

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH on Wednesday, 19th July, 2023 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors Terry Aldridge, Tom Ashton, Richard Avison, Wendy Bowkett, Stef Bristow, Danny Brookes, Jimmy Brookes, Sandra Campbell-Wardman, Graham Cullen, Richard Cunnington, Mark Dannatt, Colin Davie, Roger Dawson, Sarah Devereux, Carleen Dickinson, Dick Edginton, Stephen Evans, Stephen Eyre, Martin Foster, William Gray, Alex Hall, David Hall, Travis Hesketh, Darren Hobson, George Horton, Rosalind Jackson, Neil Jones, Thomas Kemp, 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, Paul Rickett, Daniel Simpson, Terry Taylor, Robert Watson and Ruchira Yarsley.

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Claire Arnold, Billy Brookes, Sid Dennis, Richard Fry, Adam Grist, Sam Kemp and Terry Knowles.

29. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):

At this point in the Meeting, Members were invited to declare any relevant interests. Declarations were made as follows:

- Councillor Richard Cunnington asked it be noted that he was employed by Danfo, Minute No. 10 refers.

30. MINUTES:

The Open and Exempt Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 24th May 2023 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

31. ACTION SHEETS:

The Actions were noted as complete.

The Chief Executive advised Members that a response to Action No. 14 (Questions – Supplementary) from the Meeting held on 14 December 2022 had been shared with Members ahead of the Meeting. A copy of this is attached at Appendix A to the Minutes.

N.B. Councillor James Knowles joined the Meeting at 6.38pm.

32. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman had attended several events since the previous Council meeting, including the Armed Forces Day Parade in Spalding on 20 June 2023 and a Business Breakfast in Skegness that showcased TikTok's effective use of its platform on how it could attract a new generation of tourists to Skegness on 30 June 2023.

Councillor Edward Mossop, Vice-Chairman attended the Lincolnshire Show to join West Lindsey District Council at their stand on 21 June 2023.

The Chairman was pleased to announce that his chosen charity for East Lindsey District Council was Macmillan Cancer Support.

He also extended an invitation to all Members to his Civic Service to be held at 3.00pm on Sunday 1st October 2023 in St Matthew's Church, Skegness followed by a reception (further details to be confirmed).

Concluding the update, the Chairman advised Members that a Chief Executive Action had been published, under powers of delegation, to appoint Councillors Foster and Gray temporarily to Mareham Le Fen Parish Council due to the Parish Council being inquorate.

33. QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC:

There were no questions from the public.

34. MOTIONS ON NOTICE:

The Chairman advised Members that legal advice had been received and further to discussions with the proposers, both motions on the agenda had been withdrawn.

The Leader of the Council apologised to Members of the public in attendance that the Motions would not be considered at the Meeting. It was highlighted that legal advice had been sought so that any decisions taken on this important matter by the Council or the Executive were taken in the proper manner and would withstand any legal challenge. It was advised that the Monitoring Officer would be working with the Monitoring Officer at Lincolnshire County Council to seek further legal advice on this matter to inform future decision making on the Test of Public Support.

As a Point of Order, Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders queried why the legal opinion had only been received that afternoon. In response, the Leader of the Council highlighted the significance of the subject and stated that it was a complicated issue. It was highlighted that the matters were not specifically addressed in legislation and instead were contained in a policy document from Nuclear Waste Services which set out a new national process for dealing with these matters. It was clarified that legal advice had been sought in the early days and since that time the Council had been seeking further legal

advice. The Council had to make an informed decision on the item, and following receiving further legal advice, although at a late stage it had been agreed to withdraw the motions.

35. EXEMPT INFORMATION:

RESOLVED

That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item on the grounds that, if they were present, there could be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 1, 2 & 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended).

36. LOCAL ENERGY ADVICE DEMONSTRATOR:

An exempt report was presented.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation as detailed within the exempt minute be agreed.

It was Proposed, Seconded and agreed that Council move back into Open Session.

It was further agreed to reorder the business of the Meeting to take Item 10 on the agenda, Motions on Notice, as the next item due to recognise that Members of the public were in attendance for this item.

37. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

An updated report had been circulated prior to the meeting. A copy is attached at Appendix B to the Minutes.

Following which, questions were asked:

LUF Events

Councillor Jackson referred to the launch events in Alford and Skegness and stated that she was eager to know when other towns, for example, Louth may benefit from levelling up funding. In response to the point made about disparity around inland and coastal towns, Councillor Leyland highlighted that the Council must ensure that deprivation in the hinterland was taken forward.

SELCP Employee Awards

Councillor Jackson asked that her congratulations be noted to those teams and individuals who had received awards.

Councillor Horton wished to echo Councillor Jackson's congratulations, however wanted to point out that outside of the awards scheme there were also members of staff that went the extra mile. He also found it difficult to see how staff could be compared across the three councils and was not surprised to see that most awards had gone to SHDC staff.

In response, Councillor Leyland highlighted that the three councils were in a partnership and considered that the awards were fair.

Changing Places Toilets

Councillor Jackson queried whether further funding would be made available for changing places toilets. In response, Councillor Leyland advised that UK Shared Prosperity Funding was about to be launched and information on this would be circulated to district and town and parish councillors.

