

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH on Wednesday, 11th October, 2023 at 6.30 pm.

## PRESENT

Councillor Dick Edginton (Chairman)  
Councillor Edward Mossop (Vice Chairman)

Councillors Terry Aldridge, Tom Ashton, Richard Avison, Jimmy Brookes, Sandra Campbell-Wardman, Mark Dannatt, Roger Dawson, Sid Dennis, Sarah Devereux, Carleen Dickinson, Stephen Evans, Stephen Eyre, Martin Foster, Richard Fry, William Gray, Adam Grist, Alex Hall, Travis Hesketh, Darren Hobson, George Horton, Neil Jones, Sam Kemp, Thomas Kemp, Steve Kirk, James Knowles, Terry Knowles, Andrew Leonard, Craig Leyland, Daniel McNally, Jill Makinson-Sanders, Kate Marnoch, Ellie Marsh, Graham Marsh, Fiona Martin, M.B.E., Daniel Simpson, Terry Taylor and Ruchira Yarsley.

### **41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Claire Arnold, Wendy Bowkett, Stef Bristow, Billy Brookes, Danny Brookes, Graham Cullen, Richard Cunnington, Will Grover, David Hall, Ros Jackson, Stephen Lyons Steve McMillan , Carl Macey, Paul Rickett and Robert Watson.

### **42. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):**

At this point in the Meeting, Members were invited to declare any relevant interests. None were received.

### **43. MINUTES:**

The Open and Exempt Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 28th June 2023 and the Open and Exempt Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th July 2023 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **44. ACTION SHEETS:**

The Actions were noted as complete. A response to Action Nos 39(b) and 39(c) is attached at Appendix A to the Minutes.

### **45. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:**

The Chairman had attended a number of civic engagements, including the RAF Coningsby Families' Day, the English Bowling Federation's Closing Ceremony of Championships in Skegness, the Mayor of Boston's Annual Sunday Service, the completion of the Rockery Gardens Nature Regeneration Project in Skegness, the Chairman of South Holland District Council's Civic Service and had met with the new Principal at Skegness Academy.

On his behalf, the Vice-Chairman Councillor Edward Mossop attended the Sibsey Lancaster Memorial Trust Annual Service of Remembrance 2023.

The Chairman thanked fellow Councillors who attended his Civic Service held on Sunday 1 October 2023 and for the generous donations to his nominated charity, Macmillan Cancer Support.

#### 46. QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC:

Three questions had been received as below, following which a written response had been provided to each in line with Council Procedure Rule 10.9.

Question 1	Paul Fisher
Subject	Climate Emergency Declaration (CED)
Response by	Councillor Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs
Supplementary	Thank you for your response. With all that you are doing, why would that preclude you from issuing a CED?
Response	Thank you for your question. We feel that we are dealing with this in the right order and we are dealing with the challenge, but we will take your point and discuss it.

Question 2	Lynne Cooney
Subject	Charles Street, Louth
Response by	Councillor Marsh, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction
Supplementary	Thank you for your response. I note that this states 'may be interested in leasing some of the community space at the recreation area' – which parts of Charles Street do you refer to?
Response	Thank you for your question. We won't know until the consultation has finished with the people of Louth and other interested parties and we need to get people's thoughts of what they would like to do. I have visited Charles Street 3 times recently and people have different ideas, for example re-wilding and it is important to take all views onboard.

Question 3	Alison Beet
Subject	Viking CCS Pipeline
Response by	Councillor Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services
Supplementary	Thank you for your response. Based on the fact Harbour Energy are on site working in hazard

	suits without any prior notification to residents and parish councils do you think health and safety should be considered immediately?
Response	Thank you, I'm not aware of this situation and it is something I can look into. Please be assured we work with all agencies to cover such situations so I will take that back and look at what is happening on site.

A full copy of the questions is attached at **Appendix 1 to these Minutes**.

#### **47. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

The Leader of the Council referred to an updated copy of his report. A copy is attached at Appendix B to the Minutes.

Following which, questions were put forward.

