

**Present:** Councillor Alan Briggs (*in the Chair*),  
Councillor Debbie Armiger, Councillor Biff Bean,  
Councillor James Brown, Councillor Chris Burke,  
Councillor Sue Burke, Councillor Bob Bushell,  
Councillor Liz Bushell, Councillor Natasha Chapman,  
Councillor Martin Christopher, Councillor Annie Currier,  
Councillor Laura Danese, Councillor Thomas Dyer,  
Councillor Gary Hewson,  
Councillor Rebecca Longbottom, Councillor Bill Mara,  
Councillor Neil Murray, Councillor Lucinda Preston,  
Councillor Callum Roper, Councillor Anita Pritchard,  
Councillor Clare Smalley, Councillor Rachel Storer,  
Councillor Dylan Stothard, Councillor Naomi Twedde,  
Councillor Pat Vaughan, Councillor Calum Watt,  
Councillor Aiden Wells, Councillor Joshua Wells and  
Councillor Emily Wood

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Adrianna McNulty, Donald Nannestad,  
Hilton Spratt and Loraine Woolley

**22. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**23. Confirmation of Minutes - 16 July 2024**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**24. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor was pleased to report on some of the activities he had undertaken since taking office, which included his attendance at the following:

- The Opening of the Cornhill Market, Lincoln
- A performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at the New Theatre Royal in Lincoln
- Supporting the Royal Logistics Core at the Waggoners Challenge at Sledmere House
- Lincoln Shrievalty Association Annual General Meeting
- Lincolnshire Show
- Ecumenical Vespers at St Peter and St Paul's in Lincoln
- NW Counselling Hub Open Day
- Kyra Music Festival at the Epic Centre
- Watoto Children's Choir at Holy Cross Church
- The reburial of Mathew Finders in Donnington and welcoming the Mayor of Port Lincoln in South Australia to the event
- University of Lincoln Graduations
- Birthday celebrations of a constituent

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

There were no questions received.

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

**Councillor Thomas Dyer to Councillor Joshua Wells**

*Question*

The North Hykeham Relief Road is a significant infrastructure project which will provide significant traffic mitigation as well as vast economic benefits for both Lincoln and the wider region. What lobbying has the Executive member carried out to support Lincolnshire County Council with re securing this vital funding?

*Answer*

Completing the ring road around Lincoln had always been strongly advocated and supported by the Council. Both the Council and Lincoln businesses saw it as essential for the continued growth of Lincoln's economy which therefore benefited the wider area. The Council also recognised that the completed ring road was needed to support much needed house building as well as the next stage of actions to address climate change, removing more traffic from Lincoln's inner-city highway network, allowing the Council to promote better public transport and sustainable travel.

It was confirmed that conversations with Lincoln's MP had taken place, who had publicly supported the need for the project and he continued to talk with ministers in DfT about it.

**Councillor Rachel Storer to Councillor Bob Bushell**

*Question*

We were all shocked and saddened by the news of the reported events at the crematorium earlier this year. Can the Executive member provide Council with an update on what safeguards have been put in place following the tragic events announced in July?

*Answer*

It was reiterated that six families did not receive the level of care and service that they and their loved ones deserved and expected. The Council had spoken with all the families identified as being directly affected by this situation and it was working with them to agree on lasting tributes to their loved ones.

The Council had since brought in experienced industry professionals to support the operation of the crematorium. Those experts had helped the Council review all of its policies and procedures and, where improvements had been suggested, they had been made. The Council was committed to delivering a professional service and the Portfolio Holder wished to reassure anyone using the crematorium that the high standards required were being met. The Council had been reassured by the feedback that had been received in recent weeks from

everyone involved, and the Portfolio Holder was heartened to know the improvements the Council had made were noted and appreciated.

#### *Supplementary Question*

Please can councillors receive a fuller private briefing on this matter?

#### *Answer*

Yes, a private briefing could be arranged for councillors.

### **Councillor Bill Mara to Councillor Joshua Wells**

#### *Question*

After only a few weeks since its opening, businesses are already complaining that the Cornhill Market is “not sustainable”. Can the Executive member explain how he is supporting the struggling market traders?