Councillor Dickinson asked that her thanks be passed to the officers involved in securing the funding for the changing places facilities and to Councillor Leyland for attending the opening that day at the Lincolnshire Wildlife Park (LWP) in Friskney. In response, Councillor Leyland also thanked the officers involved and Councillor Dickinson for her acknowledgement and stated that LWP was excited to get the facility and would be pleased to receive visitors who would benefit from using this.

Councillor Makinson-Sanders stated that she was disappointed that Hubbard's Hills in Louth was unable to benefit from a changing places facility as the site could not be accessed.

SO Festival

Councillor Jackson queried whether moving the festival to June from its usual spot in August had affected attendance.

Councillor Horton considered that the festival would be better held in August due to school holidays, and furthermore did not believe the SO Festival worked. In response, Councillor Leyland stated that he understood the event had been successful.

Councillor Danny Brookes thanked Councillor Leyland for his report, and disagreed with Councillor Horton, stating that June was an ideal time to hold the SO festival which extended the season.

In response, Councillor Leyland stated that he was happy to share attendance details for the SO Festival and considered it important to move the dates to test the season.

Publicity and signage updates to inform people of safe zones/safe routes.

Councillor Jackson referred to the signage already installed, however was concerned over the permanence of this as a 'safe street' could become a

moving picture and queried the utility of these signs. In response, Councillor Leyland stated that he was happy to take the points raised on board, however referred to the CCTV cameras that were installed in towns across the district and the success of the team who worked and assisted in keeping the streets safe.

Health

Councillor Horton highlighted the internal menopause support group that had been working together to develop a support network for staff including welcoming a Lead Women's Health Nurse to deliver a Women's Health Talk to the workforce, however queried why there was not a group for men to discuss, for example prostate cancer. Councillor Makinson-Sanders agreed with this and asked whether in addition to a talk, a testing afternoon could be arranged in relation to the menopause.

In response, Councillor Leyland stated that he had seen reference to advice for men on prostate issues within the Council and added that it was right that the Council supported the menopause support group.

Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)

Councillor Danny Brookes commented that he was very pleased to see the RSC had been welcomed at the Embassy Centre.

Rough Sleeper Service

Councillor Danny Brookes thanked Councillor Leyland for the update and stated that he was pleased to see that further accommodation for rough sleepers had been opened in Spilsby, Alford, Louth and Skegness.

Household Support Fund

Councillor Makinson-Sanders welcomed the next tranche of the Household Support Fund and commented that it was a 'real eye opener' being involved with those who applied for the funding.

LGA Coastal SIG visit (upcoming in September) (NS)

Councillor Ashton offered his thanks to Councillor Leyland for supporting the LGA Coastal SIG event to be hosted in Skegness, not only to showcase Skegness but also at a national level.

Councillor Makinson-Sanders highlighted that a record had been broken at Louth Cattle Market, with 1100 prime lambs being sold and stated that it was the right decision to save this facility.

In conclusion, Councillor Leyland thanked all Members for the positive comments received to his report.

38. OVERVIEW COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL:

Councillor Fiona Martin, Chairman of Overview Committee presented the Annual Overview Committee update to Council for noting. During her introduction, Councillor Martin thanked all Members and officers who had committed their time to the various Panels, both at ELDC and on the Joint Scrutiny Panel for the Partnership. The Chairman also thanked Councillor Edward Mossop as her Vice-Chairman for 2022/23 for his help. In response, Councillor Mossop stated that he had enjoyed his time on Overview Committee and considered that it was important to have change and progress and thanked the Chairman for her support, particularly on the Partnership scrutiny.

Councillor Martin also welcomed the new Members of Overview Committee following the elections and noted the renewed enthusiasm.

Councillor Martin asked that recognition be given to Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders for her work as Chairman on the 'To explore the issues surrounding caravan licensing and enforcement' Scrutiny Panel as the final report was exemplar and a piece of work that the Council should be proud of. In response, Councillor Makinson-Sanders thanked the Chairman for the commendation.

Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council added his appreciation of the work undertaken by Overview Committee and the scrutiny panels and highlighted that Executive Board accepted the reports with interest and noted the recommendations coming forward, stating that it was right that the Council was held to account.

39. QUESTIONS:

Councillor Horton raised a query in relation to a question posted to the Questions2Council Inbox that had not been included in the list circulated to Members ahead of the Meeting.

In response, the Monitoring Officer stated that a response would be sought, following which this would be forwarded to the Member concerned and brought back to the next Meeting.

Question 1	Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders
Subject	Extension to Louth Industrial Estate
Response by	Councillor Adam Grist
Supplementary	How are we going to ask Lincolnshire County Council to invest in the Industrial Estate?
Response:	Councillor Adam Grist to provide a written response.
Question 2	Councillor Ros Jackson