A Member referred to the award of £60 million for three towns in the Partnership and highlighted that Skegness would be benefiting from £20m over the next 10 years, following which it was queried whether this would free up ELDC money for other areas. In response, Councillor Leyland highlighted that he had outlined this in his supplementary report, which included the opportunity to restructure the Council's Economic team to deal with the challenges the Council faced across the district and specifically dealing with its market towns.

A Member added that she was heartened to see a focus on market towns and stressed the importance of working in tandem with partners and highlighted the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Louth town centre trial traffic scheme that had had a detrimental affect on shops in the town. In response, Councillor Leyland agreed that there needed to be a partnership approach across the board and acknowledged that there was a lack of consultation on the LCC trial traffic scheme in Louth and that it had ended badly. Moving on from that, the positive outcomes from the Towns Fund Board was highlighted, and the recent Food Festival in Louth that was likened to the Lincoln Christmas Market in terms of the crowds and atmosphere. And importantly, the Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and Rural Economy had the ambition for positive outcomes for the Council's market towns.

#### **48. INVESTMENT IN ACCOMMODATION TO MEET HOUSING NEEDS ACROSS EAST LINDSEY:**

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Better Ageing presented a report that enabled consideration of amending the Council's Capital Programme, reflecting the funds required to deliver nine properties under the Local Authority Housing Programme, alongside a further investment of £1m to support delivery of temporary accommodation to meets the needs of residents.

The background to the report was highlighted to Members, as set out at Paragraphs 1 and 2, pages 50 to 53 of the Agenda refer.

It was noted that the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) Round 2 was a £250m national programme to support local authorities in providing accommodation to Afghan families, settled in the UK legally under various government schemes following the conflict that had occurred in the country.

The fund was designed to support primarily with providing accommodation for Afghan families. The fund also allowed authorities to access funds to support provision of additional general temporary accommodation to meet local needs. The authority had been invited by government to consider an offer of £936,000 to support in making available nine properties; eight homes for Afghan families, and one property for general temporary accommodation.

At a meeting of Executive Board on September 20th 2023, it formally agreed to take part in the Local Authority Housing Round 2 programme. Participation in the Local Authority Housing Fund scheme required the Council's Capital Programme to be amended to reflect the project, including local authority match funding, Minute No. 22 refers.

At the same meeting of Executive Board, a further recommendation was agreed to make available a further additional £1m to support investment in temporary accommodation to meet wider needs arising in the district and in light of the Executive Board decisions, this report recommended to Full Council that the necessary amendments to the Capital Programme be made to enable the total package of housing investment in its entirety to progress.

Following which the recommendation was duly Proposed and Seconded.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward and during discussion the following queries and comments were made:

A Member queried whether the funding referred to was for new properties or refurbishment of existing properties. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the LAHF funding was for new properties. The additional £1m funding was more flexible and the Council could decide in which way it used the money. Further to a query whether more properties could become available by refurbishing, it was highlighted that this often presented obstacles and the process took longer. It was confirmed that the properties funded by LAHF had to be in place by Spring 2024 which was part of the conditions of the grant.

A Member commented that members of the Afghan community liked to live closer together and queried whether the nine properties being built could be in close proximity to enable them to support each other. It was highlighted that Afghans were keen to work and considered that they should not be housed in the countryside, but in a more urban location. It was further highlighted that there were some innovative ideas relating to places for homeless people in London, albeit very basic accommodation but good schemes and it was queried whether this could be investigated as East Lindsey had a large

number of temporary homeless people. In response, the Portfolio Holder clarified that the Council would not be building the nine properties as they needed to be in place by the Spring, therefore would be purchasing these but consideration could be given to purchasing a block of houses. Members were further advised that if Afghans chose not to live in East Lindsey, the Council still received the funding. With regards to the additional £1m funding, the Council could be more innovative and advised Members that the Housing Team was currently looking at the housing appraisals and pods of a modular construction, for example.

A Member queried whether any of the properties being built by Invest East Lindsey would be suitable for the project. In response, the Portfolio Holder stated that there were experienced officers in the Council with relevant knowledge and it could be a possibility.

