

Present: Councillor Gary Hewson (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Helena Mair, Councillor Thomas Dyer,
Councillor Ronald Hills, Councillor Lucinda Preston,
Councillor Pat Vaughan, Councillor Loraine Woolley,
Councillor Laura McWilliams and Councillor
Rebecca Longbottom

Apologies for Absence: None.

1. Confirmation of Minutes - 28 March 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2019 be confirmed.

2. Confirmation of Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee Minutes - 19 March 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2019 be confirmed.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Helena Mair declared a Personal Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Homelessness in Lincoln - The Current Situation'. Her husband was a Trustee of the YMCA.

Councillor Pat Vaughan declared a Personal Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Financial Performance - Outturn 2018/19'. His granddaughter worked in the Council's finance department.

4. Homelessness in Lincoln - The Current Situation

Yvonne Fox, Assistant Director of Housing:

- Presented a report which provided the Performance Scrutiny Committee with information relating to the provision of homelessness services following the enactment of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 on 3 April 2019.
- Explained that the definition of homeless or threatened with homelessness had also been changed, with the Act extending the number of days before a person became threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days. This change had been introduced to enable people to apply for help and advice at an earlier stage and to give the local authority time to prevent homelessness or give advice to enable the applicant to secure alternative accommodation.
- Reported that a significant amount of work was required by local authorities in preparation for the new duties, which came into effect in April 2019. The Housing Solutions Team at the City Council had received specialist training and had worked very hard over the last year to ensure that the authority was statutorily compliant with the new Act.

- Reported that a review was currently underway into the processes and procedures that were being used within the service to look at the best way to deliver the service in the future. This was in response to the increase in the number of people approaching the Council for advice and an increase in the number of people the authority had accepted a duty for following implementation of the Act.
- Highlighted that the city had a shortfall of adequate temporary accommodation, with provisions that were in place not being sufficient for the current demand in terms of the number of units that people needed, the variety of needs required and the level of support available once a person or family were placed into that type of accommodation.
- Updated the Committee on the successful bid from the Rough Sleeper Initiative to reduce and prevent rough sleeping in the city centre. A Rough Sleeper Project Team had commenced in October 2018 which encompassed multi-agency professionals and included accommodation at the Corner House, a complex needs unit owned and managed by the Framework Housing Association. An extension to the opening hours at the Nomad Night Shelter had also been introduced to include a day centre run by the YMCA, offering day services to those who were street homeless. In addition, the team had access to five bedsit type units provided by the YMCA to both relieve and prevent rough sleeping for those with limited options.
- Reported that additional funding secured in December 2018 would see the opening of a 'Somewhere Safe To Stay Hub' with appropriate support workers. This would allow up to eight service users at any time to access the Hub, for a period of 72 hours. Whilst on site the service users would be assessed for all needs and started on not only their housing pathway but also facilitating access to health, substance misuse and other support services.
- Invited members' comments and questions.

Question: How many people had the Council dealt with or helped in 2018/19?

Response: Based on figures for April to December 2018, this was confirmed as 538.

Question: How many preventions had the Council completed?

Response: Based on figures for April to December 2018, this was confirmed as 161.

Question: How many people was the Council currently in the process of helping?

Response: This was confirmed as 101.

Question: How many people were homeless on the streets currently? How many were there at the beginning of the process?

Response: As at the end of May 2019 there were 31 people classified as homeless on the streets of Lincoln. The official count took place in the Autumn or early Winter each year. In November 2017 the number of homeless people was

28 and in November 2018 it was 26. It was acknowledged that there were trends associated with homelessness and more people tended to live on the streets during summer months. Of the 31 people currently classified as homeless, seven had no access to assistance as they were from outside of the United Kingdom and had no recourse to public funds. A reconnection service to their country of origin would be offered, however.

Question: What happened if someone was homeless and had children? Were they classed as a priority?