Subject	Future of Charles Street Recreation Ground
Response by	Councillor Graham Marsh
Supplementary	Will ELDC be investing in Charles Street, and if so, when?
Response:	An investigation is ongoing with other parties and a lot of work needs doing. There is no timeframe, but there may be some information coming out soon and Louth Ward Members will be informed.
Question 3	Councillor Daniel Simpson
Subject	ELDC Call-Back Service
Response by	Councillor Graham Marsh
Supplementary	It can take approximately 2 minutes to listen to the automatic message, what steps are you prepared to take to try and reduce this?
Response:	I fully agree that it can be frustrating. The system is designed in that it tries to steer the customer to the best person to answer the call.
Question 4	Councillor Daniel Simpson
Subject	Percentage of calls that go to call-back.
Response by	Councillor Graham Marsh
Supplementary	What steps are being taken to address why calls are not being answered in a timely manner?
Response:	The call-back facility tells you what number you are in the queue, I think it is an excellent service.
Question 5	Councillor Daniel Simpson
Subject	Rating of call-handlers.
Response by	Councillor Graham Marsh
Supplementary	None
Question 6	Councillor Daniel Simpson
Subject	How many employed by ELDC
Response by	Councillor Craig Leyland
Supplementary	None
Question 7	Councillor Daniel Simpson
Subject	Trading status of Invest East Lindsey
Response by	Councillor Craig Leyland
Supplementary	None
Question 8	Councillor Daniel Simpson
Subject	Monies advanced to Invest East Lindsey
Response by	Councillor Craig Leyland
Supplementary	None

Question 9	Councillor Daniel Simpson
Subject	Present trading status of Kingfisher Caravan Park
Response by	Councillor Craig Leyland
Supplementary	Are there any plans to sell Kingfisher Caravan Park?
Response:	Kingfisher Caravan Park is going to be the subject for an upcoming scrutiny panel and all options will be considered following the review.
Question 10	Councillor Daniel Simpson
Subject	Implications to ELDC from Kingfisher Caravan Park
Response by	Councillor Craig Leyland
Supplementary	If Kingfisher Caravan Park is to be sold, will it be a decision for the Executive Board or a Council Decision.
Response:	I believe this will be a matter for Full Council.
Question 11	Councillor Andrew Leonard
Subject	Costs for storage and property not on Hub site outside budget.
Response by	Councillor Richard Fry
Supplementary	Do we own or lease Banovallum Court?
Response:	The Council owns the property.
Question 12	Councillor Andrew Leonard
Subject	Planting scheme at the Hub.
Response by	Councillor Craig Leyland
Supplementary	None
Question 13	Councillor Andrew Leonard
Subject	Renovation on Tom Scholey House
Response by	Councillor Craig Leyland
Supplementary	As we own Banovallum Court, and taking into account the cost for remodelling, would it have been better utilising Tom Scholey House?
Response:	The intention was to demolish Tom Scholey House, but the reality was that demolition costs were very expensive. We may use this building in the future.
Question 14	Councillor Andrew Leonard
Subject	Out of time planning applications.
Response by	Councillor Tom Ashton
Supplementary	Further to the last paragraph in respect of no concerns in respect of the performance of the team, can we look at this area harder and closer?

Response:	I do not agree with the comment, I am very pleased with the performance of the planning team and the officers do a cracking job. I am happy to pick up any specific aspect of a planning application after the meeting.
Question 15	Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders
Subject	Financial functions undertaken by PSPS Limited
Response by	Councillor Richard Fry
Supplementary	What is the limited number of examples referred to?
Response:	A written response is required.
Question 16	Councillor George Horton
Subject	Inspections on playparks in Louth
Response by	Councillor Martin Foster
Supplementary	None
Question 17	Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders
Subject	Live Theatre in Louth
Response by	Councillor Graham Marsh
Supplementary	None
Question 18	Councillor George Horton
Subject	Cost to authority for maintenance of public conveniences
Response by	Councillor Martin Foster
Supplementary	None

A full list of these questions is attached at **Appendix 1** to these minutes.

40. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The programmed date for the next Meeting of the Council was noted as Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm.

This page is left intentionally blank

APPENDIX A

Please find detailed below a summary of consultancy spend by AD area.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTANCY COSTS BY AD AREA		
AD Area	2021/22	2022/23
AD Finance	£ 24,286.00	£ 23,287.50
AD Planning & Strategic Infrastructure	£ 65,724.70	£ 66,324.89
AD Economic Growth	£ 27,448.00	£ 6,250.00
AD Strategic Growth & Development	£ -	£ 7,140.00
AD Leisure & Culture	£ 1,634.00	£ 4,477.77
	£ 119,092.70	£ 107,480.16

This page is left intentionally blank

Household Support Fund

We are pleased to confirm that ELDC have accepted grant allocation for Lincolnshire County Council to deliver Household Support Fund locally.

That's £1.3 million this year to help households with significant increase in living costs.

Based on our experience of successfully delivering this funding to residents, we will once again be using this funding to support of community, organisations, faith groups and volunteers at food banks and community larders as well as an application scheme open to other households in need.

Details of costs of living support of all households will be updated at our webpage:

www.e-lindsey.goc.uk/costofliving

RSC Launch

Friday 23 June marked the launch of a new partnership between the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Magna Vitae Embassy Theatre in Skegness. Complimenting East Lindsey's Cultural Framework, the partnership feeds into local plans to use arts and culture as a tool for regeneration and boosting health, well-being and opportunities for young people, using a theatre-based approach to learning to help children unlock their full potential. There were 5 new learning partnerships announced across the UK, with Skegness being home to the national launch attracting nationwide press coverage.

