

Minutes of a Meeting of the Overview Committee held the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH on Tuesday, 15th October, 2024 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Fiona M. Martin, M.B.E. (Chairman)
Councillor Carleen Dickinson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Claire Arnold, Dick Edginton, Stephen Evans, Neil Jones, Jill Makinson-Sanders and Robert Watson.

Councillor Jimmy Brookes attended the Meeting as a Substitute.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Tom Ashton - Portfolio Holder for Planning
Councillor Wendy Bowkett - Heritage Champion

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Marshall - Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and S151 Officer
Pranali Parikh - Director Economic Development
Carl Holland - Head of Finance (Client) PSPS Limited
Emily Spicer - Assistant Director, Wellbeing and Community Leadership
James Gilbert - Assistant Director - Corporate
Corey Gooch - Business Intelligence and Change Manager
Rebecca James - Scrutiny and Policy Officer
Emilie Wales - Heritage Manager
Alison Carlisle - Volunteer Co-Ordinator
Natalie Drury - Digital Transformation Officer
Laura Allen - Democratic Services Officer

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Danny Brookes, Alex Hall and James Knowles.

It was noted that in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice had been given that Councillor Jimmy Brookes had been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Danny Brookes for this Meeting only.

48. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):

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

49. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd September 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

50. ACTIONS:

Members noted that the following Actions were now complete.

Actions from the Meeting held on 3 September 2024

Action No. 38, 39 and 43 – completed.

Actions from the Meeting held on 23 July 2024

Action No. 23(c) and 28 – completed.

Comments were received as follows:

Action No. 43(c) – ‘To request clarification on the accuracy of using mobile phone data to measure high street footfall whilst excluding those without mobile phones and whether privacy was respected by utilising mobile phone data in this way’, page 40 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member was dissatisfied with the response provided to the Action and further queried the logic of the methodology for measuring footfall using mobile phone data. In response, the Assistant Director – Corporate advised Members that further clarification would be obtained from the Service.
- A Member further commented that the Transport Board had provided similar explanations regarding footfall and that the metrics did not always reflect the strengths or weaknesses of town centres.

Action No. 23(b) – ‘To request an update on the role and duties of the Volunteer Co-Ordinator and to invite them to a future meeting of the Committee’, page 40 and 41 of the Agenda refers.

The Chairman welcomed Emily Spicer, Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership and Alison Carlisle, Volunteer Co-ordinator to the Meeting and advised Members that the topic would be discussed in more detail during the upcoming Agenda item.

Action No. 23(c) – ‘To request an update on the recruitment process for the Local Partnership Group and Theme Groups and the measures taken to ensure that local businesses and groups have local representation’, page 41 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member was dissatisfied with the response provided to the Action and further queried the reasons that ELDC's Councillors talents were not being utilised. In response, the Assistant Director – Governance advised Members that the recruitment criteria were often set by the government and that the Committees comments would be emphasised when future recruitment exercises were undertaken.

Action No. 28 – 'In reference to Section 106 Agreements: To request clarification on East Lindsey being allocated the lowest multiplier as part of the NHS formula and receiving the lowest payment in Lincolnshire per dwelling compared to other districts', page 41 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member commented that the government had stipulated that health money could only be distributed to GP practices.
- A Member further queried the justification for East Lindsey receiving the lowest multiplier whilst in a Partnership with two other Councils who received different amounts. In response, Councillor Tom Ashton as Portfolio Holder for Planning advised Members that he would be keen to understand how the allocation process worked and would ensure that further information was obtained for the next Meeting.
- A Member commented on communications with the S106 Officer relating to monies allocated to the NHS and highlighted concerns that the GP surgery in Stickney had not received any S106 funds. In response, a Member further commented that there may have been time constraints when the planning permission was granted which would have determined when the funds were released.

Action No. 38 (b) – 'To request an update from Superintendent Lee St Quinton to clarify the police's position on concerns about local policing and the effects following the removal of PCSOs', page 39 of the Agenda refers.

- Members commented on police priorities and the value that PCSOs provided to their communities.
- A Member voiced concerns with how the police budget was being spent when taking into consideration that Lincolnshire Police was the least funded police service in the UK.
- A Member queried the use of police funds for digital display screens and highlighted concerns with the manning of Mablethorpe Police Station.
- A Member commented that more police should be visible on the streets to reassure residents.

51. UPDATE ON ENFORCEMENT:

The Chairman welcomed Pranali Parikh, Director of Economic Development and Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning to provide Members with an update.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning was pleased to be in attendance to support positive and significant updates on progress with planning enforcement following attendance at the earlier Overview Committee meeting on 11th June 2024, Minute No. 7 refers.

The Director of Economic Development assured Members on the importance of completing the 18 different actions following the caravan scrutiny work - 'To explore the issues surrounding caravan licensing and enforcement' and expressed her commitment to delivering the Council's ambitions, pages 82 to 89 refer.

In relation to recommendations No 1 and 2 (pages 92 and 83 of the Agenda refer), the Director of Economic Development advised Members that an additional enforcement officer had been employed to improve capacity and that increased teamworking and liaison was being undertaken between the Licensing and Council Tax teams and the Enforcement department.

In relation to recommendations No 3 to 18 (pages 83 and 89 of the Agenda refer), the Director of Economic Development further assured Members that significant progress had been made in the last few months through liaising with multiple departments including emergency planning and that three recommendations remained outstanding until capacity issues had been resolved.

The Director of Economic Development continued to explain that a three phased approach was being undertaken to address the outstanding actions. Members were further advised on a number of additional steps that had been taken which included the sharing of information with the emergency planning team, a public register of caravan sites which had been published on the Council's website, the alignment of content on the Council's Caravan and Council Tax webpages, the improvement of back-office systems to enhance staff efficiency and that contact had been made with the evaluation office to verify that the caravan park evaluations had been carried out correctly.

