

Tel: (01507) 601111 Ext. 613423

If you would like any further information or have any special requirements in respect of this Meeting, please contact Elaine Speed, Senior Democratic Services Officer on (01507) 613423

Email: elaine.speed@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Website: www.e-lindsey.gov.uk

Date: Tuesday, 9 July 2024

Dear Councillor,

Council Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of **East Lindsey District Council** to be held at **the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH** on **Wednesday, 17th July, 2024** at **6.30 pm**, for the transaction of the business set out in the attached Agenda.

- The public and the press may access the meeting via the following link <https://bit.ly/ELDCYT> where a livestream and subsequent recording of the meeting will be available.

Yours sincerely



Robert Barlow
Chief Executive

Conservative

Councillors Tom Ashton, Richard Avison, Wendy Bowkett, Colin Davie, Sid Dennis, Sarah Devereux, Dick Edginton, Stephen Evans, Martin Foster, Richard Fry, William Gray, Adam Grist, Will Grover, Alex Hall, Neil Jones, Sam Kemp, Thomas Kemp, Steve Kirk, James Knowles, Craig Leyland, Stephen Lyons, Daniel McNally, Carl Macey, Graham Marsh, Paul Rickett and Terry Taylor

District Independent/Liberal Democrat

Councillors Sandra Campbell-Wardman and Fiona Martin, M.B.E.

East Lindsey Independent Group

Councillors Terry Aldridge, Carleen Dickinson, Stephen Eyre, Travis Hesketh, Darren Hobson, George Horton, Andrew Leonard, Steve McMillan, Jill Makinson-Sanders, Ellie Marsh, Edward Mossop, Daniel Simpson, Robert Watson and Ruchira Yarsley

Independent

Councillors Stef Bristow and Terry Knowles

Labour

Councillors Claire Arnold, Graham Cullen, Roger Dawson, David Hall, Rosalind Jackson and Kate Marnoch

Skegness Urban District Society (SUDS)

Councillors Billy Brookes, Danny Brookes, Jimmy Brookes, Richard Cunnington and Mark Dannatt

COUNCIL AGENDA

Wednesday, 17 July 2024

| Item | Subject | Page No. |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</u> | |
| 2. | <u>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):</u> | |
| 3. | <u>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS:</u> To consider excluding the public and press for the following items and if appropriate the Chairman to move:- 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 paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended). | |
| 4. | <u>MINUTES:</u> To confirm the Open and Exempt Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 May 2024. | 1 - 24 |
| 5. | <u>ACTION SHEETS:</u> To confirm Actions following the Meeting held on 22 May 2024. | 25 - 30 |
| 6. | <u>COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:</u> | Verbal Report |
| 7. | <u>QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC:</u> To answer questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10. | |
| 8. | <u>REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:</u> Report of the Chairman of Executive Board. | 31 - 34 |
| 9. | <u>ANNUAL OVERVIEW REPORT TO COUNCIL:</u> To note the Annual Overview Report to Council. | 35 - 44 |
| 10. | <u>APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY:</u> To consider an appointment to an Outside Body for the municipal year 2024/25. | 45 - 50 |
| 11. | <u>MOTIONS ON NOTICE:</u> To receive Motions on Notice under Council Procedure Rule 12. | |

Proposed nuclear waste site at Theddlethorpe

With reference to the proposed nuclear waste site at Theddlethorpe, we request that the executive of this council responds to both proven, overwhelming democratic public opinion, and motions passed recently by the district's town and parish councils and declares support for both our residents and visitors to this district by calling for an immediate test of public support to take place within 12 months or withdrawal of this council from the geological disposal facility process.

Proposer: Robert Watson
Seconder: Travis Hesketh

- 12. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:** 51 - 60
- To note the Minutes of Audit and Governance Committee held on 19 June 2024.
- 13. QUESTIONS:**
- To answer questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 11.
- 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**
- The programmed date for the next Meeting of the Council will be Wednesday 9 October 2024.
- 15. EXEMPT INFORMATION:**
- To consider excluding the public and press for the following items and if appropriate the Chairman to move:-
- 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 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended).
- 16. LAND FOR FUTURE REGENERATION IN MABLETHORPE:** To Follow
- To consider an Exempt Report.
- 17. DISPENSATION REQUESTS:** 61 - 66
- To consider an Exempt Report.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council held in the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH on Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

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

Councillors Terry Aldridge, Claire Arnold, Tom Ashton, Richard Avison, Wendy Bowkett, Stef Bristow, Danny Brookes, Sandra Campbell-Wardman, Mark Dannatt, Colin Davie, Roger Dawson, Sarah Devereux, Carleen Dickinson, Dick Edginton, Stephen Evans, Martin Foster, Richard Fry, William Gray, Adam Grist, Alex Hall, David Hall, Travis Hesketh, Darren Hobson, George Horton, Rosalind Jackson, Neil Jones, Sam Kemp, Thomas Kemp, Steve Kirk, James Knowles, Andrew Leonard, Craig Leyland, Stephen Lyons, Steve McMillan, Daniel McNally, Carl Macey, Jill Makinson-Sanders, Kate Marnoch, Ellie Marsh, Graham Marsh, Fiona Martin, M.B.E., Edward Mossop, Daniel Simpson, Terry Taylor, Robert Watson and Ruchira Yarsley.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

It was Proposed by Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders and Seconded by Councillor George Horton that Councillor Edward Mossop be elected Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Makinson-Sanders stated that Councillor Mossop was a very talented and long-standing Councillor and would be an excellent Chairman.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Edward Mossop be elected as Chairman of the Council for the Council year 2024/25.

COUNCILLOR EDWARD MOSSOP IN THE CHAIR

2. CHAIRMAN TO MAKE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:

The Chairman made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman, Councillor Dick Edginton which was duly seconded.

Thanks and appreciation to the retiring Chairman were also received from all Political Group Leaders.

Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council added that Councillor Edginton had provided a very good service to the communities in Skegness and had served for a long time as a back bencher and also as an Executive Board Member and had always been most genial and pleasant.

In responding to the vote of thanks, Councillor Edginton expressed his thanks to all who had assisted him during his term of office. He also extended his thanks to everyone who had supported his charity 'Macmillan Cancer Support' and was pleased to announce that during his civic year an amount of £2250 had been raised.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

It was Proposed by Councillor Craig Leyland and Seconded by Councillor Graham Marsh that Councillor Terry Taylor be elected Vice Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Leyland stated that Councillor Taylor had provided a great service to many communities and was a fair and considered person who would be an excellent support to the Chairman.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Terry Taylor be elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the Council year 2024/25.

4. VICE-CHAIRMAN TO MAKE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:

The Vice Chairman made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman extended his congratulations to Councillor Taylor and stated that he looked forward to working with him.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Billy Brookes, Jimmy Brookes, Graham Cullen, Richard Cunnington, Sid Dennis, Stephen Eyre, Will Grover, Terry Knowles and Paul Rickett.

6. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):

At this point in the Meeting, Members were invited to declare any relevant interests.

Councillors Richard Fry and Jill Makinson-Sanders asked it be noted that in respect of Item No. 21 they were Directors of PSPS Limited and would leave the Meeting.

- Councillor Colin Davie asked it be noted that he wished to declare a non-pecuniary interest as a Lincolnshire County Councillor on the Connected Coast Board, Item No. 23 refers.
- Councillor George Horton asked it be noted that a family member was employed by the Council, Minute No. 17 refers.

7. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 February 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 27 March 2024 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8. ACTION SHEETS:

The Actions of the Meeting held on 28 February 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 27 March 2024 were confirmed as complete.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

The Chairman announced that the nominated charity for his Civic Year would be the Lincolnshire Rural Support Network. This charity provided support to the agricultural community and allied industries on mental wellbeing in times of crisis, stress and change.

The Chairman further confirmed he would not be appointing a chaplain for his Civic Year but would have a thought for the day/reading before the start of the Meeting.

10. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Councillor Graham Marsh was appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council by the Leader of the Council.

Members were appointed to Executive Board as follows:

- Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction.
- Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning.
- Councillor Sarah Devereux, Portfolio Holder for Partnerships.
- Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services.
- Councillor Tom Kemp, Portfolio Holder for Finance.
- Councillor William Gray, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Better Ageing.
- Councillor Adam Grist, Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and the Rural Economy.

- Councillor Steve Kirk, Portfolio Holder for the Coastal Economy.

The Leader of the Council congratulated Councillor Tom Kemp on his appointment to Portfolio Holder for Finance.

Members passed their thanks to the retiring Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Richard Fry. Councillor Ashton stated that Councillor Fry had guided the Council through many financial challenges which had maintained services for the communities and had also served as Portfolio Holder for Planning during the period of the implementation of the Local Plan.

The Chairman passed his thanks to Councillor Fry for his work and sound advice that he had provided to the Planning and Finance Portfolios and was pleased that he remained as a back-bench member.

Councillor Jackson, Leader of the Labour Group added her thanks to Councillor Fry for his diligent work on the budgets.

Councillor Jackson noted an in-balance of the sexes on Executive Board which was not fully representative.

N.B. Councillor James Knowles joined the Meeting at 6.55pm.

11. LEADER'S REPORT:

The Leader of the Council presented Members with his report, pages 79 to 82 of the Agenda refer.