Response: The team encouraged people to discuss their circumstances early in order that it could provide preventative advice. Unfortunately the Council was unable to stop the process of eviction, which was why early intervention was so important. If a person with children approached the Council and were still in accommodation, the team would explore temporary solutions such as any friends or family in the area in the interim and they would also be given priority status on the Council's waiting list for housing. However, there were circumstances whereby temporary accommodation was required relatively urgently, with cases of domestic violence highlighted as a common example. The Council had a duty to provide somewhere safe for families to reside should they be at risk of homelessness and sometimes the only option available was to provide accommodation at bed and breakfasts within the city. Families with children located in bed and breakfasts were only placed there in emergencies when no other provision was available and would be moved out to other accommodation as soon as possible. It was reported that a review would be undertaken of the Council's temporary accommodation provision in due course, acknowledging that there were currently limitations in respect of larger families in particular. It was noted that the authority was sometimes able to make use of empty Council properties and there would also be opportunities to work with private landlords in the city. The average length of a stay in temporary accommodation across the board, not solely relating to those people with children, was 3.6 weeks.

Question: How much was temporary accommodation costing in bed and breakfasts compared to the original budget?

Response: Additional bed and breakfast costs for 2018/19 were £101,000 overspent against budget, however, these costs had been met by the Council via homelessness and new burdens grant funding from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Comment: An area like Lincoln would attract people likely to be homeless with it being the only city in the county and having associated services and facilities available.

Response: Lincoln, similar to cities like York and Cambridge, was attractive to people struggling with homelessness due to its Cathedral city status and amenities such as the hospital. It was reported that other authorities in the county had received funding to set up rough sleeper teams, with these being established in East Lindsey and South Kesteven.

Question: How were 'foreign' citizens defined from the perspective of those people currently classified as homeless who were outside of the United Kingdom and therefore had no recourse to public funds? How did EU nationals differ from refugees in this respect, for example?

Response: It was defined in legislation that refugees or people with unlimited leave to remain in the country would be entitled to apply for assistance. EU nationals entering the country to work would be entitled to apply for benefits and housing assistance, but only if they remained in employment. Unfortunately there were cases whereby EU nationals, for example, lost their employment meaning that they also lost their right to assistance. People under these circumstances represented a group of people the Council was unable to assist, other than to provide a reconnection service to their country of origin.

Question: Was the third sector being utilised enough in order to address the issue of homelessness in Lincoln?

Response: The Council was working very closely with other organisations, particularly statutory organisations and the third sector, to properly address homelessness in Lincoln.

Question: In response to the additional funding secured for the 'Somewhere Safe To Stay Hub', how much had the service cost, how much of a contribution had the Council received and what impact would it make?

Response: It was not possible at this stage to confirm the exact figure as there were a number of costs associated with the Hub and it was classed as a commercially sensitive scheme, however, all associated costs had been met by the grant funding provided by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The scheme had been in operation from the end of March so beds and services were available, with the facility up and running. Several officials from the Ministry were monitoring its use however early indications were that the facility had been very successful, with some cases already resulting in referrals to accommodation either in the city or elsewhere in the country.

Question: Did the Council still offer guaranteed bonds?

Response: Yes, a reasonable amount was issued in accordance with the Bond Guarantee Scheme.

Question: Was the number of 'hidden' homeless families, such as those who frequently moved between friends and family, for example, recorded?

Response: The main problem with circumstances such as these was that they were hidden and so the Council was simply not aware of them. The new legislative changes had been designed to encourage people to approach local authorities for help and advice. If a local authority had reason to believe that a person may become homeless it had a duty to act and help.

Question: The funding in place for this year and the subsequent year would make a huge difference to the issue in Lincoln, but it was worrying what would happen when the funding came to an end. Had any consideration been given at this stage as to what the Council would do to address homelessness in the city once the funding ceased?

Response: The Council had received a significant amount of funding over a two year period which had assisted in the establishment of lots of new services that were working very well and helping a lot of people. The rough sleeper team, for example, had already helped over 200 people get into accommodation. It was

unclear at this stage what would happen in two years but officers hoped the funding would continue, given the significant impact it had already made.