LGA coastal SIG visit (upcoming in September) (NS)

The LGA Coastal SIG champions the collective interests of coastal, estuarine and maritime communities by increasing awareness and debate on environmental, economic and social issues at all levels in relation to the coast. We are delighted that they have chosen Lincolnshire as their destination for this year's annual visit, which is taking place on 12th, 13th and 14th September.

Approximately 30 councillors from all over the UK will be attending the trip. The delegates will be based in Skegness, but we will be showcasing projects along the East Lindsey coastline and Boston including Centre for Future Living, Skegness Foreshore, Cultural Regeneration, Coastal adaptation (Boston Barrier and Wrangle Sea Bank) and the Colonnade.

The visit will also include a celebration supper at the North Sea Observatory on the evening of 13th September, and the SIG AGM on 14th September.

CDF Approval (Cultural Development Fund)

At a meeting of Full Council on the 28th June, East Lindsey Members approved plans to proceed with the delivery of a multi-million project to regenerate two culturally significant assets on the Skegness Foreshore. The programme of works will support our partners Magna Vitae in transforming the Embassy Theatre and Mellor's Group in regenerating areas of the Skegness Pier. The funding will support continuing plans to establish the Embassy Theatre as a new Culture House within Skegness which will connect the Midlands Coast to other national and international arts venues and festivals. The project will also see the enhancement of publicly accessible open space on Scarbrough Esplanade, renovations to the current pier deck and Pier façade, and the refurbishment of 24 former beach chalet units to rejuvenate this area of the Foreshore for holidaymakers, visitors and residents. The investment is being primarily funded by the Council's successful application to secure a grant of £5million from Arts Council England's Cultural Development Fund, with additional private sector match funding being provided by the Mellors Group.

Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival

The Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival took place from 20th May – 11th June, offering over 180 events over the 3 weeks. There were a wide range of different activities, including;- guided walks, gliding, horse riding, dancing, river dipping, den building, fly fishing and much more, most activities were free of charge or available at a greatly reduced cost. Over 3500 people enjoyed taking part in the events, many trying a new activity for the first time and some finding a new hobby as a result.

Sarah Baxter visit

The Partnership area received further positive publicity when travel writer Sarah Baxter visited and was hosted in the County. She wrote a number of articles focused on Spalding, Boston and the Wolds (see attached and below)

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-crowd-free-rival-to-the-cotswolds-qf1737ldp>

LUF events

Two successful LUF launch events have been held. The first event was on 19 May to mark the funding success for Alford Windmill and Alford Manor House. Held at the Corn Exchange in Alford, around 70 people attended to hear more about the project. The second event to mark Spilsby Sessions House receiving funding was held on 6 July. This event was held at the Franklin Hall and attracted around 100 people. Both events included short overviews of the project and the first public showing of two films to mark the occasion, produced by Destination Lincolnshire. These will be available on the LUF project website at <https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/23103/Levelling-Up>

S&ELCP Employee Awards

The S&ELCP Employee Awards was held on Monday 19 June at the Jakemans Community Stadium in Boston. The event was sponsored by the Staff Forum, who also sponsored the 'Collaboration and Working Together' Award and the event itself was organised by a small group from the forum. In attendance on the evening were officers and teams who were shortlisted for awards, along with members of our Corporate Management Team, Leaders from East Lindsey & South Holland, and the Deputy Leader from Boston, representatives from our Trade Unions, the Chief Executive of PSPS, Lewis Duckett, and other colleagues who were recognised as part of the evening, such as members of our Future Leaders Programme.

Whilst this was a face-to-face event it was also streamed live to colleagues in our staff Facebook group. Feedback from colleagues who attended or watched the event live has been overwhelmingly positive.

The winners and highly commended on the evening were:

Innovation and Improvement Award

Winner: Vikki Cherry – Housing Services Manager at South Holland District Council

Highly Commended: Heather Prescott for her work with the South & East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network

Emma Elghoul and Haley King, Cost of Living response officers at South Holland District Council.

Going The Extra Mile (GEM) Award

Winner: The Partnership's CCTV team

Highly Commended: Jo Stock – for the Partnership's Menopause support group

Boston Caretakers team

Rhonda Booth – Democratic Services at South Holland District Council

Rising Star Award

Winner: Adel Gardner – Environmental Services Project Coordinator at South Holland District Council

Highly Commended: Daisy Jones – Sustainable Housing Officer
Nichola Holderness – Community Leadership Manager

Project of the Year Award

Winner: The Public Sector Hub

Highly Commended: The Partnership’s Democratic Services for elections and member induction
Green Homes Grants – Phase 1b

Collaboration and Working Together Award

Winner: The Ukraine Wellbeing Team

Highly Commended: Emma Staff – Communications Lead
The Partnership’s Levelling Up Fund submissions

Operative of the Year Award

Winner: Nathan Stubleby – Shadow Supervisor, Street Cleansing Team at South Holland District Council

Highly Commended: Miles Smith – Apprentice Plumber at South Holland District Council
Colin Parker – Property Assessor at South Holland District Council

Personal Development Award

Winner: Tom Marsters – Homelessness Reduction and Housing Solution Manager at South Holland District Council

Highly Commended: Susan Armour – Environmental Protection Team Leader at South Holland District Council

Cameron Lithgow – Assistant Building Control Surveyor at Boston Borough Council
Louise Upton – Sustainable Housing Officer

Partnership Champion Award

Winner: James Gilbert – Assistant Director Corporate

Highly Commended: Clive Gibbon – Economic Development Manager – Investment and Growth
A list of winners and highly commended was previously shared with Members via the Members Point Brief.

