

Chairman, Councillors

This is an important meeting in the calendar of council meetings.....not only is it the budget setting meeting, it is also the last meeting of this council before the local elections on the 4th May.....

My leaders report is as published and I'm happy to take any questions.....the content of the report is consistent with the ambition and action in helping our most vulnerable residents, delivering for our economy and establishing this council as a key partner in driving positive change for our residents.....

Four years ago my leaders report highlighted this Conservative councils ambition to look after our most vulnerable.....challenging the entrenched impacts of social deprivation with the attendant issues of skills provision and lack of access to further education.....so needed to raise the opportunities for our residents of all ages...

We also looked to drive the economy with an ambitious growth team and we recognised that the only way to succeed was through partnership working....and of course we began to engage with the Levelling Up agenda

I also acknowledged that we had to understand the impact of climate change on our residents and how we operated as a council.....in 2019 I observed that

technologies were good enough to have video conferences.....

Only those with the most perfect of hindsight could have predicted the issues we have had to face and the challenges we have had to overcome.....

I will never forget the meeting the Chef Exec and I had to discuss a virus that was spreading from the far east and its possible impacts on our residents and council....that meeting in March 2020 will never be forgotten

Within weeks all our officers were working remotely....council meetings became virtual and our residents realised the superhuman effort needed to deliver services such as waste collection....and our wellbeing teams worked tirelessly to support those most affected by the enforced isolation of the pandemic....

Our communities organised and supported each other....you as councillors played a crucial role in your wards...organising and facilitating food deliveries, prescription collections and much more....

We still take on that role dealing with the cost of living challenges....as councillors and as a council.....

In fact the volume of calls and enquiries accessing support and council services is still well above pre pandemic levels.

So what has this Conservative administration achieved against those benchmarks I set out in 2019 and how have we delivered government assistance for our most

vulnerable and how have we worked to meet the challenges I have highlighted....

In all this, we should not underestimate the beneficial impacts of being part of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils partnership...our voice is louder....our collective needs are better understood and our achievements in securing government and national body grants and funding is unprecedented.....

Here is the list....

- **Household Support Fund Grant aid delivered**
- **£334,750 allocated to residents in receipt of housing benefits**
- **£131,151 targeted at vulnerable households**
- **£30,000 support for community foodbanks**
- **Support for Warm Spaces initiative**
- **£22,000 support for Community Foundation Grants**
- **£404,000 ELDC Homeless Prevention Grant enables us to support our most vulnerable and access more funding because of government confidence in our service**
- **Age Friendly Communities Officer now in post supporting the interests of our older residents**
- **Local Lottery and Crowd funding enabled to support local charities and good causes.**

Our ambitious partnership working has secured over £70million in Levelling Up funding for East Lindsey to be spent supporting our coastal communities and market towns.

- **£24.5 million Towns Fund deal for Skegness including delivering a high quality learning campus, investment in the foreshore and railway station**
- **£23.9 million for Mablethorpe to provide a new leisure centre and digital learning complex and new Colonnade at Sutton on Sea**
- **£8.8 million for the restoration of historic sites in our Market Towns**
- **£6 million UK Shared Prosperity Funding for local business support, training and skills development**
- **Support for all our Market Towns. Our Vital and Viable programme delivers extensive and individual action plans to support independent retailers and encourage tourism. Making sure our spend is local.**
- **We are committed to expand our industrial estates across the district**
- **Established Boston College campus at the Horncastle Hub working with the College and the Greater Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership.**

Arts Council England funding has also landed to support our cultural ambitions that drive economic growth and well-being. Working with our Leisure provider Magna Vitae we have secured funding for a new Astro Turf pitch

at London Road Louth and we are working with partners to install new 4G pitches in Louth and Horncastle.

- **£20000 to support our cultural framework making sure that culture and economic regeneration go hand in hand.**
- **£30000 to deliver Festive Fabuloso cultural events across the district**
- **£650000 National Portfolio Organisation funding for three years to deliver culture and economic development in East Lindsey**

For the environment

- **New fleet of energy efficient Refuse Collection Vehicles**
- **Kerbside glass collection and separate paper and card recycling**
- **New environmental crime officers tackling fly tipping and littering**
- **New Pride in East Lindsey cleaning support team that tackles grot spots in our towns and villages**
- **Energy efficient ELDC headquarters and campus at the Horncastle Hub saving £300,000 in heating costs**
- **£3.1million in Green Home funding**
- **£3.65million in Sustainable warmth grants making homes more energy efficient and helping to reduce fuel poverty**

- **Carbon reduction plan in place for the whole council**

I have to acknowledge that many of the actions we have brought to full council have been supported by councillors of all political colours....for that I am gratefulbut the fact remains that this Conservative administration has delivered over the last 4 years in the most challenging of times....

My thanks to the officers and to my colleagues and to all our councillors who have supported our ambitions.....

This Conservative Council has delivered for residents of all ages, businesses and the environment....