues. In a few cases it is necessary to undertake formal enforcement. This could be the service of a legal notice requiring action, the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice, seeking an injunction, seeking a closure order, or working with Housing to seek possession or a prosecution. Appendix A provides a breakdown of the enforcement action undertaken during the full year 2022/23.

Over the past year improving communication and joint working opportunities between the Housing and PPASB Teams has been a focus. This has allowed for effective problem solving using the tenancy agreement alongside the tools and powers available to the PPASB Team.

Appendix B shows the enforcement action undertaken between 1st April 2023 to 30th October 2023.

13.6 Management of Change (MOC)

Post Covid a decision was taken to review the way the team operates. This was necessary to increase resilience, provide succession planning and to enable the team to respond to the rising case levels.

The MOC has facilitated all Technical Officers working to the same job description and a focus on updating their skills across the full range of PPASB functions. The implementation of this is likely to be phased and so the full benefit will not be realised until 2024/25.

The past year has seen the team undergo training across a variety of the team's functions. This included Statutory Nuisance, Anti-Social Behaviour tools & powers and the Police and Criminal Evidence act. ASB Case Management training is currently being arranged for the coming months.

13.7 Staffing

The PPASB Team has been subject to several staffing changes during 2022/23. This has impacted the capacity of the team during the year as recruitment and training has been the focus of attention.

The current Team Leader came into post in October 2022, alongside the following recruitment that took place during the year 2022/23;

- Two Technical Officers (following resignations)
- One Support Assistant Post (following a promotion of previous post holder)
- One part time Technical Assistant (following a reduction in hours from the full-time post holder)
- One Apprentice (vacant post filled)

13.8 City Centre Management

City Centre Tasking Meetings enable information sharing, priorities to be decided, resources to be coordinated and understood, and emerging issues to be identified and fed into the City Centre and Uphill Management Meeting.

CCTV, Police, Car Parking Services, Lincoln BIG, Project Compass and the Rough Sleeper Team meet on a fortnightly basis to discuss ongoing and emerging issues within the city centre and our Multi-Story Car Parks. This group share intelligence and formulate an operational response to issues, alongside setting and reviewing priorities for the two weeks ahead at each meeting.

The group has tackled some serious Youth ASB issues in the Multi-Story Car Parks. This resulted in approximately 50 Youth ASB warning letters being served following the Safer Lincolnshire Partnerships Youth ASB protocol.

13.9 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

There are currently three active PSPOs:

1. A PSPO that covers the City Centre (and wider) that prohibits the consumption of intoxicating substances or having an open container of alcohol. This PSPO is

due for renewal and work has started in relation to the review, which includes a public and stakeholder consultation, which considers the prohibitions and geographical coverage of the PSPO. The consultation commenced on 20th November 2023. All members were invited to take part in this consultation.

2. A PSPO that covers three Multi-Storey Car parks. This PSPO has been extended for a further three years, with no changes to the prohibitions or location, as of October 2023.
3. A PSPO, which prevents access to St Peters Passage. This PSPO is in force until October 2024.

13.10 Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership has continued to have strategic overview of three key areas. These areas are Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Serious and Organised Crime and Reducing Offending, with cross cutting themes of Mental Health and substance misuse. During the past year, City of Lincoln Council has continued to have representation on the Strategic Group and the ASB Core Priority Group (ASB CPG). The ASB CPG has produced a Youth ASB protocol, a Noxious Odour Policy and is working on improving the county wide response to noise nuisance complaints.

13.11 PPASB Service Forward Look

Over the next 12 months there will be a focus on the upskilling of the already established and newly appointed team members. This will allow the team to become more responsive to issues and could see the implementation of more proactive enforcement in areas such as the City Centre.

Demand across all services provided by the team is expected to remain high. This puts pressure on the team to respond, investigate and enforce against 4,000 plus service request per year.

The removal of the ASB Co-Ordinator role by Lincolnshire Police is a risk to the service. Work is underway to improve joint working, training and communication between the Police and council teams. Joint training sessions are being organised.

14 CCTV Service

- 14.1 Over the past 12 months the CCTV service has monitored over 9,900 incidents, processed 680 reviews and produced 780 evidence discs for criminal prosecutions as part of the council's ongoing support for the police and commitment to public safety. This is broadly consistent with previous years.
- 14.2 The CCTV service has also continued multi-agency working to support the day and night-time economy in the city, and as part of this, the service has continued to nurture closer working relationships and present a transparent service.
- 14.3 Lay Visitors have visited the Control Room once a month during the past year. This has helped to ensure the service has been working to the required standard and has remained transparent in the work they undertake. Visits to the Control Room from stakeholders, community groups and recently elected councillors have continued to increase.

- 14.4 The CCTV service has continued to benefit from the previously successful round of the Safer Street Fund. This has given the service extended coverage in the Abbey, Carholme, Castle and Park wards. Additionally, a new camera has also been installed on Newland enabling the service to fill a gap in the coverage from City Centre to Carholme. Following a successful bid to the Safer Streets 5 funding round, from January the unit will be double staffed. In addition to this there is also funding available for infrastructure.
- 14.5 Following the installation of new CCTV software, the service has also been able to provide valuable footfall data for key events in the city during the past year, including Steampunk, Lincoln Live and 1940's Weekend, together with provide footfall data for any other events in the City Centre. This enables officials to make informed decisions to ensure that these and any future events can take place with minimal issues.
- 14.6 Alongside the city centre, the service has continued to monitor various council sites including;
- City Hall
 - Hartsholme Park
 - Boultham Park
 - Arboretum
 - St Botolph's Court
 - Derek Miller Court
 - Yarborough Leisure Centre
 - Birchwood Leisure Centre
 - Trent View
 - Jarvis House
 - Hamilton House
- 14.7 Additionally, the service has also continued to support events hosted in the city such as football matches, the Lincoln 10k, cycling events, Lincoln Pride, Christmas lights and any marches or protests.
- 14.8 The figures below show the relatively consistent incident numbers for the last 3 years recorded by the service –
- 2021 - 9,637
 - 2022 – 9,566
 - 2023 – 9,905
- 14.9 Since April 2022 after the new Safer Streets cameras were installed, fly tipping incidents were high, but then dropped off. Unfortunately, the service has reported that this trend has not continued and the service has had to produce 42 evidence discs this year for fly tipping.

The Public Protection & Anti-Social Behaviour Team have issued penalty notices to individuals who have been identified and so it is envisaged this robust enforcement approach to fly tipping will dissuade offenders moving forward.

15 Lincoln Community Lottery

- 15.1 Lincoln Community Lottery is now in its fifth year, originally being launched in August 2018. The lottery provides a useful tool for local good causes to use at no cost to raise additional funds to support their work locally. To date the lottery has raised just under £200k for local good causes, with 85 causes currently using the lottery as a fund raising tool.
- 15.2 For every £1 ticket sold, 50 pence directly goes to the supporters chosen good cause with an additional 10 pence supporting the Lincoln Lottery Community Fund. Each supporter of the lottery also has the option of selecting the Lincoln Lottery Community Fund as their good cause and in these cases the full 60 pence supports this fund.
- 15.3 The Lincoln Lottery Community Fund is allocated on an annual basis. Following an application and selection process commencing in October 2023, the 2023 fund of £10,000 was awarded at the end of November 2023. The successful applicants for a share of the 2023 fund were The Centre for Reconciliation, Mint Lane Café, LEAP and Adi's Legacy Non-Profit CIC. The funding will be used to support projects over the coming year focused on the topic's green spaces and homelessness. All projects delivered using the fund must support the residents of the City of Lincoln.
- 15.4 Due to the lottery being a type of gambling, the council continues to consider the impacts of gambling and ensure where the lottery is promoted, that this is done so responsibly. In August 2023 as part of this proactive approach, a joint decision was made between the City of Lincoln Council and the council's external lottery manager to change the minimum age limit for Lincoln Community Lottery from 16 to 18. Currently this change is not a statutory requirement of local authority lotteries. The change was formally implemented from 1st October 2023.

16 Lincoln Social Responsibility Charter

- 16.1 The Lincoln Social Responsibility Charter is also in its fifth year, with the charter originally being launched in September 2018. At the time of writing this report 104 local organisations had gained accreditation to the charter, with each demonstrating their commitment towards corporate social responsibility and going above and beyond the statutory minimum to support their employees and the local community. The number of accredited organisations continues to fluctuate.
- 16.2 All organisations from across all sectors are welcome to join the charter. The criteria which organisations must meet to gain accreditation differs depending on the number of employees the organisation has. All organisations gaining accreditation must either have a base in the city and/or staff which live within the city boundary.
- 16.3 Annual contact continues to be made with all accredited organisations to ensure they continue to meet the required criteria to retain accreditation. This contact also allows the council to keep up to date with the range of socially responsible activities taking place locally.
- 16.4 Following an organisation gaining accreditation, the council actively promotes charter signees via a range of routes. This promotion includes sharing case studies and videos giving an insight into why some organisations chose to undertake socially responsible activities and join the charter. A directory of all charter signees is available on the

council's website. Included within the directory are the web addresses of charter signees, a location map and signee case studies (where provided).

- 16.5 City of Lincoln Council is proud to continue to undertake a range of socially responsible activities itself. Some examples of the socially responsible activities the council has continued to deliver over the previous 12 months are provided below –

Activities benefitting our employees	Activities benefitting our local community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers for Carers Charter signee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a food bank collection point for staff to donate to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dying to Work Charter signee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertakes local recruitment where possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an employee benefits scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers work experience placements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster Friendly Employer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver our own apprenticeship scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognised as a real Living Wage employer by the Living Wage Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use services of local businesses / local products

- 16.6 Further information on the charter and the charter directory can be viewed by visiting www.lincoln.gov.uk/socialresponsibility.

17 Looking ahead

- 17.1 The cost of living challenges we are facing will unfortunately continue over the coming year and further into the future. This will unavoidably result in our residents continuing to rely on the City of Lincoln Council and our partners to provide further help and support during these difficult times.

As the Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequalities, working alongside council officers, elected members and partners, I will continue to drive forward the Reducing Inequalities agenda and ensure this help and support reaches those in need. I look forward to undertaking this work and seeing the positive outcomes from this over the year ahead.

Cllr Sue Burke
Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequality

APPENDIX A – Enforcement Action - 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

WARNINGS	
Community Protection Warnings	228
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	
Littering Fixed Penalty Notices	1
Fly tipping Community Protection Notices	1
Fly tipping Fixed Penalty Notices	5
Bins on streets Community Protection Notices	20
Bins on streets Fixed Penalty Notices	13
Dog Fouling Fixed Penalty Notice	0
NOISE ISSUES	
Noise Abatement Notices	8
Noise Community Protection Notices	1
GENERAL ASB ISSUES	
ASB Community Protection Notices	5
Injunctions	2
Criminal Behaviour Orders	13
Closures	1
CONDITION OF PROPERTY RELATED ISSUES	
Prevention of Damage by Pests Notices	5
Condition of Garden or Property Notices, Inc Filthy & Verminous	6
Subsequent Fixed Penalty Notices	1
Community Protection Notices	2
OTHER ENFORCEMENTS	
Prosecution for microchipping of dogs	1
Community Protection Notices for dog attack on person	1
Microchipping notice	1
Statutory Nuisance Notice (Light Nuisance)	2

APPENDIX B – Enforcement Action – 1st April 2023 to 30th October 2023

WARNINGS	
Community Protection Warnings	40
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	
Littering Fixed Penalty Notices	0
Fly tipping Community Protection Notices	5
Fly tipping Fixed Penalty Notices	15
Bins on streets Community Protection Notices	9
Bins on streets Fixed Penalty Notices	3
Dog Fouling Fixed Penalty Notice	0
NOISE ISSUES	
Noise Abatement Notices	3
Noise Community Protection Notices	14
GENERAL ASB ISSUES	
ASB Community Protection Notices	3
Injunctions	0
Criminal Behaviour Orders	0
Closures	0
CONDITION OF PROPERTY RELATED ISSUES	
Prevention of Damage by Pests Notices	11
Condition of Garden or Property Notices, Inc Filthy & Verminous	0
Subsequent Fixed Penalty Notices	0
Community Protection Notices	2
OTHER ENFORCEMENTS	
Prosecution for microchipping of dogs	0
Community Protection Notices for dog attack on person	0
Microchipping notice	5
Statutory Nuisance Notice (Light Nuisance)	0

APPENDIX C – Performance Monitoring

Below provides the latest performance measure outturns linked to those services under my portfolio.

Status Key



At or above target



Acceptable performance - results are within target boundaries



Below target



Volumetric/contextual measures that support targeted measures



Performance has improved since last quarter




Performance has stayed the same since last quarter



Performance has deteriorated since last quarter

Service Area	Measure ID	Measure	Unit	High or low is good	Low target	High target	Previous data period	Previous value	Quarter 2 2023/24 outturn	Status		Commentary
Housing Benefit Administration	BE 1	Average days to process new housing benefit claims from date received (cumulative)	Days	Low is good	19.00	17.50	Q2 - 22/23	16.41	16.61	G	▼	Quarter 2 shows a small increase in processing times. This was due to increased workload being received during quarter 1, which impacted on processing times. Now the outstanding work levels have reduced, processing times should be maintained or improved.
Housing Benefit Administration	BE 2	Average days to process housing benefit claim changes of circumstances from date received (cumulative)	Days	Low is good	8.50	6.50	Q2 - 22/23	6.44	6.25	G	▲	At the end of quarter 2 there was a slight increase in processing times. This was due to the team clearing the high levels of work received during quarter 1. As the outstanding work has now decreased it is expected that processing times should be maintained or decrease over the coming quarter.
Housing Benefit Administration	BE 3	Number of Housing Benefits / Council Tax support customers awaiting assessment	Number	Low is good	1,900	1,700	Q2 - 22/23	1,502	1,156	G	▲	At the end of quarter 2 there were 1,156 customers awaiting assessment. Of these 812 were waiting for a first contact from the Benefits team. Outstanding work has decreased in the team as the level of work being received has decreased. This follows the annual up ratings of income and rent having been dealt with.
Housing Benefit Administration	BE 4	Percentage of risk-based quality checks made where benefit entitlement	%	High is good	89.00	92.00	Q2 - 22/23	95.56	89.87	A	▼	The team carried out over 100 quality checks in the last quarter. This was a smaller amount than normal. The lower number was due to the workload in the Subsidy Team and also the

Service Area	Measure ID	Measure	Unit	High or low is good	Low target	High target	Previous data period	Previous value	Quarter 2 2023/24 outturn	Status	Commentary
		is correct (cumulative)									holiday period. However, there was a small increase in the percentage overall, which was due to less errors being made. Also, due to less experienced officers being part of the team, 100% of the assessors' claims have been checked and this has resulted in a small error rate, which has decreased in quarter 2. It is also important to note the Subsidy Team have completed audit work, so have been unable to complete as many quality checks compared to other quarters.
Housing Benefit Administration	BE 5	The number of new benefit claims year to date (Housing Benefits/Council Tax Support)	Number	N/A	Volumetric	Volumetric	Q1 - 23/24	1,130	2,371	V	So far this year the team has processed 552 Housing Benefit claims and 1,819 claims for Council Tax Reduction.
Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour Team	PPASB 1	Number of cases received in the quarter (ASB cases only)	Number	N/A	Volumetric	Volumetric	Q1 - 23/24	115	120	V	This is a 9.8% decrease compared to the amount of ASB cases received in Q2 of 22/23. It is an increase of 4.3% when compared with Q1 of 23/24. This latest outturn indicates that the number of ASB cases being received by the team is stable.
Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour Team	PPASB 2	Number of cases closed in the quarter (across full PPASB service)	Number	N/A	Volumetric	Volumetric	Q1 - 23/24	1,003	964	V	This latest outturn is a 3.9% decrease when compared with the outturn from Q1 of 23/24 and a 6.9% decrease when compared with Q2 of 22/23. This latest outturn is relatively stable and shows that the team are effectively managing and closing cases.
Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour Team	PPASB 3	Number of live cases open at the end of the quarter (across full PPASB service)	Number	Low is good	240.00	200.00	Q1 - 23/24	211	240	A	 This latest outturn is a 15.4% increase when compared with Q2 of 22/23 and 13.7% increase when compared with the outturn from Q1 of 23/24. This increase could be due to having two new PPASB Officers, so the investigations and

Service Area	Measure ID	Measure	Unit	High or low is good	Low target	High target	Previous data period	Previous value	Quarter 2 2023/24 outturn	Status	Commentary
											closing of cases could be taking longer due to ongoing training.
Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour Team	PPASB 4	Satisfaction of complainants relating to how the complaint was handled (across full PPASB service)	%	High is good	75.00	85.00	Q1 - 23/24	100.00	100.00	G	In Quarter 2, 45 satisfaction surveys were sent out. 8 responses were received back. 6 customers answered, 'Very Satisfied' and 2 customers were 'fairly satisfied'.
CCTV	CCTV 1	Total number of incidents handled by CCTV operators	Number	N/A	Volumetric	Volumetric	Q1 - 23/24	2,661	2,396	V	Incidents are down slightly on the previous quarter but are comparable with Q2 of the previous year. PPAAB and Shoplifting are at the same levels, but Public Order is down 19% and Drug Incidents is down 31%. Incident Reviews for the police are up 11% and Evidence Discs produced for police are up 12%. In September, we produced 87 Evidence Discs - one of the highest monthly totals ever.