#### *Answer*

Since opening on 17 May 2024, the Market had been a real success and the Portfolio Holder was particularly pleased that it had won the Regeneration Restoration Project of the Year at the East Midlands Property Awards, which had recognised not just the building itself, but also the platform it had given to new start-up and small independent businesses in the City.

There were 30 main stalls of which only two were vacant with active discussions on-going with five businesses about leasing the vacant space.

While the Council reviewed the viability of a permanent fishmonger and butcher option in the market, it continued to explore how it used the space at Cornhill Market. The weekly Lincolnshire Local Pop-up on a Wednesday on City Square hosted meat, fish and vegetable products.

The vast majority of businesses in the market were trading well and were adapting their business models which was already seeing growth for two of the businesses who were being supported by the team.

The Council continued to support all traders in the market, which had included support from the Council's business adviser, a 3-month rent-free period and a range of marketing activity which would continue to build, including:

- Billboard advertising
- Posters and leaflets
- Consistent and regular social media activity across various platforms
- Internal events such as the Rock Retro clothes sale this past weekend
- Themes related to fringe activity such as Lincoln Pride, Halloween and Christmas

Of those 28 businesses, two had given notice:

- Flippin Crepes – this was owing to their business model being better suited to events where they held 100% market share (the need to be mobile and attend food fairs across the Midlands)

- Bradfords Plants – this business had recently purchased a shop in another part of the city. For reference, this was the trader that featured in the headlines recently and was deeply upset that their words had been taken out of context.

The Council continued to review its market offer as a whole, including the cost of operating as a stall holder. What the Council offered was a space that businesses could use to test and tweak their business plans in the hope that one day, they could take on an independent premises of their own.

#### *Supplementary Question*

Has the Council engaged with the current traders to establish whether any had plans to leave the market?

#### *Answer*

It was confirmed that the market team was in constant communication with all businesses in the market, undertaking daily visits and seeing if anything could be improved.

**Councillor Martin Christopher to Councillor Donald Nannestad (*Councillor Naomi Tweddle answered in Councillor Nannestad's absence*)**

#### *Question*

Could the Portfolio Holder for Quality Housing provide figures on the number of complaints/enforcement actions taken against private landlords for homes falling below standards, ideally with a breakdown between HMO/Standard lets?

#### *Answer*

During the period from 1 April 2023 to 7 October 2024, the Private Sector Housing Team had investigated 188 complaints. Of this number, 30 complaints had been in respect of disrepair in houses in multiple occupation. In all cases enforcement actions would have been taken and the level of enforcement action would be dependent on the level of co-operation of the landlord. 133 formal inspections had been carried out, fourteen formal notices had been served of which four were of the highest category of an emergency prohibition order. The wards that had received the highest number of complaints were Park: 68, Carholme: 40 and Abbey: 34.

**Councillor James Brown to Councillor Sue Burke**

#### *Question*

How many Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for fly tipping and bins on streets per ward in the last calendar year?

### *Answer*

The figures for the last calendar year 2023 were as follows:

Bins on street Fixed Penalty Notices:

- Abbey - 2
- Carholme - 2
- Park - 11

Fly-tipping Fixed Penalty Notices:

- Abbey - 13
- Moorland - 1
- Park - 13

The Council was asked to note that Fixed Penalty Notices were not the only enforcement tool available to use against Fly-tipping and bins on streets.

There were several stages before the Fixed Penalty Notices stage. For example, with bins on street, the Council would issue a community protection warning and tag the bin. However, if it continued to happen, the Council would issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. If this was not paid, the Council would consider whether it was feasible to take the matter to court for a prosecution.

The Council wanted to make people aware that it took fly tipping seriously and wanted to work with residents to put a stop to this crime. The Council ran weeks of action where it educated residents about fly tipping. In the Sincil Bank area, where there were circa 6000 residents, the Council had carried out its 2<sup>nd</sup> week of action in March 2024. This remained an ongoing issue across the country.