Following which, questions and comments were put forward as follows:

Towns Fund Update

Councillor Marnoch welcomed the Towns Fund update, in particular for the Station Sports Leisure and Learning Centre at Mablethorpe. A progress report was requested on works in the War Memorial area.

In response, the Leader of the Council advised he would seek clarification on this matter.

Councillor Watson referred to the work on the erection of the steel frame for the Colonnade that had commenced in early May 2024. Clarification was sought on whether the structure would remain known as the Colonnade as both himself and Councillor Bristow had been contacted for the local communities to be able to put forward suggestions, with a public vote to be held. Councillor Watson supported this and considered it was important for the new structure to have a firm identity.

In response, the Leader of the Council advised he was not aware that suggestions for names for the new structure had come forward but would seek a response for this matter.

Councillor Kirk referred to the new college in Skegness that had received £15m of Towns Funding and was pleased to hear that there would be fantastic training opportunities for both young and older age groups without them having to travel to Boston or Grimsby.

In response, the Leader apologised for the omission of the college in his report and advised Members he had attended the topping out ceremony and stated that the college was a fantastic development for Skegness and the surrounding district.

Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival 11th-27th May

Councillor Arnold was pleased to see the different events listings which were very important to the economy, however it was highlighted that there were many more events taking place over the coming months, for example the SO Festival which must be adequately publicised.

In response, the Leader of the Council stated that it was important to include particular events in his report due to the commitment and funding required. He advised that there would be a wider communication for events, including the SO Festival by Magna Vitae.

Louth Food and Drink Festival 29th September

Councillor Leonard highlighted that the report stated exhibitors had been encouraged to come forward and queried whether there had been less interest from exhibitors than expected to date.

In response, the Leader of the Council highlighted that his report was full of good news stories and the Food and Drink Festival was a fantastic opportunity for Louth with officers working hard to make it a successful event.

Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) Funding 24/25

Councillor Watson thanked the Leader for highlighting the events taking place in Sutton on Sea.

Conservation Area Appraisals

Councillor Makinson-Sanders stated that she was disappointed with the update and highlighted that Louth Town Centre was deemed as 'at risk' by English Heritage and had been so since the Louth Town Plan was created in 2009.

In response, the Leader of the Council stated that the Council was now in a position to take steps to address this and referred to the various schemes, for example the shop front grant scheme that was available. However, it was acknowledged that direct action was needed from a conservation enforcement

point of view and he would raise this as an issue with Portfolio Holders and officers.

Organisational Development

Councillor Makinson-Sanders stated that she was concerned that events were taking place in Boston and highlighted the distance that people from East Lindsey were required to travel. It was highlighted that there was a lot of talent in the north of the district and future events should be equally placed.

In response, the Leader of the Council highlighted that some locations attracted certain events, however he recognised that an effort should be made to hold events in locations further and wider and would take the comments on board.

Awards

Councillor Ros Jackson offered her congratulations to those across the Partnership who had been shortlisted for the Greater Lincolnshire Apprenticeship Champion Awards 2024 and asked for an update on the winners.

In response, the Leader of the Council advised that he would circulate this information to Members.

Councillor Jackson further requested that Members be kept updated on major plans that impacted on the authority, for example the project for pylons from Grimsby to Walpole and the matter of unreasonable behaviour that had taken its toll on staff.

In response, the Leader of the Council stated that he had made a clear statement on the pylons issue and would continue to update Members on other infrastructure matters as they came forward and if appropriate and timely, would use this forum to provide any updates.

With regards to the Unreasonable Behaviour report, the Leader of the Council advised Members that the Unreasonable Behaviour Policy had been approved by Executive Board and a copy of the report would be shared with all Members as it was significant and important. Councillor Makinson-Sanders as a Director of PSPS Limited advised Members that she had written to PSPS in relation to concerns over staff abuse and this had been fully discussed at the PSPS Board Meeting on 20 May 2024. It was further stressed that the report covered all three councils across the Partnership and not just ELDC and training had been put in place to address this.

Councillor Simpson queried whether the recently appointed Assistant Director for Planning and Strategic Infrastructure could deliver a presentation to ELDC Members to set out his remit and vision for across the district.

In response, the Leader of the Council advised that there had been a discussion at the Leaders' Meeting to introduce the Assistant Director for Planning and Strategic Infrastructure to towns, parishes and councillor groups and his outlook for the district was refreshing.

Councillor Simpson further highlighted that there was still a poor response to emails from officers, despite this being brought to the attention of the Chief Executive and considered that this needed addressing as it was disrespectful.

In response, the Leader of the Council advised that this had been raised with the relevant Portfolio Holder and the Chief Executive.

Councillor Hesketh highlighted that there had been no further update on the Council's partnership with Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) or the Test of Public Support.

In response, the Leader of the Council stated he was happy to provide a full update on the NWS Community Partnership work. He highlighted that the recent Community Partnership meetings had not delivered a lot to be retold, however he would bring a full update to the next Council Meeting to ensure Councillors were aware of the issues to be faced and what progress had been made. It was further highlighted that there was an advert out for a permanent Chairman of the Community Partnership.

12. COUNCIL COMMITTEES 2024/25:

The Chief Executive presented a report which considered the allocation of places on Council Committees in accordance with the Political Group Regulations.

Members noted that the allocation of Council committee places for the municipal year 2024/25 must be in accordance with the provisions set out in the Council's Constitution, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended).

Appendices A (Proportionality) and B (Appointments) were tabled at the meeting and are attached to these Minutes (Appendices 1 and 2).

It was Proposed and Seconded

That the Council approved the establishment of its committees, including the allocation of committee seats as detailed at Appendix A and the appointments to committees as detailed at Appendix B.

RESOLVED

That the establishment of committees, including the allocation of committee seats as detailed at Appendix A and the appointments to committees as detailed at Appendix B for the municipal year 2024/25 be approved.

13. PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024/25:

The Chief Executive presented a report to enable agreement of a Programme of Council Meetings for the municipal year 2024/25.

Members were referred to the second Recommendation 'Notes the programme of Executive Board/Executive Briefing meetings and the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel meetings as set out in Appendix A'. Members were advised that dates for the Executive Board Briefings and Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel were not included in Appendix A to be consistent with the format presented across the Partnership.

Councillor Jackson highlighted that the Planning Meeting programmed for 4 July 2024 would have to be rescheduled due to the calling of the General Election on that day.

The amended recommendations were duly Proposed and Seconded.

The vote was carried.

RESOLVED

- That the programme of Full Council meetings and its committee meetings for the Municipal Year 2024/25 as set out in Appendix A be approved;
- That the programme of Executive Board meetings as set out in Appendix A be noted;
- That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Chairman to cancel a meeting where there was no substantive business and an agenda had not yet been published, or amend the programme of meetings where this would assist the decision-making body to discharge its responsibilities more effectively and an agenda had not yet been published.

14. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES:

A report was presented by the Chief Executive that considered the appointment of Council representatives to the various Outside Bodies which were within the remit of the Council for the municipal year 2024/25.

Members were advised that after discussion with Group Leaders, it was agreed to defer an appointment to Age UK Lindsey to enable further information to be provided on the responsibilities of the appointee and to refer to a future meeting.

It was Proposed and Seconded:

- That the Council makes appointments to the outside bodies where the Council is the appointing body as set out in Appendix A (tabled) to this report.
- That the appointment to Age UK Lindsey be deferred to the next Council meeting to enable further information to be provided on the responsibilities of the appointee.

RESOLVED

That Members be appointed to the various Bodies detailed below.

| Outside Body | Nominations for 2024/25 | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| Age UK Lindsey (1 nomination) | Deferred | |
| Alford Grammar School Foundation (1 nomination) | Councillor Sarah Devereux | Councillor Sarah Devereux |
| Public Service Partnership Services Ltd (PSPS) (2 nominations) | Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders Councillor Richard Fry | Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders Councillor Richard Fry |
| Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire (1 nomination plus 1 substitute) [Please note, nominees must also be a serving member of this Council's Overview Committee] | Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders Councillor Claire Arnold (Substitute) | Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders Councillor Claire Arnold (Substitute) |
| Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee (1 nomination plus 1 substitute) | Councillor Darren Hobson Councillor Neil Jones (Substitute) | Councillor Darren Hobson Councillor Neil Jones (Substitute) |
| Magna Vitae (2 nominations) | Councillor Sam Kemp Councillor Robert Watson | Councillor Sam Kemp Councillor Robert Watson |
| Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Leader of the Council) | Councillor Craig Leyland | Councillor Craig Leyland |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| nomination) (1 nomination) | | |
| Corporate Member of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership Limited | Councillor Terry Taylor | Councillor Terry Taylor |
| Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel (1 nomination) | Councillor Graham Marsh | Councillor Graham Marsh |

15. REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY AND POLICY PANELS:

(A) SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT: TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MAGNA VITAE'S 5-YEAR PLAN, INCLUDING KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (PART TWO):

Councillor Ru Yarsley, Chairman of the 'To monitor the implementation of Magna Vitae's (MV) 5-year plan, including Key Performance Indicators (Part Two)' Scrutiny Panel presented the report to Council for noting.