Source – COLC Performance Information Management System (PIMS)

COUNCIL

16 JANUARY 2024

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

Report by Councillor Chris Burke, Chair of the Audit Committee

Mr Mayor, Members of the Council

Introduction

This report summarises the work of the Audit Committee during the period January 2023 – December 2023 and is to confirm that the Committee's function is consistent with best practice as well as demonstrating the positive impact of its work.

In this period, there were seven scheduled meetings of the Committee.

One meeting in September was cancelled due to room availability and replaced with one in November to review the Final Statement of Accounts.

Purpose of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee, as a key part of the Council's corporate governance arrangements, oversees and assesses the Council's risk management, control and governance arrangements and advises the Council on their adequacy and effectiveness.

It also has responsibility for reviewing the statutory financial reporting process through approval of the Statement of Accounts and receiving key reports from the External Auditor.

Specifically, it provides:

- Oversight and challenge to the Statement of Accounts.
- Oversight and review of the Annual Governance Statement.
- A review of the Internal Audit Strategy and Audit Plan.
- A review of Internal Audit progress reports and recommendations including appropriate follow up actions for outstanding Audit recommendations.
- An examination of the External Audit Plan.
- Consideration of External Audit reports, including the "report to those charged with governance," the "Annual Audit letter" and "certification of grant claims and returns report."
- Review of Counter Fraud arrangements and associated monitoring reports.
- Annual review of the Council's Treasury Management Policy / Strategy.

- Annual review of risk management arrangements.
- Oversight of Information Governance including data protection.
- Annual review of key partnership governance arrangements.

Membership and Independence

The Audit Committee comprises seven Councillors and (since 2013) one Independent Member. The current independent member, Jane Nellist, from the Education sector is a qualified accountant with experience of public sector finance and was appointed in April 2016. Under the terms of the current Person Specification, occupation of this role can only be extended up to a maximum term of eight years. We are currently looking to re-advertise the role and have the independent member appointed for the June 2024 meeting.

Having one or more independent members, particularly with a financial background, is seen as best practice, as their experience and expertise assists the Audit Committee to discharge its role more effectively. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) recent guidance on Audit Committees recommends that each Audit Committee should include at least two co-opted independent members to provide appropriate technical expertise. This was considered at the Audit Committee meeting in December and it was agreed to look into appointing a second Independent member.

The Audit Committee and the Officers have found the independent member's contribution to be particularly useful and I would like to offer my thanks for her continued support.

As Chairman of the Committee, I confirm I am free from Executive functions, and have not had my independence impaired during my time to date as Chair.

Membership during 2022/23

The membership for 2023/24 is:

Councillor Rebecca Longbottom (Chair) (Jan - May)
 Councillor Chris Burke (Chair) (May – onwards)
 Councillor Jackie Kirk (Vice-Chair) (Jan - May)
 Councillor Emily Wood (Vice-Chair) (May – onwards)
 Councillor David Clarkson
 Councillor Thomas Dyer
 Councillor Gary Hewson
 Councillor Clare Smalley
 Councillor Calum Watt
 Jane Nellist (Independent Member)

Relationships

I am happy to report that there continues to be a sound working relationship between officers and Members of the Committee.

Internal Audit functional responsibility rests with Jaclyn Gibson (Chief Finance Officer) on behalf of the Chief Executive while the Audit Manager (Amanda Stanislawski) has a direct reporting line to all levels of the Authority both at officer and member level.

I am satisfied through discussions with External Audit representatives and Internal Audit that relationships between Internal and External Audit have been satisfactory and are effective.

Mazars have been the External Auditors since September 2018 but the appointment comes to an end following the audit of the 2022/23 accounts. The Council opted to be part of the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) process for appointing new external auditors. Following this process KPMG were appointed as the Council's External Auditors covering the accounts from 2023/24 – 2027/28. Introductory meetings have been held with staff and are arranged for myself and KPMG.

The External Auditor takes consideration of and uses the work of our internal auditors in connection with their integrated audit of the Council's financial statements and other work. External and internal auditors collaborate to minimise duplication of effort and work in tandem to help management and the Audit Committee ensure that the Council's financial reports and other information are accurate and that its system of internal control is effective. Internal Audit and Revenues staff have audited elements of the housing benefit subsidy claim on behalf of the External Auditor, which also provides a saving on the audit fee.

Audit Committee - Terms of Reference

CIPFA issued a revised Position Statement on Audit Committees in 2022, setting out the principles recommended for committees operating in local government. In addition to this, in October 2022 CIPFA published Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities. This guidance covers the core functions of committees including relevant legislation and professional standards that the members should be aware of and a framework to support the appointment, training and development of Audit Committee members.

Both the Position Statement and Guidance were reviewed to identify any necessary changes required in the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR). The revised ToRs were presented to the Audit Committee in December 2023 and will now be presented to Council for approval.

Internal Audit Terms of Reference (IA Charter)

These were last reviewed in June 2022, with only minor changes made. The changes were reviewed by the Audit Committee. The Charter was reviewed and no changes made so was just circulated to all Members of the Committee in June 2023.

Audit Committee Training

Committee Members received relevant training during the year, including:

- Understanding the Council's financial statements;
- Treasury Management
- Audit Committee Effectiveness
- Risk Management – All members

Further training on counter fraud will be provided when we are able to secure training through Assurance Lincolnshire.

Information Governance and Data Protection

The Committee continues to receive periodic update reports on Information Governance from the Data Protection Officer (DPO). The Audit Committee recognises this is a significant area and presents a number of risks which are being adequately addressed. Training on Data Protection has been delivered during 2022, with completion levels of around 85%. Further training is being rolled out for officers with completion expected by the end of January 2024. This training includes new modules on 'Ransomware' and 'Phishing e-mail.' Members have also been offered face to face training scheduled for 29 February 2024.

Information Assets Owners have also been asked to complete the new version of the online refresher training.

Internal Audit and the Audit Committee

Independence

To comply with best practice, I can confirm that the Audit Committee is suitably independent and that the Committee's ToRs are consistent with CIPFA best practice guidance 2018 and once approved will be consistent with the revised 2022 guidance.

Internal audit is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the City Council's operations.

Operationally it sits under the Chief Executive and has freedom to report to any level within the organisation.

Audit Plan, Progress Reports, and the Annual Internal Audit Report

The Audit Committee approves the Annual Internal Audit Plan and the Internal Audit Strategy.

A progress report is presented to four meetings a year, with the Annual report being presented to another. These reports are reviewed and include a summary of audit reports as well as performance against the plan and other measures. Most audits achieve at least a substantial level of assurance, which means that there are some

improvements needed to manage risks but there is only a medium to low risk of the activity not meeting its objectives.

The Annual Report by the Audit Manager is presented to the Audit Committee following the end of the financial year, which also helps to support the Annual Governance Statement.

The 2022-23 Annual Internal Audit Report to the June 2023 meeting gave a Performing Well (green) assurance across areas of governance, risk, and financial control and a Performing Adequately (amber) assurance to internal control. In terms of internal control, this level of assurance was due to a number of factors including an increase in Limited Assurance reports, increase in recommendations rated as High and external events having an impact on capacity. There were two Limited assurance reports issued during 2022/23, Stores and Performance Management. A Limited level of assurance means that the controls in place to manage risks require improvement and it is unlikely that the activity will fully meet its objectives.

The service continues to suffer from vacancies with both the Principal Auditor and Auditor posts remaining vacant for much of the year. The Principal role was temporarily occupied for around three months but unfortunately the postholder left in May. Despite several recruitment exercises it had not been possible to recruit to either role. However, after engaging an agency to actively search for potential candidates the position of Principal Auditor has now been appointed to with the new member of staff starting in February 2024. The Auditor post has been re-graded as a career graded post and is currently being advertised. A contractor has been engaged to fill some of the resource gap for the 2023/24 Audit Plan. However, there has still been a slight reduction in the number of audit days available and a revised (reduced) plan was agreed by Audit Committee in September 2023. The revised plan focuses on core financial audits and other key areas to enable internal audit to provide an annual opinion on the governance, risk and control environment at the year end.

Counter Fraud

The Committee also reviews counter-fraud arrangements and received an annual Fraud & Error Report in June 2023 and a six-monthly update in December 2023.

The focus of work in 2023-24 has been around updating the fraud training package for staff and other policies. There has also been support for the administration and completion of the review of the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) matches. The revenues team have carried out a review of Council Tax single persons discounts and are currently looking at solutions for a rolling review from 2024/25.

The Committee considers relevant corporate counter fraud policies and any updates, as well as information on fraud risk and fraud training. It reviewed the Fraud Risk Register in June 2023, and the Money Laundering Policy in March 2023

The Council's main fraud strategies and policies can be found on the Council's website.

The Council continues to be involved with the NFI (fraud and error) which involves national data matching using a range of Council data sources. Matches are received and reviewed by officers. Data submitted in 2022 was reviewed in 2023/24.

The cyber fraud threat is an ongoing risk and the Council continues to place high importance on cyber security and has included it as an Amber risk within the Fraud Risk Register and a Red risk in the Strategic Risk register.

Audit Recommendations and Agreed Action

Another important part of the Committee's role is helping to ensure that audit recommendations are implemented. The Committee ensures that officers are acting on recommendations from both internal and external audit with updates being received at alternating meetings. Committee agreed a revised Follow up protocol in July 2022 aimed at strengthening the process and this has led to improved performance in managing the implementation of recommendations.

Audit recommendations are integrated into the Council's performance management system and are regularly reviewed by Managers, Directorate Management teams and Corporate Management Team (CMT) as well as Portfolio holders. The number of high priority recommendations outstanding is low, as at 1 December there were none.

Assurance Lincolnshire Partnership

The Council's Internal Audit Team is part of the wider Assurance Lincolnshire Partnership which includes the City of Lincoln Council and Lincolnshire County Council. Nottinghamshire County Council were previously a member but have decided to withdraw. Assurance Lincolnshire currently provides internal audit services to most of the District Councils within Lincolnshire, various academies as well as the core partners.

Lincolnshire County Council appointed a new Head of Internal Audit early in the year following the retirement of the previous Head. This has led to a number of changes and the requirement to build up the relationship with the new Head of Internal Audit.

Whilst the Audit Team is still committed to providing Audit staff to undertake audit work for Lincolnshire County Council, as a way of reducing the cost of audit for the Council, due to the current reduction in resources this has not been fully possible during 2023-24.

Audit Standards

A recent internal self-assessment of the effectiveness of Internal Audit resulted in a positive outcome, overall, the service continues to comply with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). The areas of improvement will help to future proof the service and ensure aspects are picked up when new staff are appointed. The main areas of improvement include managing staff resources, ensuring processes remain compliant with the new PSIAS, completing skills and training assessments and reviewing the feedback process.

The Internal Audit Standards are currently being revised by the Institute of Internal Auditors and it is anticipated that the new PSIAS which incorporates these will be issued by CIPFA in 2024 with compliance required by 2025. Once these are available a further self-assessment will be undertaken and an action plan drawn up to ensure that the service is compliant by the deadline set by CIPFA.

Audit Committee Work Programme

The Committee receives reports mainly from the Audit Manager, the Chief Finance Officer and the External Auditor covering a wide range of topics. A selection of areas covered / reviewed this year includes:

- Annual Governance Statement (review of AGS and update reports on significant issues)
- Information Governance updates
- Statement of Accounts (review)
- Treasury Management Policy and Strategy (consultation prior to approval by Council)
- Annual Internal Audit Report
- Internal Audit Strategy and Plan
- Internal Audit progress reports
- Counter Fraud Reports
- Risk Management Annual Report
- Report to those Charged with Governance
- Annual Audit Letter (External Audit)
- Partnership Governance
- CIPFA Financial Management Code

External Audit Arrangements, Reports and Conclusions

The external auditor's primary role is to express an opinion on whether management has given a true and fair view of the information in its financial statements. The auditor expresses this assurance in an auditor's report.

External auditors also examine and express an opinion on grant claims and returns made by the Council, to ensure that accurate figures are reported to Central

Government, and that claims for grant funding are made in accordance with relevant rules.

Currently, External Audit assess whether the Council has appropriate arrangements to deliver value for money and this is also reported annually.

The Council's external audit for 2022-23 was provided by a private sector accountancy firm, Mazars, procured through Public Sector Audit Appointments.

The Audit Committee has a role to comment on the scope and depth of external audit work, through considering plans and reports to ensure the work gives value for money.

The Committee considers the reports of External Audit and inspection agencies, including the External Auditor's "Annual Auditor Letter" and the report to "Those Charged with Governance."

The Committee has considered the 2022/23 report to "Those Charged with Governance". On behalf of the Committee, I am pleased to report that the 2022/23 final accounts were presented by the Council for audit by the required (revised) statutory date and the External Auditor was proposing to issue an unqualified opinion (at the time of writing this is still pending). As part of the audit work undertaken, Mazars considered the internal controls in place to be relevant to the preparation of the financial statements. The findings of this work resulted in no recommendations being made.

The External Auditor also confirmed that it has not identified any significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources (value for money approach), again the conclusion of this work is still pending.

Regulatory Framework

Risk Management

The Committee has a role (through its ToRs) in overseeing risk management strategies and receives an annual report. I am pleased to report that risk management arrangements are working well, and risk management is used effectively to help manage our strategic, operational and project risks.

Financial Statements

The Committee reviews the authority's financial and assurance statements, including the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement, ensuring the latter properly reflects the risk environment and any actions required to improve it and then to recommend its adoption.

Annual Governance Statement and Code of Corporate Governance

The Annual Governance Statement is a statutory statement and provides an overview of key governance arrangements within the Authority, including any significant control

issues arising during the year. This is signed by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive and is presented to Council alongside the Statement of Accounts. The Audit Committee monitors all “significant issues” arising from the Statement approximately each quarter. There are currently no “significant issues,” the previous issue in respect of IT Disaster Recovery has now been addressed as a disaster recovery plan is in place.

City of Lincoln Council must ensure that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, and used economically, efficiently, and effectively. It also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to secure continuous improvement in the way our functions are exercised, having regard to economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. In discharging this overall responsibility, the council must put in place proper governance arrangements for our affairs.

The Council’s Code of Corporate Governance is about how we ensure that we are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest, and accountable manner. It sets out the documentation, systems, and processes by which the authority transparently controls its activities. It enables us to monitor the achievement of our strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money. The Audit Committee approves the Code of Corporate Governance and updates – it was last reviewed in February 2022. The code is based on the set of seven core principles of Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (CIPFA / Solace 2016).

Treasury Management

The Committee’s role is to assess the robustness of the Council’s Treasury Management policy and strategy. Training is provided to the Committee by the Council’s Treasury Management consultants. The Committee reviews the strategy and considers the adoption of Treasury Management indicators prior to Council approval.

The Council’s Constitution

The Committee has a role in reviewing certain aspects of the Council’s Constitution, in particular contract procedure rules and financial procedure rules when changes occur. Financial Procedure Rules were reviewed in November 2022, with Contract Procedure Rules scheduled for 2024. The review of the Contract Procedure Rules has been delayed whilst the new legislation is passed through.