It was reported that there were essentially two stages to the homelessness process from the perspective of the local authority, namely prevention and relief. If the authority was unable to prevent homelessness in eight weeks the local connection and priority need rules would then apply. It would not be a case, therefore, that the City of Lincoln Council would offer anyone outside of the city a Council house, for example.

Question: If someone presented themselves as homeless from another part of the country, did the Council have a duty to prevent homelessness for that individual?

Response: The Council would solely provide that person with advice as they would not be able to demonstrate a local connection. In such circumstances it was better for the person to seek assistance from the local authority where they could demonstrate a local connection but the Council would still have a duty to provide any necessary advice.

Question: How long were people confirmed as being homeless waiting to be housed in a property when entitled, and what could be done to speed this up?

Response: This varied between property type but all statutory homeless households were directly matched to the next available property as quickly as possible.

Question: Were there any conditions imposed on the Council as part of the grants allocated by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government?

Response: The Ministry agreed a delivery action plan for all projects which it monitored the Council's performance against. To date, the Council had met all expected requirements.

Question: How did the Council follow up its duty of care when people, such as rough sleepers, had been re-housed?

Response: Tenancy support was available through an agency known as P3 for ex-rough sleepers, which was currently funding by Adult Social Care. Supporting People contracts, managed by Lincolnshire County Council, were due to be re-commissioned in October 2019. The City Council was in the process of reviewing its practices and procedures regarding the sustainability of tenancies.

Question: Did the Council have a measure around working with prisons and hospitals, for example, to assist a person's transition from prison into society in order to avoid them becoming homeless?

Response: The rough sleeper team worked closely with Lincoln Prison, the Probation Service and Lincoln Hospital to address this issue and provide advice and assistance where necessary.

It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. New Strategic Performance Measures

The Business Manager, Corporate Policy:

- Presented the new strategic performance measure set to the Performance Scrutiny Committee, for consideration.
- Reported that the measures included within this set were to be reported to the Council's Corporate Management Team, Performance Scrutiny Committee and Executive on a quarterly basis from quarter one 2019/20 and would replace the existing measure set reported over the past few years.
- Reported that the new measure set was formed of 68 targeted measures, 17 volumetric measures and six corporate measures. Appendices A to C showed the new set of strategic performance measures with targets split by directorate and by quarterly or annual collection.
- Invited members' comments and questions.

Question: Given that the Major Developments Directorate did not have any measures associated with its service areas, was their performance measured in another way?

Response: The project management nature of the services delivered by the Major Developments Directorate meant that Post Implementation Reviews were undertaken on each particular project, focusing on whether the project was delivered on budget, on time and in accordance with the specification from a quality perspective.

Question: Why was there no target allocated to the number of incidents captured on CCTV?

Response: This particular measure was volumetric as it was considered inappropriate to set a target on something the Council was unable to influence. The number of incidents would still be measured and reported.

Question: Why had the target associated with waste and recycling been reduced by so much?

Response: This had been reduced in line with what was happening nationally in respect of waste and recycling and was considered as a more realistic level. This was a particular target that would be the subject of constant review and consideration as there were so many changes due nationally, together with the introduction of the new countywide Waste Management Strategy.

Question: Why had the target associated with the electorate been reduced?

Response: This had initially been reduced to represent a more realistic figure, however, it was proposed that this particular measure be changed to volumetric given that it was up to an individual whether or not they submitted an application to go onto the electoral register. This proposal would be considered by the relevant Portfolio Holder in due course.