Changing Places Toilets

I am delighted to announce that earlier today, in line with the Changing Places Awareness Day, Councillor Dickinson and I were present to help to open the first of 6 new changing places toilets within the District at Lincolnshire Wildlife Park. Members may recall that we secured £300k of government funding last year to install 6 new toilets. The toilets are part of a £30m national campaign that aims to allow around 1 million more physically impaired individuals to undertake more recreational activities with dignity, confidence, and freedom.

The first of these to be opened is at Lincolnshire Wildlife Park in Friskney and has been installed in partnership with the Council. The remaining 6 facilities at Alford, Sutton on Sea, Woodhall Spa, Skegness and Sandilands will be opened during the remainder of the year.

Mental Health Awareness

A group of Mental Health First Aiders developed and delivered a number of activities during the national Mental Health Awareness week in May. This included elevating the profile of our trained Mental Health First Aiders across the Workforce and the different levels of employee support available.

Future Leaders Programme

This years intake are now 12 weeks into their programme, so far successfully having taken part in Leadership Engagement Sessions, Workshops and supported local recruitment activity supporting the promotion of career opportunities in local government.

Health

We have an internal menopause support group who have been working together to develop a support network for staff including welcoming a Lead Women's Health Nurse to deliver a Women's Health Talk to our workforce. The sessions will cover a plethora of topics from Menopause to Breast and Cervical screening.

Housing Register Service

Housing Register surgeries take place across East Lindsey to provide advice and assistance to new and current housing applicants. This is a vital service for those that struggle to manage their application on-line. Appointments are not required.

- Louth – Methodist Church – Held third Friday of the month 10:00-12:00
- Mablethorpe – Coastal Centre – Held first Monday of the month 10:00-12:00
- Skegness – Storehouse – Held third Monday of the month 09:00-11:00

Rough Sleeper Service

The service has seen an increase in rough sleeping which is not unusual for this time of year because of the influx of people to the coast. The number found sleeping rough towards the end of June was 13. This is significantly lower than 2019 when the service was established but still far too high.

Nationally, rough sleeping has increased by 35% compared to March 2022. Figures remain below the 2017 peak, but this increase is concerning but not a surprise.

Our staff will support those with no connection to East Lindsey to return to where they have connections if safe to do so but some will refuse all assistance. For people with a connection to East Lindsey, the team will try and get them into accommodation. Some have lost every available option because of their complex needs and unacceptable behaviour which makes ending rough sleeping extremely difficult. Our staff continue to persevere and try to overcome the barriers to obtaining a home.

Occasionally rough sleepers will bed down in the in Shelters on Skegness seafront and may cause anti-social behaviour. Some of these rough sleepers refuse to work with the team or move on which makes it very challenging. However, a joint effort from across teams including the Rough Sleeper team, the Police, ELDC's ASB Officer and Neighbourhood services to keep the shelters in a clean and tidy condition.

The team recently leased a property in Spilsby from Platform Housing to provide a home for our rough sleepers. This is in addition to accommodation in Alford, Louth and Skegness. Two further properties will be leased shortly.

SO Festival

SO Festival returned on June 16, 17 and 18 in Skegness and Mablethorpe. Embracing, its new community centred focus the festival was moved from its usual spot in August, to accommodate and benefit the local residential communities. Highlights included mesmerizing performances, captivating music, and breathtaking art installations. Thanks to talented artists, amazing staff, and an enthusiastic audience, this year's festival was extraordinary. Looking ahead, mark your calendars for SO Festival 2024 on June 14th-16th. Join us as we celebrate the transformative power of art and create more unforgettable memories.

Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)

The Embassy Theatre and the wider Magna Vitae team are delighted to announce that we have recently formed a working partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company that will benefit our local communities for generations. The partnerships aim is to use arts and culture as a positive tool to boost health and well-being alongside learning and employment opportunities for young people within the district. Skegness is one of five new partner towns (alongside Corby, Coventry, Hartlepool and Peterborough) to join 26 existing areas in a long term partnership with the RSC. The RSC pledges to increase touring activity by 50% by 2026 to areas of structural disadvantage.

Shine funding

Magna Vitae has been awarded £56,250 over three years from the Sustainability theme of the Mental Health & Well-being Investment Fund, administered by Shine Lincolnshire. Magna Vitae's funding gives a much-welcomed boost to Ageless and Agile, a community programme that provides weekly physical and social activities for adults. A launch event of the 'Ageless and Agile' programme in Skegness took place on Tuesday 27th June at Magna Vitae's Embassy Theatre where partners and participants alike joined in with the physical and social activities, as a taster of the programme. Jenny and Shirley from Wainfleet enjoyed the competitive activities at Tuesday's session, with Shirley happily conceding Jenny was the champion on the day:
"We saw the sessions advertised on Facebook and the Wainfleet community centre and thought we would come down, it's great, and we will definitely be coming next week; just brilliant."
Ageless and Agile sessions take place weekly for 1.5 to 2 hours providing gentle physical activities, a social opportunity, and a place to discuss lifestyle concerns such as nutrition, technology, and mental well-being.