In conclusion, the Leader of the Council stated that he was very supportive of the scheme and highlighted that the Afghans coming to the UK were fleeing the collapse of the Afghan regime and were mostly qualified, including civil servants and doctors and were willing to work and contribute to society and benefit the area where they chose to settle.

#### RESOLVED

That the Council's 2023/24 capital programme, to include the Local Authority Housing Fund project, coupled with an additional £1m investment in temporary accommodation, as set out in Appendix A be amended.

#### **49. 2023/24 QUARTER ONE FINANCE UPDATE:**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented a report to enable consideration of the current financial position for the Council at the end of the first quarter of 2023/24 forecasting to the year end.

During his introduction the Portfolio Holder for Finance highlighted that it was important to ensure the Council's forecast financial position for 2023/24 was considered and related decisions approved and that Council was aware of the financial position of the General Fund to ensure that it could make informed decisions that were affordable and financially sustainable for the Council.

The report provided information on the forecast full year financial performance at 30 June 2023 and was detailed at Appendix A for the following areas:

- The General Fund Revenue Budget,
- The General Fund Reserves Position,
- The Capital Programme for 2023/24, and
- The Treasury Management Performance for the year.

Further detail was also provided on the General Fund Provisional Outcome, Savings Target, Internal Drainage Boards, Reserves, Capital – General Fund and Treasury Management, pages 60 to 61 of the Agenda refer.

Following which the recommendation was duly Proposed and Seconded.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward and during discussion the following queries and comments were made:

A Member referred to the legal cost provision at £50k for Kingfisher Caravan Park, Section 2.1, page 63 of the Agenda refers and queried whether this related to what was coming down the line by former users of the site. In response, the Portfolio Holder for Finance confirmed that this was correct.

A Member queried what set ELDC apart from other councils financially, given the current financial turbulence. In response, the Portfolio holder for Finance explained that the current inflationary situation was working in the Council's favour, largely because of the amount of money in the account from the Towns Fund projects. As there had been some delay in dispersing the funds the Council was able to invest this at quite significant interest rates and the budget for investment income had increased by £1.4m. In addition, the business rates situation where the Council had required a significant hereditament was generating a significant amount of funding and an unexpected amount of income in the coming financial period of £10m.

A Member referred to Table 4, page 70 of the Agenda refers and asked for clarification whether the Council was spending £11m on Climate Change projects in the first quarter and what the projects related to. In response, the Section 151 Officer advised Members that it included the Green Home Grants in the Capital Programme and in May 2023 the Council approved a further £5.6m, including HUG2 grants and LAD1 grants, however advised that some of the funds had not yet been fully dispersed as the Council was awaiting guidance from government.

In conclusion, the Leader of the Council stated that the Council was in a good position financially and this was as a result of good management of the funding received. Challenges had been dealt with along the way and it was down to the Conservative administration that the Council's finances had been well-managed and was a credit to the numerous Portfolio Holders for Finance and Section 151 Officers during this time and the current efforts of the Finance Team.

RESOLVED:

That the Capital Programme, to take into account the changes set out in the report at Appendix A – Table 4 which included slippage, additions and changes to the previously reported programme be amended.

**50. SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORT:**

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs presented a report that set out the progress of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership since the last update on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The background to the report was highlighted to Members, as set out at Paragraph 1, page 86 of the Agenda refers and particular reference was made to the following:

- Progress of the Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24 (Section 2)
- The Peer Review Action Plan and Business Case delivery progress (Section 3)
- The updates from the Priority Partnerships (Section 4)
- The Partnership Scrutiny Action Plan delivery progress (Section 5)
- Following which the recommendations were duly Proposed and Seconded.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward. None were received.

RESOLVED

That the following areas of the report be noted.