The Portfolio Holder requested that if councillors and residents saw fly tipping or bins on streets to report it with as much information possible, including photographs and car registrations. There were links on the Council's website to report fly tipping or bins left on streets, or this could be done via Fix my Street, which was a useful App available on mobile devices.

### *Supplementary Question*

What percentage of the Fixed Penalty Notices, which had been issued, had been paid?

### *Answer*

This information would be provided to the councillor via email, as it was not available at the meeting.

## **Councillor Clare Smalley to Councillor Naomi Tweddle**

### *Question*

Following the first 140 days as Leader of the Council, can the Leader tell us what the greatest challenge has been so far?

*Answer*

The Leader of the Council reflected on the challenges since being appointed to the position. The Leader believed her biggest challenge was managing her home life and being a new leader of a council, as she was currently on maternity leave with a young family and therefore had to manage her time. However, she reflected on the support she had been provided from councillor colleagues and council officers since being in the role, making particular reference to the valuable support of the Business Management Team.

*Supplementary Question*

Is there anything the Leader would have done differently in hindsight?

*Answer*

The Leader advised that she did not believe she could have done anything any differently.

### **Councillor Natasha Chapman to Councillor Bob Bushell**

*Question*

While other parts of the city had community facilities, several of which had been recently revamped, there were none currently in Abbey Ward. Will the council commit to turning the old bowls club on Monks Road into a community facility?

*Answer*

The Portfolio Holder advised that it was regrettable that the bowls club had ceased operating at the Pavilion on Monks Road, but this had demonstrated a general decline in bowls as an outdoor sport across the city and wider, with other clubs also folding. Whilst the City Council did not currently have the financial resources to upgrade or develop this facility, it was open to exploring options if there was a community group operating locally who might wish to consider taking on and managing the facility - providing their proposed activities would meet the core values and principles of the Council, were a good fit with the neighbourhood it was located within, and they could demonstrate a sustainable business case for its use.

### **27. Motion Under Council Procedure Rule 14 - Winter Fuel Allowance**

Councillor Tom Dyer moved the following motion:

“The City of Lincoln Council notes:

“The Labour government's reckless decision to slash the Winter Fuel Payment for the vast majority of pensioners, including the 170,000 in Lincolnshire and 12,875 in Lincoln without consideration for the devastating consequences.

“The shocking impact of this cut, with Age UK warning that 2 million pensioners who desperately need the money to keep warm this winter will be left out in the cold – among them, thousands in Lincoln.

“The critical importance of Winter Fuel Payments in helping older residents in Lincoln and across the UK afford basic heating during the harshest months, preventing catastrophic ‘heat or eat’ scenarios and safeguarding lives.

“The scathing condemnation from Age UK, the Countryside Alliance, and numerous charities, which have exposed the gross social injustice and the severe health risks that this ill-conceived policy change will inflict on the nation’s elderly.

“The additional burden this decision will place on vulnerable pensioners, many of whom do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further driving them into poverty and leaving them to suffer in silence.

“This Council believes:

“That the Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for countless older people in Lincoln, and the government’s decision to rip it away from all but those on Pension Credit will drive many pensioners into severe financial hardship, undermining their health and well-being.

“That this reckless decision will force many thousands across Lincoln, who sit just above the Pension Credit cut-off, into an unforgiving position, leaving them struggling to survive as their energy costs increase.

“The government’s decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially at such short notice and without providing adequate alternative support, is heartless and demonstrates a shocking disregard for the lives of our most vulnerable older residents.

“That the government has utterly failed to address the barriers and stigma which prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving countless elderly people stranded without vital support at a time when they need it most.

“Council resolves to:

“Immediately launch a Council-led local awareness campaign to inform those eligible for Pension Credit, which in turn could offer some access to Winter Fuel Payments, though this falls far short of addressing the broader crisis caused by the government’s decision.

“The Council Leader writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lincoln’s MP, condemning this heartless cut to the Winter Fuel Payment, and urging an immediate reversal of the decision to means-test the payment. The Council also calls on the government to provide immediate relief to vulnerable pensioners on low incomes, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit but are struggling with fuel poverty.