In relation to recommendations No 9 to 14 (pages 87 and 88 of the Agenda refer) and in reference to the fees and charges for Caravan Parks, the Director of Economic Development explained to Members that the Council was only able to charge Council Tax for the 24 residential sites.

In relation to recommendation No 16 – 'To consider reviewing the Planning Policy in relation to caravan sites and restrictions as part of the Local Plan review' (page 89 of the Agenda refers), Members were advised that that inclusion of a policy would be considered during the review of the Local Plan

that was currently underway and that the Planning Policy Committee was actively involved in monitoring and shaping the process.

The Director of Economic Development concluded that work would focus on addressing capacity and resources within the team over the next few weeks and that the work on caravan enforcement and licensing in relation to unauthorised occupation would be presented to the Executive Board by early 2025.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- The Chairman offered thanks and appreciation from hearing of the great amount of work being undertaken.
- A Member commented on the longstanding caravan enforcement issues spanning 40 years and was pleased to hear that the Council was now focused on the task at hand.
- A Member queried whether it was possible to check whether a caravan site was residential by looking on the ELDC website. In response, the Director of Economic Development confirmed that was correct.
- A Member commented that all caravan sites should be made residential to negate the issues.
- Councillor Wendy Bowkett as Heritage Champion commented on past issues highlighted by residents in relation to caravan sites where occupants were not authorised to live on them as permanent residential sites and welcomed the progress being made to register occupants of sites and undertake enforcement.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Economic Development for her informative update.

52. UPDATE ON CONSERVATION AREAS:

The Chairman welcomed Emilie Wales, Heritage Manager and Councillor Wendy Bowkett as Heritage Champion to provide Members with an update.

The Heritage Manager advised Members that the four draft conservation area reports for Alford, Horncastle, Spilsby and Wainfleet with funding from the 2021-22 Welcome Back Fund had been completed and sent to Town and Parish Councils for comment, and that the aim was to progress to public consultation before the end of 2024. Members were further advised that the consultation would run for a minimum of 28 days to allow for a workshop and a meeting in each area which would be attended by Heritage Lincolnshire. Members were further advised that any recommendations received would be incorporated into documents for consideration by the Executive Board and then for Full Council approval.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- The Chairman queried whether comments had been received from Town Councils. In response, the Heritage Manager confirmed that Town Council responses had been received and that the most comprehensive comments had been received from Horncastle Town Council. The Heritage Manager further confirmed that objection or support comments based on planning aspects would be incorporated into the final draft.
- The Heritage Champion commented that the conservation area appraisal was welcomed and seen as a positive move for Wainfleet. The biggest concern had been that Platform Housing and the areas around it had not been included in the appraisal process.
- The Chairman commented that support for conservation was also welcomed in Horncastle.
- A Member welcomed the return of the Heritage Manager and reiterated that Louth was listed as 'at risk' by English Heritage and that buildings in Louth needed love and attention. In response, the Heritage Manager advised Members that towns which were on the 'at risk' register which had not been added previously was due to lack of funding availability. The Heritage Manager further advised Members that capacity would be examined with a view to add Louth for consideration in the next financial year.
- A Member queried whether the Council could examine the Article 4 Direction Order alongside undertaking an appraisal of Louth. In response, the Heritage Manager confirmed that one of the recommendations in the report was to re-examine the Article 4 Directions which currently applied to Louth, Horncastle and Wainfleet.
- A Member spoke in support of the Cube report and queried whether the Cube report had been examined and reutilised. In response, the Heritage Manager confirmed that five appraisals were undertaken in 2007 and 2008 including Louth and that the Cube report had not been adopted due to political concern.
- Councillor Ashton as Portfolio Holder for Planning assured Members that he was very keen for the Council to examine additional conservation areas, particularly in reference to New Bolingbroke and other areas which had missed out on consideration in the last round of funding.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

N.B Councillor Wendy Bowkett, Heritage Champion, Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Emilie Wales, Heritage Manager and Pranali Parikh, Director of Economic Development left the Meeting at 10.37am.

53. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY:

The Chairman welcomed Corey Gooch, Business Intelligence and Change Manager to the Meeting.

The Business Intelligence and Change Manager presented Members with the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, pages 51 to 64 of the Agenda refer.

Members were advised that the Policy had returned to the Committee following the opportunity for further Members to attend a planned AI briefing session, and that the policy was now being presented for consideration and comments to ensure that the Overview Committee had the opportunity to input into the policy prior to consideration by the Executive Board.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member queried the number of participants who attended the two briefing sessions. In response, the Assistant Director – Corporate advised Members that approximately 25 Members across the Partnership were in attendance. The Chairman further advised Members that feedback on the briefings had been positive.
- In reference to Paragraph 3.6 of the Artificial Intelligence Policy titled ‘Vendors’, a Member queried whether the term referred to other organisations that supplied ELDC with AI or whether it was referring to people that used AI, page 60 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Business Intelligence and Change Manager confirmed that term ‘Vendors’ referred to organisations who supplied AI to the Council.
- A Member made a request for an additional item for inclusion in the policy which was to establish and clarify who ultimately owned the technology.
- A Member further commented that there was significant opportunities and threats with AI and that it was important to determine who owned the companies that were supplying the Council and what their motives were. In response, the Business Intelligence and Change Manager assured Members that a specific reference would be included in the Policy and that background information would be established during procurement exercises. The Business Intelligence and Change Manager further assured Members that vigorous checks would be undertaken to determine who owned the data and outline the areas of consent.
- In reference to Paragraph 3.8.1 of the Artificial Intelligence Policy titled ‘Accuracy’, a Member queried example situations such as real-time

telephone enquires where it was not possible to review the accuracy of the responses provided, page 61 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Business Intelligence and Change Manager explained to Members that live responses could not be reviewed each time and that every AI system worked on a scripted basis. Members were further advised that this would allow the Council to have a certain level of control and could refer customers to a human customer contact should they not be able to achieve the right response after a certain number of attempts. The Business Intelligence and Change Manager assured Members that the responses and language would be reviewed, and that testing would be undertaken to prevent users becoming frustrated with the system.