1. Progress of the Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24 (Section 2)
2. The Peer Review Action Plan and Business Case delivery progress (Section 3)
3. The updates from the Priority Partnerships (Section 4)
4. The Partnership Scrutiny Action Plan delivery progress (Section 5)

#### **51. SKEGNESS FORESHORE TOWNS FUND PROJECT BUDGET:**

The Portfolio Holder for Coastal Economy presented a report that sought approval to amend the Council's Capital Programme Budget for the Skegness Foreshore project to assist with taking the project forward.

The background to the report was highlighted to Members, as set out at Paragraph 1, page 100 of the Agenda refers.

Members were requested to consider approving the recommendation to enable officers to progress discussions and negotiations with an agreed shortlist of preferred development schemes following the marketing of four lots on the Skegness Foreshore via an open commercial marketing process, and for officers to continue to work with those shortlisted bidders to better understand the basis and opportunity for enabling and bringing forward the future on-site investment.

Following which the recommendation was duly Proposed and Seconded.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

A Member queried whether there was a specific project for which the movement of funding was required. In response, the Portfolio Holder for Coastal Economy explained that there were a number of projects that the officers wished to work with in the coming months which may necessitate a need to spend that money earlier on delivering those projects.

RESOLVED

That the bringing forward of the existing Capital Programme budget in respect of the Skegness Foreshore Towns Fund project from 2024/25 to 2023/24 be approved.

## **52. MOTIONS ON NOTICE:**

The following Motion was received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12:

### *Preparation for political parties' manifestos for the coming election*

*Following advice at the recent Rural Services Network annual conference, we propose that our Leader should write to all national political parties as they prepare their manifestos for the coming election, to ensure they acknowledge one size does not fit all and that in future rural areas should receive fair funding to enable us to effectively deliver both services and healthcare provision.*

Proposer: Cllr Jill Makinson-Sanders  
Seconder: Cllr Edward Mossop

In her introduction, Councillor Makinson-Sanders explained that she recently attended the Rural Services Network Annual Conference whereby it was suggested that all rural councils should contact the major parties as they drew up their manifestos for the forthcoming election, pointing out how much more it cost providing services in rural areas and consequently how disadvantaged the rate payers were as a result of this and asked Members to support the Motion.

In addition, Councillor Makinson-Sanders asked that the Council also wrote to the Times newspaper for more publicity for rural areas and fairer funding.

In support of the Motion, Councillor Mossop stated that the Council should be appraising all prospective parliamentary candidates in the run up to a potential election in 2024 where some of the new candidates may not be aware of the rurality in East Lindsey as the current MPs were.

Councillor Graham Marsh stated that he had great pleasure in supporting the Motion as for long as he could remember Lincolnshire had been under funded and as a community hoped that the Council's voice would be heard.



In response, the Chairman of Executive Board stated that he was very happy to support the Motion. He had recently attended a Local Government Association seminar on the Rural Services Network which was an excellent organisation who had explored the issues and understood that the challenges faced by rural communities were multi layered and stated that he was happy to write to the MPs to make the point.

Following which on being put to the vote it was,

RESOLVED

That the Motion be supported.

### **53. MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:**

The Vice-Chairman of Audit and Governance Committee presented the following Open and Exempt Minutes from the Audit and Governance Committee Meetings as follows:

- Meeting held on 5 July 2023 (Approved)
- Meeting held on 27 September 2023 (Draft)

No comments were received.

RESOLVED

That the Approved Open and Exempt Minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and the Draft Open and Exempt Minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 27 September 2023 be noted.

### **54. QUESTIONS:**

Question 1	Councillor Hesketh
Subject	Timeline and interaction with NDA, RWM & NWS
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	Can I summarise from your response that the nuclear ambitions are being driven by LCC?
Response:	We are partners in the process having being invited onto the working group and community committee which is progressing. Initial contact was with LCC and we willingly joined the process.
Question 2	Councillor Hesketh
Subject	Costs occurred with the GDF
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	With regards to LCC advertising for a permanent Lincoln based job to promote activity that