It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6. Q4 2018-2019 Operational Performance Report

The Business Manager, Corporate Policy:

- Presented the Performance Scrutiny Committee with a summary of the operational performance position for quarter four of the financial year 2018/19.
- Reported key headlines from performance results in respect of those areas performing well:
 - the number of users logged into the self-service system MyInfo had increased from 9,865 at quarter four last year to 10,199 at quarter four this year;
 - the average time take to answer a call in customers services had decreased by 12 seconds compared to quarter four last year at 92 seconds;
 - the business rates collection rate had exceeded its upper target of 99.15% at 99.81%;
 - the average days taken to process housing benefit claim changes of circumstances had beaten its five day target at 4.12 days;
 - the percentage of invoices paid within 30 days had improved from 95.17% in 2018 to 97.79% this year;
 - the total number of users of health and recreation facilities increased by 29,740 users since quarter four last year to 247,921 this year;
 - the percentage of food health and safety controls that should have been completed and had been had improved from 82.1% in quarter three to 96.5% in quarter four;
 - Lincoln premises achieved an average food hygiene rating of 4.69 out of a possible 5;
 - the percentage of planning applications approved was above its target of 97%, outturning at 98%;
 - the number of empty homes brought back into use reached 47 in 2018/19;
 - the rent collected as a proportion of rent owed had surpassed its target of 96.50%, achieving outturn of 99.24%;
 - the final level of tenant arrears was better than the target of 3.50% with an outturn figure of 2.66%;
 - the percentage of reactive repairs completed within target time was above the target of 97.50% at 98.65%;
 - face to face enquiries at City Hall had decreased in quarter four to 4,731 compared to 9,826 in quarter four last year;
 - new benefit claims had decreased from 7,296 in quarter four last year to 5,252 in quarter four this year. Universal Credit had affected the housing benefit claims, but Council Tax support was also reduced.
- Reported those areas where performance could be improved were noted as follows:
 - the in-year collection rate for Council Tax had decreased by 0.41% since quarter four last year, outturning at 96.76%, although just above the lower target;
 - the level of outstanding customer changes in the revenues team had increase to 437 in quarter four this year, from 121 in quarter four last year;

- the percentage of waste that was recycled or composted had increased to 34.94% this year but was still below its lower target of 35%;
 - the time to determine a planning application had deteriorated from 59.4 days in quarter three to 68.81 days in quarter four;
 - the satisfaction of public protection and anti-social behaviour complainants on how the complaint was handled had decreased from 92.7% in quarter three to 81% in quarter four;
 - the average re-let time in calendar days for all dwellings was outside its lower target of 28 days with a figure of 30.02 days;
 - the number of housing benefits and council tax support customers waiting assessment had increased from 696 last quarter four to 897 this year;
 - the percentage of risk based quality checks made where the benefit entitlement was correct was below its lower target of 86.50%, with a figure of 86.07%.
- Reported that the overall sickness data for quarter four was 3.06 days per full time equivalent, excluding apprentices. This brought the cumulative total of sick days to 10.35 days, which was 3.27 days less than last year and was the lowest outturn since 2012/13.
 - Reported other achievements during the quarter as follows:
 - Lincoln's Central Car Park won the best new car park at the British Parking Awards 2019;
 - Lincoln Guildhall had been awarded the 'Best Told Story' Accolade for 2018 by Visit England;
 - Lincoln's 'To Let' board ban having been approved had been implemented in specific areas in the city;
 - the City of Lincoln Council had been shortlisted for three Municipal Journal Awards;
 - Lincoln won £235,000 of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for a number of projects in the Sincil Bank area;
 - Lincoln was the number one place in the East Midlands region for food hygiene standards and joint sixth across the country according to new data.
 - Invited members' comments and questions.

The Chair offered his congratulations, particularly regarding the many achievements set out in the report and the continued reduction in sickness levels.

Comment: The 'to let' ban in certain parts of the city had made a significant difference and removed the transient feel of those particular areas.

Question: Did the operational performance figures relating to car parks include all of the Council's car parks and did it include, for example, the top floor of Lincoln Central Car Park which had been closed for some time and was now operational?

Response: The information collected for this quarter, up to the end of March 2019, included all City of Lincoln Council operated car parks but did not include the top floor of the Lincoln Central Car Park. This would feature in the information for the next quarterly report.