Safer Streets Fund Round 5 Update – Skegness Upgrade:

Installation work in Skegness was completed on 21st June, with the exception of two camera locations which are awaiting Lincolnshire County Council permissions to be granted. One other location is awaiting reinstatement of power supply.

The new additional static cameras added to the existing PTZ Dome cameras in Skegness have already increased our monitoring and evidence gathering capability and within the first week of going live we have been able to assist the police in the identification, location and arrest of an offender of a serious crime. Subsequently, the Duty Police Inspector has sent a note thanking the CCTV team for their excellent partnership work, which included evidence from the new cameras, in respect of this particularly high profile case.

The CCTV Team is currently assisting and working alongside police colleagues in respect of the recent tragic murder investigation in Skegness and additional resources have been allocated in support of this ongoing investigation.

CCTV community-based police volunteer project

One volunteer has successfully gone through the vetting process and has commenced a volunteering role on Monday of each week. This day is most suitable to support any work following the busier weekends and initial work includes burning disks to free up operating time. It is anticipated that image reviews will also be completed as part of the role, which has already been achieving some good results, with arrests being made as a direct result of our volunteer's work.

Publicity and signage updates to inform people of safe zones / safe routes.

The signage for the Safer Street areas has been produced and sent to Videcom who are installing the signs as and when they are in the areas as an additional matched funding element. A webpage has been added to each District Council website and these are live in East Lindsey and South Holland where the signs are being installed first. Signage has already been installed Spalding and Skegness.

Crimestoppers has been approached to work in partnership on a window sticker that can be placed in local shop windows along the safer routes. The sticker will display the QR code which takes people to the safer street webpages, providing another publicity opportunity.

Publicity is likely to take place once all areas have been completed, rather than a phased approach.

APPENDIX 1**Questions to Council Under Rule 11 of the Constitution –
Council 19th July 2023****1 Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillors Adam Grist, Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and Rural Economy and Councillor Richard Fry, Portfolio Holder for Finance**

What is holding up the long awaited extension to Louth Industrial Estate? When will the infrastructure go in? Why was this not put forward for Levelling Up funding, given its capacity to create jobs, increase business rates and attract vibrant new industry into the area?

- A** *The Member has already recently been provided with a detailed response from Officers on this question, prior to submitting it again to Council.*

The consented planning scheme has a significant funding deficit to provide the associated infrastructure works. The Council has been actively exploring potential bidding and/or investment opportunities to complete a viable funding package in order to commission the capital works. The Council is acutely aware of Levelling Up Fund opportunities and has made thematic submissions under previous Levelling Up Fund bidding rounds which provided a better fit to the eligibility criteria, successfully securing £8.1m of Government investment into our market towns under Round 2.

2 Councillor Ros Jackson to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction

There has been a lot of concern in Louth about the future of Charles Street Recreation Ground, and the fishing pond. Can you give an update please on the future of this amenity area, and how it will be maintained? How are meetings with Louth Town Council, local interest groups, and Magna Vitae progressing?

- A** *I can confirm that the Council is in ongoing discussions about the future potential operation of the site with one organisation currently, however, it would be inappropriate at this stage to suggest what the outcome of those discussions may or may not be.*

Our ambition for the site is to see it provide a valuable, quality environment to the benefit of Louth residents, our wider community and visitors to the area and whilst we remain in negotiation, we will continue to ensure that as much of the site as possible remains accessible with some parts, such as the lake, needing to be kept secure.

3 Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction

When contacting the East Lindsey District Council by phone and getting no reply, there is the option to use a call back service. How much is the "call back" service costing East Lindsey District Council alone, annually and the cost to date since introduction.

- A** *The contact centre enhancement of 'call back in queue', was implemented on the 9th May 2023. Since its implementation up to the end of Q1 there have been 2161 successful call backs. This is where a customer, in the queue can select an option*

Questions to Council under Rule 11

for a call back, disconnect their call but remain in the virtual queue until their virtual position in the queue has been reached, at which point the call is once again connected to the customer.

As this enhancement was built into the original contract, there are no additional charges for this concept and enhancement to the customer experience, of which there has been overwhelming positive feedback.

In terms of outbound call charges, we do not yet have the data to represent this, however we anticipate that outbound call charges either replicate those, when compared to last year, or are slightly reduced based on the call packages that we have built into the contract. This is based on the fact that before this enhancement was introduced, standard call charges were in place, along with manual interceptions of calls waiting. Intercepting calls, has been a practice used within Customer Contact for some time, to minimise call wait times for the contact centre, support the services performance objectives and support ongoing customer quality and satisfaction levels.

4 Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction

What is the % of calls made to the East Lindsey District Council that finish up as a call back.

- A** *The call back solution, which is an enhancement to the new contact centre solution, was implemented on the 9th May. The number of call backs for East Lindsey, since its implementation, until the end of Q1 is 2161 and this equates to 10% of the calls. This feature has received fantastic feedback from customers and supporting an improved customer experience.*

5 Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction

About the phone call handled by Spalding reporting the said litter bin, I was asked at the end to rate the handling of the actual call on a scale of 1-5. My reply was nobody gets top marks, however the tenacity of the operator as to why it was important to achieve top marks, and if not, sort out why not, did earn her the 5 marks in the finish. Is there any merit in getting rid of some expensive management and letting the call operators run the job and should callers really be expected to rate a phone call.