Effective Challenge

The Committee provides effective challenge across the full range of Council services and provides independent assurance on the risk management and governance framework and associated internal control environment to the Council and the public.

The Committee has received a variety of reports from both Internal and External Audit during the year. It has scrutinised and challenged the findings of audit reports on risk

and control issues, sought clarification and in some cases required detailed explanations and action plans to address significant issues.

The Committee are currently undertaking a bi-annual review of its effectiveness. This review considers how the Committee complies with the CIPFA Position Statement 2022 and their 2022 guidance for Audit Committees. As part of this review, it is necessary to obtain the feedback from others. Therefore, Council are asked to provide feedback on the work undertaken by the Committee and any suggestions for how the Committee could develop. The outcome of the review is being reported to the Audit Committee at the end of January 2024. This will include an Action plan covering the areas for planned improvement.

Impact of the Audit Committee's Work

By completing the work programme and providing challenge where required, the Audit Committee has:

- increased public confidence in the Council's governance arrangements
- reinforced the importance and independence of internal and external audit and other review processes that reported to the Audit Committee
- assisted in the co-ordination of assurance with internal audit and, in so doing, made management more accountable
- provided additional assurance through a process of independent and objective review; and raised awareness of the need for internal control and
- helped ensure the timely implementation of audit recommendations.

Conclusions

This annual report has summarised the work of the Audit Committee over the last twelve months and has demonstrated the breadth and impact of the Committee's work.

I confirm, therefore, that the City Council's Audit Committee and Audit function is consistent with best practice and this report complies with the requirements of the CIPFA Position statement.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Emily Wood Vice-Chair, Jane Nellist, the Independent Member, to all of those elected members who have served on the Committee, to Jaclyn Gibson, Laura Shipley, and the Finance team, Amanda Stanislawski and the Internal Audit team, Sally Brooks and all of those officers that have provided reports, training, and guidance to the Committee.

Councillor Chris Burke
Chair of Audit Committee

COUNCIL

16 JANUARY 2024

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

Report to Council by Councillor Calum Watt, Chair of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee 2022-23

Introduction

I commenced the role of Chair of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee in June 2022, taking over the role from former Councillor, Jane Loffhagen. I would like to thank former Councillor Loffhagen for her time as Chair of the Committee.

The current elected members of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee are:

- Councillor Calum Watt (Chair)
- Councillor Joshua Wells (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Debbie Armiger
- Councillor Chris Burke
- Councillor Liz Bushell
- Councillor Matthew Fido
- Councillor Hilton Spratt
- Councillor Rachel Storer
- Councillor Dylan Stothard
- Councillor Aiden Wells
- Councillor Emily Wood

Democratic Services Officer: Victoria Poulson

In addition to the Council's Executive and its senior and front-line Officers, external contributors included:

- Aaron Joyce, Chair - Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)
- Charlotte Brooks, Director for Local Change - Local Motion
- Chief Superintendent Jon McAdam, Area Commander - West Area Local Policing
- Fiona Bone, Suicide Prevention and Self-Injury Reduction Lead - Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT)
- Kerry Stocks, Operations Manager – Shine Lincolnshire
- Lucy Gavens, Consultant in Public Health - Lincolnshire County Council
- Marianne Langley - Keep the Tap Running
- Rachel Wright, CEO – Shine Lincolnshire
- Sarah Connery, CEO - Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT)
- Steve Renshaw, Secretary - Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)
- Sukhy Johal MBE, Director of the Centre for Culture and Creativity - University of Lincoln
- Toby Ealden, Artistic Director and CEO - Zest Theatre

The Committee recorded its thanks to all its contributors and Council staff who stayed for long and sometimes late meetings during the year, and whose contributions were so helpful and enlightening.

The Committee's recommendations concerned a variety of topics such as development and empowerment of young people, the Cultural Consortium - a significant number of events had been held over the last six to eight months to drive culture within the City, the Cost-of-Living Crisis and Cost of Living Support including the Community Grocery, the Warm Spaces initiative and the Household Support Fund 2023/24.

The Committee scrutinised Community Policing and noted the progress that had been made within two years in respect of suicide prevention in Lincoln.

Discussions also took place around poverty and the need for a collaborative and holistic approach to this issue and a Member briefing would be arranged on Assets of Community Value.

Within this report, I have outlined the key activity undertaken by the Committee over the past year. I would like to thank each member of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee, Council Officers and external contributors for their ongoing support towards effective scrutiny over the last year.

Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee Agenda Items from the Past 12 Months

During the past year, the Committee has met on six occasions, as planned to discuss a range of topics. Detailed minutes of these meetings are available to Members and to the public should they wish for more information. Meetings were held on:

- 28 June 2022
- 6 September 2022
- 11 October 2022
- 6 December 2022
- 24 January 2023
- 8 March 2023

Below includes the agenda items discussed at each meeting.

Tuesday 28 June 2022 Agenda Items

1. Cultural Consortium Update
2. Work Programme 2022/23

Tuesday 6 September 2022 Agenda Items

1. Poverty Trust Commission
2. Cost of Living Crisis
3. Work Programme 2022/23

Tuesday 11 October 2022 Agenda Items

1. Community Policing in Lincoln
2. Work Programme 2022/23

Tuesday 6 December 2022 Agenda Items

1. Suicide Rates in the City of Lincoln
2. Work Programme 2022/23

Tuesday 24 January 2023 Agenda Items

1. Suicide Rates in the City of Lincoln
2. Cost of Living Crisis Update
3. Work Programme 2023

Wednesday 8 March 2023 Agenda Items

1. Assets of Community Value
2. Work Programme 2023

Cultural Consortium Update

The Committee received presentations and/or undertook face to face discussions with the following individuals:

- Simon Walters, Director for Communities and Environment – City of Lincoln Council
- Sukhy Johal MBE, Director of the Centre for Culture and Creativity - University of Lincoln
- Toby Ealden, Artistic Director and CEO - Zest Theatre, accompanied by Lachlan Madin, a young person involved throughout the consultation process

It was confirmed that the Cultural Consortium was a joint commission between the University of Lincoln and the City of Lincoln Council and funded by Arts Council England. The desire was to become nationally renowned for cultural offers to enable a bid for City of Culture in 2029.

Zest Theatre were commissioned to implement expanded practise and facilitate the consultation for the benefit of young people in Lincoln. Zest Theatre interviewed, employed and trained seven youth facilitators, aged 16-20 to co-facilitate workshops and all were paid above the National Living Wage. 1,094 young people were engaged throughout the process which resulted in engagement of 8.7% of Lincoln's population aged 10-19, based on 2018 census data.

There was a strong desire for equality and equity across the city and this underpinned the Maxims derived from the qualitative data. The key themes that

arose proceeding to the creation of the Maxims included: equality, environment, place, space, relationships, creativity and mental health.

For Lincoln's Cultural Compact to make a meaningful impact on young people, it needed to adopt a co-creation process; actively listen, acknowledge what was heard, empathise, and then respond by releasing young people's creativity through co-creation.

Recommendations

It was confirmed that consideration had been given to engagement with other sectors such as the third sector, private sector the Police and the National Health Service (NHS). Engagement with other sectors would take place further to working projects in progress to demonstrate lateral thinking and the power of a collective and collaborative approach with all organisations within the city.

With regard given to St Benedict's Square, an area frequented by young people, the City Council needed to codesign with young people to create a dual-purpose space that would align with Vision 2025.

The creation of festivals and events in neighbouring areas for individuals that did not come into the City could be assisted with funds from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). A bid had been submitted to the UKSPF for £2.9m over three years and the decision on the bid would be made by the Governance Board, not just City of Lincoln Council, but wider partners.

An element of £130K capital was for the creation of outdoor safe space and a further £130K for two years to create family events, artistic installations within the city centre and outreach work in areas that did not get the exposure culturally.

Poverty Truth Commission

The Committee received presentations and/or undertook face to face discussions with the following individuals:

- Charlotte Brooks, Director for Local Change - Local Motion

The Committee were advised that LocalMotion was founded on building a social, economic, and environmental justice movement of six communities across the UK; created by six established funders in the UK who shared a desire to find new and better ways to tackle the common social, economic and environmental issues communities faced.

The six places were Lincoln, Enfield, Torbay, Middlesbrough, Oldham and Carmarthen. Lincoln was selected to benefit from additional funding from LocalMotion until November 2023.

The Committee were advised that after investigating what was happening from the perspective of individuals and organisations over the eleven wards within Lincoln,

three common themes occurred: community prosperity, aspiration, and sustainability.

Launched in September 2022, Poverty Truth Lincoln sought to identify approximately fifteen community commissioners to take part in the overall commission. In addition, the cohort of collaborative working would include fifteen civic/business commissioners.

The ten-year LocalMotion programme was in the exploration stage, phase 2. This phase was less 'outcome focused' and more person centred. The ambition was to have tested a number of projects by June/July 2023 and to secure future funding up to 2030/31.

The Commission was resourced until August 2024 with an 8-year collaboration action plan to be co-designed by the commissioners. There would be an annual impact report and analysis post 2024 and the 2025-30 strategy plan, by Lincoln, for Lincoln, would ensure delivery of ideas.

Recommendations

It was acknowledged that the scheme addressed absolute and relative poverty. Within the eleven wards of Lincoln, there are approximately 17,000 people Just About Managing (JAM'S). If the cost of living continued to rise, it was suspected that over the duration of the next six months, this figure could significantly increase.

The panic and pressures of poverty could not be understood unless experienced and the exit routes from poverty could not be executed in isolation – a collaborative and holistic approach was essential.

There was a positive working relationship with Poverty Truth Network and the term 'Poverty Truth' was chosen to represent the reality of the crisis faced. Rather than be spoken about, people needed to be involved.

There appeared to be a bias towards those in financial hardship by way of significantly higher interest rates for borrowing money and a resolve to the bias was needed.

National organisations or institutions that had an interest in supporting people but could not formally commit officers to the process, would continue to engage and offer expertise through a 'friends of the commission' network.

There would be a review of the core group every six months and it was noted that the regular commitment for the group of 30 commissioners would not begin until January 2023 when regular meetings would begin with capped numbers to ensure sensitivity of subject content.

The Chief Executive's remit would be to appoint representation from the Council and would be guided by the Chair and relevant Portfolio Holder.

Cost of Living Crisis

The Committee received presentations and/or undertook face to face discussions with the following individuals:

- Martin Walmsley, Head of Shared Revenue and Benefits – City of Lincoln Council
- Kate Bell, Climate Change Manager – City of Lincoln Council
- Sara Boothright, Food Health and Safety Manager – City of Lincoln Council

The Committee was advised that the information provided during the presentation was correct and accurate at the time of the meeting.

As community lead, we had worked in partnership with a number of organisations in the delivery of national and local schemes. This included the private and voluntary sector, communications and the Portfolio Holder for reducing inequality.

19% of residents were 'just about managing' and classified as fuel poor. The Council Tax Energy rebate scheme of £150 had been a difficult scheme to deliver.

A presentation on the Disabled Facilities Grant informed members that Lincoln received £750,000 per year for the scheme however previously, it was very restrictive.

In 2018, the Regulatory Reform Order provided a more flexible approach to how we improved home facilities within the city. The applicant would need to demonstrate a physical health-related issue through the discretionary route. However, the new approach also considered chronic mental health issues.

The City of Lincoln Council Private Housing Health Assistance Policy Grants included the Safe, Warm & Well and Gas Central Heating schemes worth up to £10,000 subject to eligibility criteria being met. Funding of £200,000 had been ring fenced to target and encourage more people to come forward for help.

For residents who privately rented their home, it was confirmed that under the Housing Act, we had powers to enforce landlords to make changes to substandard accommodation. Funding of £72,000 had been secured to facilitate education of local landlords where their properties had an energy performance certificate (EPC) of below E to ensure that work was carried out to make homes more efficient.

There had been a collaborative approach with West Lindsey and North Kesteven District Councils on the Home Energy Upgrade Scheme. The Home Energy Upgrade Scheme detailed a range of fully funded energy efficiency home improvement to eligible homeowners with an annual income below £30,000. The scheme was available to properties with an EPC rating of D, E, F or G.

It was highlighted that many companies offered support to low-income households such as Anglian Water who promoted specialist tariffs.

Ex Chancellor, Rishi Sunak announced a Household Support Fund from October 2022 – March 2023 and work was to be undertaken to devise a scheme to implement and operate a third rounding of financial assistance.

Officers explained the availability of help with food to residents and this included Trussell Trust Food Bank, Community Larder and Community Grocery which would help people to make affordable purchases in shops.

The Local Government Association website had a cost-of-living hub to share best practice to help Council's support residents with the rising cost of living.

Frontline staff would soon receive training on illegal money lending and 'loan sharks' and this was due to take place in the first week in October 2022.

Recommendations

There had been considerable exposure on the support available at present via Look North recently and the idea was to keep the leaflet live and updated as information changed.

There were initial plans for communications to be distributed and those plans would be developed in the months ahead.

Consideration was given to intervention for the prevention of loan sharks.

There was the Rogue Landlord Register as another means of deterrent for deteriorated accommodation and non-compliance. It was confirmed that the Council had a dedicated officer to consider cases whereby landlords failed to comply with legislation consistently, a legacy from rogue landlord works in 2016.

Consideration was given to the regular press release of cost-of-living support to ensure that information was received by residents that may be suffering from digital poverty. Officers confirmed that Lincoln featured on BBC News on Tuesday 6 September 2022 and discussion would be held with the Communications team.

Members suggested the consideration of a free telephone number to access support available. It was confirmed that costs would be assessed and explored as a possibility and suggested through Executive.

The Corporate Management Team were aware of potential increase of demand on services and consideration would be given to resource utilisation for priority services.

Further Update

Martin Walmsley and Kate Bell attended a later meeting to provide the Committee with an update on the Cost-of-Living Crisis which confirmed that there had been a promotion of regional and national guidance.

The recent focus had been on help with food and collaborative work had taken place with Community Grocery through Towns Fund monies.

Work was ongoing with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) for free school meals and the Household Support Fund had seen significant funding through Lincoln County Council from central Government. The demand resulted in the funds in December 2022 only lasting two days.

We were currently in the process of sending £250 through the Post Office to recipients of Housing Benefit that did not benefit from the National Cost of Living Payment scheme. The cost-of-living support offered to businesses included a 75% reduction for 2023/24 – up from 50% in 2022/23.

Recommendations

Warm Spaces fell under the remit of Paul Carrick, Neighbourhood Manager Central and marketing was very important to ensure the stigma of Warm Spaces was removed.

Digital inclusion was important and during implementation of the Council Tax Support scheme, 11% of individuals contacted did not have access to the internet or were unable to complete the relevant forms. The leaflet would be reviewed regularly to ensure it contained the most up to date information.

Work within the Corporate Management Team (CMT) was ongoing to signpost contingency plans and a high priority within workloads. Further information could be provided to the Committee when more information was available.

Community Policing in Lincoln

The Committee received a presentation from the following individual:

- Chief Superintendent Jon McAdam, Area Commander - West Area Local Policing

It was confirmed that Lincolnshire Police were in the process of a significant recruitment programme, the largest since approximately 2000. Through the Uplift Programme, there would be an additional 146 officers for Lincolnshire.

It was outlined that each recruitment intake had doubled to thirty officers and there had been an introduction of a mid-year intake in an attempt to future proof policing with 1086 officers increasing to 1186 in the first instance.

It was further highlighted that interviews had been underway for future police officers to be included in January's cohort in 2023. In addition, there were a number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) in training.

Recommendations

Violence towards woman and girls was a key priority within the partnership and went beyond a single agency response. The Police tracked Street Safe Data weekly to enable a response to individuals that felt isolated.

Work with men and boys included the Mini Police Scheme, educational programmes, and personal development within schools to educate, prevent and support.

The relocation to South Park of the Neighbourhood Policing Team for morning briefings was a result of a review into how the city was being policed to ensure that resource profile could respond in a robust manner.

The commitment from the police to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour was ongoing.

Challenge remained with resource availability. Joint working relationships with the fire service, ambulance, council, LPFT and health services were robust and effective. There was a strong commitment to policing in Lincolnshire and work to continue with the Council.