- Members commented on experience with the Impy System that was being used by Lincolnshire County Council and that AI learned and improved through scripting.
- A Member queried whether the AI system would be checked to ensure that bias was not introduced. In response, the Business Intelligence and Change Manager assured Members that any system the Council utilised would go through vigorous testing and ongoing monitoring. Members were assured that the Council would not rely on AI systems for significant decision making and that AI would only be implemented for acting upon basic requests.
- A Member commented that ELDC should not be reliant on PSPS Limited and should be utilising AI in-house.
- A Member further commented that the Council should form a partnership with the University of Lincoln to save money and bring technology innovations to ELDC. In response, the Assistant Director – Corporate advised Members that opportunities with the University of Lincoln could be explored and that PSPS had greater potential use of AI in their current services such as Revenues and Benefits. The Assistant Director – Corporate further advised Members that ELDC continued to look for opportunities and that other Councils' uses of AI was being examined as part of the Annual Delivery Plan.
- The Business Intelligence and Change Manager introduced Natalie Drury, Digital Transformation Officer, and assured Members that the team would continue to look for opportunities and work with PSPS to improve efficiencies for all the Partnership Councils.
- A Member queried whether knowledge was shared from the Local Government Association (LGA). In response, the Business Intelligence and Change Manager informed Members that he sat on LGA networks and frequently searched for opportunities which included examining the Amazon Languages Service Tool which could enable savings on costs and resources.

- The Chairman queried whether the Artificial Intelligence Policy was being presented to Full Council or Executive Board for approval. In response, the Assistant Director - Corporate confirmed that the policy was being presented to the Executive Board on 6th November 2024.

No further comments or questions were received.

The Chairman thanked the Business Intelligence and Change Manager for his report.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the Artificial Intelligence Policy be noted and presented to the Executive Board for approval.

N.B The Business Intelligence and Change Manager and Digital Transformation Officer left the Meeting at 10.52am.

54. UPDATE ON SELCP TRUSTED VOLUNTEERS SCHEME:

The Chairman welcomed Emily Spicer, Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership and Alison Carlisle, Volunteer Co-Ordinator to the Meeting. Members were referred to the report, pages 1 to 8 of the Supplementary Agenda refer.

Members were advised that the report provided an overview of the activity that had taken place in the first three months of the Trusted Volunteer Scheme funded through UK Shared Prosperity funding which formed part of the Partnership's strategic approach to working with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) within the Sub-Region.

Members were further advised that a Volunteer Charter had been developed to inform new recruits of what to expect when they started volunteering and to provide foundations for a good volunteering experience. The Committee were advised that the Charter would be circulated to Members following the Meeting.

The Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership introduced the Volunteer Co-Ordinator to the Committee and highlighted to Members the work undertaken since June 2024. This included working with Partners including Lincolnshire CVS and insurance bodies to ensure that policies and procedures were up to date, co-ordinating volunteering opportunities, creating a dedicated webpage, working with community groups in East Lindsey and across the Partnership and examining opportunities for volunteers to assist with beach cleans and to clear the sand on Sutton on Sea Promenade.

The Volunteer Co-Ordinator stressed the importance of obtaining feedback and encouraging new volunteers. Members were informed that contact was

being pursued with local schools and colleges to provide work experience opportunities for students.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- In reference to Paragraph 2.5, a Member welcomed the new efforts being made to encourage volunteering and queried whether basic training was compulsory, page 3 of the Supplementary Agenda refers. In response, the Volunteer Co-Ordinator advised Members that the Council's insurance required all volunteers to undertake core online training which included equality and diversity, GDPR, Safeguarding and Health and Safety. Members were further advised that the Council was required to assess the risks and have policies and procedures in place, however training requirements could deter volunteers from taking part. The Volunteer Co-Ordinator further advised Members that current volunteers were able to sign a disclaimer if they wished to participate without undertaking training.
- A Member queried what the benefits of volunteering were for individuals. In response, the Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership advised Members that training provided benefits in assisting people with preparing for employment and that the Trusted Volunteers Scheme was a learning process that was established to determine the barriers and opportunities for volunteering.
- A Member commented that the wording 'Trusted Volunteer' could be misinterpreted by long standing volunteers and that potential volunteers could be discouraged by a prescriptive approach to undertake training.
- A Member highlighted that many volunteers were sourced through word of mouth rather than online.
- The Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership assured the Committee that Members feedback was valued and that through performance reporting it had been highlighted that volunteer numbers had increased. The Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership further assured Members that the Council was committed to ensuring that volunteering outcomes were beneficial.
- A Member queried whether a Food Hygiene course would be beneficial for volunteers. In response, the Chairman commented on the value of volunteers being able to access the training that they need.
- The Volunteer Co-Ordinator further explained the benefits of training to Members and gave an example of increased employability where two CCTV spotter volunteers had recently progressed into employment with the Council.

- The Chairman queried whether the Volunteer team had been in contact with Parish Councils who frequently utilised the service of volunteers. In response, the Volunteer Co-Ordinator confirmed that progress was underway in expanding contact to Parish Councils to identify any training needs.
- A Member commented on the value of maintaining a volunteer contact book in case of emergencies which could save lives.
- A Member commented that Parish Councillors were an example of volunteers who were not required to undertake any mandatory training.
- A Member commented in support of the approach being taken and queried whether the website advertising dedicated volunteering opportunities could include wider volunteer roles such as school governor and treasurer vacancies.
- A Member reemphasised the importance of the work carried out by volunteers.