During her introduction, Councillor Yarsley extended her thanks to officers involved and to the dedicated Panel Members for their time and input. Members were referred to the recommendations detailed at page 116 of the Agenda pack.

Councillor David Hall expressed his concern as he had been informed that the Station Sports Leisure and Learning Centre in Mablethorpe was only issuing zero hours contracts of employment to its staff.

In response to Councillor Hall's comment, Councillor Robert Watson, Outside Body Appointee to Magna Vitae stated that he understood that the zero hours contracts had been offered to students and was aware that it suited some employees, however would look into this matter. It was further highlighted that there was a great deal of staff satisfaction at MV sites which could be witnessed by anyone using the facilities and a lot of surveys were undertaken with staff to monitor this. MV also had a system of board buddies which liaised with staff at the facilities, so they had a direct independent route into the board.

Councillor Leonard referred to Charles Street Recreation Ground in Louth, which was no longer managed by MV, page 108 of the Agenda refers. It was highlighted that this site had been left in an appalling state, following which incentives had to be offered by the Council to get the current occupier to take

this on, and it was queried how this was of benefit to the rate payers when MV had allowed the site to become run down.

In response, Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction advised Members that this had been brought to his attention at a late stage and confirmed that the site had not been maintained or run by MV for several years. Currently, officers were actively seeking partners to work with and take on the different elements of the site. Members were advised that the fishing lake had been taken over by a fishing club who was currently making improvements to the site which was a positive step forward. Councillor Marsh added he firmly supported asking residents for their views. In addition he hoped that local groups would come forward to take over set areas and made reference to the possibility of a partnership agreement with Louth Town Council.

Councillor Marsh advised that he had reviewed the recommendations of the Panel and spoken to Councillor Yarsley and would be formally responding once he had spoken to his executive colleagues.

Councillor Fiona Martin, Chairman of Overview Committee thanked Councillor Yarsley and the Panel for an excellent report. In relation to the questions raised, Councillor Martin highlighted that these should have been raised at a much earlier stage in the scrutiny process, however advised Members that the report and its recommendations would be considered by the relevant Portfolio Holder(s) and if agreed would be added to the Recommendation Tracker to be monitored, and if relevant may be addressed at this point.

Councillor Makinson-Sanders referred to a key action from MV's 5-year Business Plan relating to maximising active and healthy lives and stated that she was disappointed to see the vending machines in the Meridian Leisure Centre in Louth selling fizzy drinks and sweets.

In response to Councillor Makinson-Sanders comment, Councillor Watson considered that it was the choice of visitors to the Leisure Centre as to what they consumed and highlighted that MV attracted people by the facilities it offered. It was considered that MV did great work in attracting people to leisure and activity and this was proven by the constantly rising membership to its facilities.

In response, Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction advised Members that MV was a private company established in 2015 and not a trading arm of the Council. It was therefore MV's choice on what to sell in the vending machines. It was further highlighted that the café in the Meridian Centre offered healthy alternatives and he would not wish to interfere in the operation of a commercial company.

No further comments or questions were received.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

(B) SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT - PUBLIC CONVENIENCE PROVISION IN EAST LINDSEY:

Councillor Stef Bristow, Chairman of the 'Public Convenience Provision in East Lindsey' Scrutiny Panel presented the report to Council for noting.

During her introduction, Councillor Bristow extended her thanks to officers, the Portfolio Holder for Operational Services and to the dedicated Panel Members for their time and input into the scrutiny.

The recommendations were detailed at page 132 of the Agenda pack.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

Councillor Jackson stated that there was an assumption in the recommendations that would divest the toilet facilities to town and parish councils. However, it was highlighted that whilst there may be a need to make a hard decision to save money in the future, the Council was not in the position to make drastic cuts at this time and a reduction in toilet provision would impact on the district's tourism.

Councillor Fiona Martin thanked Councillor Bristow for chairing the Panel and highlighted to Members the history of the Council's provision of public toilets over the last 30 years. Whilst it was considered important to review toilet provision and was a step forward, it was acknowledged that this would be a long journey.

Councillor Wendy Bowkett thanked Councillor Bristow for the report and stated that Wainfleet Town Council was not in a position to take on the toilets, partly due to the amount of vandalism, however, was interested in the offer of storage.

Councillor Graham Marsh informed Members that Alford Town Council made the decision to take on the toilets a number of years ago with positive outcomes. He stated that he was disappointed to hear that other town and parish councils were reluctant to consider this and concluded that the District Council should work in closer partnership with the town and parish councils to encourage them to do the same.

Councillor Tom Ashton thanked Councillor Bristow for the report, having been involved in a scrutiny panel on toilet provision in 2017. He welcomed the recommendations and stated that he would be interested in discussions with town and parish councils, although recognised that this was a burden which was out of proportion for what some town and parishes could manage financially.

Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders commented that there had been a lot of discussion on the radio recently regarding separate male and female toilets which was the current government guidance and was perturbed that unisex toilets were being considered. It was highlighted that dignity and privacy was an important issue and some people, particularly the vulnerable may feel threatened.

Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services echoed his thanks to the Panel Members and officers involved with the scrutiny and acknowledged that it was an emotive subject.

In response to Councillor Jackson's comment on the transfer of assets, Councillor Foster highlighted that money had been identified to refurbish some of the inland toilets and facilities, following which town and parishes would be approached to see if the Council could look at a further round of asset transfer. It was highlighted to Members that this linked to the 'Pride in Place' Mission as outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White Paper.

Councillor Foster acknowledged the cost of maintenance and repairs to toilets vandalised in towns and villages across the district and understood why some of the town and parish councils would not consider an asset transfer of the toilets in their current condition. Members were advised that a meeting was to be convened with officers and Healthmatic who had recently taken on the facilities on the coastal stretch to look at different ways of repurposing some of these toilets and with an assurance that wherever possible, the Council did not intend to close them.

Councillor Bristow clarified that in relation to the unisex toilets, it was a toilet with one door on entry to the facility, therefore only one person would be able to access at a time.

No further comments or questions were received.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

16. 2023-24 QUARTER 3 FINANCE UPDATE:

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented a report to seek approval of the amended capital programme, pages 147 to 176 of the Agenda refer. A copy of the Q3 Finance Report 2023/24 is attached at Appendix A.

The report provided information on the forecast full year financial performance at 31 December 2023 and was detailed at Appendix A on 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.

During his introduction, the Portfolio Holder for Finance provided further detail on the following areas as set out at Section 2.1 to 2.6 of the report, pages 148 to 149 refer.

- General Fund Provision Outturn
- Savings Target
- Internal Drainage Boards
- Reserves
- Capital – General Fund
- Treasury Management

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:

- Councillor Leonard referred to the progress against approved budgets for Towns Fund Projects, pages 165 to 166 of the Agenda refer. It was queried why so many of the projects had been delayed.

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Finance stated that some of the projects had not progressed as fast as originally anticipated.

- Councillor Simpson raised concerns that the projects were not moving forward faster and queried what steps the Council was taking to monitor this as the cost of materials continued to rise and the Towns funding was slipping away.

In response, the Leader of the Council assured Members that all of the Towns Fund Projects were carefully project managed and also had risk assessments against them in terms of delivery through the Connected Coast Board. The significant cost of living crisis had affected the prices of materials and labour in a very short period, however confirmed that although delayed, most of the projects were underway and were well monitored.

Councillor Kirk added that the building cost pressures had added 30% to many of the projects he had brought to Council and had to be remodelled to ensure that they came in under the agreed costs, and whilst frustrating it would be better reported as a delayed completion.

- Councillor Makinson-Sanders referred to the loans to Invest East Lindsey (IEL) and stated that there were a number that had not been paid back, or on time. It was further highlighted that interest earned on these loans in the current financial year to 31 December 2023 was £118,019, page 169 of the Agenda refers. Therefore, as IEL was a trading arm of the Council it was considered that this amount should be attributed to the Council.

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Finance explained that Invest East Lindsey was a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) which had borrowed money from the Council and had to be paid back at the agreed rate of 4% and this had been complied with.

Following which the recommendation was duly Proposed and Seconded.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be amended taking into account the changes set out at Table 4a of Appendix A to the report presented.

N.B. Councillor Colin Davie left the Meeting at 6.06pm.

17. WORKFORCE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ALIGNMENT ACROSS THE SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP:

The Leader of the Council presented a report that sought approval to bring forward the process for aligning workforce Terms and Conditions across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP) and to agree to commence delivery, pages 177 to 184 of the Agenda refer.

The background to the report was highlighted to Members, as set out at Section 1, page 178 of the Agenda refers.

Members were informed that the Business Case approved by the Councils when the SELCP formed identified the opportunity to align workforce Terms and Conditions across the Partnership. This was also identified as being important in the findings of the Partnership's LGA Peer Review and the Partnership's 2023 joint scrutiny. The alignment of Terms and Conditions, as far as possible, was an identified action in the 2024/25 approved Partnership Alignment and Delivery Plan.

The report brought forward a process for moving towards greater alignment. To facilitate this programme of activity there would be a number of workforce and union consultations required due to the complexity of existing Terms and Conditions.

Members were referred to the table at Section 2.4 which set out the Terms and Conditions likely to be aligned in Phase 1, which would commence in June/July 2024 and were requested to consider approving the recommendations.