- A** *Customer Satisfaction is a KPI measurement for Customer Contact. Since Covid, volumes of requesting customer satisfaction increased by 400%, in the absence of certain service provisions being removed and it was felt that it was more important than ever to gauge the experience and feedback from customers. All types of feedback, both positive and constructive help the service, ensure there is focus in the correct areas and to apply improvements where needed.*

There are opportunities through the new contact centre solution, to apply alternative means of obtaining customer satisfaction in the future and remains on the plan for ongoing system development.

Questions to Council under Rule 11

6 Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

How many employees does the East Lindsey District Council employ directly Not including those working across the partnership, not those employed by arms length companies eg Magna Vitae or Invest East Lindsey.

A *415 employees*

392.1 is total FTE

7 Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

Reading Audit reports you get the impression that PSPS distances itself from Invest East Lindsey. What is the trading status of Invest East Lindsey in terms of financial soundness, profitability, and viability.

A *Invest East Lindsey is a going concern and the appointed accountants for the company have not raised any concerns with regards to this. Along with a lot of other companies it has been impacted upon by Covid/other factors and international events in terms of the delivery of its business plan.*

8 Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

What monies to date have been advanced to Invest East Lindsey and are there any plans to advance more monies.

A *Breakdown of the advances are as follows:*

Caravan Sales Loan £272,600

Caravan Hire Fleet £290,780 (balance now £268,951.51)

Caravan Hire Fleet Expansion Loan £1,100,000

Housing Development Loan £2,750,000 (balance now £2,250,000 and a further £1m expected to be repaid by 31st March 2024)

9 Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

Rumours abound regarding the once profitable Kingfisher Caravan Park, a jewel in the asset portfolio of East Lindsey District Council. Exactly what is the present trading status of Kingfisher in terms of financial soundness, profitability, and viability.

A *I thank Councillor Simpson for his question; Kingfisher Caravan Park continues to make a surplus year on year; whilst that surplus has reduced significantly, its operation remains viable and profitable.*

10 Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

With regard to the Kingfisher Park is there anything coming down the line that has the potential to incur costs to the East Lindsey District Council or require some reputation management.

Questions to Council under Rule 11

A *I thank Councillor Simpson for his question, as you may be aware, a legal challenge was lodged by the Kingfisher Owners Group against the Council in 2020; that challenge remains outstanding and our lawyers continue to press for it to be heard in the High Court; however, the position of the other side remains unacceptable to the Council and our lawyers are pressing for a Master to determine the course of the case.*

11 Councillor Andrew Leonard to Councillor Richard Fry, Portfolio Holder for Finance

Outside the budgeted cost of the Hub, how much extra has been spent on storage and property not on the hub site but associated with the new premises.

A *I thank Councillor Leonard for his question; whilst £237,000 was spent remodelling Banovallum Court for such purposes, the cost associated with those works was all included within the HUB's total approved budgets.*

12 Councillor Andrew Leonard to Councillor Craig Leyland, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

Allowing for the demise of many grasses that were planted and the short Allium bulb season that has finished outside at the front of the building, what else can we look forward to now.

A *I thank Councillor Leonard for his question, as I have advised previously, the planting scheme at the HUB is absolutely as we planned and I'm sorry that some don't appreciate the nature of the scheme that has been delivered.*

13 Councillor Andrew Leonard to Councillor Craig Leyland, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

Why has renovation on the adjacent building not commenced yet.

A *I thank Councillor Leonard for his question, whilst a number of tentative options have been discussed informally, there are no current plans in hand for the asset; however, it's future will be fully reviewed in line with our newly adopted asset strategy.*

14 Councillor Andrew Leonard to Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning

How many planning applications currently submitted to this authority are out of time, assuming they are they particularly attributed to one officer and what are the reasons why?

A *Cllr Leonard,*

Thank you for your question,

I can advise that of the 418 applications currently being considered; 41 of those are currently 'out of time' being beyond their statutory determination period and not currently subject of an agreed extension of time - This is less than 10% of all applications.

Questions to Council under Rule 11

Additionally it is possible for some of those 'out of time' to subsequently become 'in time' as a result of agreements with Applicants/Agents.

Those applications are attributed to the Council as Local Planning Authority, and are spread across the various case officers that we have. They are also for a range of different application types and complexity, each with their own issues. The reasons why each will be 'out of time' will be case specific. Whilst I note you have suggested that these are attributable to one un-named officer, I do not consider it relevant to name, or single out particular officers – particularly given the values and behaviours that this Council has adopted. The performance of an individual is an internal, service manager issue; the collective performance of the service is in my view the most pertinent for Members as it is that which we are measured against nationally.

In terms of reasons, there can be many reasons for this including but not limited to:

- *Requests for additional or amended information*
- *Requests for scheme amendments to make unacceptable schemes acceptable*
- *S106 and Legal negotiations*
- *Awaiting determination by the Planning Committee following a 'call-in' request*
- *Awaiting determination by the Secretary of State on a 'call-in' based on legislation requirements*
- *Delays in responses from key consultees*
- *Resourcing pressures – including absence; Appeals; meetings/discussions etc*

As Portfolio Holder I am fully aware of the current performance of our team; and I am pleased to say that we continue to perform positively against the national performance indicators in respect of both Speed and Quality of decision making. This is particularly important when I consider the challenges faced within many other authorities - some of which are at risk of designation by the Secretary of State; and the widely reported pressures of attracting and retaining planning professionals within local government.