No further comments or questions were received.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership and the Volunteer Co-Ordinator for their report.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

N.B The Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership and Volunteer Co-Ordinator left the Meeting at 11.14am.

55. BUDGET SETTING PROCESS 2025/26:

The Chairman welcomed Carl Holland, Head of Finance (Client) – PSPS Limited and Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and Section 151 Officer to provide an introduction and present Members with an update on the 2025/2026 Budget Setting Process.

Members received a presentation which highlighted the significant challenges, strategic issues and opportunities and an examination of the considerations in relation to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in the context of the budget setting process (a copy is attached at Appendix A to the Minutes).

Members were referred to the timeline which the budget process was expected to follow and were advised that the Budget Overview, 2025/26, (including Budget Consultation) would be presented to Overview Committee

for further scrutiny on 21st January 2025, page 5 of Appendix A to the Minutes refers.

N.B Councillor Neil Jones left the Meeting at 11.35am.

The Committee were further advised that examination of the budget setting process was a useful opportunity for Members to consider the risks that had been identified and the ways in which the proposed budget addressed the priorities of the Council.

N.B Councillor Neil Jones returned to the Meeting at 11.37am.

The Chairman spoke in support of the presentation and commented on the benefits of receiving a detailed overview of the budget timeline and information that outlined the Committee's role. The Chairman queried whether the presentation slides could be circulated to Members. In response, the Head of Finance (Client) – PSPS confirmed that Members would be provided with a copy following the Meeting.

Christine Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and Section 151 Officer provided Members with a summary of the main points for consideration of the upcoming budget. Members were advised that the risks and implications were difficult to determine at this point in time due to potential changes that could affect the Council's Partners and that a further assessment would be made after 30th October 2024 when the new government issued their Autumn Budget statement.

The Section 151 Officer further advised Members of current issues of national concern which included National Insurance costs for employers and the new homes bonus which was still impacting on local authorities' accounts. The Section 151 Officer concluded that in anticipation of the Autumn Budget statement, it was expected that the Council would utilise a single year budget approach which would ensure a more fluid budget setting process.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- The Chairman queried whether an update on the political and emerging risks could be provided to Members after the Autumn Budget Statement had been announced. In response, the Section 151 Officer advised Members that headline risks could be made available for the following Meeting.
- The Scrutiny and Policy Officer took the opportunity to advise Members of upcoming training opportunities from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) which was taking place online on 23rd October 2024 to examine keeping a watching brief on Council finances and exploring scrutiny's role and powers.
- A Member queried whether the online training sessions were usually recorded and could be shared. In response, the Scrutiny and Policy

Officer advised Members that sessions could on occasions be recorded and circulated to Members who could not attend.

- A Member spoke in appreciation of the update and queried if there was a balancing effect between interest rates and investment income.

N.B Councillor Dick Edginton left the Meeting at 11.46am.

In response, the Section 151 Officer advised Members that a degree of balance existed between interest rates and investment income, and that low interest rates which had been historically as low as .1 percent were unlikely to occur again for some time. The Section 151 Officer further explained to Members that local authorities were either operating as cash holders or debt takers and that each authority had a unique financial structure. The Section 151 Officer advised Members that ELDC was in a beneficial position as they were a cash holding authority.

- In reference to the public consultation, a Member queried whether the consultation could be undertaken more openly rather than in an attempt to educate and inform the public about the pressures on the Council.
- A Member provided an example of the consultation undertaken for Devolution which received guided public responses and commented that it was not satisfactory.

In response, the Section 151 Officer advised Members that educational consultations were a preferred option, and that this year's consultation was intended to take a light touch approach. The Section 151 Officer assured Members that the Council would continue to educate the public on the constraints on ELDC's budget such as the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) levies which were unique to the authority.

- A Member commented on consultations undertaken on the police budget and that they had been effectively structured to obtain public opinion.

N.B Councillor Dick Edginton returned to the Meeting at 11.50am.

- A Member further commented that Councillor's knowledge was not effectively utilised when making budget considerations and provided an example in relation to increases in carparking fees.
- A Member commented that Employment Act and National Insurance changes could have a great impact on the Council's budget.
- The Chairman reiterated the need for further detail on the implications on the budget once the main risks had been identified following the

Autumn Budget Statement and the importance of improving understanding for all Members of the Council.

- A Member commented that half of ELDC's residents' rates went to IDBs and that the public were generally unaware. In response, the Chairman commented that there were many areas where a lack of public understanding had occurred.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Finance (Client) - PSPS and Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and Section 151 Officer for attending and providing an informative update.

N.B The Head of Finance (Client) – PSPS and the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and Section 151 Officer left the Meeting at 11.55am.

56. HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE - UPDATE:

The Chairman referred Members to the briefing papers from Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders, the Outside Body Appointee to the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) for Lincolnshire following its Meeting held on 11th September 2024, pages 65 to 68 of the Agenda refer and a further report which was tabled following the Meeting held on 9th October 2024, (a copy is attached at Appendix B to the Minutes),

The Outside Body Appointee highlighted concerns in relation to the review of the Urgent Treatment Centres where it was being considered that Skegness and Louth would not have an overnight service and that other options were being explored to enable the best use of staff. The Outside Body Appointee further highlighted the disadvantages of having no overnight service and the challenges East Lindsey residents faced in travelling to and from hospitals further away and stressed that considerations to change overnight services needed further monitoring.

In relation to the targeted Lung Health Checks, the Outside Body Appointee advised Members that people between the ages of 55 and 74 that had smoked 100 cigarettes or more in their lifetime were entitled to a free lung health check to detect any issues early as a preventive measure.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward on the paper from the Meeting held on 11th September 2024.

- Members commented in support of the report.
- The Chairman queried at what location individuals would be able to take up the offer of free lung health checks. In response, the Outside Body Appointee advised Members that information would be contained in sign up letters and that people who had historically smoked and quit were still being encouraged to participate.