“Publicly support Age UK’s ‘Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners’ petition and urge every Council member to sign and actively promote the petition, as well as calling on other councils across the country to do the same.

“Step up efforts within the Council to promote Pension Credit uptake by engaging directly with local charities, community groups, and other partners, ensuring that every eligible pensioner in Lincolnshire receives the financial support they are entitled to, in spite of the government’s callous disregard for their well-being.”

The above motion was seconded by Councillor Rachel Storer, who reserved her right to speak.

The following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Naomi Tweddle:

“Delete all after “The City of Lincoln Council notes:..” and insert:

“That due to the previous Conservative Government’s mismanagement of the economy which left a vast hole in the country’s finances, the incoming Government has introduced means testing for Winter Fuel Allowance payments.

“That the previous government utterly failed to address the barriers and stigma which prevented eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit.

“Council notes that our local authority has a strong record on providing cost of living support and reducing inequality in the City, consistently over a number of years. This has previously been reflected in the Council winning a national award for its work to reduce poverty in the city.

“Let’s reduce inequality remains one of our strategic priorities and we continue to carry out a huge amount of work to help our residents through the cost-of-living crisis, generated by the failings of the previous Conservative Government.

“This work has included and continues to include:

“Distribution of more than £2 million to individual residents and organisations via the Household Support Fund to help alleviate fuel and food poverty including more than 13,000 individual awards. Council notes that the Labour Government has extended the Household Support Fund until March 2025 which will help further support those in need in Lincoln this winter.

“Distribution of the Council Tax energy rebate, the energy bill support scheme and Discretionary Housing Payments.

“One of the most generous Council Tax Support Scheme in the country.

“Funding a full-time Cost of Living Co-Ordinator role to further ensure dedicated resource is in place to alleviate cost of living pressures, including pensioner, child and fuel poverty.

“The Welfare Team continues to be proactive in contacting those who may benefit from the Pension Credit and is working with Partners to publicise support available. The Council will continue to lead on this via the Lincolnshire Financial Inclusion Partnership.

**“Noting that the means testing of Winter Fuel Allowance Payments was not a decision within our control the Council resolves to:**

- “Continue to carry out a campaign to further encourage the take up of Pension Credits and to direct residents to additional local support available to older people across the city.
- “To assess where the Council might be able to provide further support to those affected by the changes to the Winter Fuel Payment
- “Carry out a refresh of the authority’s anti-poverty strategy and work with partners, including Acts Trust, Local Motion and Bridge Church, to further assist residents who are struggling due to the cost-of-living crisis generated by the previous Conservative Government.
- “Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lincoln’s MP expressing our concern about the lack of take up of Pension Credit and therefore the ability of poorer pensioners to access the Winter Fuel Payment.”

The above amendment was seconded by Councillor Rebecca Longbottom, who reserved her right to speak.

During discussion of the amendment, the following points were noted:

- It was confirmed by the City Solicitor that the amendment was valid and in accordance with the Council’s Constitution and there was no requirement to share amendments in advance of the Council meeting.

Note: At this stage in proceedings, the meeting adjourned for ten minutes to enable councillors to read the amendment.

- Some councillors challenged the amendment and felt it was in poor taste to delete entire text and replace it with their own wording, despite it being constitutionally permissible, as in essence it had changed the meaning behind the motion. A councillor commented for this reason they would not support the amendment.
- It was commented that the changes in Winter Fuel Payments was ill-timed, particularly when the Government had also committed to inflation busting pay rises within the NHS.

Councillor Rebecca Longbottom, who had reserved her right to speak, advised that the amendment reflected a truer picture as to what was happening in Lincoln, rather than the original motion which was generic and did not take into account this situation locally.

