

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LINCOLN CITY PROFILE 2022/23</b>
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>SCOTT LEA – POLICY OFFICER</b>
	<b>MICHELLE HOYLES – BUSINESS MANAGER – CORPORATE POLICY AND TRANSFORMATION</b>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present to the Executive the Lincoln City Profile 2022/23, attached as '**Appendix A**' to this report, and to request that approval is given to publish the City Profile and brief all Members on its content.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The annual Lincoln City Profile 2022/23 is a key corporate document that provides vital insight into aspects of the Council's external environment. Each year, the Profile offers up to date information on the key demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of, and the challenges facing, Lincoln's population. The Profile provides an evidence base that informs the continued development and implementation of City of Lincoln Council's Vision 2025 corporate plan, will support development of its next corporate plan 'Vision 2030', and assists the council with other evidence-based decision making so that it may make the most effective use of its resources.
- 2.2 A copy of the 'Lincoln City Profile 2022/23' is attached as '**Appendix A**' to this report.
- 2.3 The Profile also has applications beyond the City of Lincoln Council, and is used by external partners support their decision making. The document is also used as a source of reliable business intelligence to support funding bids by both the Council and its partner organisations.
- 2.4 2022/2023 has been a challenging year, with the UK facing a protracted cost of living crisis in addition to continuing to recover from the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is reflected in the data gathered for this year's Profile, and as a result there are difficulties with numerous datasets in identifying new and emerging trends. This is further explored in section 3 of this report.
- 2.5 The introduction to the profile provides contextual information about the city. This is followed by eight chapters which provide a wealth of information on our city. The chapter titles are:
- Population
  - Economy
  - Welfare

- Crime
- Health
- Education
- Housing
- Environment and Climate

2.6 Where such data is available, the information captured within the profile seeks to compare Lincoln's external environment to those of its Lincolnshire neighbours, its CIPFA 'nearest neighbours', and regional and national trends. Each chapter includes an introduction that summarises the key conclusions to be gleaned from the datasets, with more detailed data provided in subsequent pages.

2.7 Data displayed within the Profile is the latest available at the time of writing, and new data is released regularly. Therefore, to assist users of the Profile, links have been provided throughout to enable the reader to locate source data and aid further research.

2.8 The data collated and summarised within the Lincoln City Profile is taken from a number of public sources including the ONS, Gov.uk, Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), University of Lincoln, NOMIS, LG Inform, Public Health England Profile (PHE), Police UK, Lincolnshire County Council and City of Lincoln Council.

### **3. Key findings from this year's Profile**

3.1 This year's profile identifies a series of key opportunities and challenges, based on the datasets available at the time of writing.

3.2 The Profile identifies a range of opportunities, as follows:

- Lincoln remains a 'younger city', with 29.3% of its population in the 15-29 age bracket in 2021 and more than half our population being under the age of 34.
- 95.2% of new businesses survived their first year in 2020 – This is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest when compared to our Lincolnshire district neighbours.
- Life expectancy for females has increased to 80.9 years in 2018-20 (the most recently available dataset), although it remains below the England average.
- The percentage of people with an NVQ Level 4+ increased in 2021 to 35.3%.
- Lincoln's housing affordability ratio decreased in 2022, improving housing affordability in the city.
- Total household waste decreased from 38,539 tonnes in 2020/21 to 36,981 tonnes in 2021/22, which remains significantly below the mean of East Midlands Local Authorities.

3.3 Key challenges identified within the profile are:

- The total crime rate per 1,000 people, across all parts of the city between April 2022 and March 2023, was 159.1. This is a significant increase on the previous year's total crime rate of 119.5.

- Abbey Ward had the highest number of reported ASB reports per ward, with a figure of 49 in 2021/2022.
- Park Ward reported the highest number of fly tipping incidents in 2021/2022, with a figure of 194.
- Life expectancy among males decreased to 76.1 years in 2018-20 (the most recently available dataset) and remains below the England average. Lincoln is the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest male life expectancy compared to its nearest neighbours.
- The mortality rate for people with cancer in Lincoln was 153.6 per 100,000 people in 2021. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest mortality rate when compared to our nearest neighbours.
- Lincoln's mortality rate for cardiovascular disease was 131.6 per 100,000, which is significantly higher than the England rate and the highest amongst our nearest neighbours.
- There were small reductions in the percentage of people with NVQ qualifications at Levels 1, 2 and 3.

3.4 There are multiple datasets within this year's Profile that, when considered collectively, offer conflicting perspectives of economic wellbeing in the city.