- The Chairman commented on concerns with the overnight closures of Urgent Treatment Centres which would increase pressures on hospitals and requested that information was circulated through Members' Point Brief to raise awareness.
- A Member queried whether staffing Louth Urgent Treatment Centre for the small number of patients seen overnight was a good use of expenditure. In response, the Outside Body Appointee advised Members that staff numbers had reduced following COVID which had led to overnight closures and people had become unsure whether centres had returned to overnight opening. The Outside Body Appointee further advised Members that urgent treatment centres saved lives when people were unable to reach a main hospital.
- Members praised the services provided at Louth Urgent Treatment Centre.
- The Chairman commented that awareness should continue to be raised and that more people should be encouraged to visit the Urgent Treatment Centres in Louth and Skegness.
- A Member queried whether the Campus for Future Living in Mablethorpe was discussed at HSC Meetings. In response, the Outside Body Appointee confirmed that the Campus for Future Living had not been discussed.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward on the paper from the Meeting held on 9th October 2024.

- In reference to the construction of Norton Lea Mental Health Unit at Boston, a Member raised a concern with the safety of patients by implementing a 19-bed mixed gender adult in-patient Ward. In response, the Outside Body Appointee advised Members that the Ward was expected to be sufficiently staffed.
- In reference to cancer diagnosed at ULHT Hospitals, a Member queried whether the figures were reported on an annual basis. In response, the Outside Body Appointee confirmed that the figures reported were from January to December 2023 and that the figures could be examined on a month-by-month basis on the NHS website.
- In relation to Section 106 funding, a Member queried whether a response had been received to the Chairman's letter to the Secretary of State. In response, the Outside Body Appointee advised Members that a response was awaited.

No further comments or questions were received.

The Chairman thanked the Outside Body Appointee for her valuable contribution on reporting back from the HSC.

57. UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY AND POLICY PANELS INCLUDING QUALITY CHECKING OF FINAL REPORTS:

(a) Scrutiny Panel Update - Review of the Carbon Reduction Plan and associated carbon reduction activity at ELDC:

Rebecca James, Scrutiny and Policy Officer referred Members to the briefing paper, pages 69 to 70 of the Agenda refer.

Members were informed that the panel had met six times to date and had looked at various issues raised in the scoping document and Key Lines of Enquiry and intended to agree the final report and recommendations for Overview Committee in November 2024.

A Member commented that the benefits of electric cars were negated by the fact that it took more carbon to build them and keep them running on the roads. In response, the Chairman advised Members that the final report of Panel was expected to provide further clarity and opportunity to raise any unanswered questions.

(b) Scrutiny Panel Update - Review of support for Towns and Parishes across East Lindsey:

Rebecca James, Scrutiny and Policy Officer referred Members to the briefing paper, pages 71 to 72 of the Agenda refer.

Members were advised that the topic was being moved forward and that the Panel's membership had been agreed, and that a meeting date had been established for Wednesday 16th October 2024 for the appointment of a Chairman.

- A Member commented that attendance at scrutiny panels did not contribute to overall Member attendance requirements of the six-month rule and queried the suitability of the requirement that was detailed in the Constitution.
- The Chairman commented that Members gave a significant amount of their time to scrutiny panels and that the Audit and Governance Committee had a Constitutional Working Group that could examine the issues.
- A Member commented that the issue had been raised at the previous Full Council Meeting. In response, the Chairman explained that the issue raised at Full Council related to the six-month rule for Committees rather than scrutiny panels. In further response, the Assistant Director – Corporate advised Members that scrutiny panels

were not included in the six-month rule due to not being part of the formal Committee structure.

Further to a discussion on the six-month rule and scrutiny panels, it was agreed that a request would be made for the Constitutional Working Group to examine the issues.

(c) Scrutiny Panel Update - Annual Joint Scrutiny of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership 2024:

Rebecca James, Scrutiny and Policy Officer referred Members to the briefing paper, pages 73 to 74 of the Agenda refer.

Members were advised that the Task Group had undertaken three meetings to date and that Councillor Claire Rylott of Boston Borough Council was elected Chair at the first meeting. Members were further advised that the Task Group had spoken with the three Leaders of the Partnership Councils, Members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Chief Executive and had reviewed answers from the anonymous surveys carried out both with Councillors and senior officers.

(d) Scrutiny Panel Update - Partnership Enviro Crime Enforcement Contract:

Rebecca James, Scrutiny and Policy Officer referred Members to the briefing paper, pages 75 to 76 of the Agenda refer.

Members were advised that the Task Group was due to meet for the first time on 29th October 2024 and had five meetings planned to carry out their review and that the Task Group would bring their final report to the March 2025 meeting of Overview.

- A Member queried whether a correction could be made to the Task Group membership list, page 75 Agenda refers. In response, the Scrutiny and Policy officer confirmed that the Membership list was to be corrected to include Councillor Daniel Simpson.
- A Member commented that they were looking forward to the scrutiny panel commencing.

58. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKER:

Members were referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker, pages 77 to 110 of the Agenda refer. Members were invited to review the tracker and put their comments and questions forward.

Overview Standing Reference Group: Sutton on Sea Colonnade Project.

Recommendation No 4 - 'Explore opportunities with universities and museum services to develop the exhibition space', page 78 and 79 of the Agenda refer.

- In reference to the full update on progress requested for November 2024, a Member commented that progress was falling behind at a crucial time and that the success of the project depended on securing appropriate operators.
- A Member drew references to the success of Lincolnshire County Council's North Sea Observatory at Chapel Point and emphasised the need for ELDC to strengthen its position and ensure that the Colonnade building was fully utilised. In response, the Chairman confirmed that a feedback update was expected in November 2024.
- A Member expressed concern with the repurposing of buildings and lack of progress, and further highlighted that the intended purpose for the Campus for Future Living at Mablethorpe had moved away from a health focus and was not delivering on its original aims outlined when the Towns Fund spending was agreed.
- Members discussed the changes in concepts and proposed uses of the Campus for Future Living and the Sutton on Sea Colonnade.
- A Member further explained that the Campus for Future Living would be utilised for housing and rooms made available for community use and that the original proposals for accommodation for health students was no longer being implemented.