Suicide Rates in the City of Lincoln

The Committee received presentations and/or undertook face to face discussions with the following individuals:

- Fiona Bone, Suicide Prevention and Self-Injury Reduction Lead - Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT)
- Sarah Connery, CEO - Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT)
- Lucy Gavens, Consultant in Public Health - Lincolnshire County Council

It was confirmed that 1 in 3 deaths, as a result of suicide were individuals that had never had contact with mental health services.

As a district, the City of Lincoln had the highest suicide rate across the country of 21.3 per 100,000 population.

Suicide prevention work and an understanding of suicide locally derived from annual releases from the Office for National Statistics, Real Time Surveillance from Lincolnshire Police and Coroner Data.

Local intelligence provided information on suspected 'clusters' and additional support would be placed within communities where suspected suicide clusters had been identified.

'Reaching Out and Saving Lives' (2020-2023) was developed and delivered by the multiagency steering group who lead suicide prevention activity in Lincolnshire.

Suicide prevention within Lincolnshire included work in the following areas:

- Core Offer
- High Risk Groups
- Children & Young People
- Knowledge and Intelligence
- Awareness raising and training

There was now an Urgent Assessment centre within Lincoln County Hospital to support residents and access to 'Zero Suicide Alliance Training' was free and was a twenty-minute suicide prevention training course available to all individuals.

Recommendations

There was a mental health helpline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, accessible using a freephone telephone number. Recognition was given to individuals that would prefer to access support through a text messaging service and in that instance, the text messaging service SHOUT could be accessed for nonverbal forms of communications. There was also an Urgent Assessment Centre within Lincoln County Hospital. This could be accessed without going through A&E whereby it could be busy and overwhelming. Work on urgent 24/7 solutions was ongoing.

Work was ongoing by the University of Lincoln for development of an app called 'Ripple'. The app would be installed on all university computers and if an individual inputted an 'unsafe' word into a search engine, signposted help would be displayed, giving information on local chatlines such as SHOUT.

There were services specifically for the use of children and young people. There was a gap in funding between services required and demand on those services. As we emerged from Covid-19, the demand on supply increased significantly, especially support required for eating disorders. Additional resource had been ringfenced for children and young people.

Based at Lincoln City Football Club (LCFC) grounds, peer to peer support was offered to men through 'Andy's Man Club'. This was a peer to peer support group, some of which were previous service users that tried to help and support other men. Collaborative work with third party stakeholders was important and signposting where help was available was essential.

It was important to recognise the significant impact that social media has on children and young people's mental health which includes the encouragement of self-harm. Work to identify clusters would remain ongoing and this included non-geographical clusters. Work with Lincoln College had taken place to establish commonalities.

Ongoing signposting was essential and would continue with social media awareness, mental health support and teams based within schools and specific podcasts on safe social media with a consistent approach to prevention. Future

ideas for prevention work, subject to recruitment, included a specialist councillor in every GP Surgery, as part of community transformation.

Further Meeting

A further meeting was held to continue the work on suicide rates in the City of Lincoln. The Committee received presentations and/or undertook face to face discussions with the following individuals:

- Rachel Wright, CEO – Shine Lincolnshire
- Kerry Stocks, Operations Manager – Shine Lincolnshire

It was confirmed that Shine Lincolnshire was established in 2011 through funding from the Managed Care Network, Mental Health Promotion Fund via Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT)

As a support network, Shine ensured information was shared through community mapping and not siloed. Shine worked to ensure community support services for individuals with mental health illnesses were available locally and worked collaboratively with partner agencies.

The 360° support offered by the charity included:

- Assistance with interpretation of the tender and requirements
- Support with Application
- Host Employment, if required
- Implementation Support
- Training and Development

Shine worked with Lincolnshire County Council, LPFT and Integrated Care Board (ICB) to support mental health investment programmes through a Grant Administration.

In January 2023, Shine announced a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Investment Fund which would be divided between a large Sustainability Fund and a smaller Innovation Fund on a 70/30% basis.

Recommendations

Shine had not submitted a project bid under the UKSPF award for Lincoln however Members agreed that it would be beneficial for Shine to be made known to Kate Ellis, Major Development Director, and Francesca Bell, former Assistant Director of Growth and Development.

All staff at Shine had gambling training via GamCare to support relevant organisations.

There had been engagement with both the University of Lincoln and Bishop Grosseteste University to consider encouragement of work placements and

business models. Engagement work included Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team (LVET) and Age UK.

Shine received funding from LCC for Grants Administration work. Shine were contracted by LPFT for the Peer Support Work. Revenue was also raised from training sales as well as business donations.

The partnership with LPFT originated further to the consideration of what peer support would look like. Collective and collaborative work was at the centre of everything Shine did and would remain ongoing.

Assets of Community Value

The Committee received presentations and/or undertook face to face discussions with the following individuals:

- Aaron Joyce, Chair - Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)
- Marianne Langley - Keep the Tap Running

It was confirmed that Under the Localism Act 2011 (Part 5 Chapter 3) & detailed in Assets of Community Value Regulations 2012, nominated groups were given the right to bid for a listed property if entered onto the property sale market. However, there was no obligation to sell, cooperate or accept a community offer.

There was a large disparity between commercial and residential property, magnified by Lincoln's large student population and the Assets of Community Value (ACV) regime was the only method for communities to demonstrate the value of an asset.

Nomination for an ACV came from suitable nominating bodies such as Parish Councils or groups with a community (geographical/shared interest) connection. The process typically took up to eight weeks to approve or reject a nomination and if approved, the nominated property would be added to the list of assets for five years or unless sold. The owner retained the right to appeal.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was the dominant legislation and Section 8 made provision relevant to ACV. The NPPF made clear provision for the inclusion of public houses.

Lincoln's current pub protection policy fell within LP15 of the Local Plan which laid out three conditions that determined whether the loss of a community facility might be permitted.

Planning Committee considered applications carefully and if appropriate, would query officers. The addition of a planning policy document would grant officers and Member of the Committee additional powers.

It was important to note that ACV's did not cover public houses exclusively but protected a number of community assets that would otherwise be lost if planning policies did not provide adequate protection.

Recommendations

It was noted that Parish Councils could nominate their own public houses however in Lincoln, there was a noticeable lack of focus as the role was not present. A supplementary planning document would support properties in jeopardy.

It was resolved that the Committee make a recommendation to the Executive for the creation of a policy document on Assets of Community Value and an individual be nominated, knowledgeable on the policy document contents, to act as a contact for information and clarification when needed.

Councillor Calum Watt

Chair of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee 2022-23

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COUNCIL

16 JANUARY 2024

SUBJECT:	EXTRACT FROM COMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE – 2 JANUARY 2024 - COUNCIL TAX BASE 2024/25
REPORT BY:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
LEAD OFFICER:	ALI HEWSON, SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

1. Matter for Council

- 1.1 To approve, in line with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023, with effect from 1st April 2024, a Council Tax premium of 100% for a property empty for 12 months, (changing from the current position of a property empty for 2 years).
- 1.2 To note that there are no special items as defined in Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) applicable to any part or parts of the City of Lincoln local authority area in respect of its Council Tax Base.
- 1.2 To approve the Chief Finance Officers' calculation of the Council Tax Base for the financial year commencing 1st April 2024 and ending 31st March 2025.
- 1.3 To approve, in accordance with the Chief Finance Officers' calculation, and pursuant to the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended), that the Council Tax Base for the 2024/25 financial year is 25,669.23.

List of Background Papers: Executive– 2 January 2024, Minute.
Council Tax Base 2024/25 - Report +App A/B

Lead Officer: Ali Hewson, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Telephone – 873372

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69. Council Tax Base 2024/25

Purpose of Report

To seek the Executive's recommendation to the City Council of the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2024/25.

Decision

That it be recommended to the City of Lincoln Council that:

- a) In line with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023, with effect from 1st April 2024, a Council Tax premium of 100% for a property empty for 12 months, (changing from the current position of a property empty for 2 years) be approved;
- b) It be noted that there were no special items as defined in Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) applicable to any part or parts of the City of Lincoln local authority area;
- c) The Chief Finance Officer's calculation of the Council Tax Base for the financial year commencing 1 April 2024 and ending 31 March 2025, as set out in Appendix B of this report be approved;
- d) In accordance with the Chief Finance Officer's calculation, and pursuant to the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended), that the Council Tax Base for the 2024/25 financial year be 25,669.23.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended) required the Council to formally set its Tax Base as the first stage of the Council Tax setting process.

Reasons for the Decision

Before setting the Council Tax Base, the issue of any special items relating to a part of the Council's area must be considered. If there were any items of expenditure that related to one part of the local authority area, then that expenditure could be levied on those residents in that area and not on others. There were no items of special expenditure for the 2024/25 financial year.

The calculation of the Council Tax Base, was based upon the number of dwellings on the Valuation List, provided by the Government's Valuation Office. The figures were adjusted for exempt dwellings and for dwellings subject to disabled reduction. The number of chargeable dwellings in each band was further

adjusted for discounts, exemptions, premiums, and Council Tax Support. The resultant figure was the total equivalent number of dwellings which were then converted using ratios into the number of Band D equivalents. For 2024/25, the equivalent number of Band D properties was calculated at 25,931.37.

The Council Tax Base was finally determined by multiplying the sum of the Band D equivalents by the Authority's estimated collection rate, which had been assumed at 98.75% for 2024/25. This was the estimate of the percentage of the 2024/25 Council Tax set which would be collected in total, and not the expected in-year collection rate in 2024/25. In addition, a final adjustment in respect of Crown properties was made. This resulted in a proposed Council Tax base for 2024/25 of 25,669.23.

The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 now included provision allowing billing authorities to change the period at which a long-term empty property attracted an additional Council Tax charge of 100% after 12 months rather than the current position of after 2 years. This premium could be introduced from 1st April 2024 under the provisions of this Act.

SUBJECT: COUNCIL TAX BASE 2024/25

DIRECTORATE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

LEAD OFFICER: MARTIN WALMSLEY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – SHARED REVENUES AND BENEFITS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Executives' recommendation of the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2024/25.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report is submitted to the Executive each year and sets out the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the following financial year.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended) require the Council to formally set its Tax Base as the first stage of the Council Tax setting process.

4. Special Items

- 4.1 Before setting the Council Tax Base, the issue of any special items relating to a part of the Council's area must be considered. If there are any items of expenditure that relate to one part of the local authority area, then that expenditure can be levied on those residents in that area and not on others.
- 4.2 There are no items of special expenditure.

5. Council Tax Base / Long-Term Empty Definition Change

- 5.1 Certain assumptions have to be made in order to determine the number of dwellings within the Authority's area, and these are set out in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The calculation of the Council Tax Base, detailed in Appendix B, is based upon the number of dwellings on the Valuation List, provided by the Government's Valuation Office. The figures are adjusted for exempt dwellings and for dwellings subject to disabled reduction. The number of chargeable dwellings in each band is further adjusted for discounts, exemptions, premiums, and Council Tax Support. The resultant figure is the total equivalent number of dwellings which are then converted using ratios into the number of Band D equivalents. For 2024/25, the equivalent number of Band D properties is calculated at 25,931.37.
- 5.3 The Council Tax Base is finally determined by multiplying the sum of the Band D equivalents by the Authority's estimated collection rate, which has been assumed at 98.75% for 2024/25. This is the estimate of the percentage of the 2024/25 Council Tax set which will be collected in total, and not the expected in-year

collection rate in 2024/25. In addition, a final adjustment in respect of Crown properties is made. This results in a proposed Council Tax base for 2024/25 of 25,669.23.

- 5.4 The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 now includes provision allowing billing authorities to change the period at which a long-term empty property attracts an additional Council Tax charge of 100% after 12 months rather than the current position of after 2 years. This premium can be introduced from 1st April 2024 under the provisions of this Act.

6. Strategic Priorities

- 6.1 There are no direct implications for the Council's Strategic Priorities arising as a result of this report.

7. Organisational Impacts

7.1 Financial

The Council must confirm its Council Tax Base as a pre-requisite to setting the Council Tax charge for 2024/25.

7.2 Legal Implications

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and Statutory Instrument No 1992/612 – Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended) set out the requirement for the Council to confirm and formally approve its Council Tax Base and notify it to its precepting bodies. The Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 provide for Councils to make technical changes to certain discounts from April 2013.

7.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

Due to the nature of the report, no specific Equality Impact Analysis is required.

8. Risk Implications

- 8.1 The key risk associated to this report are financial, in terms of the accuracy of the forecasted Council Tax Base. Any variance between the Base and the final Council Tax liability in 2024/25 will result in the declaration of either a surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Executive is asked to recommend to Council that it:

- a) In line with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023, with effect from 1st April 2024, approves a Council Tax premium of 100% for a property empty for 12 months, (changing from the current position of a property empty for 2 years);
- b) Notes that there are no special items as defined in Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) applicable to any part or parts of the City of Lincoln local authority area;
- c) Approves the Chief Finance Officers' calculation of the Council Tax Base for the financial year commencing 1st April 2024 and ending 31st March 2025, as set out in Appendix B of this report;
- d) Approves, in accordance with the Chief Finance Officers' calculation, and pursuant to the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended), that the Council Tax Base for the 2024/25 financial year is 25,669.23.

Key Decision	No
Do the Exempt Information Categories Apply	No
Call In and Urgency: Is the decision one to which Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?	No
Does the report contain Appendices?	Yes
If Yes, how many Appendices?	Two
List of Background Papers:	None

Lead Officer: Martin Walmsley, Assistant Director – Shared Revenues and Benefits,
Martin.walmsley@lincoln.gov.uk

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APPENDIX A: Executive 2nd January 2024

Assumptions made in the Calculation of the Council Tax Base (See APPENDIX B)

Number of Dwellings:	The number of dwellings on the Council's database as at 30 th November 2023.
Exempt Properties:	These are laid down by Regulations and are properties exempt from Council Tax, e.g. student occupied property. The total in each of the exemption categories has been calculated as at 30 th November 2023 and it has been assumed that the exemption will remain throughout 2024/25.
Disabled Relief:	These are properties that are occupied by disabled persons and may be placed in a lower valuation band if they fulfil the criteria laid down by the Regulations. The number of these properties has been calculated at 30 th November 2023 and it has been assumed that the relief will remain throughout 2024/25.
Discounts on Relevant Day – i.e. 25%, 50%, 10% + 100% Levy:	These are laid down by Regulations, in addition to technical changes introduced from April 2013, and are properties subject to a percentage discount from the Council Tax, i.e. second homes, single person households or empty properties. The total in each of the discount categories has been calculated as at 30 th November 2023 and it has been assumed that the discount will remain throughout 2024/25.
Net Additions Expected In Year:	This is an estimate of the number of dwellings known to be currently under construction plus the anticipated number to be constructed throughout 2024/25. Account is taken where dwellings will not come into a charge until part way through the year. Adjustments to discounts and exemptions and appeals are also taken into account.
Council Tax Support:	These are estimates of the amount of Council Tax Support to be granted in 2024/25 (localised replacement scheme for Council Tax Benefit from April 2013).
Collection Rate:	It is assumed that 98.75% of the Council Tax due for 2024/25 will be collected.