3.5 The following would ordinarily be interpreted as positive changes to the economic wellbeing of Lincoln's population:

- Median annual earnings in 2022, and gross weekly pay, for full time workers increased to £31,011 and £618.40 respectively. This places earnings for Lincoln full time workers, for the first time in recent years, slightly above regional (East Midlands) median earnings.
- This trend is replicated for median annual earnings for part time workers, which increased by £951 to £11,768 in 2022. Gross weekly pay for part time workers also increased, by £24.90 to £230.30 in 2022. Part time earnings for Lincoln workers now also exceeds the median regional average.
- 81.6% of 16-64 years olds were economically active in 2021/2022, up from 76.5% the previous year. This appears to correlate, to some degree, with a significant reduction in the percentage of both unemployed people in the city (down from 7.0% to 4.3% between 2020/21 and 2021/22) and economically inactive people (down from 23.5% to 18.4%).
- 2022 has also seen a reduction in the number of housing benefit recipients, up to 4,428 from 4,935 in 2021. The number of council tax support claimants has also decreased for the second consecutive year, to 8,452 claimants in April 2023.
- Data linked to the number of jobs in the city lags slightly behind, with data only available up to 2021. This data shows that, between 2020 and 2021, the number of full time jobs in the city remained relatively static (around 33,000). Over the same timeframe the number of part time jobs increased from around 21,000 to approximately 22,000. This suggests that the

increase in economically active people in the city could be, at least in part, due to a greater take up of part time employment.

3.6 These, however, must be balanced against the following challenges drawn from this year's Profile data:

- The percentage of children living in (relative) low-income families increased significantly between 2021 and 2022, to 30.5%. This remains significantly above the national average. Unlike many datasets in this year's Profile, based on data from previous years this increase cannot be solely linked to the Covid-19 pandemic; rates for this dataset have generally been between 19 and 24 percent since 2015. It is notable that this data is also more than 12 months old, having been published in March 2023 for the year ending March 2022. Given the protracted cost of living crisis, future datasets are expected to show a further increase.
- There has been also a small increase in the number of universal credit claimants between 2022 and 2023. It is, however difficult to draw conclusions from this data, as there has been considerable fluctuation in this dataset due to sharp increase in universal credit claims during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The fuel poverty data currently available for the city indicates a decrease in the proportion of Lincoln's population categorised as living in fuel poverty, from 16.8% in 2020 to 15.7% in 2021. This data does not yet take account of the impact of the significant increases in energy costs that have been felt across the UK since April 2022. New data, when released, is therefore expected to show a significant increase in the proportion of Lincoln residents living in fuel poverty.

3.7 Whilst the city is benefitting from higher employment rates, an increase in the number of jobs, and increases to both full time and part time median earnings, this appears to have not improved economic prosperity across all demographics. The proportion of low-income households in the city has increased, and the full impact of the cost-of-living crisis is yet to be demonstrated in the datasets within the Profile. There are likely to be multiple possible explanations for this, and there are also likely to be associated impacts on all other Profile themes, most notably health.

3.8 Some of the datasets that may improve understanding of the interdependences between these issues are yet to be released. It is anticipated that this upcoming data will aid further understanding of the effects of the cost-of-living crisis and its impact on Lincoln's population.

3.9 Further investigation is therefore needed to explore these issues in more detail.

## **4 Publication of the Profile**

- 4.1 Following publication of the City Profile, a briefing will be available to all Members on both its overall content and the challenges posed by some of this year's datasets. Plans are currently in place to deliver a briefing to all Members on the 2021 Census on 30<sup>th</sup> August. It would be advantageous to present both documents to Members at the same briefing; this will allow for discussion on themes and topics for further review or scrutiny.

## **5. Strategic Priorities**

- 5.1 The Lincoln City Profile provides a comprehensive range of data, which supports all five Strategic Priorities and supports implementation and review of Vision 2025. The Profile continues to be relied upon as a reliable source of business intelligence, necessary to support evidence-based decision making by the Council and its strategic partners.

## **6. Organisational Impacts**

- 6.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable) – There are no direct financial implications from this report.
- 6.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules – There are no direct legal implications from this report.
- 6.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to 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

The Lincoln City Profile brings together data to support the Council's ability to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty, by assisting decision makers understand the ever-changing make-up of the city and the opportunities and challenges faced by its population.

## **7. Risk Implications**

- 7.1 Options Explored – not applicable for this report.
- 7.2 Key risks associated with the preferred approach – not applicable for this report.

## **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 That the Executive notes the content of the 'Lincoln City Profile 2022/23' attached as '**Appendix A**' to this report and approves its publication and dissemination to all councillors.

**Is this a key decision?** No

**Do the exempt information categories apply?** No

**Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?** No

**How many appendices does the report contain?** One  
Appendix A – The Lincoln City Profile 2022/23

**List of Background Papers:** None

**Lead Officer:** Scott Lea – Policy Officer  
Michelle Hoyles – Business Manager Corporate Policy and Transformation