Further to a discussion, it was agreed that an update on Towns Fund Projects would be sought for the November 2024 Overview Committee Meeting.

- A Member commented on the reputational risk to the Council when utilising government money to build facilities without sustainable business and management plans in place.
- A Member commented that it was misleading that government funding had not been used for the Campus for Future Living's original intended purpose which was to create a centre for rural health.
- A Member commented on complaints that had been received from residents and visitors in relation to the Colonnade.

To explore the issues surrounding caravan licensing and enforcement, Pages 82 to 89 of the Agenda refer.

- The Chairman commented on the positive progress update that had been received earlier in the Meeting.

How can ELDC help improve the design, quality, and choice of new and existing housing in the district.

Recommendation No 2 - 'ELDC will adopt a 'Fabric First' approach and look to encourage new build homes to be of as high a standard as possible to minimise the need for and facilitate retrofitting in the future, page 90 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member expressed disappointment that new housing providers particularly along the coast were not always delivering high standards of excellence to future proof developments. In response, the Chairman advised Members that the Planning Policy Committee could be requested to consider the issues and provide an update at a future Meeting.

To monitor the implementation of Magna Vitae's 5-year plan, including Key Performance Indicators, page 91 and 94 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member commented that the topic remained on hold until the procurement exercise was completed.

Recommendation No 4 - 'To ensure MV have a continued focus on being commercial, thus reducing reliance on the Council as and when the economy grows and costs reduce in future years', page 93 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member queried the definition of FMA. In response, the Scrutiny and Policy Officer confirmed that it referred to Funding and Management Agreement.
- Members commented on the success of Mablethorpe swimming pool which had benefited from the Towns Fund.

Public Convenience Provision in East Lindsey.

- In reference to recommendations 1 to 3, pages 95 and 96 of the Agenda refer, the Chairman commented that the majority of updates were expected in January 2025.
- A Member commented on the availability of the Neighbourhood Service Manager. In response, the Assistant Director – Corporate advised Members that the Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods should be contacted in his absence.
- Members spoke in support of the Neighbourhoods team.

Partnership Scrutiny Recommendations - Transport in the S&ELCP area.

Recommendation No 1 – 'Given the importance of the Bus Service Improvement Plan process in securing national investment in bus service delivery, to seek to enhance strategic collaboration with Lincolnshire County Council (as Local Transport Authority)' page 97 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member expressed their disappointment with how contractors in Mablethorpe had responded to requests to improve bus services.

Recommendation No 3 – ‘For the SELCP to respond positively and engage with the proposals with Lincolnshire County Councils ‘Enhanced Partnership’ Plan and Scheme for Buses’, page 99 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member queried whether the recommendation to support operators in the transition to lower carbon vehicles especially in Boston had been addressed. In response, the Chairman confirmed that the recommendation could remain on the tracker for further monitoring.

In further response, the Policy and Scrutiny Officer confirmed that Matthew Hogan, the Assistant Director – Strategic Growth and Development would be in attendance at the January 2025 Overview Committee Meeting to provide an update and answer Members’ questions.

- A Member expressed dissatisfaction with public transport in East Lindsey.

Recommendation No 5 – ‘Given their importance in developing transport strategy to deliver on social, economic, and environmental objectives, to maintain the existing focus within the SELCP on raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities in the SELCP area with Midlands Connect, page 100 of the Agenda refers.

- The Scrutiny and Policy Officer assured Members that the recommendations remained in place for monitoring and for them to inform on future working practices.
- The Assistant Director – Corporate provided Members with clarification that Midlands Connect was an organisation responsible for strategic transport planning and that the recommendation aimed to secure an influence with Midlands Connect to improved transport infrastructure by incorporating the South and East Lincolnshire sub-region in its plans.
- A Member commented on the lack of rural train stations and queried whether Active Travel England was still in operation.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments.

No further comments or questions were received.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker be noted.

59. EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN:

Members were presented with the Executive/Council Forward Plan 2024- 25, pages 111 to 124 of the Agenda refer and were invited for their comments.

- The Assistant Director – Corporate advised Members that the Council/PSPS service modernisation programme and PSPS Business Plan 2025 to 2027 was being presented to Overview Committee in November 2024 prior to consideration by the Executive Board.
- A Member commented on the effectiveness of the report page and queried whether the report had been reformatted, page 123 of the Agenda refers.

No further comments or questions were received.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the Executive/Council Forward Plan 2024-25 be noted.

60. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The programmed date for the next Meeting of this Committee was noted as 19th November 2024.

The Meeting closed at 12.48 pm.

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Volunteer Charter



The Volunteer Charter sets out the key principles for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership – Trusted Volunteer Scheme. Our Charter supports the foundations for a good volunteer experience for all.

1. Volunteering is open and inclusive to all, with all activities being equally important.
2. Volunteers will have a clear understanding of their tasks and responsibilities.
3. Whilst volunteers will not receive financial rewards for their time, out of pocket expenses will be covered that are due to their volunteering activity.
4. Volunteers will have support from a named supervisor throughout their journey.
5. Volunteers will have access to initial and ongoing training and development opportunities.
6. Volunteers are provided with ongoing support as wanted and needed.
7. Clear structures will be in place to support, train and develop our volunteers that will be constantly reviewed with volunteers to ensure they continually meet any needs.
8. Volunteers should be able to carry out their duties in safe, secure, and healthy environments, whilst recognising their own responsibilities for keeping themselves and others safe and well.
9. Volunteers will supplement activity within the organisation and complement core work undertaken.