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City of Lincoln - 2024/25 Council Tax Base Estimate as at 30th November 2023 / Executive 2nd January 2024 - Appendix B

Valuation Bands	A-	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	YEAR 2024/25
VO Schedule		28773.00	9115.00	4942.00	2560.00	1437.00	519.00	136.00	46.00	47528.00
Exemptions Under Classes B,D-W		-2450.00	-528.00	-234.00	-109.00	-322.00	-125.00	-6.00	-21.00	-3795.00
Subtotal		26323.00	8587.00	4708.00	2451.00	1115.00	394.00	130.00	25.00	43733.00
Disabled bands		51.00	51.00	43.00	28.00	12.00	7.00	4.00	8.00	204.00
adjusted disabled band	51.00	51.00	43.00	28.00	12.00	7.00	4.00	8.00		204.00
Subtotal	51.00	26323.00	8579.00	4693.00	2435.00	1110.00	391.00	134.00	17.00	43733.00
25% Discounts (<i>Single Person Discount (SPD)/uninhabitable/1 x disregard</i>)	-5.25	-3102.25	-720.50	-346.00	-142.00	-54.50	-18.25	-2.25	0.00	-4391.00
37.5% Discounts (<i>50% plus SPD or 1 x disregard</i>)	0.00	-1.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.13
50% Discounts (<i>inc 2 x disregards</i>)	0.00	-19.00	-4.00	-3.00	-3.50	-1.50	-1.50	-5.00	-5.00	-42.50
75% Discounts (<i>100% with SPD or 1 x disregard</i>)	0.00	-14.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-14.25
100% Discounts	0.00	-99.00	-24.00	-2.00	-6.00	-1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-132.00
50% levy (Premium on empty homes - discretionary)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100% Levy (Premium on homes empty 2-5 years)	0.00	132.00	37.00	19.00	11.00	3.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	206.00
200% Levy (Premium on homes empty 5-10 years)	0.00	26.00	6.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.00
300% Levy (Premium on homes empty 10+ years)	0.00	54.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	63.00
CTR (PENSION AGE)	-4.69	-1550.21	-247.36	-95.92	-16.12	-7.45	-0.83	0.00	0.00	-1922.58
CTR (WORKING AGE)	-21.23	-3835.11	-275.15	-55.29	-17.25	-4.66	-1.17	0.00	0.00	-4209.85
Estimated Future Adjustment	0.00	250.00	20.00	10.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	284.00
Adjusted dwellings	19.83	18164.06	7376.99	4219.79	2267.13	1043.89	373.26	129.75	12.00	33606.70
RATIO TO BAND D	5/9th	6/9th	7/9th	8/9th	9/9th	11/9th	13/9th	15/9th	18/9th	
Band D equivalent	11.02	12109.37	5737.66	3750.92	2267.13	1275.87	539.15	216.25	24.00	25931.37
Less Estimated non-collection (1.25%)	-0.14	-151.37	-71.72	-46.89	-28.34	-15.95	-6.74	-2.70	-0.30	-324.14
Crown properties (Payment in lieu of Council Tax) Band D Equivalent		0.00	4.67	25.33	32.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.00
Council Tax Base	10.88	11958.00	5670.60	3729.37	2270.79	1259.92	532.41	213.55	23.70	25669.23

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COUNCIL

16 JANUARY 2023

SUBJECT:	EXTRACT FROM COMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE – 2 JANUARY 2024– LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2024/25
REPORT BY:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
LEAD OFFICER:	ALI HEWSON, SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

1. Matter for Council

- 1.1 To approve a 'no change' to the core Council Tax Support Scheme for the financial year 2024/25.
- 1.2 To approve an Exceptional Hardship Fund of £25,000 to be available for the financial year 2024/25.
- 1.3 To give approval for further detailed modelling of a banded scheme for all working age customers with delivery to be assured from our ICT provider at a timescale to allow for robust and accurate testing of such a potential scheme, with a view to consultation on such a scheme for from 2025/26.

List of Background Papers: Executive– 2 January 2024, Minute.
Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25 – Report + App1-6

Lead Officer: Ali Hewson, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Telephone – 873370

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71. Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25

Purpose of Report

1. To provide information regarding the outcome of consultation regarding 2024/25 Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) options.
2. To propose options for a Council Tax Support Scheme for the 2024/25 financial year, which must be approved by Council before 31st January 2024.

Decision

- (1) That the content of the report, taking into consideration the responses received as part of the consultation be noted.
- (2) That it be recommend to the City of Lincoln Council that:
 - (a) A 'no change' to the core Council Tax Support scheme for 2024/25, as set out in Section 4 of the report, subject to the technical amendments described in paragraph 5.3 be approved.
 - (b) Provision of an Exceptional Hardship Fund of £25,000, for the financial year 2024/25, be approved.
 - (c) Approval be given to a further detailed modelling of a banded scheme for all working age customers, with delivery to be assured from our ICT provider at a timescale to allow for robust and accurate testing of such a potential scheme, with a view to consulting on such a scheme for 2025/26.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

An option of introduction of a 'banded scheme' for all working age customers for 2024/25 – as detailed within paragraph 5.6 of the officer's report. This would be subject to a further detailed modelling process with the aspiration for future adoption.

Reasons for the Decision

The council tax benefits system had been abolished by the government on 31 March 2013 and replaced by the Council Tax Support Scheme, which could be determined locally by the City of Lincoln Council, as the billing authority, after consultation with precepting authorities, key stakeholders and residents.

As at November 2023, there had been 8,330 residents claiming Council Tax Support in Lincoln, with 2,579 of these as pensioners protected under the legislation and receiving Council Tax Support, as prescribed by the Government, broadly similar to the level of Council Tax Benefit.

It was the 5,751 working age (including those classified as 'vulnerable' for CTS purposes) claimants, where a local scheme could be determined which could change the level of support provided. The split of the 5,817 working age CTS recipients was 3,242 working age (vulnerable) and 2,575 working age (not vulnerable)

The initial City of Lincoln CTS Scheme from 2013/14 effectively 'protected' working age Council Tax payers seeking support, retaining eligible entitlement of up to 100% and not restricting other areas of entitlement calculation. However, in recent years the scheme had changed in light of increasing scheme costs and budget pressures.

Unless a decision was made by Council to apply scheme changes to vulnerable working-age claimants, the localised CTS scheme would historically only be applied to non-vulnerable working age claimants.

SUBJECT: LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2024/25

DIRECTORATE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE & TOWN CLERK

REPORT AUTHOR: MARTIN WALMSLEY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – SHARED REVENUES AND BENEFITS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide information regarding the outcome of consultation regarding 2024/25 Council Tax Support scheme options.
- 1.2 To propose options for a Council Tax Support scheme for the 2024/25 financial year, which must be approved by Council before 31st January 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council Tax Benefit system was abolished on 31st March 2013 and replaced by the Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme. This scheme can be determined locally by the Billing Authority having had due consultation with precepting authorities, key stakeholders, and residents. As at November 2023, there are 8,330 residents claiming Council Tax Support in the City of Lincoln. 2,579 are pensioners who are protected under the legislation and receive Council Tax Support as prescribed by the Government (broadly similar to the level of Council Tax Benefit). It is the 5,751 working age (including those classified as ‘vulnerable’ for CTS purposes) claimants where a local scheme can be determined which can change the level of support provided.
- 2.2 Unless a decision by the Council is made to apply scheme changes to vulnerable working-age customers, the localised CTS scheme would historically only be applied to non-vulnerable working age. Vulnerable working-age customers are those that have one of the following for CTS purposes:
 - Disability Premium;
 - Enhanced Disability Premium;
 - Severe Disability Premium;
 - Disabled Child Premium;
 - In receipt of a war pension;
 - Qualifies for disabled or long-term sick earnings disregard;
 - Employment and Support Allowance (income-related, where the support or work-related component is received and has been recorded separately).

The current split of the 5,817 (31.7.2023) working age CTS recipients is as follows:

- Working age – vulnerable: 3,242;
- Working age (not vulnerable): 2,575.

- 2.3 The initial City of Lincoln CTS Scheme from 2013/14 effectively ‘protected’ working age Council Tax payers seeking support, retaining eligible entitlement of up to 100% and

not restricting other areas of entitlement calculation. However, in recent years the scheme has changed in light of increasing scheme costs and budget pressures.

- 2.4 The proposed CTS scheme must go through certain steps to comply with the provisions stated in the Local Government Finance Act 2012, before it can be adopted by this Council as a Billing Authority:-

- *Before making a scheme, the authority must (in the following order):-*
 - *Consult any major precepting authority which has power to issue a precept to it,*
 - *Publish a draft scheme in such manner as it thinks fit, and*
 - *Consult such other persons as it considers are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme.*

3. Changes in Caseload

- 3.1 Whilst for a period of time claimant levels remained stable, Covid-19 had an impact on the amount of CTS awarded, with significant increases in caseload and cost of the scheme.

- 3.2 The table below shows how Lincoln's CTS caseload has changed over the last four years.

	Working age	Pension age	Total
September 2019	5,639	2,903	8,542
December 2019	5,578	2,881	8,459
March 2020	5,638	2,853	8,491
June 2020	6,197	2,842	9,039
September 2020	6,225	2,806	9,031
December 2020	6,182	2,773	8,955
March 2021	6,227	2,747	8,974
June 2021	6,220	2,720	8,940
September 2021	6,120	2,679	8,799
December 2021	5,993	2,649	8,642
March 2022	5,898	2,645	8,543
June 2022	5,891	2,618	8,509
September 2022	5,812	2,642	8,454
December 2022	5,830	2,639	8,469
March 2023	5,841	2,608	8,449
June 2023	5,867	2,591	8,458
November 2023	5,751	2,579	8,330

- 3.3 The level of CTS caseload is an important factor when considering the potential cost of a local CTS scheme – as effectively an increase in caseload increases the cost of the scheme, and vice versa the cost decreases when the CTS caseload reduces. Understandably, the Covid-19 pandemic had a direct impact on the number of residents claiming CTS. It can be seen that caseloads rose sharply in 2020 and 2021 as an outcome of the impact of Covid-19 on the economy and residents' incomes. The caseload then plateaued somewhat before falling and returning back to pre-pandemic

levels. However, with the ongoing cost of living pressures on residents there is the potential that the number of claimants may begin to increase again.

4. City of Lincoln Council 2023/24 CTS Scheme

4.1 The current, 2023/24 scheme has the following restrictions for working age customers:

- Capital limit £6,000;
- Minimum entitlement of £2 per week;
- Property banding capped at Band B e.g. a customer in Band C (and above) property, will only have their CTS calculated on Band B liability;
- Backdating restricted to 1 month; and
- Temporary absence from home in line with Housing Benefit regulations.

5. Council Tax Support Scheme Options for 2024/25

5.1 In this Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), the budgeted cost of the 2024/25 CTS scheme is £1,288,500 (i.e. City of Lincoln Council's share 14.3%, - (with the estimated total scheme cost of c£9.02m dependent on increases in the main preceptors' levels of Council Tax).

If the Council wishes to continue protecting vulnerable working age CTS recipients, then any changes to the CTS scheme will only apply to 2,471 customers or 29.66% of the caseload. Changes to the CTS scheme may be made for vulnerable working age customers too, however pension age residents are 'protected,' and the 'default' government scheme effectively applies.

City of Lincoln's CTS caseload as at the end of November 2023, can be broken down as follows:

Caseload breakdown	Caseload	% of total caseload
Total caseload	8,330	
Pensioner	2,579	30.96%
Working age vulnerable	3,280	39.38%
Working age non-vulnerable	2,471	29.66%

5.2 Based on the current core elements of the existing scheme, caseload increases of 0% and 5% have been modelled, along with Council Tax increases of 1.9% and 2.9%. These are summarised in **Appendix 1**, giving an indication of the potential cost and savings to City of Lincoln Council. Also included is the potential value for non-collection, based on the collection figure currently included in the MTFS (98.75%).

5.3 As a billing authority the Council can decide whether or not to amend core elements of its scheme each year. Proposed options for consultation are included in Appendix 1 to this report.

There will be some technical changes that will still need to be applied to ensure that the Council's scheme complies with the Prescribed Scheme Regulations (for example, covering Universal Credit, premiums and discounts). These details are awaited from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Technical amendments to the scheme in relation to uprating incomes, applicable amounts, disregards and allowances are to be collated once statutory details have been released by the Secretary of State.

5.4 In developing the modelling for each of the CTS scheme options a number of assumptions have been made, as follows:

- **5% uprating of benefits figures** - the national benefits uprating figure was 3.1% for 2022/23, and then an initially unanticipated 10.1% in 2023/24 (in line with the September 2022 inflation rate). As the actual 2024/25 benefits upratings figure was only announced at the Autumn Statement on 22nd November 2023 (6.7%), further work needs to take place on this increased uprating percentage – however, it is unlikely to make a significant difference to the figures already modelled.
- As the Council and major preceptors are likely to set differing levels of Council Tax increases, this creates a variety of modelling scenarios. **Council Tax increases of 1.9% and 2.9%** have therefore been assumed for modelling purposes. The final costs of the scheme will though be increased by the actual level of Council Tax increases applied. The modelling does not though take into consideration that the Council's percentage share of the overall cost of the scheme would slightly reduce if other preceptors increase their Band D by a greater percentage than the Council, this would in effect reduce the cost of the scheme to the Council.
- **No increase in caseload for 2024/25, also a 5% caseload increase.** These caseload projections would effectively allow for the currently-slightly decreasing CTS caseload to continue, then potentially rise due to ongoing and potentially increased cost of living pressures. Of course, officers can only predict the economy and subsequent impacts on CTS caseload, particularly in the current climate this cannot be an 'exact science'.
- **Collection rate of 98.75%.** The MTFS assumes a collection rate of 98.75% for 2024/25 (this is higher than the 2022/23 figure of 98.25%). Given the cost of living crisis, the collection rate will be reviewed as part of the development of the updated MTFS.

5.5 The options considered for consultation by Executive on 18th September 2023, were as follows, (both options are modelled including the factors as set out in paragraph 5.4 (above)):

- **Option 1: No change to the current scheme;**
- **Option 2: Introduction of a 'banded scheme' for all working age customers**
- *see paragraph 5.6 (below) for further information.

5.6 Banded Scheme for all Working Age Customers

For 2024/25, an option which was put forward for consideration was to make a fundamental change to the way CTS is calculated for working age customers.

This could be a more streamlined, efficient, and easier to understand scheme based on specified income bands and percentage awards. A key factor for consideration is due to the way Universal Credit (UC) is re-assessed on a monthly basis by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) – this means some Council Taxpayers have their UC entitlement altered each month – for example, where they have a fluctuating wage. If the UC recipient is also receiving CTS, this subsequently means that they then have a re-assessment of their CTS entitlement – meaning that it is possible to keep having a new bill sent each month, with instalments for repayment being ‘re-set’ – which can be confusing for customers, as well as administratively inefficient for officers – and preventing recovery progressing where there is non-payment of Council Tax. This is a particular issue with customers who have opted to pay by direct debit, as month after month the instalment resets and the direct debit is never taken. This moves their whole debt to the end of the year where potentially they are asked to pay more than they can afford, when they may have made every effort to pay this during the year.

Therefore, an option for consideration was to adopt an income-banded local CTS scheme for all working age CTS customers (not just UC recipients). Key objectives would be to move towards a scheme that is more adaptable to UC regulations, - and to provide clarity to customers as to what their entitlement to CTS will be.

Currently, 3,715 CTS customers are in receipt of UC, - which equates to 63.88% of the working age caseload.

The scheme that was being modelled would have a series of 'income bands' and a customer's entitlement to CTS is based on what band their earned income falls within. A banded scheme means that small changes in a claimant's income will not necessarily change their entitlement to CTS. Officers continued to model a range of factors in relation to a potential banded scheme, with a view to refining options in advance of and during the consultation period, to present a final potential option to Executive in January 2024.

Such a banded scheme would be likely to achieve some efficiencies, - particularly in terms of simplicity of scheme for customers – reducing customer enquiries and subsequent responses, reductions in Council Tax adjustment notices being issued (e.g. in cases with Universal Credit entitlement changes month-on-month). With UC managed migration announced as being progressed in the latter part of 2023/24 and during 2024/25, now would appear to be the time to introduce such a banded scheme.

There are variables around entitlement which would result in some customers receiving an increased CTS award, and with some receiving a reduced CTS award. However, the scheme was being modelled and designed to try and keep these fluctuations as low as is possible, - but with an exceptional hardship scheme fund proposed to sit alongside a banded scheme – where appropriate, reductions in 2024/25 CTS awards could be mitigated.

- 5.7 **Continuation/Increase of the Exceptional Hardship Scheme:** Exceptional Hardship Payments (EHP) assist persons who have applied for CTS and who are facing 'exceptional hardship' – it is similar to the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme (DHP) for Housing Benefit shortfalls. EHP provides a further financial contribution where an applicant is in receipt of CTS but the level of support being paid by the Council does not meet their full Council Tax liability.

The Council is required to provide financial assistance to the most vulnerable residents, who have been disproportionately affected by the changes made in 2023 to the CTS Scheme. Since April 2013, the Council has agreed to introduce an EHP scheme each year, in order to provide a safety net for customers, in receipt of Council Tax Support who were experiencing difficulty paying their Council Tax. Exceptional Hardship falls within Section 13A(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and forms part of the CTS Scheme.