Councillor Dyer, who had moved the original motion, was invited to give his right of reply. He was disappointed that the amendment had not been shared by the Leader of the Council with opposition group leaders in advance of the meeting. Furthermore it was felt that the changes in Winter Fuel Payments were not supporting the country’s most vulnerable and it was being used as a way of funding the ‘black hole’ at the expense of pensioners.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

The Leader of the Council, who had moved what had become the substantive motion, was invited to give her right of reply. She reiterated that the motion

accurately reflected the position in Lincoln and also reflected on all of the Conservative cuts which had been carried out during their time in Government. The Leader reiterated that this decision was not taken locally and was a decision by the Labour Government, who were having to make difficult decisions nationally, owing to the situation it had been left with.

Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote, it was

## RESOLVED

That the City of Lincoln Council notes:

That due to the previous Conservative Government's mismanagement of the economy which left a vast hole in the country's finances, the incoming Government has introduced means testing for Winter Fuel Allowance payments.

That the previous government utterly failed to address the barriers and stigma which prevented eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit.

Council notes that our local authority has a strong record on providing cost of living support and reducing inequality in the City, consistently over a number of years. This has previously been reflected in the Council winning a national award for its work to reduce poverty in the city.

Let's reduce inequality remains one of our strategic priorities and we continue to carry out a huge amount of work to help our residents through the cost-of-living crisis, generated by the failings of the previous Conservative Government.

This work has included and continues to include:

Distribution of more than £2 million to individual residents and organisations via the Household Support Fund to help alleviate fuel and food poverty including more than 13,000 individual awards. Council notes that the Labour Government has extended the Household Support Fund until March 2025 which will help further support those in need in Lincoln this winter.

Distribution of the Council Tax energy rebate, the Energy Bill Support Scheme and Discretionary Housing Payments.

One of the most generous Council Tax Support Scheme in the country.

Funding a full-time Cost of Living Co-Ordinator role to further ensure dedicated resource is in place to alleviate cost of living pressures, including pensioner, child and fuel poverty.

The Welfare Team continues to be proactive in contacting those who may benefit from the Pension Credit and is working with Partners to publicise support available. The Council will continue to lead on this via the Lincolnshire Financial Inclusion Partnership.

**Noting that the means testing of Winter Fuel Allowance Payments was not a decision within our control the Council resolves to:**

- Continue to carry out a campaign to further encourage the take up of Pension Credits and to direct residents to additional local support available to older people across the city.
- To assess where the Council might be able to provide further support to those affected by the changes to the Winter Fuel Payment
- Carry out a refresh of the authority's anti-poverty strategy and work with partners, including Acts Trust, Local Motion and Bridge Church, to further assist residents who are struggling due to the cost-of-living crisis generated by the previous Conservative Government.
- Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lincoln's MP expressing our concern about the lack of take up of Pension Credit and therefore the ability of poorer pensioners to access the Winter Fuel Payment.

## **28. Motion Under Council Procedure Rule 14 - Two Child Benefit Cap**

Councillor James Brown moved the following motion:

"The Council notes:

- "The Two Child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017.
- "1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
- "In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
- "There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in poverty.
- "The percentage of children living in low-income families in Lincoln in 2023 was found to be above the rate for England overall.
- "Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in. \*
- "That scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion, however it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy £39 billion each year. \*
- "In Lincoln, 2,695 children are currently affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments. That is 14% of all children in the local authority area. At the same time 6,858 local children are living in poverty. \*
- "Most families receiving Universal Credit are in work and many are struggling for reasons beyond their control – such as a family break-up, the death of a partner or losing a job.
- "The stance of the Labour Government who are committed to keeping the cap – going as far as suspending the whip from MPs who rebelled against this position.

"The Council believes that:

- "The two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped. Research from the University of York has shown its introduction has had no positive impacts on employment and earnings. Instead, it has dragged thousands of local families into poverty.

“Council resolves:

- “That the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister indicating the City of Lincoln Council's strong belief that the two child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped – which would help 2,695 children living in Lincoln.
- “That the Leader of the Council writes to Hamish Falconer, the Member of Parliament for Lincoln, asking him to commit his public support to the campaign to end the cruel two child limit to benefit payments.
- “To ensure the number of children a family has is considered when a hardship grant is given out by the council.”