Questions: In view of the fact that officers had delegated authority to amend car parking prices and following the introduction of fee parking in St Marks car park from 6pm this evening, had it been necessary for officers to exercise this authority?

Response: Officers did have the authority to amend car parking fees, but this was not something that they had felt was necessary at this time. It was important to remember that any decrease in car parking fees would have an impact on the Council's income, however, consideration had been given to a number of offers which would seek to attract new customers. It was noted that the Council had received all income from Lucy Tower Street car park since February following the cessation of a long-term agreement with Odeon cinema.

Question: How did community centres promote themselves in order to maximise the number of people using them?

Response: An answer to this question was not available at the meeting but it was agreed that an officer would provide a response in due course.

Question: Why did sickness absence figures exclude apprenticeships?

Response: Sickness absence figures did not include apprenticeships as they were not classed as employees of the Council and were not on the official establishment. There was a separate process that dealt with the management of sickness absence for apprentices.

It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7. Financial Performance - Outturn 2018/19

The Chief Finance Officer:

- Presented to the Performance Scrutiny Committee the provisional 2018/19 financial outturn position on the Council's revenue and capital budgets, including the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, the Housing Repairs Service and Capital Programmes.
- Reported that for 2018/19 the Council's net General Fund revenue budget was set at £14,276,460, including a planned contribution to balances of £288,360, resulting in an estimated level of general balances at the year-end of £1,897,724.
- Reported that the financial performance quarterly monitoring report for the third quarter predicted a shortfall against the revised budget of £206,302. The provisional outturn for 2018/19 now indicated that this shortfall had decreased by £159,946, resulting in an overall budget shortfall of £46,356 and represented a variance against the revised budget of 0.33%. Full details of the main variances were provided in Appendix B, but the key variances were summarised as follows:
 - car parking – reduced income of £1,015,648;
 - housing benefit overpayments – reduced income of £604,533
 - homelessness bed and breakfast – increased expenditure of £101,418
 - borrowing costs – reduced expenditure of £270,063
 - earmarked reserves – released increased income of £280,220

- contingencies released – reduced costs of £175,930
 - business rates Section 31 grants – increased income of £385,881
 - revenues and benefits new burdens – increased income of £180,207.
- Reported that the following contributions to earmarked reserves were requested as part of the report:
 - planning delivery fund – the transfer of £95,000 of grant income received to fund an additional post to support large scale applications in 2019/20;
 - overachievement of crematorium income – the transfer of £100,000 of surplus income, net of increased cost, to an income equalisation reserve to mitigate against future fluctuations in income levels;
 - revenues and benefits shared service – transfer of £100,00 of new burdens funding to a reserve to be utilised in 2019/20, as determined by the Joint Committee.
 - Reported that, following the final outturn being known, it was proposed that the £95,000 planning delivery grant and £100,000 crematorium income were transferred into reserves as previously agreed. However, due to the significant reduction in housing benefit overpayments within the revenues and benefits area, it was proposed that only £45,000 of the new burdens funding was transferred into the reserve. These transfers to reserves were reflected in the provisional outturn position.
 - Reported that the savings target included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the 2018/19 Towards Financial Sustainability Programme was £3,800,000. Progress against this target, based on the outturn position, showed a secured total of £3,828,050. A summary of the provisional outturn position was shown in the table at paragraph 3.15 of the report.
 - Reported that for 2018/19 the Council's Housing Revenue Account net revenue budget was set at zero, resulting in an estimated level of general balances at the year-end of £1,023,099. The financial performance quarterly monitoring report for the third quarter predicted an underspend of £5,000. The provisional outturn for 2018/19 now indicated an underspend of £3,467 and would result in Housing Revenue Account balances at 31 March 2019 of £1,026,568. The main over and underspends included within the provisional outturn were summarised as follows:
 - Housing Repairs Service – additional income of £271,534;
 - rental income – additional income of £161,055;
 - supervision and management – additional income and reduced expenditure equating to £141,547;
 - repairs and maintenance – increased expenditure of £641,287.
 - Reported that, following outturn, Housing Revenue Account general balances would be £1,026,568, in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
 - Reported that for 2018/19 the Council's Housing Repairs Service net revenue budget was set at zero, reflecting its full cost recovery nature. The financial performance quarterly monitoring report for the third quarter predicted a £146,000 surplus outturn for 2018/19. The provisional outturn for 2018/19 showed a trading surplus of £271,534. The net trading surplus of £271,534 was the result of a number of year-end variations in income