The cost of EHP awards is borne solely by City of Lincoln. As at the end of November 2023, a total of £6,792 EHP has been awarded for 2023/24. It is proposed that an EHP budget of £25,000 be in place for 2024/25 (the same figure as available in 2023/24).

5.8 Committee and Consultation Timetable

5.9 The timetable to approve any changes to the new scheme takes into account the existing calendar of meetings. Full Council of the Billing Authority needs to approve the scheme after consultation as outlined in paragraph 2.4.

5.10 The timetable is as follows:

- Executive: 18th September 2023, *to consider/approve options for consultation*
- Consultation starts (6 weeks): 2nd October 2023, *including consultation with public, other appropriate organisations (e.g. Citizens Advice), and major precepting authorities*
- Policy Scrutiny Committee: 3rd October 2023, *as part of consultation process*
- Consultation Ends: 16th November 2023
- Executive: 2nd January 2024, *to refer to Council a recommendation on a proposed 2024/25 scheme*
- Council: 16th January 2024, *the Local Government Finance Act 2012 requires a full review of the scheme by the Billing Authority. City of Lincoln Council will need to approve a new scheme after consultation by 31st January 2024.*

6. Outcomes of Consultation

6.1 175 responses through public consultation were received, - as well as responses from Lincolnshire County Council, and Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Responses are included as appendices to this report. To summarise key points from consultation:

- Policy Scrutiny Committee supported consultation on a no change scheme, also supporting consultation on a working age banded scheme as well as further detailed modelling of such a scheme.
- Public consultation responses were mixed, with 151 supporting a 'no change' scheme. 101 respondents supported a working age banded scheme, however of these 101 respondents, 91 also answered 'yes' in support of a no change scheme.
- Lincolnshire County Council was supportive of a banded scheme option, whilst recognising it had not been possible to analyse the potential financial impacts

during the consultation period (due to the data not being available).

- Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner was supportive of a simplified scheme such as the income-banded option proposed, however again recognised that it had not been possible to analyse the potential financial impacts at consultation stage.

6.2 However, despite significant efforts by the Council to 'build' a potential banded scheme, the software supplier was unable to achieve this to the timescales required. Therefore, it is not possible to carry out robust and intensive testing, which would be required before even considering implementing a significantly changed CTS scheme for 2024/25 such as a working age banded scheme.

7. Significant Policy Impacts

7.1 Strategic Priorities

Let's drive inclusive economic growth - Council Tax Support has a key role in Reducing poverty and disadvantage by ensuring residents in those households who cannot afford to pay their Council Tax receive financial support. The changes to Council Tax Support form part of the national welfare reform agenda, with the risks of changes to numbers of claimants due to economic change and funding gap costs being passed from central government to local authorities. Central government now has a fixed cost funding arrangement whereas local government must set a scheme in advance of the financial year it applies to but cannot change it should circumstances change unexpectedly or if the assumptions used to decide the scheme are not realised. Central government states that this places responsibility for the local economy such as creating businesses and jobs on local government as part of the localism agenda.

Let's reduce all kinds of inequality - The Authority will be obliged to comply with its general equality duty under the Equality Act 2010. The scheme is being amended in line with statutory requirements and uprating the financial allowances. Early modelling shows the number of customers affected and pay how much (total and average per week). Once a decision has been made regarding the options of modelling, an equality impact assessment will be undertaken.

Council Tax Support awards are notified on Council Tax bills. If the scheme were likely to change, consultation with precepting authorities, stakeholders (such as Citizens Advice and Financial Inclusion Partnership) and residents would be required. Once a decision has been made, notification within Council Tax bills and annual CTS uprating letters would be issued advising claimants of the decision once their award for the new financial year is known.

7.2 Organisational Impacts

Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

The actual cost of the discount scheme in 2024/25 will not be known for certain until the end of the financial year and will be dependent on the actual caseload in year as well as the levels of Council Tax set by the City Council and the major precepting authorities.

An indicative range of costs for 2024/25 based on various scenarios and the options set out in section 5 of this report are set out in Appendix 1.

The estimated cost of the scheme, based on current caseload, is taken into consideration when calculating the Council's tax base for the financial year and will impact on the estimated Council Tax yield for the year. Any difference in the actual cost of the discount scheme to that estimated in the tax base calculation will be accounted for within the Collection Fund and will be taken into account when future years surpluses or deficits are declared.

It is proposed an Exceptional Hardship Fund of £25,000 be made available during 2024/25, if a 'no change' scheme is to be implemented. The cost of this fund is wholly borne by City of Lincoln Council as Billing Authority.

7.3 Legal Implications inc Procurement Rules

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (England) Regulations 2012, laid before Parliament on 22nd November 2012, set out the regulations for a default scheme and this was adopted by the Council subject to local policy needs in January 2013. The Secretary of State has issued amendment regulations setting out some changes that must be adopted by the Council for pensioners and the Council has also decided in 2013 to keep the schemes allowances and premiums in line with those for Housing Benefit for working age claimants. These are incorporated into amendments to the local scheme for approval by the Council.

The regulations for the City of Lincoln Council scheme proposed to be adopted are to be collated and made available for Council in January 2024.

7.4 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Authority will be obliged to comply with its general equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 – an Equality Impact Assessment is included at Appendix 2 to this report.

7.5 Staffing

No change to current staffing arrangements as a result of this policy

8. Risk Implications

- 8.1 The Council, along with the other preceptors, bears the risk of the cost of the Council Tax Support scheme should caseload increase causing the cost to increase more than predicted.
- 8.2 Any revisions to the scheme must be approved by 31st January 2024 before the financial year begins.
- 8.3 The scheme cannot be changed mid-year and therefore it is vital an appropriate scheme is in place.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Executive is asked to:

- 1) Consider this report, taking into consideration the responses as part of the consultation.
- 2) Executive is asked to recommend to Council that it:
 - (a) Approves a 'no change' to the core Council Tax Support scheme for 2024/25 as set out in Section 4 and subject to the technical amendments described in paragraph 5.3;
 - (b) Approves an Exceptional Hardship Fund of £25,000 to be available, for the financial year 2024/25;
 - (c) Approves further detailed modelling of a banded scheme for all working age customers, with delivery to be assured from our ICT provider at a timescale to allow for robust and accurate testing of such a potential scheme, with a view to consulting on such a scheme for 2025/26.

Key Decision	Yes
Do the Exempt Information Categories Apply	No
Call In and Urgency: Is the decision one to which Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?	No
Does the report contain Appendices?	Yes
If Yes, how many Appendices?	6
	Appendix 1 – Council Tax Support Modelling 2024/25
	Appendix 2 – Policy Scrutiny Committee Draft Minutes 3 rd October 2023
	Appendix 3 – Summary of public consultation responses
	Appendix 4 – Consultation response from Lincolnshire County Council
	Appendix 5 – Consultation response from Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner
	Appendix 6 – Equality Impact Assessment
List of Background Papers:	None
Lead Officer:	Martin Walmsley martin.walmsley@lincoln.gov.uk

Appendix 1: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme

Option 1: No change to the current scheme	Estimated Total Spend (all preceptors)	City of Lincoln Spend – 14.5%	Difference to MTFS (£1,288,500) – (saving) / cost	Amount expected to be collected using collection figure of 98.75%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% caseload change 1.9% Council Tax increase 	£8,313,821	£1,188,876	(£99,624)	(£98,378)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% caseload change 2.9% Council Tax increase 	£8,407,068	£1,202,211	(£86,289)	(£85,210)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% caseload increase 1.9% Council Tax increase 	£8,728,751	£1,248,211	(£40,289)	(£39,785)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% caseload increase 2.9% Council Tax increase 	£8,826,100	£1,262,132	(£26,368)	(£26,038)

Option 2: Income Banded Scheme	Estimated Total Spend (all preceptors)	City of Lincoln Spend – 14.5%	Difference to MTFS (£1,288,500) – (saving) / cost	Amount expected to be collected using collection figure of 98.75%
<i>Unable to provide figures, due to ICT provider not building scheme as had been requested.</i>				

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EXTRACT FROM COMMITTEE

Policy Scrutiny Committee

3 October 2023

Present: Councillor Emily Wood (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Liz Bushell, Councillor Natasha Chapman,
Councillor Bill Mara Councillor Mark Storer and Councillor
Calum Watt

Apologies for Absence: None.

20. Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25

Tracey Parker, Revenues and Benefits Manager:

- a. presented the proposed scheme for Local Council Tax Support for the financial year 2024/25 and accompanying Exceptional Hardship Payments Scheme, as part of the formal consultation period.
- b. gave the background to the scheme as detailed at paragraph 2 of the report and advised that there were currently 8458 residents claiming Council Tax Support in Lincoln.
- c. advised that there were 2,591 pensioners in receipt of Council Tax Support and they were protected under the legislation so that they would not be affected by any changes made to the Council Tax Support Scheme.
- d. further advised that there were 5,867 working age claimants who would be affected by any changes made to the scheme, and as such any potential reduction in support being provided. This figure includes those working age customers considered 'vulnerable'..
- e. highlighted the impacts of Covid-19 on the amount of Council Tax Scheme awarded, with significant increases in caseload and cost of the scheme as detailed at paragraph 3 of the report.
- f. referred to paragraph 4 of the report and gave an overview of the current Council Tax Support Scheme.
- g. advised that based on the current core elements of the existing scheme, caseload increases of 0% and 5% had been modelled, along with Council Tax increases of 1.9% and 2.9%. These were summarised in Appendix 1 of the report which gave an indication of the potential cost and savings to the City of Lincoln Council. Also included was the potential value for non-collection (based on projected collection in the tax base of 98.75%)

Appendix 2: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme – Policy Scrutiny Committee 3rd October 2023 Draft Minutes

- h. explained that as a billing authority the Council could decide whether or not to amend core elements of its Council Tax Support scheme each year. Schemes being consulted on were summarised at Appendix 1 of the report.
- i. referred to paragraph 5.3 and 5.4 of the report and explained the technical amendments and assumptions that had been made in developing the modelling for each Council Tax Support Scheme.
- j. reported that the options considered for consultation by Executive on 18 September 2023 were as follows:
 - Option 1: No change to the current scheme;
 - Option 2: Introduction of a 'banded scheme' for all working age customers (as detailed at paragraph 5.6 of the report)
- k. referred to paragraph 5.8 of the report which detailed the Exceptional Hardship Payments Scheme and proposed an Exceptional Hardship Budget of £35,000 be put in place for 2024/25.
- l. asked for Committee's consideration and comments as part of the formal consultation process.

Question: Did the exceptional hardship fund start from the beginning of the financial year?

Response: Yes, the proposal was to increase the exceptional hardship fund to £35k. It was expected that more claims would be made next year if we moved to a banding scheme.

Question: Could members have a copy of the consultation letter?

Response: The letter was available on the website; however a copy of the letter could be circulated to members following the meeting.

Question: Did members of the public have access to a hard copy of the consultation letter?

Response: We encouraged online responses to the consultation; however a hard copy could be provided on request.

Question: When did the consultation start?

Response: The consultation started on 2 October and would end on 13 November 2023.

RESOLVED that:

1. That consultation on a 'no change' scheme for 2024/25 be supported.
2. That consultation on a working age banded scheme for 2024/25 be supported, as well as further detailed modelling of a working age banded scheme for 2024/25 to take place.

**Appendix 2: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council –
Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme – Policy Scrutiny Committee 3rd
October 2023 Draft Minutes**

The Exceptional Hardship Scheme of £35,000 for 2024/25 be supported.

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Appendix 3: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme – Public Consultation Responses

Question 1

We have designed our proposed support scheme considering the following principles.

- Reduced support where it is likely that that a household has more income coming in or have savings to pay Council Tax
- Pension age – protection is statutory under Central Government Legislation

Do you agree with these principles?

Yes	127
No	28
Don't know	19
No response – on hardcopy document	1
Total	175

Question 2

Our current 2023/24 scheme has the following restrictions for working age customers –

- Capital is limited to £6,000;
- Minimum entitlement is £2 per week;
- Property banding capped at Band B – a customer in band C and above will only have their Council Tax Support calculated on a band B liability
- Backdating is restricted to 1 month since 1st April 2018;
- Temporary absence from home in line with Housing Benefit regulations

Our current scheme provides care leavers with a full exemption up to the age of 25 years
We have premium charges for properties left empty for more than 2 years, more than 5 years and more than 10 years.

We have an Exceptional Hardship Fund of £25,000

Pensioners and working age vulnerable are excluded from this scheme

Do you want the above scheme to stay the same for 2024/25 ?

Yes	151
No	9
Don't know	14
No response on hardcopy document	1
Total	175

Question 3

If you have answered No to Question 2 , or Don't know –

Can you please provide further comments below ?

NO	EXCEPTIONAL HARDSHIP FUND SHOULD BE INCREASED
YES	NO COMMENT
DON'T KNOW	GET RID OF COUNCIL TAX

Appendix 3: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme – Public Consultation Responses

NO	<i>capital limited to £12,000 (the £6,000 range is outdated in this day and age entitlement in some cases should be lowered to £1 per week or zero in some cases the hardship fund is very low for 2024/25 some of us can not afford the going rate and that includes myself</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>More help for those on Pensions and Universal credit (who are not eligible to work)</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>I HAVE TICKED YES MEANT NO</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>N/A</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>I don't know enough about people working to comment.</i>
NO	<i>PROPERTY BAND CAP</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>DON'T KNOW</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>Not sure about the difference between different types of bands</i>
NO	<i>£6000 savings is not a huge amount when you're disabled. As people constantly tell me "there are people out there that can do that for you" Correct; but by the time you have paid all these people to do the work that if you were fit and able to do for yourself for free your savings wouldn't matter so much but they very quickly get eaten up ie. Gardening, housework, decorating, support to leave your home, fuel that you can not cut back on due to certain disabilities. The list goes on</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>I have in the past received the hardship payment this year has been different. Though I appreciate everyone's suffering hardship but being disabled I have found it difficult.</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>I DON'T KNOW</i>
NO	<i>All households should pay council tax, the amount depending on their finances. I dont get the banding system, if someone lives in a more valuable house, doesnt mean they can afford the top tax payment.</i>
NO	<i>Although means very little to me, but I don't think it should be the same but I could be wrong.</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>I do not agree that the poor on benefits and/or disability premium benefits should be hit by any new scheme. They are struggling with cost of living as it. I do not agree anyone on any disability benefit especially if its a child should be hit. Its wrong morally and not humanitarian. I believe people with second homes should pay in this scheme.</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>I think it's ok</i>
YES	<i>I think people on pension credit should not have to pay council tax.</i>
NO	<i>Exceptional Hardship Fund should be increased. 25 000 is nothing to consider how many people lives in our area. Cost of living crisis is still here and people need much more help from you,</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>I am not in the category of working age group</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>I don't really understand the restrictions in the current 2023/24 scheme so can't say whether I want it to stay the same or change. I have no comment on this point, therefore</i>
don't know	<i>More gardening and maintenance done on grounds around communal flats</i>
No	<i>Pensioners and working age vulnerable are excluded from this scheme. Pensioners and vulnerable people need all the help they need. I think any empty properties shud be taken over and used to help homeless folks.</i>

Appendix 3: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme – Public Consultation Responses

Question 4

We are considering a banded scheme for our Working Age customers. This could have fixed non-dependant deductions and will apply to all working age customers, including those on Universal Credit and those Working Age customers who are considered to be vulnerable.

The banded scheme will consider who lives in the property and what the monthly household income is. It could look something like this – although at this time we are working through the final banding figures.