Following which the recommendations were duly Proposed and Seconded.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

Councillor Makinson-Sanders considered that terms and conditions of employment went hand in hand with equality of pay and queried why the alignment of pay structure could not be undertaken in a timelier fashion to make these issues equal across the Partnership.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a two-year timeframe to take forward the alignment of pay across the Partnership had been agreed at the last Council Meeting, with an update back to Council in 12 months' time, Minute No. 101 refers. It was highlighted that it was a significant issue to consult with staff, however before this was possible the job evaluation scheme needed to be aligned and it was anticipated that the delay for challenge on this was likely to be engagement with the unions. Therefore, to provide some assurance the approach currently being taken was to break down the work and this would be presented to Council in phases to demonstrate that progress was being made.

N.B. At this point in the Meeting, Councillor George Horton asked it be noted that a family member was employed by the Council.

Councillor Leonard commented that the word 'similar' had been used regularly during the presentation of the report and queried what was dissimilar between the three councils in the Partnership and how this manifested between them.

In response, the Leader of the Council recognised that the alignment of workforce terms and conditions across the Partnership was a significant and difficult piece of work that needed to be done properly. All comments received during the process were understood and the seriousness of this piece of work was fully recognised and understood. However, it was highlighted that the work needed to start in a consistent and methodical way, taking professional advice from HR and consulting with the unions. There was a full intention with the partner councils to ensure that the terms and conditions were aligned and for the pay issue to be dealt with as well.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

(a) That the Head of Paid Service be delegated authority to:

- 1) Review, determine phasing, and undertake consultation(s) on revised workforce Terms and Conditions of employment to seek greater alignment across the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, subject to financial thresholds; and
- 2) Implement revised Terms and Conditions after each phase.

(b) That following completion of the consultation(s), the Head of Paid Service be delegated authority to revise HR policies as might be required to facilitate alignment.

18. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

Members received the draft Minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 27 March 2024 for noting.

Councillor Ros Jackson, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee highlighted key elements from the Minutes as follows:

- The closure of accounts for 2021/2022 and 2022/23 had not yet been completed which was due to under capacity in the Finance Team and had impacted on the work of the Committee.
- Significant reassurances had been received following the P-Card Audit, Payroll Reconciliation Audit and the Section 106 Agreement Audit.

No comments or questions were received.

RESOLVED

That the draft Minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 27 March 2024 be noted.

19. APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERSHIP SERVICES BOARD AND APPROVAL FOR PSPS TO PROVIDE NON-COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMUNERATION:

The Chairman referred Members to Exempt Appendix A and advised that should they wish to refer to the detail this would have to be in a Closed Session as it referred to personal details of a candidate.

N.B. Councillors Richard Fry and Jill Makinson-Sanders left the Meeting at 8.18pm.

Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction presented a report that sought approval to the appointment of an Independent Non-Executive Director to the Public Sector Partnership Services Board to support the company's development, and to provide approval for PSPS to have discretion in regard to remuneration for non-Council employee Non-Executive Directors, pages 203 to 210 of the Agenda refer.

The background to the report was highlighted to Members, as set out at Section 1, pages 204 to 206 of the Agenda refer.

Members were informed that under the terms of the Joint Venture Shareholder Agreement between East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council for the establishment and operation of Public Sector Partnership Services (PSPS), the Councils, as founding shareholders retained a provision to appoint one Independent Non-Executive Director each to the

company's board. This provision had not been exercised previously by either Council.

Following a skill review of the current company Board, it had been identified by PSPS that the Board would benefit from Independent Non-Executive Directors. The company, on behalf of the Councils, had undertaken a process to seek a suitably qualified/skilled individual to join the Board and this report proposed the appointment of the candidate identified at Exempt Appendix A as the Council's Independent Non-Executive Director.

East Lindsey District Council was considering its own Independent Non-Executive Director appointment too. The three PSPS Shareholding Councils and the company had worked closely to seek suitably qualified and experienced individuals to undertake the roles. This report also sought approval for PSPS to be granted discretion to remunerate non-Council employee Non-Executive Board Directors.

Following which the recommendations were duly Proposed and Seconded.

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

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

1. That the appointment of the candidate identified at Exempt Appendix A as its Independent Non-Executive Director on the Public Sector Partnership Services Board be approved.
2. That the Assistant Director – Corporate be requested to write to PSPS to grant the company discretion to remunerate non-Council employee Non-Executive Directors, subject to the same decision by the other founding Shareholder.

N.B. Councillors Richard Fry and Jill Makinson-Sanders re-joined the Meeting at 8.21pm.

20. 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 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended).

21. DISPENSATION REQUEST:

An Exempt report was presented to enable consideration of a Dispensation for a Member of the Council.

Following which it was Proposed and Seconded that the recommendation contained within the Exempt Report be supported.

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, that a dispensation be approved for a period of 6 months from 22nd May 2024 as set out in the recommendation in the Exempt report.

22. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY PORTFOLIO – 009:

An Exempt report was presented to Members.

The recommendations were duly Proposed and Seconded.

Following which it was

RESOLVED

That the recommendation contained within the Exempt report be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Agenda Item 4

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**ACTIONS FROM THE COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024 AT 6.30 PM.**

| | | |
|------------|---|----------------------|
| 11. | LEADER'S REPORT: | |
| | <u>Towns Fund Update</u> | |
| ✓ | <p>(a) Clarification to be provided on the progress of the remaining work on the War Memorial area at the Station Sports Leisure and Learning Centre in Mablethorpe in terms of lettering and new seats.</p> <p><u>UPDATE 04/07/2024:</u> In terms of the Memorial – works have been completed with the final lettering due for completion on 4 July 2024. Suitable benches are being procured and will be fitted to coincide with the completion.</p> | CLLR CL/AF |
| ✓ | <p>(b) Clarification to be provided whether information had been received relating to suggestions of a name for the new Colonnade structure to be put forward by the local communities in Sutton on Sea.</p> <p><u>UPDATE 04/07/24:</u> The Deputy Chief Executive (Programme Delivery) has provided the following response: 'Councillors, officers, and other interested parties have been asked to submit their preferred choices for the naming of the Colonnade on a regular basis and each time that Towns Fund presentations have been made to members. 13 suggested names have been received and at a local businesses and community forum on the 2nd July, this list was shortlisted to 5 names that we will present to the local community for their views over the coming months. The 13 names are listed below along with the first 5 names in bold, that have been shortlisted.</p> <p>These are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sutton on Sea Colonnade 2. Sutton on Sea Seaview Colonnade 3. Sutton on Sea Pavilion 4. Sutton on Sea, Sea Front 5. Sutton on Sea Terrace 6. Sutton on Sea Experion 7. Sutton on Sea Visitor Centre 8. Sutton on Sea Explorium 9. Sutton on Sea Explorer Pavilion 10. Sutton on Sea Sunrise View 11. Sutton on Sea Sunrise Pavilion 12. Sutton on Sea Sea Haven Pavillion 13. Sutton on Sea Sunrise Lookout' | CLLR CL/AS/ AF |

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| ✓ | <p>(c) <u>Conservation Area Appraisals</u> The Enforcement Service Manager to be contacted for an update on Louth Town Centre in relation to any direct action that needed taking forward for conservation enforcement. <u>UPDATE 24/06/2024:</u> All cases referred to planning enforcement in relation to unauthorised signage and untidy buildings were all investigated and there are around 4 which are still ongoing. These were raised to enforcement by Emilie Wales (for adverts and untidy buildings), after her Louth walkabout and Louth Civic Trust (for the adverts). Some Section 215 notices were issued, and all have since been complied with and the case closed.</p> <p>Some of the adverts were not expedient to take action or in the public interest to prosecute for. The remaining on-going ones have the owners working with the Council to resolve.</p> <p>A further walkabout is to be arranged as the last one was over 12 months ago. Lincolnshire Heritage has agreed to do this with the St. Mary's Ward Member and Portfolio Holder for Planning and for Lincs Heritage to be involved with that.</p> <p>No direct action has been required to be taken by enforcement because all notices that were issued have been complied with.</p> | CLLR CL/JP |
| ✓ | <p>(d) <u>Awards</u> Information to be circulated to Members which detailed the winners of the Greater Lincolnshire Apprenticeship Champion Awards 2024 that were held on 16 May 2024. <u>UPDATE 24/06/2024:</u> The full list of winners can be found by clicking on this link: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/article/1885/awards-for-learning-and-earning-apprenticeship-winners-2024</p> | CLLR CL/DF |
| ✓ | <p>(e) A full update to be provided on the Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) Community Partnership work at the next Council Meeting to ensure Councillors are aware of the issues to be faced and what progress had been made to date. <u>UPDATE 03/07/24:</u> The update is included in the Leader's report.</p> | CLLR CL/PN |
| 14. | APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES: | |
| ✓ | <p>Further information to be provided on the responsibilities of the Outside Body Appointee to Age UK Lindsey before a nomination(s) is put forward at a future meeting of Council. <u>UPDATE 04/07/24:</u> A report for an appointment to the Outside Body is attached at Item 10 on the Agenda.</p> | CLLR CL/JM |
| 15. | REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY AND POLICY PANELS: | |
| | (a) Scrutiny Panel Report: To monitor the implementation of Magna Vitae's 5-year plan, including Key Performance Indicators (Part Two): | |