*(\*Research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition.)*

The above motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Christopher, who advised this would act as a positive step in reducing child poverty and was pleased to support the motion for the reasons identified by Councillor Brown.

The following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Naomi Tweddle:

“Delete all after:

“The Council notes:

- “The Two Child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017.
- “1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
- “In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.”

“and insert

- “The huge financial failures the Labour Government has inherited from the previous Conservative administration, including a significant financial black hole and a significant number of unfunded policies and projects.
- “The effects of austerity imposed originally by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition in 2010, which was a significant factor in increasing poverty, including child poverty.
- “The Labour Government has made it clear that they will lift the Two Child limit when fiscal conditions allow.

“This Council resolves to:

- “Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the MP for Lincoln urging that lifting the Two Child Benefit cap should be a priority, when the financial position allows.
- “Conduct a publicity campaign with partners to assist families who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, which was inherited from the Conservative Government, to claim the full amount of benefits they are entitled to.

- “Carry out an assessment of child poverty and its effect on Lincoln families in a refresh of the Authority’s anti-poverty strategy.”

The above amendment was seconded by Councillor Joshua Wells, who reserved his right to speak.

Note: At this stage in proceedings, the meeting adjourned for ten minutes to enable councillors to read the amendment.

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

- It was reiterated that the two child limit to benefit payments caused suffering within families and to children, which needed to be addressed and the amendment appeared to agree with this premise, as it recognised that the Labour Government would only remove this limit when fiscal conditions allowed.
- A councillor commented that he would be abstaining from the vote as the amendment, which referred to national politics, meant that it was not possible for him to support the motion, whereas if these references were not included he may have been able to do so.

Councillor Joshua Wells, who had reserved his right to speak, sought support on the amendment advising it was the correct thing to do in urging the Chancellor and the MP for Lincoln to remove the cap as a priority when fiscal conditions allowed.

Councillor James Brown, who had moved the original motion, was invited to give his right of reply. Councillor Brown was disappointed that the amendment had watered down the motion, as children should be the priority and should not be placed in poverty as a result of Government policy. It was for this reason he urged Council to vote against the amendment.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

During discussion on the substantive motion, the following points were noted:

- A councillor sought additional assurances from the Leader of the Council that this would be revisited regularly so that dialogue remained open between the Council and the MP and Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure this cap was lifted as soon as possible. It was also suggested that clarification be sought on the length of time it could take to lift the cap, as it was not deemed good enough that children were living in poverty as a result of Government policy.

The Leader of the Council, who had moved what had become the substantive motion, was invited to give her right of reply. The Leader reiterated the horrendous situation that the Labour Government had inherited from the previous Government, which had meant that difficult decisions were having to be taken. However, the Labour Party was committed to reducing child poverty. The Council would regularly review progress with removing this cap and would continue to lobby Government and the Lincoln MP.

Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

That the Council notes:

- The Two Child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017.
- 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
- In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
- The huge financial failures the Labour Government has inherited from the previous Conservative administration, including a significant financial black hole and a significant number of unfunded policies and projects.
- The effects of austerity imposed originally by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition in 2010, which was a significant factor in increasing poverty, including child poverty.
- The Labour Government has made it clear that they will lift the Two Child limit when fiscal conditions allow.

That this Council resolves to:

- Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the MP for Lincoln urging that lifting the Two Child Benefit cap should be a priority, when the financial position allows.
- Conduct a publicity campaign with partners to assist families who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, which was inherited from the Conservative Government, to claim the full amount of benefits they are entitled to.
- Carry out an assessment of child poverty and its effect on Lincoln families in a refresh of the Authority's anti-poverty strategy.

**29. Receive Reports under Council Procedure Rule 2 (vi) from Members**

**(a) Report by Councillor S Burke, Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequality**

Councillor Sue Burke, Portfolio Holder for Reducing Inequality, presented her report to Council, as detailed on pages 17 – 40 of the agenda pack.

The content of the report was noted.

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

**(a) Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Policy**

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED that the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2024-2029 under the Licensing Act 2003, as detailed at Appendix B to the report, be approved.