DISCOUNT	SINGLE	SINGLE 1 CHILD	SINGLE 2 + CHILDREN	COUPLE	COUPLE 1 CHILD	COUPLE 2 + CHILDREN
100%	£0.00 - £350.00	£0.00 - £650.00	£0.00 - £900.00	£0.00 - £550.00	£0.00 - £850.00	£0.00 - £1000.00
80%	£350.01 - £450.00	£650.01 - £750.00	£900.01 - £1000.00	£550.01 - 650.00	£850.01 - £950.00	£1000.01 - £1100.00
60%	£450.01 - £550.00	£750.01 - £850.00	£1000.01 - £1100.00	£650.01 - £750.00	£950.01 - £1050.00	£1100.01 - £1200.00
40%	£550.01 - £650.00	£850.01 - £950.00	£1100.01 - £1200.00	£750.01 - £850.00	£1050.01 - £1150.00	£1200.01 - £1300.00
20%	£650.01 - £750.00	£950.01 - £1050.00	£1200.01 - £1300.00	£850.01 - £950.00	£1150.01 - £1250.00	£1300.01 - £1400.00
0%	£750.01 +	£1050.00 +	£1300.00 +	£950.01 +	£1250.01 +	£1400.01 +

Under this scheme, we are considering ignoring the following incomes when we calculate the ‘income’ above. This will mean that someone who is working age and vulnerable will be given some additional protection.

Income that we will ignore for these purposes –

- Disability Living Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Child Benefit
- Child Maintenance
- War Disablement Benefits
- Government payments in respect of the provision of accommodation for refugees

Customers will be placed into a Council Tax Support band according to a calculation based on their individual circumstances. This will mean that small changes in the household income, either up or down, will not affect the council tax support if the calculation leaves the customer in the same band. Depending on the values of the bands, some customers may find that they still receive multiple changes if they move from one band to another. However, for the majority of people, this should reduce the number of changes to Council Tax Support over the year and also gives some clarity to customers as to what their entitlement to Council Tax Support will be.

We are also considering changes to some of the other elements of the current Council Tax Support scheme – including the following :

- Capital limit to be increased from £6,000 to £16,000

Appendix 3: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme – Public Consultation Responses

- Full working age banded scheme (regardless of if UC or legacy benefit).
- Removal of minimum award £2.00 per week.
- Removal of Council Tax Band B cap.
- Removal of earnings disregards and additional earnings disregard.
- Removal of all second adult rebate for working age.
- Removal of Self-employed minimum income floor.
- Disregard boarders/lodgers both room and income.
- Flat rate non-dependant deduction
- Remove any habitual residency test, recourse to public funds, leave to remain, etc criteria. If someone is deemed liable for Council Tax, then they are eligible to claim for CTS.

Do you agree that we should move Working Age Customers to a banded scheme ?

Yes	101
	Of these , 91 also said yes to retaining the current scheme
No	30
Don't know	43
No response on hardcopy document	1
Total	175

DON'T KNOW	<i>I agree with this in principle but, it will depend on the bands. Currently if it was to be £0-£350 it would mean that everyone on UC would only get an 80% discount. I would consider the first band to be £400 a month income minimum otherwise you will have some massive debt implications.</i>
NO	<i>THINK THERE SHOULD BE MORE HELP FOR SINGLE PEOPLE IN PRIVATE RESTED ACCOMMODATION WHO ON LOWER INCOME</i>
NO	<i>The Council Tax Support should be for people who cannot work due to cancers, strokes etc... People who work can do more hours to supplement their income, overtime etc... Sadly people with illnesses do not have this option also disabled people in small households no longer get the winter fuel allowance which is a disgrace and the council should help these vulnerable people who have to spend each day at home</i>
YES	<i>Being a pensioner on limited income the council tax reduction is a saving myself and other pensioners rely on. To keep the reduction would be an asset to all those pensioners</i>
YES	<i>well put together like it ,like a lot bless you</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>Every one pays enough council tax which has always risen from day one and never goes the other way unless you are entitled to any reduction.</i>
YES	<i>If it is within the remit of the Council, Personal allowances should be increased to the figure of £18,000. per year.</i>
YES	<i>Limit on capital should not be increased to £16,000 it is much too high</i>

Appendix 3: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme – Public Consultation Responses

DON'T KNOW	<i>ANY people on benefits should not have to pay. IF they have savings, they don't qualify for benefit anyway. Also, when you get benefit, it does not list paying council tax in its entitlement. Worded, it used to say "this is the amount calculated you need to live on" Anyone who tries to exist on benefit for fun is in for a big disappointment. Already most poor people, which includes benefit claimants are struggling with extreme fuel poverty. Making this struggle even harder will not help AT ALL.</i>
YES	<i>But the proposed banding is very punitive. For example, a single person renting and earning £600/month might face a benefit cap on their housing costs of, say, £400, so they will face a rental excess of at least £200, and a CTS banding of 40% support, so perhaps £80-£100 council tax per month payable. So their income is halved. Please think of the renter's who pay some rather egregious rents</i>
YES	<i>I am am a pensin age 76</i>
YES	<i>Not sure ive been of any help but understand that sorting this must be strenuous</i>
YES	<i>I feel that the current scheme and the proposed changes are fair and that the council are doing a good job under the circumstances</i>
YES	<i>Cost saving measures should be investigated, efficient management protocols inplace with performance bonuses payable, to any & all employees, from operative level, to the highest senior management positions in each departments. How ever targets cannot be met by cutting services down, nor the reduction of quality of the service provided, with possible consequence for individuals, teams,line of management. This could be in the form of the bonus scheme starting at a set prorata amount, at a starting point amount, so that should services prvided not meet their individual targets, a percentage can be deducted from the standing starting point bonus. The same would would apply to quality of service targets. Council spending should always be disclosed as public information & scrutiny, obviously a cost of inflation figure should be calculated using the Bank of Englands figures, to calculate the yearly increase that will obviously required. Also the percentage of increase due to the population increase, affecting the development requirements of more properties being developed, including new builds, of housing & business properties. This figure should also be a part of pubic freedom of access to all such information. Also the provision of all calculations used to reach any & all amendments costs, up or down, to any & all servives coverd under the Council Tax funds raised, & finance raised that is used to pay any & all departments. Im permanently disabled & registered as enhanced disabilities, recieving Enhanced P.I.P. & U.C. My interest is for my 3 grown & all working daughters, & for my grandsons living standards, now & in the future. Many thanks for your consideration of my thoughts, kindest regards,</i>
NO	<i>We have to protect the elderly and vulnerable in society whilst we are facing fuel and food financial hardship. But those that could work have to be shown that there is a need to contribute and not have a lifetime of living off the country. Also savings of £16,000 and above is an absolute luxury for many people so savings have to be considered, but I'm not sure how this would be governed as no doubt there are ways of hiding savings if there is financial gain to be made. A working model as above is a solid idea but the monthly incomes are too low to be expected to contribute the amount suggested. There are so many other things right now that are a priority that the numbers don't stack up.</i>
NO	<i>No comments at this time but will have comments to make on this in the near future.</i>
YES	<i>As a pensioner I would like to express my deep gratitude for the help I receive</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>I am on universal credit & low rates of both parts of PIP myself & I only just able to currently pay all my monthly bills & food for the month, so if I had to pay for council tax myself, that would end up coming out of my already stretched food budget for the month. As the cost of living crisis has increased my bills & how much I now have to pay for food, that I already had to make cuts to stuff each month & I just can't cut anything else Now other than food bill which will mean me only eating every other day or so. As I am currently only able to afford to eat one meal a day at the moment.</i>

Appendix 3: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme – Public Consultation Responses

YES	<i>As long as disability payment are not used, as i have heard they should not but are being</i>
YES	<i>I am not happy with the amount of calculations. I have had 6 different council tax calculations this year, and even paying montly i still receive new calculations saying I owe more, which cant possibly afford. From march to now my council tax has increased 200%, getting use to life not on benefits is hard enough, all this is massively increasing my anxiety.</i>
no response	<i>I was told to put move money into my pension scheme. I did, to have a happy retied but it all goes to pay gas, electr, council bills - that o.k but we have a your generation that do not pay anything but pension have to pay because they save up for a happy retierd. I like to thank Lincolnshire Council fo help and understand with me and my council tax. God bless Mrs Parker yours sincerely B</i>
NO	NO
YES	<i>don't think the £6k capital limit should be increased to £16k. If someone has that level of capital they should be ablr to pay their way towards public services. This is the same as removing the cap of band B. It their choice to live in higher band and should therefore have calculated the cost in living in these house. It is unfair for those in lower band to be subsidising them in some way. If the above is approved how much are you expecting the increase in the take up of CTS? Regarding the removal of residency check, how can you mitigate multiple claim of a person owning various properties especially if the council tax is not paid by tenant or they have a number of vacant properties. Also, foreign nationals should not be entitled in claiming from public funds that supposed to be for local residents.</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>do not agree that vulnerable and sick should be in this new banding scheme or any banding scheme. The poor are already struggling i do not understand why you would want to look at sick adults as making them worse off would harm there mental health and in turn more suicide. I agree with only the first and eight.</i>
DON'T KNOW	<i>Plese help who is financially facing hardship.</i>
YES	<i>Low income households should not pay council tax</i>
YES	<i>People on Industrial Injury Benefit should also have extra protection and that source of income should be disregarded. ALso, I do not agree that you should remove earnings disregards</i>
YES	<i>I'm not sure exactly how the current scheme operates, however, this banded scheme seems to make it very clear where a person stands in terms of the discount they can expect to receive (if any) concerning their Council Tax. Of course, if this change represents a disadvantage to residents or those who are working age, then I am not in favour. However, I DO support the creation of a situation where those who reasonably have the means to pay something towards their Council Tax (if not, all of it) then they should pay as a matter of principle to contribute fairly to the society we live in and to help uphold it for the better</i>
yes	<i>It has been a great help not paying council tax now that I'm disabled so thank you for your support over the last 4 years since I had an accident</i>

Lincolnshire County Council email response to Localised Council Tax Support 2024/25 consultation

Ref: AC/AH

Date: 15 November 2023

Dear Jaclyn,

SUBJECT: LCC RESPONSE TO NKDC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2024/25

Thank you for your email, received on the 4 October 2023, inviting Lincolnshire County Council to take part in the consultation of the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme changes for 2024/25.

In respect of council tax income, Lincolnshire County Council is a major precepting authority which receives approximately 72% of council tax raised in City of Lincoln (based on published 2023/24 data). As a major preceptor, any changes to the scheme proposed by the district can have a significant impact on the council tax income received by Lincolnshire County Council.

The option to introduce a banded scheme for all working age customers is consistent with the steps that other local authorities have taken, and would be expected to lead to benefits such as in administration as a result of a simplified scheme.

In order to understand the potential financial impact of any change, it is always preferable for analysis of impact to be available and shared. This has not been available during the consultation period. During engagement with officials from City of Lincoln Council, we have received assurance that one of the key principles behind the change is to keep the total cost of the scheme 'broadly' in line with the current position.

Lincolnshire County Council is supportive of this principle, and on the basis that the banded scheme option is consistent with this principle, Lincolnshire County Council is supportive of the proposed change.

County Offices, Newland
Lincoln LN1 1YL
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Once again, thank you for inviting the Council to take part in the overall consultation. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss the contents of this letter further, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Crookham
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director of Resources

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Lincolnshire Police & Crime Commissioner email response to Localised Council Tax Support 2024/25 consultation



**Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**
SAFER TOGETHER

Deepdale Lane, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 2LT
Telephone (01522) 947192 Fax (01522) 558739

E-Mail: lincolnshire-pcc@lincs.pnn.police.uk Website: www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk

Date: 16th November 2023
Our Ref: JF/ch/2023-1378

Jaclyn Gibson
Chief Finance Officer
City of Lincoln Council
City Hall
Beaumont Fee
LINCOLN
LN1 1DD

By Email: Jaclyn.Gibson@lincoln.gov.uk

Dear Jaclyn

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2024/25

Thank you for your letter of 4th October in which you seek views on City of Lincoln Council's proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25.

I note that two options are being consulted upon:

- Option 1: No change to the current scheme;
- Option 2: Introduction of a 'banded scheme' for all working age customers

In terms of Option 2, key objectives are to move towards a scheme that is more adaptable to Universal Credit regulations and to provide clarity to customers as to their entitlement to Council Tax Support. I note that detailed modelling on the specific criteria to be applied and the resulting financial impact of the scheme on both customers and the collection fund are still being modelled. However, in principle, the PCC is supportive of proposals which simplify the scheme subject to minimal impact on overall council tax receipts. Simplification is both beneficial for customers and likely to lead to efficiencies in administering the scheme.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Julie Flint

Julie Flint
Chief Finance Officer

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**Appendix 6: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme –
Equality Impact Assessment**

Equality with Human Rights Analysis Toolkit



SECTION A

Name of policy / project / service	Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25
Background and aims of policy / project / service at outset	<p>The Council must review and reapprove its Council Tax Support scheme each year as part of its budget setting process, and make any necessary changes for 1st April 2024.</p> <p>It is recognised that the combined effects of the wider welfare reform package on the residents of the District requires a robust and detailed Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).</p> <p>This EIA makes reference to data derived from the current Council Tax Support caseload.</p> <p>Formal consultation commenced on 2nd October 2023, utilising a combination of the Council's website, press releases, social media and letters issued to those in receipt of Council Tax Support directing the public to the on-line consultation documents, as well as potentially interested organisations such as Citizens Advice, and other Council Tax major precepting authorities.</p> <p>The level of changes to the current scheme are not yet known but the individuals / groups impacted by the selection of changes are being identified through ICT systems.</p> <p>Each of these are being considered in relation to how the changes might differently and / or adversely affect people with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The EIA assesses our approach to consultation on the proposed scheme and will be added to during and following the results of this consultation. The consultation will be monitored with information used to develop the draft scheme.</p>
Person(s) responsible for policy or decision, or advising on decision,	Martin Walmsley, Assistant Director – Shared Revenues and Benefits

**Appendix 6: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme –
Equality Impact Assessment**

and also responsible for equality analysis	
Key people involved <i>i.e. decision-makers, staff implementing it</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision Makers – City of Lincoln Members, and Executive Staff implementing any changes

SECTION B

This is to be completed and reviewed as policy / project / service development progresses

350	Is the likely effect positive or negative? (please tick all that apply)			Please describe the effect and evidence that supports this?*	Is action possible to mitigate adverse impacts?	Details of action planned including dates, or why action is not possible
	Positive	Negative	None			
Age	Y	Y		<p>Pensioners are a protected group for the purposes of Council Tax support Scheme so will not be financially affected, therefore the reduction in benefit will be borne by the remainder of those in receipt of Council Tax Support (working age).</p> <p>There could be a risk people of working age who will bear all the financial impact of the changes, may 'resent' the fact that pensioners are exempt. Working age claimants with younger children under 5 are more likely to be unemployed or work part-time hours (and are mostly female), therefore childcare costs could be a barrier to employment. However, the current Council</p>	Yes	<p>Action dependant on outcome of consultation and Executive recommendation on 2nd January 2024</p> <p>With effect from 1st April 2024</p>

**Appendix 6: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme –
Equality Impact Assessment**

				<p>Tax Support scheme takes childcare costs up to a certain level into account, also Universal Credit takes account of childcare costs in the assessment of entitlement.</p> <p>Council Tax Support will only be available to those young people who are liable to pay Council Tax and this only applies to householders over 18 years of age. If the young person is living in their parent or other householder's home they will not be liable to pay Council Tax so will not be affected by the Council Tax Support scheme unless they are a non-dependent in the householder's home.</p>		
35 Disability including carers (see Glossary)	Y	Y		The Department for Work and Pensions states that disabled people are less likely to be in employment. Proposals will be carefully considered in relation to this group.	Yes	<p>Action dependant on outcome of consultation and Executive recommendation on 2nd January 2024</p> <p>With effect from 1st April 2024</p>
Gender re-assignment			Y	This does not have any effect on the decisions made under this policy.	N/A	
Pregnancy and maternity			Y	This does not have any effect on the decisions made under this policy.	N/A	
Race			Y	<p>Neither race nor ethnicity itself have any effect on the application of the scheme.</p> <p>Council Tax Support is proposed to be considered to potentially affect all working age customers.</p>	N/A	

**Appendix 6: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme –
Equality Impact Assessment**

Religion or belief			Y	There is no evidence at this stage of an impact in relation to religion or belief	N/A	
Sex			Y	This does not have any effect on the decisions made under this policy.	N/A	
Sexual orientation			Y	This does not have any effect on the decisions made under this policy.	N/A	
Marriage/civil partnership			Y	This does not have any effect on the decisions made under this policy.	N/A	
Human Rights (see page 8)			Y	This does not have any effect on the decisions made under this policy.	N/A	

- Evidence could include information from consultations; voluntary group feedback; satisfaction and usage data (i.e. complaints, surveys, and service data); and reviews of previous strategies

Did any information gaps exist?	Y/N/NA	If so what were they and what will you do to fill these?
	Y	Further modelling is taking place in relation to impacts of a working age banded scheme.