and expenditure against the approved budget. The fluctuation between the forecast at quarter three and the final outturn was mainly down to the performance of voids function. The surplus of £271,534 had been repatriated to the Housing Revenue Account which was the major service user and was reflected in the Housing Revenue Account outturn within the report.

- Reported that the details of all earmarked reserves and their balance as at 31 March 2019 were attached to the report at Appendix G and summarised in paragraph 6.1 of the report.
- Reported that the revised General Fund Investment Programme for 2018/19, as approved in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, amounted to £23,460,862. Movements in the programme since the approval of the revised budget decreased actual capital expenditure in 2018/19 to £13,968,238. A further £175,000 was approved in 2018/19 to transfer land from the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund, creating additional resources within the Housing Investment Programme. No physical income, receipt or expenditure had been recorded as transfer occurred between council funds.
- Reported that budget re-profiles approved by the Chief Finance Officer during the final quarter were detailed at Appendix I attached to the report.
- Reported that the provisional outturn position for the General Investment Programme was set out in paragraph 7.5. Overall spending on the programme for 2018/19 was £13,968,238 which was 59.54% of the revised 2018/19 programme as per the 2018-23 Medium Term Financial Strategy. It was noted that the following should be taken into consideration alongside these figures:
 - expected budgeted expenditure of £6.9 million relating to Deacon Road occurred in April 2019 just after the 2018/19 financial year;
 - Disabled Facilities Grant works of £467,687 had been agreed and were expected to occur within 2019/20;
 - the retention payment and related expenditure of £845,357 with regards to the Lincoln Transport HUB had not yet been paid due to delays on final sign off.
- Reported that the revised Housing Investment Programme for 2018/19 as approved in the Medium Term Financial Strategy amounted to £31,457,789. Movements in the programme since the approval of the revised budget decreased actual capital expenditure to £24,985,322 in 2018/19. Changes approved by the Chief Finance Officer in the final quarter were set out in Appendix K of the report and summarised in paragraph 7.9 of the report.
- Reported that changes requiring Executive approved were highlighted as follows:
 - six property purchases funded from the unallocated new build programme under delegated authority on 20 March 2019 at Turner Street (£67,465), Williamson Street (£110,210) and Naval Court (£680,125);

- reallocations from the unallocated new build programme to Trelawney Crescent (£30,259), Marham House (£6,589) within the 2018/19 programme;
 - landscaping and boundaries reallocated into CO Detector Installation (£40,826), Communal Hardstanding (£118,150) and communal electrics (£23,202);
 - new services reallocated into Decent Homes (£11,481) and CO Detector Installation (£7,961) in 2018/19;
 - the 2018/19 wall structure repairs (£6,951), over bath showers (£28,003), asbestos surveys (£51,457), plastering (£222,854), adaption works (£28,916), landscaping and boundaries (£110,623), void capitalised works (£26,555) programmes moved into uncommitted resources.
- Reported that the overall spending on the Housing Investment Programme for 2018/19 was £24,985,322 which was 79.42% of the revised 2018/19 programme, as per the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-23. It was noted that the following should be considered alongside these figures:
 - due to external factors, work programmed on individual flat fire door sets at Shuttleworth House for £739,000 was only around 30% complete at the end of the financial year;
 - the budget included £18.3 million for the 2018/19 New Build Programme. £15.6 million had been spent on the new build programme including homes at Allenby, Westwick, Ingleby and Lytton Street, further budget had been earmarked for the DeWint Extra Care facility which was approved during 2018/19.
 - the budget included £3 million for land acquisitions, of which £1.9 million had been spent in 2018/19. The remaining budget of £1.1 million had been allocated against the Western Growth Corridor Scheme to fund the Housing Investment Programme contribution towards the scheme.
 - Invited members' comments and questions.