I have no concerns in respect of the performance of the team. I would like to thank them for their continued hard work and dedication to determining applications efficiently; ensuring we make quality decisions in the context of the Local Plan; and supporting positive outcomes wherever possible.

Should you wish to discuss further with me privately, I would be happy to do so.

15 Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Richard Fry, Portfolio Holder for Finance

What was the logic behind PS2 taking on all the financial functions of this council, leaving a Section 151 officer without a cohort of staff reporting to him/her? What other councils in this country have a Section 151 department that is similarly staffed?

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

Questions to Council under Rule 11

There a limited number of examples of outsourced finance functions across England. PSPS have recently commissioned CIPFA to carry out a review of the finance function and the Council is engaged in this process.

16 **Councillor George Horton to Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services**

How often are each of the Playparks in Louth inspected for broken glass, dog mess and for grass cutting? Is the maintenance increased in the long school holiday to ensure families wanting to make the most of summer days are not put at risk?

A *Children's play areas are safety inspected, on a weekly basis.*

Our Neighbourhood Service Operatives also attend the amenity sites and play areas - two, to three times per week, to empty the litter and dog bins (per schedule work instruction) and would clear broken grass and report wider issue with the site (grass cutting issues etc.) – back to their supervisor, if required.

17 **Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction and Councillor Adam Grist, Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and Rural Economy**

Louth's excellent publicly run Playgoers Theatre lost any Arts Council funding it had after the Lincoln organisation it was affiliated to failed to be granted support. It would appear Magna Vitae and Vital and Viable have not answered pleas for help. We have recently lauded theatrical efforts in Skegness and Spilsby and we don't want to lose this market town exemplar. So what can we do to help keep theatre alive and well in our largest market town?

A *The decision not to support the LOV network, which Louth Theatre was a member of, was an Arts Council England decision in line with their funding criteria. The funding requirements are available online here:*

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/npo/requirements-funded-organisations>

East Lindsey District Council has adopted a Cultural Framework for Renewal – a strategy supported by Arts Council England. This led to the successful application to become a National Portfolio Organisation with funding for art and culture activities across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership geography. This funding supports an activity plan with a set of outputs and outcomes that align with both our Cultural Framework and ACE criteria. The activity plan does include a programme of learning and mentoring opportunities, which will be accessible to art, culture and heritage organisations. East Lindsey District Council's place team have met and engaged with representatives from the Theatre, providing an update on the proposed NPO activity.

The ELDC Place team also lead the Vital & Viable programme, which has supported a range of activity and projects in Louth, highlighted in [the 2022/22 report](#). The Place team is continuing its V&V programme in Louth with a range of initiatives, including a new food and drink festival in October, [Wolds food map](#) and tourism promotion with a [recent feature in The Guardian](#).

Questions to Council under Rule 11

18 Councillor George Horton to Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services

Following on to my recent call of nature in Skegness, I commend how clean and fresh the toilets were. However, charging 40p to use the facilities seems a little expensive for men who want to spend a penny. What is the actual cost to the authority for the maintenance of the toilets and is there any return to the council?

- A** *Danfo's annual management fee following the current 1 year contract extension is: £627,254 with of an estimated income return of between £250,000 - £300,000. Therefore, the income we receive directly reduces the management fee to around just over half the costs – enabling ELDC to offer award winning toilet facilities, at our busiest towns/tourist centres – at a more sustainable cost.*

Ends

This page is left intentionally blank

**Questions to Council Under Rule 11 of the Constitution –
Council 19th July 2023 (Additional question)**

Q19 Councillor Edward Mossop to Councillor Richard Fry, Portfolio Holder for Finance

Could the new Portfolio for Finance please explain who the Councillor representatives are on Invest East Lindsey Ltd and what is their function? How many meetings have been convened in their presence in the past year? What checks and balances are in place to ensure that any public money is wisely spent or loaned? How is the work of Invest East Lindsey reported back to this Council? I cannot find any explanation to the public on this important function displayed on the Council's Website. Why?

A. Could the new Portfolio for Finance please explain who the Councillor representatives are on Invest East Lindsey Ltd and what is their function?

Invest East Lindsey Limited is a private company and does not have any Councillor representatives on the Board of Directors. However, there is a Shareholder Supervisory Board, which was set up to monitor the operations and performance of the Company on behalf the Council as Shareholder. Cllr Fry, Cllr Martin and Cllr Leyland were appointed by the Council in 2020 to sit on the Shareholder Supervisory Board (SSB) for four years by the Council. The role of the SSB is attached.

Between April 2022 and now (July 2023) there have been 3 meetings.

All loans to IEL have been approved by Council, with the functioning of the company overseen by the SSB.

IEL Board minutes are shared with the SSB, and the Council as sole shareholder can at any time request financial and other information from the company.

Invest EL is a private limited company – all details pertaining to the company are available to the public on Companies House.

Ends.

This page is left intentionally blank