	enables the council and the area to benefit from the proposed GDF and investigate nuclear reactors, funded by NWS, can you confirm that our impartiality will not be compromised by taking NWS money and we will show leadership by investigating other uses of the Theddlethorpe site?
Response:	We want to find out as much information for residents and share this with them, both the pros and cons and this will involve a lot of work, seeking additional studies. Our position as a council is of neutrality, we intend to remain neutral on the matter so we can look after the interests and make sure information is given to residents as clearly as possible.
Question 3	Councillor Hesketh
Subject	Host Community - GDF
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	Will you support Cllr Robert Watson and my self's Motion for a referendum in the next 12 months and what arguments will you put forward for a local referendum to test willingness by the public towards a GDF before this thing gets completely out of hand?
Response	I haven't seen the Motion yet, because I didn't want to be compromised but it is for you to present to the next Council meeting. ELDC is engaged openly and the decision made by Executive Board to engage with this process was as neutral as possible
Question 4	Councillor Jackson
Subject	Running costs for Charles Street Recreation Ground.
Response by	Councillor Marsh
Supplementary	None
Question 5	Councillor David Hall
Subject	Solar Energy Panel Applications
Response by	Councillor Ashton
Supplementary	None
Question 6	Councillor Aldridge
Subject	Housing Supply Figures
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	None
Question 7	Councillor Aldridge

Subject	Sale of Tedder Hall
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	How much was Tedder Hall sold for? We were also told the Hub would be cost neutral – how much are East Lindsey residents paying for the shortfall?
Response	I am happy to provide a detailed response. The cost neutral element is over a period time and we also got a GLEP grant for the element of Boston College at the Hub, but I will provide details on how the building was funded, although it was carefully detailed at the time and communicated to Councillors.
Question 8	Councillor Aldridge
Subject	Furniture and equipment at Tedder Hall
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	Why was Tedder Hall not completely cleared out on the completion of the sale?
Response	The reality is that during the disposal of a property, there will always be remnants that need sorting out and there comes a point where it is not worth the Council's efforts. The new owner of the building chose to auction off the elements that were left and the money was given to a local charity.
Question 9	Councillor Aldridge
Subject	Magna Vitae – Skegness BID
Response by	Councillor Marsh
Supplementary	I did ask what the benefits were for MV, the response was not full enough?
Response	I understand that the café at Skegness did really well through the BID. MV is an independent company and I'm sure if you ask them directly they will provide you with this information to help with your enquiry. I'm not sure I entirely understood your question, I am happy to speak with you outside of the meeting.
Question 10	Councillor Aldridge
Subject	Working days for Planning officers/consultants
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	With regards to the consultants the Council employs and their locations, is that a good use of money?
Response	Modern days of working would not necessitate travel to a great degree, and we seek the best advice from wherever it comes. This shows the

	challenge of recruitment and I have no qualms that we employ consultants from different parts of the country.
Question 11	Councillor Aldridge
Subject	Percentage of planning applications/timescales
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	None
Question 12	Councillor Aldridge
Subject	Response times by planning officers
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	Will you check further to ensure that officers are responding to people including Councillors as I have lots of evidence that correspondence has not been answered?
Response	I am happy to look at this, it is important that members of the public and interested parties should be able to contact the planning department and get a response. If Councillor Aldridge wants to chat with Councillor Ashton I'm sure that can be discussed.
Question 13	Councillor Makinson-Sanders
Subject	Shopping outlets on Louth Industrial Estate
Response by	Councillor Grist
Supplementary	I note that new shops are opening on the Fairfield Industrial Estate, for example one selling baby equipment, when there is spare retail space in the town. Why has there been no sequential test undertaken for those sorts of uses?
Response	You make a valid point, and maybe this question is more relevant to Councillor Ashton. However, we want to move some focus towards our market towns and is important to do this, given the current climate and the challenge that towns are facing nationally. We can't solve all issues, the way people shop is changing immeasurably but I feel there is much we can and will do, so watch this space.
Question 14	Councillor Makinson-Sanders
Subject	Council tax levies on renovated properties
Response by	Councillor Fry/Councillor Ashton
Supplementary	Don't we allow people a concession when people are renovating a property?
Response	We have a very able system for properties that have been empty over a long period of time and