Question: In relation to car parking, was the shortfall in budget rather than a shortfall in actual income?

Response: That was correct, the shortfall was solely budgetary and not actual income. An estimate was made at the beginning of the last financial year based on a number of assumptions. Car parking income had actually increased, but the level of increase was performing lower than what had been originally estimated. The Council's car parking income in 2017/18 totalled £4 million whereas 2018/19 saw a 25% increase with income totalling £5 million.

Comment: When the city centre development works were completed this would hopefully generate more car parking. These works must have had an impact on the number of people parking in the city.

Response: The Medium Term Financial Strategy had reduced car parking targets to reflect the impact of the city centre development works but had also increased the target upon anticipated completion of the works, acknowledging that these and wider improvements to the city would attract more people.

Question: Where was funding taken out of reserves, such as the tree risk reserve and park improvement funding, allocated to? Were there any updates regarding the park improvement funding and the costs associated with the Boutham Park project?

Response: Funding in respect of the tree risk reserve had been taken out to pay for associated works and had not been allocated to anything else. The park improvement fund represented a one-off grant that had been received at the end of the financial year. This had to be spent on parks and play areas and officers were currently considering how this fund should be applied. With regard to Boutham Park and the costs associated with this particular project, this was still the subject of dispute but the matter was coming towards a conclusion.

Question: Problems had been experienced with a barrier not working at the Central Car Park, which was not the first time such a fault had occurred. When would this fault be repaired?

Response: A decision had been taken to order two new barriers so that if one failed again in the future it could be changed straight away and not result in some of the congestion that this particular error caused. If they continued to fail consideration would be given to other options in order to address the issue.

Question: Car park ticket machines had not been working across the city, which a number of people had complained about. When would this be addressed?

Response: Car park ticket machines worked for cash payments, but the card payment facility had been unreliable due to poor mobile signal which they operated from. In the last couple of months broadband connection had been introduced at Lucy Tower Street car park, which had significantly improved their operation. Broadband would be rolled out to other car parks in due course and new ticket machines had also been ordered, with a view to moving to a cashless operation in the future on the basis that this was a better business model and would not require the physical emptying of cash from machines.

Question: With a view to maximising the Council's car parking stock, it was understood that a car park strategy was in the pipeline. Would this strategy be considered by members?

Response: The Council's Transport Strategy had been in place for four to five years and aspired to have four large multi-story car parks around the city centre and redevelop the authority's flat car parks. There were now three multi-story car parks in the city and it remained an aspiration to achieve a fourth in the north of the city. The content of the countywide transport strategy, due to be approved later this year, would need to be considered as part of the development of the Council's Car Parking Strategy. This proposed strategy, once developed, would be presented to and considered by members.

Question: It was pleasing to see that funding had been approved for the procurement and development of a new website. Had a launch date been set?

Response: This would be clarified outside of the meeting.

Question: Was the Council ensuring it was keeping track of all money spent in relation to the Western Growth Corridor, given it was a scheme that did not currently have planning permission?

Response: The Council was keeping a record of all money spent in relation to the Western Growth Corridor scheme in respect of revenue incurred and capital expenditure. No capital costs had yet been incurred, but a full record of revenue expenditure relating to the scheme could be shared with members.

Comment: In order to attract more people into the city further consideration should be given to the introduction of parent and toddler spaces.

Response: The inclusion of parent and toddler spaces had been considered, particularly regarding the development of the Central Car Park, but most feedback from across the country was that such facilities were heavily abused.