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| ✓ | <p>Clarification to be provided on which employees were being issued with zero hours contracts of employment at the Station Sports Leisure and Learning Centre in Mablethorpe.</p> <p><u>UPDATE 04/07/24:</u> The Assistant Director (Leisure and Culture) has provided the following response: Magna Vitae (MV) is committed to the local community, and the investment being made in the new Station Learning & Leisure Centre in Mablethorpe, amongst many positive health and wellbeing outcomes, MV manage a balanced swimming lesson programme, best suited to the community's needs. These lessons will run at different times during the day, depending on what type of session is being delivered, for example, staging pre-school swimming lessons in the morning, local school swimming in the afternoon followed by "Waterwise" swimming lessons in the late afternoon & early evening. Operationally this potentially requires between two to four hours a day allocated for Swimming Teachers to teach, often this method of working results in large gaps of work inactivity between session delivery.</p> <p>MV plan to develop all of its full-time staff to become 'multi-skilled' and versatile, which means they will be able to cover lifeguarding, swim teaching, reception, fitness instruction and the new exciting MagnaTag arena. Whilst MV builds an established team, it is likely to need assistance covering some hours, mainly swim teaching, and it is doubtful that it will recruit enough people that have all the qualifications needed. MV already have some fantastic members of competently, trained staff in Mablethorpe, but they will need some extra learning, development and qualifications. This is where MV can offer people from the local area an opportunity to do a few hours a day swim teaching, with a commitment to their ongoing training. Due to the very nature of the swim teachers role / programme at the moment, it will only be a five to six hours a week.</p> <p>This working arrangement is consistent throughout the leisure venues currently operated by MV in East Lindsey and indeed the leisure sector nationally as a whole. Experienced swimming teachers often prefer to have flexible working hours that suit their needs (privately and professionally) and other commitments they may have, whilst still receiving the benefits that come with being employed at MV. In such circumstances, this form of casual employment contract is very much preferred by both Employee and Employer.</p> <p>On another positive angle, MV are locally delivering the 'Aspire to Be' ("Employability") project to upskill people living in Mablethorpe who are currently unemployed to potentially offer</p> | CLLR CL/PP/ RJ |
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| | employment at the new venue and also MV's other venues across the district. I would like to reassure you that MV are offering a wide variety of employment / recruitment opportunities for the new Station Leisure & Learning Centre. | |
| | ACTIONS FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 2.00 PM. | |
| 97. | QUESTIONS (SUPPLEMENTARY): | |
| ✓ | (a) Question 9 – Councillor Horton to Councillor Leyland. | CLLR CL/CM |
| | Payment in compensation of retirement of a senior member of staff. <u>UPDATE 21/05/2024</u> Response provided 'This would have been a private matter for the external organisation involved'. | |
| ✓ | (d) Question 39 – Councillor McNally to Councillor Leyland | CLLR CL/JM |
| | Procedure for Motions | |
| | To look at the timescale and see what process is acceptable to ensure motions can be acknowledged within the 9 days? <u>UPDATE 22/05/2024:</u> Following discussion with Cllr Leyland I can confirm that the following procedure will apply in future to motions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a motion is submitted a response or update will be provided to the Proposer and Seconder within 5 working days of the motion being received. • Where a motion is rejected prior to the agenda publication this shall be notified to the Proposer and Seconder of the motion prior to the agenda being published. • Where a motion is rejected, the notification shall include the reason(s) for rejection. | |
| | <u>ACTIONS FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023 AT 2.00 PM.</u> | |
| 76. | MOTIONS ON NOTICE: | |
| ✓ | <u>Motion 3 - Understanding if Withern, Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe (the Search Area) Are Willing Participants in the GDF project.</u> | |
| | Further to a comment made in relation to Hartlepool (one of the areas on the list for possible GDF sites) a query was raised on how that Council had achieved having the proposal thrown out so quickly. <u>UPDATE 22/05/2024:</u> "The call to engage with Nuclear Waste Services was done by a Charitable Trust. Politicians were not part of these processes and therefore were able to make a political decision to distance | CLLR CL |

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| | the Councils from the process. East Lindsey District Council were invited by Lincolnshire County Council to be part of the process and we undertook pre-decision scrutiny to support the Executive Decisions to become part of the process.” | |
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Towns Funds Projects

Mablethorpe

All 4 of our managed schemes are on track for completion.

The Colonnade is progressing well and is scheduled for completion by Spring next year. We have also allocated further funds to maintain the standard and look of the paddling pool and introduce a new MUGA at the King George V Playing Field. A programme of additional events is being delivered by the Council in Sutton on Sea over the summer months with fortnightly meetings held with local businesses to help shape the programming and promotion of local activities.

The move of Grayscroft to a new depot on Golf Road continues to be on track with commercial arrangements due to be signed in the next few weeks.

Progress continues to be made with the proposed occupier of the Campus. Heads of Terms for the occupation are close to being completed, after which the building will be fitted out, with occupation of the building in the new year.

The big news though and I am absolutely delighted to say that Station Leisure and Learning Centre opens (has opened) week commencing 1st July, providing a brand new swimming facility for the first time in a generation for the Town.

Skegness

Work commenced on the Foreshore in early June to build a Travelodge Hotel and Starbucks with an expected opening of Summer next year.

In terms of the Culture House and surrounding public realm area at the Embassy Theatre it is disappointing to hear that Mellors Group have now withdrawn their match funding contribution and input into part of the scheme. However, we are now in discussions with the Arts Council about transferring their proportion of the funding and progressing this on our own. We are awaiting confirmation of this following the general Election.

Place Team Update

The Place Team have attended Lincolnshire County Show this year with a marquee in the Countryside Ring. They promoted activity along the coast, linking into the newly launched Lincolnshire Coast website, as well as the Wolds and Boston. They will also be having a presence at Heckington Show later this month. Preparations are also well underway for the 2nd Louth Food and Drink Festival on 29 September this year. In addition, the Place Team continues to support the development and delivery of Teenage Markets with a number being delivered over the summer.

The Lincolnshire Coast website has been supported through UKSPF and allowed Destination Lincolnshire to create a coastal presence. The Place Team is supporting this work through promotion and encouraging businesses to sign up to register their business for free.

The Arts Council Funded National Portfolio Organisation has been running events with the support of the Place Team at Sutton on Sea. There was a highly successful Vintage on Sea event held on Saturday 29 June which saw good weather, a good atmosphere and lots of entertainment in the town centre. On 1 August there will be a giant Whale in the town to engage people with sea pollution.

ELDC Levelling Up projects are also making good progress with planning applications submitted, or being readied, for all three sites. This should hopefully lead to activity on the sites in the coming months as work begins.

Healthy Living within East Lindsey

Household Support Fund

- ELDC have successfully distributed the final local allocation of Household Support Fund – a further £400,000 in East Lindsey to help struggling households in financial hardship or experiencing crisis.
- Under Cllr Devereux's steer we have been able not only to provide much needed grants for local food banks and community support organisations, but also provide vouchers for NHS Neighbourhood Teams to help vulnerable residents and an open application scheme which has supported households 'just about managing' including homeowners and pensioners.

Digital Inclusion

- To help resident's access and navigate support and services, we continue to work with Lincs Digital to deliver digital drop-in sessions hosted by the community.
- The sessions continue to popular locally and now with UK Shared Prosperity Funding the Healthy Living Team have been able to share our experience and success across the South & East Lincolnshire Partnership region and deliver sessions in Boston and South Holland.

Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership

A briefing note has been produced in response to the following request;

"A full update to be provided on the Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) Community Partnership work at the next Council Meeting to ensure Councillors are aware of the issues to be faced and what progress had been made to date" as follows:

The Community Partnership

- October 2021 - Working Group established and defined the Search Area in February 2022 covering the two electoral wards of Withern and Theddlethorpe, and Mablethorpe.
- June 2022 - Community Partnership Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership (workinginpartnership.org.uk) formed to facilitate discussion and ensure the community has the relevant information they need when considering the possibility of hosting a GDF deep underground up to 22km from the coast.
- The Community Partnership has 12 members, local authority (LCC and ELDC), voluntary and community, and business (vacancy). NWS (in the role of Developer) is a member of the Community Partnership. Recruitment is currently underway for an Independent Chair.

- The Community Partnership have met 17 times so far and hold regular monthly meetings. The first 'in public' meeting is proposed for September 2024.

NWS organised visits

- Four members of the Community Partnership visited an underground research facility in Bure, France to build their knowledge of how a GDF could look and to meet local community leaders to understand their perspectives on the siting process for the French equivalent of a GDF.
- Four Community Partnership members visited the British Geological Survey to find out more about rocks in the Theddlethorpe area.

Community Investment Funding (CIF)

- A Community Investment Panel manage the funding applications and award the grants. Funding of up to £1 million per annum is available for the Community Partnership to allocate to local groups and projects. A funding year runs from July to June.
- The full £1 million was awarded to eight local projects within the first funding year of the Community Partnership. This included a new adventure playground and community garden, an employability programme, and a befriending service.