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Budget Process 2025/2026

Carl Holland
Head of Finance (Client)

Current Context

Demographic Pressures

New Government Policy

Funding Arrangements

Page 5

Significant challenges

Pay inflation

Insurance

Contract Increases – RPI/CPI

IDB Levy

Environment Legislation

Service Demand

Investment Income

Strategic Issues and Opportunities

Access to funding – significant success

Business Rates Growth - opportunity

Longer term funding settlements

Prevention – homelessness, self-service, etc

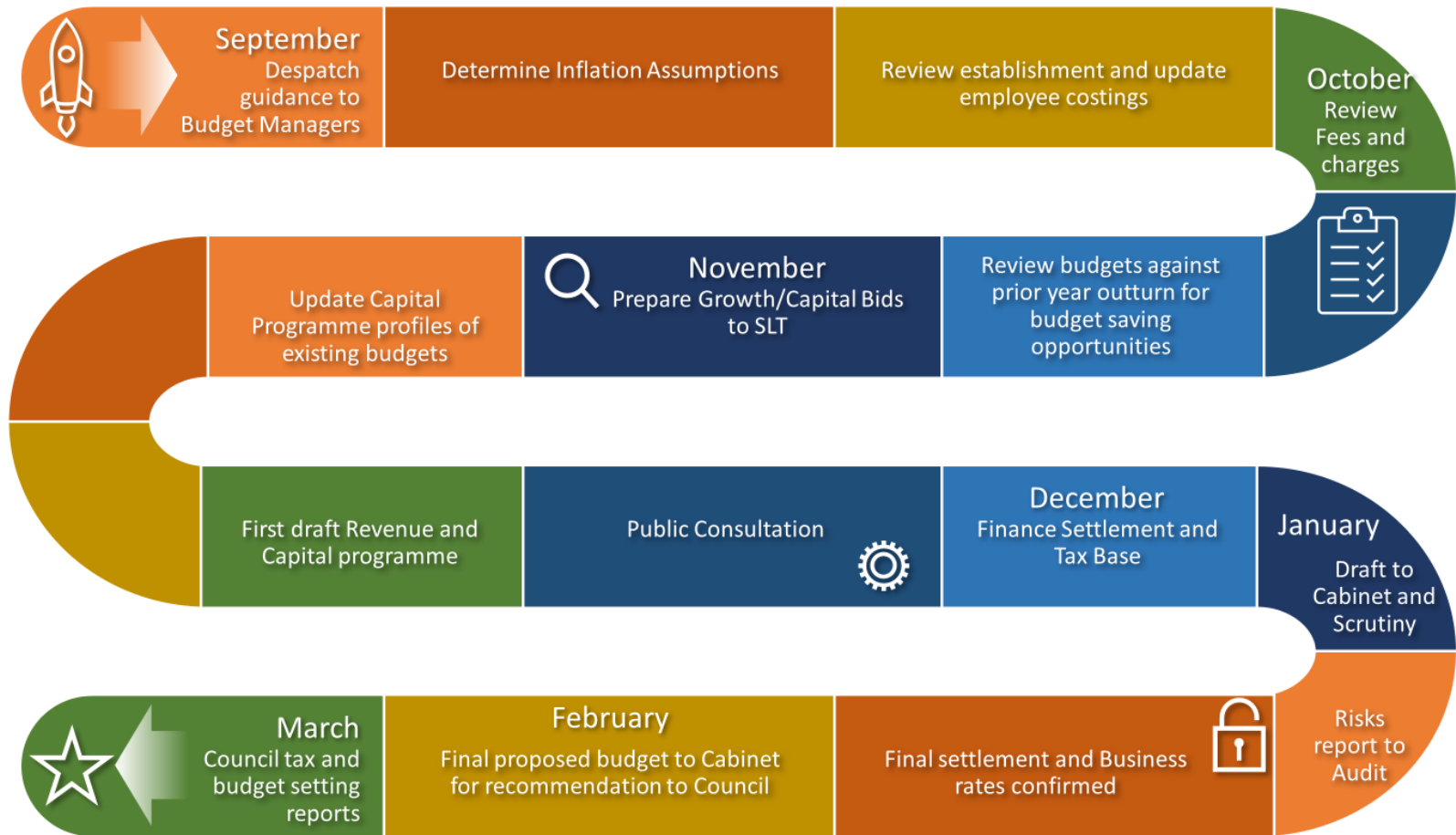
Effective Asset Management

Fees and charges – cost recovery to ensure no cross subsidization

Shared Services across the SELCP

Transformation, Innovation and Efficiency





Scrutiny Role: MTFS

- What insights does the MTFS provide regarding **risks in the budget process** and their translation into the draft budget?
- What does the MTFS, and the draft budget, say about the **priorities** that the council has identified?
- How has the council gone about determining what **resources** will be needed to deliver these priorities?
- How has that translated into **planned changes** in the budget itself?
- Among the proposed changes in the budget, which are likely to spark **contention**?
- What **other options** existed? How have these been considered, and how have certain options been rejected?
- Where are assumptions made about **future income and costs**? Are these assumptions robust?
- Where do assumptions pertain to **future demand**? Are these assumptions robust?
- How do these assumptions play into the overall **risk profile** presented by the budget? How do risks related to individual proposals intersect – and accumulate?
- **Which of these risks warrant further scrutiny?**

Questions

Carl Holland
Head of Finance (Client)

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Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire – Wednesday 9 October 2024

ULHT teaching Hospital Status: This was confirmed on September 16 and so the Trust in future will be known as United Lincolnshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. As a benefit this will help the Trust attract and retain staff in the county. It demonstrates the importance of the development of its workforce, providing training, learning and education opportunities for all staff. It will in turn attract top tier talent, engage in ground-breaking research and innovation in collaboration with its university partners. The Trust states this will improve upon the highest standards of patient care for the people of Lincolnshire. Congratulations were sent from the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Construction of Norton Lea Mental Health Unit at Boston: The Lincolnshire Partnership Trust laid the first bricks on September 23 for the construction of this new unit on London Road. The unit will include a new 19 bed mixed gender adult in-patient Ward, which will be the base for the Boston Mental Health Crisis Team. It replaces the outdated dormitory accommodation on Ward 12 at Pilgrim.