	if there is a justified reason a person can apply for a reduction or have the charge removed.
Question 15	Councillor Horton
Subject	Overview Committee holding Executive Board to account.
Response by	Councillor Fiona Martin
Supplementary	None
Question 16	Councillor Horton
Subject	Increase of planning schemes underway or finished being received by Parish Councils.
Response by	Councillor Ashton
Supplementary	None
Question 17	Councillor Horton
Subject	Reviewing procedure for Planning Call-in
Response by	Councillor Ashton
Supplementary	None
Question 18	Councillor Horton
Subject	Large Edition Games – Café Culture
Response by	Councillor Grist
Supplementary	Would it not have been better to have put the equipment in the Meridian Centre where it could have been used daily?
Response	We can look at that, yes.
Question 19	Councillor Horton
Subject	Criteria for membership on a scrutiny panel
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	None
Question 20	Councillor Makinson-Sanders
Subject	Dangerous dogs
Response by	Councillor Foster
Supplementary	My resident has found much difficulty with those involved in the process – can you reassure this lady?
Response	I will speak to the back-office team and we need to tighten up our communication between the Dog Warden, RSPCA and the Police so that we accept the roles and understand them better.

*N.B. Councillor Ashton joined the Meeting at 7.55pm.*

Question 21	Councillor Yarsley
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Subject	Legislation changes - planning and land use for renewable technologies
Response by	Councillor Ashton
Supplementary	Is there any way to make clear to the Planning Department what constitutes BMV land and what goes on it and what is to stop the whole of our area being covered in solar panels?
Response	The balance of where both you and I would like to see it is not where national policy sees it. The most effective thing that prevents the large applications in East Lindsey is that we don't have the grid connections for them. I will continue to do everything I can to make sure the goalposts on this reflect where we would like to see it but we are guided by national policy and appeal decisions.
Question 22	Councillor Yarsley
Subject	Council's stance with regards to renewables
Response by	Councillor Leyland
Supplementary	None
Question 23	Councillor Yarsley
Subject	Income received from business rates from Hatton Solar Farm, Viking Link, Tritton Knoll, GDF and National Grid pylons.
Response by	Councillor Fry
Supplementary	Further to your response, is there no way to get a ball-park figure for these?
Response	The answer is no because we are not qualified to do so, and there is no point in setting hares running with information that is not appropriate or accurate.
Question 24	Councillor Dawson
Subject	Issues with Local Plan policies
Response by	Councillor Ashton
Supplementary	Will you be instructing the Planning Department and the Planning Committee to take into account the new and emerging evidence from the existing review when assessing the application?
Response	It's not my role or that of any Councillor to instruct planning officers on what they should and should not be taking into account on an individual application. As the Local Plan moves through its processes and policies are reviewed it does not mean that the Plan is out of date and until the review is much further on it doesn't carry full weight.

Question 25	Councillor Dawson
Subject	Lessons learned from traveller incidents
Response by	Councillor Ashton
Supplementary	Will the post-event review following the recent encampments in Skegness and Boston, Chapel St Leonards and now Addlethorpe be shared with town and parish councils so they can learn how to best respond to these situations as they arise?
Response	I'm not entirely sure as this crosses over more portfolios than just mine, however in my experience the responses received from the councils in the Partnership over the last weeks in relation to these incidents have been most efficient and we have learned from past experiences. I am more than happy for town and parish councils to be able to learn from what we have learned in this council on making sure we are on the front foot each time.

**55. EXEMPT INFORMATION:**

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item on the grounds that, if they were present, there could be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 1, 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended).

**56. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REMUNERATION REVIEW:**

An exempt report was presented.

RESOLVED

That Recommendations Nos i, ii, iii and iv as set out in the Exempt Minute be agreed.

**57. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The programmed date for the next Meeting of the Council was noted as Wednesday 13 December 2023 commencing at 2.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

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**APPENDIX A****Update to Actions – from the Council Meeting held on 19 July 2023.****Item No 39 Questions**Question 1 – Supplementary Question Received.