Community Partnership Community Vision

The Community Partnership has a key role which involves working directly with local people – to create a community vision. The Community Partnership has initially identified ten key areas that it would like to focus on for visioning. NWS is supporting the Community Partnership in understanding how these could be presented to the public through a series of forthcoming events.

- 1) Get Connected - enhance the transportation of people, materials & data, linking communities together, providing sustainable & reliable utilities in the support of our day to day lives.
- 2) Get Involved - engaging with our community to drive change in the creation of an enhanced built environment.
- 3) Get Together - protect & enhance, resilience within or communities to survive the highs & lows of life.
- 4) Get Smart - maximise the opportunities for all, supporting innovation, sustainability & growth, whether personal or professional.
- 5) Get Creative - respect existing heritages, whilst creating new heritage & cultural opportunities connecting through arts, beliefs, customs & institutions fostering pride in where we live, work or visit.
- 6) Get Wise - protect & enhance our diverse rural & coastal landscapes, reducing consumption to support living in harmony within our built & natural environments.

7) Get Employed - support sustainable, full & productive all year round employment, encouraging new industries & businesses to the area, championing innovation, whilst supporting existing businesses through change.

8) Get Supported - promote & support healthy living for all from cradle to grave, identifying the long term resources needed to improve service provision to support our community's needs.

9) Get Skilled - support inclusive, quality, life long learning opportunities for all, supporting vocational & educational pathways to enable everyone to achieve the best that they can be.

10) Don't Get Left Behind - support the removal of long term deprivation and dependency from our communities and to support age, gender and social mobility for all.

Community Partnership Programme of Activities

The Community Partnership has established a programme of key activities to help them to fulfil their role and responsibilities. Four subgroups have been established.

- Communications and Engagement - Community Partnership newspaper 'GDF Voice', doorstep engagement (500 households), website and social media channels, holiday maker survey and weekly drop-in at the Coastal Centre.
- CIF - Promoting and allocating the £1 million funding available to the community per annum, highlighting projects benefiting from being awarded grants.
- Community Vision - working with the community to deliver a vision.
- Operations and Governance - provide support for the running of the meetings including member inductions and oversight of the workstreams as well as planning for a Test of Public Support.

NWS developer role

- The GDF programme requires NWS to find both a suitable site and a willing community and is still in the early stages. NWS will evaluate each potential site, through its site evaluation process, to establish its suitability based on six siting factors: safety and security, community, environment, engineering feasibility, transport, and value for money. Detailed studies and investigations will be conducted over a number of years to help ensure a GDF can be constructed, operated, and closed safely and securely.
- Geological Disposal Infrastructure is Nationally Significant Infrastructure under the Planning Act 2008. As such NWS is working towards an application for a development consent order to allow for site characterisation works including deep boreholes.

As many of you may be aware, a couple of weeks ago we lost Michelle Hillard to her long battle with cancer. For those who may not be aware, Michelle worked as a Communities Officer here at East Lindsey, helping to support people in our District and she played a primary role to our residents during the Covid-19 Pandemic. In addition to her role, she had also raised a huge £12,000 for the Pink Rose Suite at Grimsby Hospital.

My thoughts are with Michelle's family during this difficult time.



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| REPORT TO: | Council |
| DATE: | 17 th July 2024 |
| SUBJECT: | OVERVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT: Annual Overview Report to Council |
| PURPOSE: | To update Council on the activities of the Overview Committee over the past 12 months |
| KEY DECISION: | N/A |
| REPORT OF: | The report has been prepared by the Chair of the Overview Committee as set out in the attachment. |
| REPORT AUTHOR: | Councillor Fiona Martin, Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | All |
| EXEMPT REPORT? | NO |

SUMMARY

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has provided the annual report to update Councillors of the work of the Committee.

Note: All content is contained in the attached report at **Appendix A** and not summarised in this covering report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To note the attached report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure all Councillors are kept updated on the work of the Overview Committee.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

none

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee prepares a report each year to update Elected Members on the work of the Overview Committee.

2. REPORT

2.1 All information is contained in the attached report at **Appendix A** and not in this covering report.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

Only those considered by the Chair in the attached report.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

Only those considered by the Chair in the attached report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Only those considered by the Chair in the attached report.

STAFFING

None

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

DATA PROTECTION

None

FINANCIAL

None

RISK MANAGEMENT

None

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

This piece of work was undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

REPUTATION

None

CONTRACTS

None

CRIME AND DISORDER

None

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

None

ACRONYMS

None

| | |
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| APPENDICES | |
| Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: - | |
| APPENDIX A | Annual Overview Report to Council |

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|--|
| BACKGROUND PAPERS |
| No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report. |

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| CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT |
| N/A |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| REPORT APPROVAL | |
| Report author: | The Annual Overview Report to Council has been prepared by the Chair as set out in the attachment. |
| Signed off by: | Rebecca James (Scrutiny & Policy Officer) |
| Approved for publication: | James Gilbert (Assistant Director, Corporate) |

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ANNUAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL



BY
COUNCILLOR FIONA MARTIN
CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE



Foreword by the Chair

It has been my pleasure to Chair the Overview Committee again this past year. The members of this committee have always engaged fully in scrutiny, with debates that are lively & detailed. The Council's performance has been diligently scrutinised.

The Overview Committee worked closely with the Executive and all Elected Members to act as a focus for constructive challenge in order to maintain the drive to improve public services, reflect public concerns, and enable improvements to be made to policies and their implementation.

New Councillors have received training to enable them to help continue the important work of this committee. It has been refreshing to see 2 of our new Councillors put themselves forward to Chair scrutiny panels this past year, as well as new Councillors volunteering to be panel members – this has helped bring a fresh perspective to issues under review.

Introduction to Scrutiny

On the implementation of the Local Government Act 2000, a new political system was introduced which allowed Councils to have a separate 'executive' rather than just the committee system: a Cabinet model which is similar to central Government.

To balance the Executive and monitor its decision-making, the function of Overview and Scrutiny was introduced requiring all Councils to have at least one Scrutiny Committee. The committee(s) would be similar to a select committee with back benchers acting as critical friends.

Scrutiny can look at:

- Decisions by the Executive
- External Partners
- Public Services
- Performance
- Budget
- Health

Scrutiny cannot look at:

- Any legal proceedings
- Individual complaints
- Licensing decisions
- Planning decisions
- Ombudsman

Overview Committee Agenda

The Overview Committee continues to consider regular items as well as one-off reports as follows:

Regular items:

- Health scrutiny updates
- Performance and governance framework (quarterly)
- Overview and Scrutiny recommendation tracker
- Executive / council forward plan
- Scrutiny topic submissions
- Updates from scrutiny and policy panels
- Annual scrutiny programme
- Scoping of scrutiny topics
- Overview annual programme (annually)
- Budget setting (annually)
- Rough Sleeping in East Lindsey (annual report)

Topics considered during the year:

- Crime and Disorder Report
- Partnership Communications Strategy
- Procurement Strategy
- S&ELCP Customer Experience Strategy
- Household Support Fund
- Towns Fund Projects Update
- Internal Drainage Board Levies
- Sub-regional Strategy for the S&ELCP
- Budget Setting process 24/25
- Heritage Update x2
- Enviro Crime Contract Update x2
- Update on Operational Services
- FOI and EIR Policy
- Budget Overview 24/25 including consultation
- Review of the use of planning conditions
- Update on Rough Sleeping Annual Report 22-23
- Update on Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 22-28
- Community Safety Update
- Update on Artificial Intelligence
- Partnership Engagement Pledge
- Development of community reserves and investment in villages, parishes, and market towns across East Lindsey
- Unreasonable Behaviour Policy

Contributors to the work of the Overview Committee

The Overview Committee is always keen to engage with Executive Board members, and we invite them to attend Overview Committee to contribute to agenda items on a regular basis.

Officers often attend Overview Committee to provide updates and detail on agenda items; and provide support, information, and evidence to Scrutiny & Policy Panels.

The Committee is also grateful to external witnesses who attend Scrutiny & Policy Panels to support their work, and/or respond to questionnaires.

Annual Scrutiny Programme

Each year, the Overview Committee puts an Annual Scrutiny Programme in place, which sets out a proposed schedule of Scrutiny & Policy Panels.

The Scrutiny & Policy Panels are task and finish groups which report to either Executive Board or Full Council. The Annual Scrutiny Programme may also include Working Groups which may either be very short pieces of work (one meeting) reporting back to Overview Committee; or ongoing pieces of work where it is not possible to set a definite deadline for conclusion due to outside influences.

Only two planned Panels should run concurrently, but a third Panel may be set up in-year if an important and/or urgent topic is identified. Planned panels may be moved to accommodate urgent scrutiny topics if necessary.

Scrutiny & Policy Panels

The Overview Committee commissions Scrutiny & Policy Panels and Working Groups to consider agreed topics. This provides time for topics to be considered in more detail, and also provides opportunities for all non-executive Councillors to get involved in the scrutiny process. Councillors have considered some interesting topics that have involved quite detailed consideration. These were:

- To review the running of Invest East Lindsey Limited, with a particular focus on Kingfisher Caravan Park
- Review of the provision of public conveniences in East Lindsey
- To monitor the implementation of Magna Vitae's 5-year plan, including Key Performance Indicators.