Your Voice: On October 23 between 10am and 1pm Healthwatch Lincolnshire will hold its next YourVoice@Healthwatch event at Jakeman's Football Stadium in Boston.

Healthwatch Lincolnshire: On 2 October 2024, HWLincs announced that they had been recommissioned by Lincolnshire County Council to deliver the Healthwatch Lincolnshire service for a further five and a half years. HWLincs has stated that they have delivered the Healthwatch Lincolnshire service over the past ten years, with strong relationships with stakeholders, healthcare providers, commissioners, and local authorities. HW Lincs has stated that they remain committed to ensure that the voices of Lincolnshire's residents continue to drive service improvement and policy development; and they will use the next five and a half years providers, commissioners, and local authorities to build on progress and deepen their engagement with the sector.

Cancers diagnosed at ULHT Hospitals as requested at the meeting of 11th September: Tumour Status Primary - 6865; Recurrence 235; Total 7100. Treatments Recorded on the National Cancer Registry - First Treatment- 5352; Subsequent Treatments - 3822, Event Type Not Recorded - 23; Total - 9197. *A total month by month is available on the Health Scrutiny website for anyone interested.

Humber Acute Services Review: The Department of Health and Social Care has acknowledged the Committee's request for intervention by the Secretary of State and has indicated a further update will be provided in six weeks.

GP national pilot: The Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board is one of seven selected to test changes to the GP operating model. Three practices in the Lincoln area, covering a population of 170,000, will run the pilot until March 2027. The interventions include expanding the use of the NHS app and Pharmacy First, improving communication to patients about the primary care workforce, implementing digital methods to reduce the administrative burden and reducing workload, both clinical and administrative, across the primary-secondary care interface.

GP Collective Action: After a national ballot GPs voted in favour of collective action which can take the form of ten actions to stop or reduce certain work. GPs will make individual and practice-based decisions on whether they will take any collective action. There is no specific end date on the horizon and doctors may vary the actions they may choose to take. Whilst many practices will advise NHS Lincolnshire ICB they are not obliged to do so. Patient safety

is para7 so if a practice does decide to take action, the ICB will establish alternative arrangements to ensure patients can access the services they need. There is an information page available for local enquiries on GP Collective Action - Lincolnshire ICB.

Public Engagement Event – to be held in Sutton Bridge on November 13 from 6.30 to 7.30 to discuss the proposed new Kings Lynn Hospital.

Response from Health Minister on Section 106 funding for healthcare facilities: After the July meeting the Chairman wrote to the Secretary of State about use of 106 monies for GP facilities.

Suicide Prevention in Lincolnshire: In 2023 there were 105 suicides in the county, which equates to 14 per 100,000, higher than the National average of 11.4. It represents an 8 percent increase on the previous year. The county's Public Health Department looks for trends and over time look for patterns by geography too. Lincoln has the highest number at 20.1 per 100,000, in the top 10 in the country, but East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland have above average numbers too. Men in the 30 to 50 age group are the highest risk group but causes cover a multitude of different factors. Deprived areas show a 3 times higher propensity for suicide. The team works with people with "lived experience" and there is a Recovery College supporting families and colleagues too. (Health Scrutiny has had a working group supporting this work too) there are actions that can be taken to prevent suicide, led by a multi-agency Steering Group working along guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 24-28, which has an annual action plan. Data shows 3/4 of suicides were men, aged between 30 and 39, and a quarter women, aged predominantly between 40 and 49. Over half the suicides took place in the home and 48% were single at the time. Before the pandemic 34% had previously made attempts to take their own life but this now stands at 40%. Key priorities for this year are to embed the voice of lived experience; encouraging open conversations and reducing Stigma and additional support for people who have attempted suicide. Next year the priorities are mapping characteristics and risk factors for suicide; improving support for children and young people, and suicide prevention and postventions support in key local organisations/employers. There was praise for the Lincolnshire Rural Support Network who do play such an important role supporting rural communities.

**There is a 20-minute online course which members can access through the Zero Suicide Alliance Training course.

Implementation of Lincolnshire Community Rehabilitation Service: the Lincolnshire Partnership Trust provides mental health services along with some learning disability, autism and social care service in the county. The Trust were asked to inform Health Scrutiny of progress since the formal closure of Ashley House, a law dependency rehab unit in Grantham in July last year. The Trust reports the service is now available countywide but unfortunately there are some challenges recruiting to the Eastern Hub ie this area! But the good news the service is demonstrating a positive impact with shorter length of stay and higher volumes of patients being supported by the community-based approach. Monitoring access, outcomes and people's experience will continue. All patients felt staff listened and spent time with them, 94% felt informed and given options about treatment and 97% felt the service provided was good or very good.

Reduction of inappropriate out of area mental health placements: Over the last few years there has been a national mandate to reduce inappropriate out of area placements to zero by next spring. Services should be commissioned and provided locally. However, some specialist in-patient services are not available due to low numbers of demand, so travel is deemed appropriate. Lincolnshire's performance has been good in the past, but it is higher than the zero mandate! Demand for adult acute mental health inpatient demand is exceeding the available local bed capacity which it is felt means people being hospitalised away from

their families, which hampers recovery. So, hitting the target will be a challenge plus placing people outside the county comes with a price tag of over £1m. So, recovery action is in progress with the Trust working closely with the Integrated Care Board.

Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders
ELDC Outside Body Appointee to the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
12/10/2024

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