**Appendix 6: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme –
Equality Impact Assessment**

**SECTION C
Decision Point - Outcome of Assessment so far:**


Based on the information in section B, what is the decision of the responsible officer (please select one option below):

- | | Tick here |
|---|------------------|
| ✓ No equality or human right Impact (your analysis shows there is no impact) - sign assessment below | [] |
| ✓ No major change required (your analysis shows no potential for unlawful discrimination, harassment)- sign assessment below | [x] |
| ✓ Adverse Impact but continue (record objective justification for continuing despite the impact)-complete sections below | [] |
| ✓ Adjust the policy (Change the proposal to mitigate potential effect) -progress below only AFTER changes made | [] |
| ✓ Put Policy on hold (seek advice from the Policy Unit as adverse effects can't be justified or mitigated) -STOP progress | [] |

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 353 Conclusion of Equality Analysis (describe objective justification for continuing) </div>	<p>Council Tax has to be paid by all those liable to pay it but some people will have limited means to do this because of their low income or they have higher living costs due to illnesses, disabilities or family or personal circumstances.</p> <p>Council Tax is required to raise money to fund Council services but a certain amount of money is directed to those who cannot afford to pay the Council Tax to reduce the financial burden on those households because they need it or because society considers that financial support is beneficial to help certain categories of people in certain situations.</p> <p>If a banded scheme was to be implemented, detailed testing of impacts on groups will be fully considered.</p>
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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 353 When and how will you review and measure the impact after implementation?* </div>	<p>The policy and Council Tax Support is the responsibility of City of Lincoln Council. It is approved by Executive and then Full Council. It will be administered by the Council's Shared Revenues and Benefits Service.</p> <p>The Council continually analyses its Council Tax Support caseload and produce figures showing the main groups of working age claimants getting Council Tax Support now and likely to be affected by changes to the current scheme. Extracts of the data will allow monitoring of the main types of people affected by the policy can take place as required.</p>
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**Appendix 6: 2nd January 2024 – Executive - City of Lincoln Council – Council Tax Support 2024/25 Scheme –
Equality Impact Assessment**

Checked and approved by responsible officer(s) (Sign and Print Name)		Date	
Checked and approved by Assistant Director (Sign and Print Name)	 Martin Walmsley	Date	15 th September 2023.

COUNCIL

16 JANUARY 2024

SUBJECT:	EXTRACT FROM COMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE – 15 JANUARY 2024 - COUNCIL HOUSE AND GARAGE RENTS INCREASE 2024/25
REPORT BY:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
LEAD OFFICER:	ALI HEWSON, SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

1. Matter for Council

1.1 To approve the basis of rent calculation for changes to individual Council house rents which represents an increase in the average calculated 52-week council house net rent in 2024/25 of 7.7% for social housing rents (£6.03 p/w) and affordable rents (£10.08 p/w) increase per property.

1.2 To approve an increase to Council garage rents for 2024/25 by 3%.

1.2

1.3

List of Background Papers: Executive– 15 January 2024, Minute to be tabled.
Council House and Garage Rents Increase 2024/25 - Report
+App A

Lead Officer: Ali Hewson, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Telephone – 873372

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SUBJECT:	COUNCIL HOUSE AND GARAGE RENTS INCREASE 2024/25
DIRECTORATE:	HOUSING AND INVESTMENT
REPORT AUTHOR:	JORDAN ALLMOND, HOUSING BUSINESS SUPPORT MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To propose an increase to current council house rents of 7.7% within the terms of the Government's Rent Policy for social housing and to seek approval for the introduction of revised rents from Monday 1st April 2024.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In October 2017, the government announced its intention to set a long-term rent deal. This would permit annual rent increases for both social and affordable rent properties of up to Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus 1% from 1 April 2020 for a period of at least five years.
- 2.2 In keeping with the current Housing Business Plan, approved by Council, and the Government's Rent Guidelines, the increase for 2024/25 should be based on CPI in the previous September (September 2023 = 6.7%) plus 1.0% as above. For a total 7.7% rent increase.
- 2.3 Having considered the impact on our tenants and other pressures facing household incomes, and protecting the most vulnerable in our community; the Council also recognises the economic and financial pressures it has in delivering services to its customers, and therefore proposes to apply a rental increase of 7.7% as above in paragraph 2.2.
- 2.4 The proposed level of rent increase for 2024/25 will come into effect from Monday 1 April 2024. Budgeted rental income for the year, subject to approval, will be circa £35,213,060.
- 2.5 The average weekly social housing rent for the City of Lincoln Council based on data as of 4 December 2023, for net social housing rent (calculated over 52 weeks) will increase by an average of between £5.40 and £6.78 per week in 2024/25 for 98% of our properties. As shown in table 1 below:

Table 1.

Property type	Average Increase	New average rent	No properties
1 Bed	£5.40	£76.44	3028
2 bed	£6.13	£85.81	2621
3 Bed	£6.78	£94.79	1582
4 bed	£7.22	£100.99	116
5 bed	£7.52	£105.21	4
6+ bed	£8.33	£116.53	8
Total Properties			7359

There are 431 properties charged at an Affordable Rent which is higher than social housing rent. Based on data as of 04 December 2023, the increase on the average weekly net rent (calculated over 52 weeks) will be between £8.90 and £10.17 in 2024/25 for 92% of our properties. As shown in table 2 below:

Table 2.

Property type	Average Increase	New average rent	No properties
1 Bed	£8.90	£129.19	111
2 bed	£9.46	£137.35	164
3 Bed	£10.17	£147.92	122
4 bed	£11.69	£170.01	33
5 bed	£16.34	£237.80	1
6+ bed	£0.00	£0.00	0
Total Properties			431

Note: affordable rent properties have a new market rent valuation each time they become void, and the rent is charged at 80% of the market rent.

2.6 Council Garage Rents 2024/25

An increase in garage rents of 3% is proposed in line with the Authority's Fees and Charges increase. This would result in an average increase in the rent charged to £9.65 per week for 2024/25 (based on a calculated 52-week charge period), an increase of £0.28 per week.

Research has shown that the garage rents in Lincoln are mid-range when compared to similar locations in the East Midlands. A review of garage provision is currently underway, and we are committed to a fundamental revaluation of the garage rent structure in the forthcoming year, as part of our wider garage strategy.

- 2.7 The Lincoln Tenants' Panel (LTP) will be consulted on this report prior to Executive meeting. Their comments and observations will be reported verbally during the Executive Committee meeting.

This report will be referred to Full Council for approval to ensure that rent notices can be sent to tenants prior to the start of the new financial year and providing them with the requisite 28-day notice period required by law and the tenancy agreement.

3. Background

- 3.1 The national Rent Convergence Policy and Social Rent Guidance was introduced in April 2002, the aim of which was those rents in the social housing sector (local

authority rents and those charged by housing associations) should be brought onto a common system based on a formula set by Government. The formula creates a “formula rent” for each individual property which is calculated based on:

- The relative value of the property;
- Relative local income levels; and
- The size of the property.

The formula rent is often also referred to as the “target rent” and is the maximum allowable rent the Council can charge on a social rent property. The City Council and other social landlords are expected to move the actual rent of a property (which may be lower or higher than the formula rent) to the formula rent over time.

- 3.2 Members will be aware that the financing for council housing was changed in April 2012 – the ‘Self-Financing Regime’ was introduced under which local authorities were required to buy themselves out of the national housing subsidy regime in return for the keeping of future rental income at local level. The valuation of the housing stock and the Council’s Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan was based on rental income rising in line with the Government’s rent convergence policy and rent guidelines in place at that time.

- 3.3 On 15 November 2021, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) formerly Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) updated the Rent Standard guidance that registered providers of social housing must stay within.

The Rent Standard is one of three economic standards that the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) expects private registered providers of social housing to comply with, this also applies to Local Authority providers of social housing. It sets the requirements around how registered providers set and increase rents for social housing in line with government policy as set out in DLUHC’s Policy Statement on Rents for Social Housing.

In September, each year the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) figure is recorded. This is used to establish the limit on annual rent increases for social housing. As such the limit on annual rent increases for the financial year 2024/25 is 7.7% as set out above in paragraph 2.2.

- 3.4 Following divergence on increases to actual rents, compared to increases to target rents, as set out in tables 3 and 4 below, 7355 properties are now charged a rent below their target rent. The Council will continue to increase rents on properties to their respective target rent when they become void.

A total of four properties are charged a rent higher than their target rent, which are still within the allowable 5% flexibility under Government policy. The average being £2.03 per week higher than target. The Council will reduce these properties to their target rent upon re-let.

Table 3. City of Lincoln Council Rent Increases

Year	Limit	Actual
2020-21	2.7%	2.7%
2021-22	1.5%	1.5%
2022-23	4.1%	3.6%
2023-24	7%	6.5%
2024-25	7.7%	7.7%*

*Proposed

Table 4. Target Rent Inflation

Year	Inflation	Additional 1%	Total
2020-21	1.7%	1%	2.7%
2021-22	0.5%	1%	1.5%
2022-23	3.1%	1%	4.1%
2023-24	10.1%	1%	11.1%
2024-25	6.7%	1%	7.7%

7% cap legislated by Government for 2023-24 for current rents, but not target rents.

Note: The above table is extracted from the Government limit on annual rent increases and must be used to adjust the 2000-01 formula rent to current year levels.

- 3.5 As a Local Authority we have incurred huge extra costs over the past two years as a result of economic conditions; interest rate increases, inflationary increases to costs of materials, employees, and transport costs; and the Council, like most households and businesses, has also dealt with exponential increases in energy costs. All of these have driven up the costs of providing housing services.

Facing the above economic and financial challenges, over the past two years the Council has taken a considered approach to rental increases to tenants and their households, and balanced the need for additional revenue to cover the increased costs it has faced. In 2022/2023 a lower increase was approved at 3.6% (compared to a 4.1% maximum) and in 2023/24 at 6.5% (compared to a 7% maximum) respectively.

- 3.6 As at week commencing 27 November 2023 there are 7,790 council housing rent properties of those that have a current active tenancy: -
- 23% (25% previously reported in February 2023) are in receipt of full housing benefit payment.
 - 9% (10% previously reported in February 2023) are in receipt of partial housing benefit payment.
 - 41% (36% previously reported in February 2023) are in receipt of Universal Credit.
 - 27% (29% previously reported in February 2023) do not receive any of the above.

4. Impact of Government Policy on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 4.1 Contextually it should be noted that in July 2015 the Government announced that Social Housing rents would be reduced by 1% year on year from 2016 for four years. The impact/loss created from this is compounded by the fact that Local Authorities would have been increasing rents in line with guidance, IE CPI plus 1% over the period not reducing by 1%.

The impact on the City of Lincoln's HRA is an estimated rent loss of £17,000,000 over that four-year period. This income would have been spent on improving existing stock and adding homes to our stock which are desperately needed by our community.

- 4.2 The Government's Right to Buy (RTB) programme sales have negatively impacted on the council's current stock and therefore rental income. To date (April to December 2023) the Council has received 43 RTB applications (62 RTB applications in the same period last year). Table 5 below shows the total amount properties sold under the Right to Buy:

Table 5.

2022/23 RTB Applications		2023/24 RTB Applications	
Received Apr-Dec 2022	62	Received Apr-Dec 2023	43
Actually SOLD		Actually SOLD	
1 bed	4	1 bed	3
2 bed	16	2 bed	9
3 bed	19	3 bed	10
4 bed	0	4 bed	0
Total sold to date	39	Total sold to date	22

Note: *the loss of 3+-bedroom homes has a significant impact on our ability to provide family homes.*

5. Strategic Priorities

5.1 Let's reduce all kinds of inequality

The Government policy is primarily about reducing the welfare benefits bill, but it does help those just above benefit thresholds. Council house rents remain significantly lower than the rent levels in the private rented sector in the city.

5.2 Let's deliver quality housing

The new rent policy recognises the need for a stable financial environment to support the delivery of new homes and to increase resources available to maintain current homes. The Council's 30-year Housing Business Plan commits the Council to improving our existing housing stock, reduce carbon emissions, build more homes and improve the environment of estates. The whole of the extra income from increased rents will be used solely for the benefit of tenants.

6. Organisational Impacts

6.1 Finance (including Whole Life Costs where Applicable)

Council Housing Rents 2024/25

The impact of this change as of week commencing 4 December 2023 will be an increase to the current average calculated 52-week net social housing rent, from £78.14 per week to £84.17 per week – an average increase of £6.03 per week, and an increase on affordable rent from £130.90 per week to £140.98 an average increase of £10.08 per week.

(Please note that affordable rent properties, each time they become void have a new market rent valuation completed and the rent is charged at 80% of the market rent.)

6.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no legal nor procurement implications arising from this report.

6.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

When proposals of rent chargeable on social housing are recommended, they are applied across the board to all properties irrespective of any equality characteristic of the tenant and are applied in line with government policy and legislation.

There are policies that allow tenants to claim monetary assistance to pay their rent, for example Housing Benefit and Universal Credit for such things as age and disability. Thus, there are no direct equality, diversity, or human rights implications in this report.

6.4 Human Resources

None.

6.5 Land, Property and Accommodation

None.

6.6 Significant Community Impact &/or Environmental Impact

None.

6.7 Corporate Health and Safety Implications

None.

7. Risk Implications

7.1 (i) Options Explored

Options explored; to calculate the rent increase at rate at of 7.7% and the impact on the HRA.

7.2 (ii) Key Risks Associated with the Preferred Approach

The main risks are:-

- That the Government makes further changes to the Rent Guidelines which will undermine the Business Plan,
- That there is Government intervention in capping future CPI levels at rates lower than those assumed in the MTFS and HRA Business Plan.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 To agree the basis of rent calculation for changes to individual Council house rents as set out in paragraphs 2 and 6 of this report, which represents an increase in the average calculated 52-week council house net rent in 2024/25 of 7.7% for social housing rents (£6.03 p/w) and affordable rents (£10.08 p/w) increase per property.
- 8.2 To increase Council garage rents for 2024/25 in accordance with the proposal in paragraph 2.6 above by 3%.
- 8.3 To refer this report and recommendations to Full Council on Tuesday 16 January 2024.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? One

List of Background Papers: None

Lead Officer: Jordan Allmond, Housing Business Support Manager
Email address: Jordan.Allmond@Lincoln.gov.uk

Appendix 1

IMPACT OF INCREASES ON ALL TENANTS – APRIL 2024 (Based on an average 52 week rent year inclusive of all rent types)

Average rent increase per property by number of bedrooms per week	
No. of beds	Increase per week
1 & bedsits	£5.52
2	£6.32
3	£7.02
4	£8.21
5	£9.28 *
6+	£8.33 *
* No affordable rents for 6 + bed properties. Only 1 affordable rent 5 bed property.	

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COUNCIL**16 JANUARY 2024**

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES
DIRECTORATE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
LEAD OFFICER: ALI HEWSON – SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To agree amended Membership for the following areas:

- Representatives on Outside Bodies

2. Background

2.1 At the Council's Annual Meeting, which took place on Tuesday 16 May 2023, appointments to Committees and Sub-Committees (including substitutes), Chairman and Vice-Chairman and representatives onto Outside Bodies were agreed for the current Municipal Year.

2.2 Below is a proposed amendment to the list of outside bodies schedule: -

Outside Body	Nomination
Developmentplus	Councillor G Hewson to replace Councillor Sue Burke

3. Equality Implications

3.1 Representation by Members of the Council on trusts/outside bodies ensures that the Council's social inclusion and equality agendas are cascaded through organisations both within and outside the City.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 As referred to in the Constitution it is the function of Council to receive nominations of representatives to serve on outside bodies/trusts.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 None arising from this report.

6. Recommendation

6.1 That amendment be made to the appointments list in accordance with paragraph 2.2 above.

List of Background Papers: None

Lead Officer: Ali Hewson, Democratic Services Officer
Alison.hewson@lincoln.gov.uk

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