Joint Scrutiny Programme

We have developed a joint scrutiny programme for the year ahead to support the partnership's work programme. The joint task & finish groups will look at key areas of common strategic interest and panel members will be taken from councillors across the partnership. It has been agreed there will be no more than 4 joint scrutiny panels per year. The topics chosen for this year are:

- Leisure & Cultural Facilities Offer
- Enviro-crime Enforcement Contract review

Also, the Annual Joint Scrutiny of the Partnership will take place between September and November of this year, as per the commitment made in the Memorandum of Understanding when the Partnership was formed.

Influencing & Monitoring

Influencing Decisions

In the past few years, acceptance of scrutiny recommendations by the Executive Board/Portfolio Holders has increased from just under 80% to over 90%. We expect this to continue as we aim to play a positive role in improving the achievements and outputs of the Council.

Monitoring

All recommendations from Scrutiny & Policy Panels are considered by the relevant Portfolio Holder, with the response recorded in the Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker, and then monitored through to conclusion at each Overview Committee.

Upcoming activity for 24/25

Members have recently been invited to submit a scrutiny topic form to suggest new areas of scrutiny for the current year. Topics already agreed for this year are:

- Review of the Carbon Reduction Plan and associated carbon reduction activity at ELDC
- Project Management Analysis: can the Council improve its management of major projects?
- Car Parking in East Lindsey
- To explore effective Councillor Development to improve engagement
- Review of support for Parishes and Communities.

Overview also hope to conduct scrutiny reviews on planning policy subject to a scope being finalised and agreed.

Topics considered at Overview Committee meetings are added throughout the year.

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| REPORT TO: | Council |
| DATE: | 17 July 2024 |
| SUBJECT: | Appointment to Outside Body |
| PURPOSE: | Appointment to an outside body for the municipal year 2024/25 |
| KEY DECISION: | N/A |
| PORTFOLIO HOLDER: | N/A |
| REPORT OF: | Chief Executive |
| REPORT AUTHOR: | John Medler, Assistant Director Governance and Monitoring Officer |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | N/A |
| EXEMPT REPORT? | No |

SUMMARY

This report considers an appointment to an outside body which is within the remit of the Council for the municipal year 2024/25. The appointment was deferred at the Council's Annual Meeting on 22 May 2024 pending further information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council makes an appointment to the outside body as set out in Appendix A to this report. **(Appendix A to follow)**.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To enable the appointment to the outside body as outlined in **Appendix A**.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do not make an appointment or make an alternative appointment.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The appointment to Age UK Lindsey was deferred at the Annual Meeting of Council pending further investigation on the appointment role. Age UK Lindsey have since confirmed that to avoid any conflict of a representative taking on the role of Trustee/Director of Age UK Lindsey, the appointment would be in an advisory capacity.

2. CONCLUSION

- 2.1** The Council is recommended to appoint a Member to serve on the outside body listed in Appendix A. Such appointment to hold good only whilst the Member remains a Member of the Council, until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or until the appointment of their successors.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

None.

IMPLICATIONS SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS' PARTNERSHIP

None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

None.

STAFFING

None.

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Members are reminded of the "Protocol for Councillor Representation on Outside Bodies" section of the Council's Constitution.

Where two or more Councillors are nominated for any position to be filled and there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of one Councillor, then the name of the Councillor with the least number of votes will be taken off the list and a new vote taken. The process will continue until there is a majority of votes for one Councillor.

DATA PROTECTION

None.

FINANCIAL

Travelling expenses are payable to Councillors who attend meetings of outside bodies to which they have been appointed by the Council. Provision is made within existing budgets for such costs.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Details of the outside bodies to be appointed to by Council are shared with Group Leaders.

REPUTATION

None.

CONTRACTS

None.

CRIME AND DISORDER

None.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

None.

ACRONYMS

None.

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A

Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

| |
|---|
| CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT |
|---|

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| This item was deferred from the Council Annual Meeting on 22 May 2024. |
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|------------------------|
| REPORT APPROVAL |
|------------------------|

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Approved for publication: | John Medler, Assistant Director for Governance and Monitoring Officer John.medler@e-lindsey.gov.uk |
|---------------------------|---|

| Outside Body | Previously Appointed Member(s) 2023/24 | Nominations for 2024/25 |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <p>Age UK Lindsey (1 nomination)</p> <p>Because of the conflict of an ELDC representative taking on the role of Trustee/Director of Age UK Lindsey the appointment is in an Advisory capacity</p> | <p>Councillor William Gray</p> | |

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held in the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH on Wednesday, 19th June, 2024 at 10.15 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Rosalind Jackson (Chairman)
Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Stef Bristow, Danny Brookes, Richard Fry, Sam Kemp and Edward Mossop.

Mr Walter Leschenko attended the Meeting as an Independent Co-Optee.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

James Boyle - External Audit Manager, KPMG
Jonathan Pocock - Senior Auditor, LCC (Virtual)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicole Hayes - Senior Finance Business Partner PSPS
Christine Marshall - Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and S151 Officer
John Medler - Assistant Director Governance & Monitoring Officer
Matthew Waller - Internal Audit Manager, Assurance Lincolnshire
Laura Allen - Democratic Services Officer

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James Knowles.

N.B. Councillor Sam Kemp joined the Meeting at 10.16am.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):

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

5. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 March 2024 and the Special Meeting held at the rising of the Annual General Council Meeting on 22 May 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

6. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

The Chairman reminded Members that notes from the liaison meeting with the Leader of the Council had been circulated to Members by email and that the next liaison meeting was scheduled to take place with Committee Chairs and Executive Board Members in November 2024. The Chairman further advised Members that a briefing for Committee Members was taking place after today's Meeting on Towns Fund Projects followed by a session with the External Auditors KPMG in line with best practice.

In reference to the meeting with the Leader of the Council, a Member requested clarification on the risk implication in relation to the ongoing staffing issues with PSPS. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and Section 151 Officer advised Members that PSPS met with the Chief Finance Officer on a monthly basis to review resourcing. The Section 151 Officer acknowledged there was a national shortage for the recruitment of finance and audit staff and that increased staff training requirements for ELDC would require continued investment over time.

7. ACTION SHEET:

Members were referred to the Action Sheet, pages 21 to 22 of the Agenda refer.

Members noted that the actions from the Meeting held on 27 March 2024 and 22 November 2023 were confirmed as completed or in hand as follows:

Action No. 72 from the meeting held on 27th March 2024, page 21 of the Agenda refers.

A Member queried information provided to Members during planning training that the Section 106 Officer had recently left their role and a new officer had been appointed that was based at South Holland. In response, the Section 151 Officer advised Members that a further update would be provided to the Committee as a future Action.

8. Q4 RISK REPORT 2023/24:

Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager - Insights and Transformation presented Members with the Q4 Risk Report 2023/24, pages 23 to 36 of the Agenda refer. A copy of the Quarter 4 Strategic Risks Register (SRR) was attached at Appendix A, pages 29 to 36 of the Agenda refer.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member commented on risks that required more visibility which included business rate rebate uncertainty and divesting of property bonds due to impending MRP changes and supported that these potential risks needed to be clearly identified.

- In reference to Paragraph 2.4, where Ash tree dieback was classified as a high operational risk, a Member queried the extent of the risk and whether financial and environmental impact considerations were included, page 26 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Group Manager – Insights and Transformation advised Members that further clarification on the risk would be obtained from the lead officer.
- In further reference to Paragraph 2.4, Members queried the reasons that ‘Skegness Waterway’ and ‘sand’ was classified as a high operational risk and made comment on the risks that had not been included.

The Group Manager - Insights and Transformation advised Members that the headlines of risks had been simplified to balance the level of detail against the Committee’s responsibility to have assurance. The Group Manager - Insights and Transformation confirmed that additional detail would be included in the Risk Register and further details would be shared.

- A Member commented on the hard copy format of the Q4 Strategic Risks included at Appendix A, pages 29 to 36 of the Agenda refer. In response, the Group Manager - Insights and Transformation advised Members that future papers would be circulated to Members on A3 paper to ensure good readability.
- A Member further spoke in support of increasing the level of detail under risk headlines and agreed that a sub section should be created for business rate rebate risks and for risks to include elements of the budget. In response, the Group Manager - Insights and Transformation advised Members that a review of the wording would be undertaken with the Section 151 Officer.
- In reference to ELDC19 - Identification and Suitability of future Depot Accommodation, a Member queried the details behind the risk score that was allocated and whether internal communications were improving, page 31 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Group Manager - Insights and Transformation confirmed to Members that the risk scores included current and target risks and that the depot accommodation was currently a high risk with mitigating actions aimed to reduce the risk to medium. Members were advised that directions of travel and whether target risks were being met would be observed across the next few financial quarters.
- In reference to ELDC12 & ELDC13 – Technology Infrastructure failure and Cyber Incident, a Member commented on the high-risk score following mitigation measures and queried whether it was ELDC or PSPS who wished to tolerate the high-risk situation, page 30 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Group Manager - Insights and Transformation explained to Members that challenges

existed for reducing IT risk from high and that while mitigation action would continue, the risk from the impact of an incident would always remain high.

The Group Manager - Insights and Transformation further advised Members that the IT Manager and the Client Lead had worked together to make the decision on classifying the risk and that further information would be provided to the Committee following subsequent risk reviews.