Question 1	Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders
Subject	Extension to Louth Industrial Estate
Response by	Councillor Adam Grist
Supplementary	How are we going to ask Lincolnshire County Council to invest in the Industrial Estate?
Response:	Councillor Adam Grist to provide a written response.

Response received as follows:

*Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire LEP are already aware of the request for infrastructure funding towards the Fairfield Industrial Estate extension via their Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Senior officers meet regularly between the two Councils on shared growth ambitions and opportunities but the potential investment into additional serviced employment land in Louth is one project which has been on their list of potential schemes for some time pending available funding opportunities.*

Question 15 – Supplementary Question Received.

Question 15	Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders
Subject	Financial functions undertaken by PSPS Limited
Response by	Councillor Richard Fry
Supplementary	What is the limited number of examples referred to?
Response:	A written response is required.

Response received as follows:

*The Council made a previous decision to outsource its finance function to PSPS Ltd based on a business case at that time.*

*There a limited number of examples of outsourced finance functions across England as follows:*

*Publica*

*Cantium*

*LGSS (now part of the Northants combined authority)*

*Mid-Kent Services*

*Serco (Lincs County and Peterborough CC – some functions now in house)*

*PSPS have recently commissioned CIPFA to carry out a review of the finance function and the Council is engaged in this process.*

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**APPENDIX 1****QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC FOR COUNCIL UNDER RULE 10 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES – COUNCIL 11 OCTOBER 2023****1. Question by Paul and Melanie Fisher to Councillor Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.**

We would like to ask if this council has ever considered making a Climate Emergency Declaration (CED) and, if not, would you consider doing so?

There are well over 600 examples of councils in the country having already done this that include county, district and town councils. Some local examples would be Boston Borough Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, both North and South Kesteven District Councils, Lincoln City Council and both Horncastle and Louth Town Councils.

We strongly feel that it would be disappointing to be left behind in issuing a CED.

- A.** *The Council considered making a climate emergency declaration in 2019 however determined not to do so in favour of adopting direct action instead. The Council is committed to an ambitious target to reach net zero by 2040, 10 years in advance of the Governments net zero target of 2050, with a 45% reduction in carbon emissions by 2027. In the last few years the Council has approved an Environment Policy and a Climate Change Strategy, the latter of which has been adopted by Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council to increase our influence and action on climate change across our sub region.*

*We recognize that the objectives of our ambitious Climate Change Strategy cannot be delivered by the Council alone hence we have established the South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network, a consortium of businesses, public sector and third sector organizations working together with our communities to effect action. SELCAN has just celebrated its first year since establishment.*

*The Council is also leading nationally delivering an £11 million programme of home energy efficiency improvement measures to 900 properties across our Partnership area, typically reducing carbon emissions by 2.5 tonnes and tackling fuel poverty by saving on average £600 per property per year.*

*We are also leading by example, tackling carbon emissions from our own Council operations and assets, and have an agreed carbon reduction plan and capital investment programme that's seeks to reduce the Councils carbon footprint and overall revenue costs.*

**2. Question by Lynne Cooney to Councillor Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction**

In respect of the closure of Charles street pond under the dubious reason of "safety", can ELDC confirm that the decision was from all parties to walk

***The wording of the question(s) above is replicated directly from the original written question submitted***

## APPENDIX 1

away from the project that they undertook in 2018, and commit to a sincere, transparent pledge to explore working in partnership with LTC/other organisations, regarding the park and pond, agreeing to face to face talks & acknowledging that the public have a right to open green spaces and factual information that wasn't provided in a redacted copy of deeds regarding the park?

- A.** *I thank Ms Cooney for her question; East Lindsey District Council is committed to engaging with interested parties to secure a long term sustainable future of Charles Street and officers will shortly be inviting expressions of interest from suitably constituted groups and organisations who may be interested in leasing some of the community space at the Recreation Area.*

*In terms of Deeds relating to the site, they are a matter of public record and are available from HM Land Registry. However, any information provided under the Freedom of Information Act could well be redacted in line with the prescriptions of that Act.*

### **3. Question by Alison Beet to Councillor Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services**

#### Viking CCS pipeline

My question is, what disaster and emergency planning is ELDC carrying out in relation to this project?