Comment: The Chair suggested adding the car parking income generation strategy, which consisted of five strands, to the Performance Scrutiny Committee's work programme for its meeting in August. This was agreed.

Question: Was the commercialisation aspect of the Towards Financial Sustainability Programme about selling the Council's services?

Response: This encompassed a range of projects and schemes under the commercialisation agenda which had achieved £833,680 to date, details of which would be shared with members. Future projects under this agenda would be reported to the Executive in due course.

It was RESOLVED that the report be noted and an item on the car parking income generation strategy be added to the Committee's work programme for consideration in August 2019.

8. Treasury Management Stewardship and Actual Prudential Indicators Report 2018/19 (Outturn)

The Group Accountant, Technical and Exchequer:

- Presented the annual treasury management stewardship report, which was a requirement of the Council's reporting procedures under regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 and covered the treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2018/19.
- Reported that during 2018/19 the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key prudential indicators for the year, with comparators, were set out in paragraph two of the report, with full details of transactions in year and performance against the Prudential Indicators included at paragraph four and Appendices A and B of the report.
- Confirmed that borrowing was only undertaken for a capital purpose and that the statutory borrowing limit and the authorised limit were not breached.
- Reported that key issues of activity during 2018/19 were as follows:
 - the Council's total debt, including leases and lease-type arrangements, at 31 March 2018 was £115,696 million compared with the Capital Financing Requirement of £120.131 million. This represented an under-borrowing position of £4.435 million, which was currently being

supported by internal resources. Additional long term borrowing would be taken in future years to bring levels up to the Capital Finance Requirement, subject to liquidity requirements, if preferential interest rates were available;

- the Council's investments at the 31 March 2019 were £29.2 million, which was £13.6 million higher than at 31 March 2018. Average investment balances for 2018/19 were £22.344 million, which was higher than estimated balances of £14.97 million in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-23 due to the timing of borrowing taken. This referred to the principal amounts of investment held, whereas the investment values included in the balance sheet were based on fair value. In most cases, this would simply be equal to the principal invested, unless the investment had been impaired;
- actual investment interest earned on balances was £143,000 compared to £77,000 estimated in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-23;
- the interest rate achieved on investments was 0.77% which was 0.26% above the target average seven day LIBID rate, with the average in 2018/19 being 0.51%.

- Invited members comments and questions.

Question: The report set out that there was a significant increase in short term borrowing. Why was this?

Response: The Council was fortunate in that it was able to access the market through other local authorities at very low rates, which was much more beneficial than longer term borrowing.

It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.

9. Strategic Risk Register - Quarterly Review

The Chief Finance Officer:

- Presented the Performance Scrutiny Committee with a status report of the revised Strategic Risk Register as at the end of the fourth quarter 2018/19.
- Reported that two changes to the assessed levels of likelihood and impact of risks identified on the Risk Register, as follows:
 - risk 4 – to ensure compliance with the statutory duties and appropriate governance arrangements were in place. Although a disaster recovery facility and procedure were in place, in light of aging infrastructure and the development of a new IT Strategy, a review of the IT disaster recovery arrangements and consistency with business continuity plans would be developed. This risk had therefore been increased slightly from Amber: possible/major to Amber: probable/major;
 - risk 9 – failure to mitigate against the implications for the Council following the outcome of Brexit. A localised Brexit exercise had been undertaken by the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum with partners and organisations in February 2019. A working group had been established to understand impacts on residents and governance including current partnerships and contracts pending delay of the Brexit vote and implementation of Article 50, with an internal action plan developed and

monitored through the working group. In light of this, the risk had decreased from Red: almost certain/major to Amber: probable/major.

It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10. Work Programme for 2019-20

RESOLVED that the Performance Scrutiny Committee work programme be approved, subject to the inclusion of an item on the car parking income generation strategy for the Committee's meeting in August 2019.

11. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business because it was likely that if members of the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

12. Strategic Risk Register

The minute associated with this item was set at minute number 9 above.