- In reference to Paragraph 2.3 and the supporting table, a Member commented that four out of the eight risks did not have any mitigations and queried whether risks to the benefits to the Partnership had been identified and included in the risk register, page 25 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Group Manager - Insights and Transformation informed Members that the risks originated from the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and that there were opportunities for scrutiny of the risk register annually which would incorporate risks in relation to benefits to the partnership.
- A Member queried whether the Council's risks were affected by relationships with Local Authority Company's (LACo) and commented on Triton Knoll and the windfall investment of £9m for market towns and villages. In response, a Member commented that communications across the Partnership and between Members were a risk where information was not disseminated.
- In relation to fraud risk, a Member requested assurance that the fraud risk register was reviewed and all aspects were assessed. In response, the Group Manager - Insights and Transformation confirmed that fraud risk headlines had been included in the current report and that the risk register would be updated as part of ongoing reporting.

The Section 151 Officer informed Members that a full review was undertaken in 2023 with the assistance of the internal auditor to mainstream the fraud risk assessment and management process. The Council did not hold a separate risk register as the risks were consolidated into one register. Further assurance was provided that other arrangements were in place to minimise and mitigate against fraud including a control framework which had recently been enhanced across the Partnership to include counter fraud arrangements.

No further comments or questions were received.

Following which, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Q4 Risk Report 2023/24 be noted.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT & OPINION 2023/24:

Matthew Waller, Internal Audit Manager presented Members with the Internal Audit Annual Report & Opinion 2023/24, pages 37 to 50 of the Agenda refer. The purpose of the report was to give the annual opinion and outcome of the internal audit work undertaken during the year to inform the Annual Governance Statement, concluding on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk and control framework.

A summary of the findings of the assurance reviews throughout 2023/24 was included at Appendix A and were categorised under the headings of substantial, adequate, limited and no assurance, page 50 of the Agenda refers.

The Internal Audit Manager assured Members that the Council was in a good position to carry out internal audit work for 2024/2025 as last year's performance statistics were positive and that the achievement of targets and KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) had resulted in almost the entire audit plan being delivered by the end of March 2024.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- Members spoke in support of the report and praised the Audit and Governance Committee for their contribution to promoting good governance and their commitment to undertake training to further understanding.
- A Member queried the aspirations of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Executive Board to obtain a level of substantial assurance of more than 50% across all areas that were reviewed and further queried whether a KPI had been assigned to achieve better. In response, the Section 151 Officer assured Members that aspirations were held to level up auditing across the board and that the finance team aspired to balance effort with reward to ensure a very good to excellent level of control. The Section 151 Officer spoke in support of the work undertaken by the finance team and confirmed that time and effort was being taken to improve all areas and stressed that it was sometimes necessary to look beyond the figures at what added value.
- A Member queried the process for determining the client feedback rating and the presence of creative challenges which may exist between the Council and the Internal Auditor. In response, the Internal Audit Manager explained to Members that at the end of every assignment a feedback form was provided with ratings from poor to excellent and that comments from managers were fed into post audit internal reviews for the benefit of training and continuous

improvement. The Internal Audit Manager further advised Members that a new questionnaire was being introduced in 2025 and that different feedback may be observed in future.

The Section 151 Officer assured Members that creative challenges particularly over the past 18 months had been proactively managed and that relationships of respect for professional positions were always maintained.

The Internal Audit Manager supported that tension in the relationship between the Council and Auditors was seen as a positive, and further assured Members that no complacency existed in how audits were carried out or received.

The Chairman thanked the Internal Audit Manager for his informative report.

No further comments or questions were received.

Following which, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Internal Audit Annual Report 2023/24 be noted.

10. COMBINED ASSURANCE STATUS REPORT 2023/24:

John Medler, Assistant Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer presented Members with the Combined Assurance Status Report 2023/24, pages 51 to 72 of the Agenda refer.

Members were advised that the Combined Assurance Status Report provided a record of assurance against the Council's critical services, key risks, partnerships and projects and supported the Council's commitment to achieving good corporate governance.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

A Member commented in favour of the combined assurance approach and queried the identification of overarching themes for internal audit. In response, the Section 151 Officer advised Members that the report identified specific emerging risks and that audit was examining strategic oversight which provided a more generic overview instead of focusing on specific elements.

The Internal Audit Manager advised Members that combined assurance reports formed part of annual planning for audits and was beneficial when presented to the Committee alongside the annual audit plan for observing the relationship between the two processes.

The Internal Audit Manager further commented on the benefits of combined assurance which enabled internal audit to communicate with all Managers and Assistant Directors across the Council to gain greater intelligence and understanding for providing independent insight and assurance opinions.

- In reference to the overall assurance rating, a Member commented on the benefit of information being included to observe trends and to see where scores had increased and decreased, page 57 of the Agenda refers.
- Referring to the cover of the Combined Assurance Status Report 2023/24, a Member queried the ability for anyone reading the report to understand where the report was relevant to East Lindsey instead of the Partnership, page 55 of the Agenda refers.
- In relation to the business continuity and economic hardship risk, a Member queried where this occurred in East Lindsey, pages 59 and 60 of the Agenda refer.
- A Member further queried who was responsible for General Fund Assets and commented on the benefit of identifying the names of Officers in the reports, page 60 of the Agenda refers.

In response, the Internal Audit Manager confirmed to Members that the report was solely focused on East Lindsey District Council and that the strategic risks had been provided from the Council's strategic risk register to highlight the risks and mitigation measures in place.

The Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer explained to Members that a variety of delivery mechanisms existed within the Council, including internal, external and those delivered through the Partnership. The Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer advised Members that the key element was whether assurance was provided with how the Council's arrangements were delivered and not who was providing them.

- In reference to Emerging Risks, a Member commented that it was difficult to observe the overall theme and queried whether a PESTLE analysis could be utilised to identify where there were gaps in specific themes, page 70 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Internal Audit Manager acknowledged the value of feedback on the way in which information was presented.
- The Chairman commented on the issues around the Growth Directorate and queried whether the findings indicated an issue with the way large projects were delivered, page 70 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Internal Audit Manager assured Members that the issues highlighted were being examined to ensure that the correct information was provided to the Committee.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer and the Internal Audit Manager for his report.

Following which, it was

RESOLVED:

That the findings illustrated in the assurance framework detailed within the Combined Assurance Status Report 2023/24 (attached at Appendix A) was operating effectively as part of the Council's corporate governance arrangements be noted.

11. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - ACTION PLAN UPDATE:

Christine Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and S151 Officer presented Members with the Annual Governance Statement – Action Plan Update, pages 73 to 74 of the Agenda refer.

Members were advised that the latest action plan was identified from the internal audit Annual Opinion in 2022/23 for inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2023/24 and for regular reporting to Audit and Governance Committee.

The Section 151 Officer informed Members that areas of focus for this year's AGS were to consider how to enhance reporting to the Audit and Governance Committee and that issues continued to be addressed following last year's CIPFA review of PSPS. The Section 151 Officer assured Members that the Q4 Finance reports were on schedule, the financial statements were close to finalisation and that good progress was being made.

No further questions or comments were received.

Following which, it was

RESOLVED:

That the progress of the actions illustrated in the Annual Governance Statement – Action Plan Update be noted.

12. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL WORKING GROUP:

John Medler, Assistant Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer advised Members that the working group supported the Audit and Governance Committee to undertake its Terms of Reference (ToRs) with regards to monitoring and reviewing the operation of the Council's Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles were given full effect, taking in account advice from the Monitoring Officer.

The Monitoring Officer further advised that the ToRs of the working group allowed three members and that the membership had to be from the three main political groups. Although there was no specific requirement for this, it had been previous practice for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be appointed to the working group.

Members noted that the three Members previously appointed to the working group following the district elections in May 2023 were Councillors Ros Jackson, Jill Makinson-Sanders and Will Grover.

A Member made a request that the political representation of Members on the Constitutional Working Group in line with the Council's current Constitution be considered as a first order of business following the Working Group's formation. In response, the Monitoring Officer advised Members that the seats within groups were ordinarily allocated on a political proportionality basis in a Council where there were multiple political groups and that the Council had agreed that representation was to be cross party.

Further to a discussion and upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Ros Jackson, Jill Makinson-Sanders and Will Grover be appointed to the Constitution Working Group.

13. DRAFT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24:

Members were presented with the Audit & Governance Committee Work Programme 2024/25, pages 75 to 78 of the Agenda refer.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member queried whether five meeting per year was a suitable number of meetings for the Committee. In response, the Section 151 Officer informed Members that this year had been exceptional due to the backlog with signing off the accounts and that five meetings a year was normally sufficient.
- A Member queried whether the Committee needed to look at the Procurement Exemptions Register in March 2025. In response the Section 151 Officer informed Members that it was a matter for the Committee to decide whether they wished to examine the Procurement Exemptions register again in 2025.
- A Member queried whether a date for the Special Meeting had been agreed. In response, the Section 151 Officer informed Members that potential Meeting dates in July and September were being considered.

Further to a discussion, Members expressed an interest for a Special Meeting to be scheduled for 31st July 2024.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the Committee Work Programme 2024/25 be noted.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The programmed date for the next Meeting of this Committee was noted as Wednesday 11 September 2024.

The meeting closed at 11.33 am.

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