- A.** *Thank you for your question.*

*The Viking CCS pipeline is still at a very early stage in its consenting process. Whilst it is anticipated this will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) in the coming months; it will be a considerable period of time before the Examination and ultimate decision is reached.*

*Matters pertaining to safety will be a relevant consideration throughout the consenting process, and I anticipate that the developer will provide information to the Planning Inspectorate in this regard.*

*In the event that the pipeline is consented, and subsequently constructed, it will be at that stage that the operator will likely work with the Council and other agencies such as the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum; Health & Safety Executive and the key emergency response organisations to ensure that appropriate plans are in place to prevent any issues, or to ensure an appropriate response in the event of an emergency.*

Ends.

**The wording of the question(s) above is replicated directly from the original written question submitted**

**Update to Leader's Report – Council Meeting 11 October 2023.**

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate our officers who were instrumental in organising the inaugural Louth Food and Drink Festival. Working with local businesses and community volunteers, the event was a great success. I was able to visit in the morning and it was fantastic to see so many people enjoying the delicacies that were on offer. I understand that many stands had sold out in record time with one Louth company saying they had sold more of their product during our Festival than when they attend the two-day Lincolnshire show.

The event is part of a project to promote Louth's unique food and drink offer. We have also launched a new digital food and drink map for the town which showcases the amazing variety of niche food businesses that are offered in Louth. This will be promoted nationally to encourage visitors to the town. Working with businesses we look to making Louth a must visit destination for foodies.

I also want to make comment on the award of £60 million for three towns in the partnership. Our interest is obviously with the grant for Skegness. This is another huge success for the South and East Lincolnshire Partnership and is very much aimed at dealing with issues that face our town centres. The funding is made available over 10 years, and we will work with local partners to ensure this makes a real difference to the quality of life for those living in Skegness. Government has indicated that the model of the Towns Board will be mirrored to deliver the funding. As we receive more detail from government, we will share that to progress this worthwhile opportunity.

While we have been fortunate to receive circa £180 million across the partnership area, we need to look to having a sub-regional economic strategy based on Growth and Prosperity for all our populations and communities. The government has recognised our challenges in dealing with deprivation that's mostly connected with our coastal towns and communities. That has been the basis of the Levelling up agenda.

Town centres across the country are under threat. Changing shopping habits and the demise of large town centre stores are taking their toll on the viability of town centres. We have seen that in our locality too.

And it is quite understandable that residents and businesses in our market towns and large villages see the focus of government levelling up initiatives on our coastal towns and make the plea "what about us?"

While we have driven investment in two of our market towns via cultural and heritage funds.....we know we can do more to add to the work of our ED teams who have delivered with such initiatives Vital and Viable and I hope you've taken the time to read the SELCP six monthly performance update and all the growth and prosperity initiatives that we have engaged with.....we know that the valuable business intelligence gained when our ED officers were tasked with distributing government support grants and business rate relief can be put to good use driving future initiatives.

As already stated, we are producing a sub-regional economic strategy, we now also have opportunity to restructure our own economic team to deal with the challenges we face across the district and specifically dealing with our market towns.

With this in mind, and after discussions with Executive colleagues and officers, I am proposing that we have an umbrella sub regional strategy that enables us to focus on the challenges we face across our market towns. We should aim to revitalise and regenerate our town centres, continue the work to

promote the area as a destination for visitors, support business to grow and develop while supporting skills and employment opportunities.

To enable community and business engagement we will create a mirror of the Towns Fund methodology .... with my town websites where ideas can be discussed and development.

This will not happen without significant prime funding. As a council, we will look to provide the necessary resource to progress this. We will also look to other partners to join in this endeavour. In the same way engagement was encouraged through the Connected Coast Board we will do the same for our inland communities. Timing is everything ..... we now have a unique opportunity to make sure we have a golden thread through all this council's endeavours.