

Flood support

£30,000 has been given to households within East Lindsey, which were affected by Storm Babet. Recognising the immediate need for assistance, the Community Leadership Team were able to work with Lincolnshire Community Foundation to administer a grant on behalf of East Lindsey District Council and other local groups. Donations consisted of;

ELDC - £25,000

Horncastle and District Lions - £1,085

Horncastle Health and Wellbeing Fund – £1,000

Horncastle Town Centre - £2,000

The grants were able to be used towards cleaning, emergency repairs, heating, basic furniture, and white goods.

Alongside the distribution of these funds, extensive work has been undertaken by teams within the council to identify those flooded households who are entitled to other grants and Government Support. With approximately 243 properties internally flooded and 34 businesses, 154 Community Recovery Grants totalling £77,000 and 201 council tax discounts totalling £101,689 have been distributed, both funded by Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities and 13 businesses supported totalling £32,500 funded by Department of Business and Trade.

Further work continues to identify and support residents who were affected by Storm Henk in December.

Funding

- The South and East Lincolnshire Community Lottery continues to support local groups in raising funds. To date the Community Lottery supports over 84 good causes across the Partnership and has raised £40,317.60 for these good causes.
- During the Autumn round of the South and East Lincolnshire Crowd, Goulceby Church were successful with a project pitch to renovate and modernise the facilities to allow for the development of a community space for use by the wider community and for events. Goulceby Church were successful in raising £10,675 with 19% of the pledge coming from the East Lindsey Funding Pot, 28% from the UK Shared prosperity funding pot and the remaining 53% from the 'crowd'. The Spring 2024 funding window opened on 15th of February with a well-attended workshop.
- 37 community hubs and groups who are tackling social isolation within the district, have been supported through our social isolation fund. Grants of up to £2,000 were made available through a short application process. £60,000 has now been allocated.

Digital Support

Residents continue to be supported with digital skills across the District. Sessions with Lincs Digital started in August 2022, to date 38 sessions have been delivered supporting 364 individual people. Residents are able to access support in setting up their devices, support access broadband solutions, how to navigate applications such as Fix my Street, Platform Housing Portal, Online banking, Ordering prescriptions and online.

LGA Special Interest Group – House of Commons Event

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership which is leading the Local Government Association Special Interest Group for Internal Drainage Board levies organised a successful event at the House of Commons to bring this fundamental issue straight to MPs and Ministers.

The event was jointly sponsored by the Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP and the Rt Hon Sir John Hayes MP and I attended as Leader of East Lindsey, together with the Leaders for Boston and South Holland. Speakers included Cllr Paul Redgate, Portfolio Holder for Finance at South Holland District Council who is the chairman of the SIG, Cllr Marianne Overton MBE as vice-chair of the Local Government Association and Lord Porter of Spalding.

In attendance were MPs, DEFRA representatives, Andrew McGill Chief Executive of a number of large Internal Drainage Boards in the East of England, Innes Thomson Chief Executive of the Association of Drainage Authorities, Kerry Booth Chief Executive of Rural Services Network, Anglian Water as well as officers and elected members of the SIG Councils.

The event stressed the urgent need for funding reform direct to Government Ministers and MPs. As a showcase for our efforts in dealing with the IDB funding, the event achieved its objective very well. It also showed the Partnership's ability to project and organise on matters of national and sub regional importance.

Achievements

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership has been shortlisted as a finalist for the Best Local Authority Retrofit Programme Award.

The Partnership's Sustainable Warmth Team have helped hundreds of residents across East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland to reduce utility costs, carbon emissions and to make homes warmer and better ventilated. The Partnership has invested in upskilling the team in the world of domestic retrofit so they can better advise and support residents through the entire process from start to completion.

The awards are organised by the Retrofit Academy and the Partnership will find out if it has been successful at a ceremony in London next month.

Also this month, Sarah Baker the Partnership's Group Manager for Climate Change and Environment has been awarded Employer Representative - Public Sector at the University College of Estate Management Built Environment Apprenticeship Awards 2024.

Sarah was presented with the award for the support she gives to apprentices in her team who are studying with UCEM. Sustainable Housing Officer, Rachel Harwood from the Sustainable Warmth team was also shortlisted at these awards in the Rising Star category.

Wellbeing Service Delivery - Case Study

An elderly person was living in a very cluttered and unhygienic home following the death of their spouse. Being unable to maintain the property resulted in the situation deteriorating and was exacerbated by also having a large number of cats to look after.

We first became aware of the person during a flood response later in 2023; however the customer refused assistance at that time. We were then made aware the problem had got worse in the property by the local Councillor who had visited the property. With the help of the Councillor, the customer felt able to accept assistance initially to clear the property, before work could commence to address the root cause of the issues. A local cleaning agency was brought in along with skips for removing bulky items.

We are continuing to work with the customer and other agencies including adult care to address the underlying issues that created the dangerous environment the customer was living in.

Planning Service Update

- Introduction of new Planning Fees (December 23) following changes in legislation.
- Introduction of new procedures and requirements in connection with Biodiversity Net Gain legislation (January/February 24)
- Reviewed, renewed and updated model conditions (January 24)
- Uniform project for Planning (including DM and Enforcement) has commenced.
- Approval of the scheme for the National Trust at Sandilands (December 23), forming part of the Town Deal for Mablethorpe.
- Continued dialogue with various developers and consultant teams in respect of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSiPs) and interaction with the Viking CCS examination process.
- Eve and Ranshaw building in the heart of Louth – planning colleagues worked hard with developer to secure re-use/re generation of this prominent heritage asset. This has now been implemented and is occupied, aiding vitality of the town when town centres generally are suffering.

Asylum/Refugees in Skegness Hotels

Asylum/Refugees – many of the residents of the hotels in Skegness have now left and moved to other areas of the country. Some are being referred back to ELDC if they have become homeless because they automatically gain a local connection to ELDC through being accommodated in the hotels. There were recently 87 remaining in two hotels in Skegness which is gradually reducing.

Towns Fund projects for Mablethorpe and Skegness: February 2024 Update

Following the announcement of two Town Deals with Government in 2021 for Mablethorpe and Skegness, and the subsequent approval of 12 project business cases in 2022, we have been working with external partners and our own delivery team to deliver a £73 million pound capital programme.

As we go into 2024, many of the Towns Fund projects will be progressing into construction. In Skegness, two projects are already complete, and we are reporting on the outputs. This includes the refurbishment of the former Magistrates Court in Skegness to provide Lincolnshire Police with a new training facility, as well as new conference, meeting, and office accommodation for the town.

The second completed project is the one-mile-long multi-user trail located along the main A52 connecting Chapel St Leonards and Ingoldmells.

Led by East Midlands Railway, construction has started at The Skegness Interchange with work primarily taking place initially inside at the front of the train station.

Led by Heritage Lincolnshire, the Town Centre Transformation in Skegness has seen good progress being made on improvements to Alisons on Lumley Road. This has attracted further interest and other properties in the town centre have now received grant funding agreements and work is currently being planned to make substantial improvements to both shopfronts and upper floor windows in the town.

There are two Council-led projects in Skegness, the Foreshore, and the Culture House. The Towns Fund is being utilised to leverage further investment into the Foreshore and the Culture House has attracted further funding from the Cultural Development Fund.

In Mablethorpe, the construction of the Campus for Future Living is making good progress with practical completion scheduled for March.

Also led by the Council is the Station Leisure and Learning Centre. Completion is scheduled for later this summer.

A specialist contractor has commenced piling work at the Colonnade at Sutton on Sea in February. Construction of ground beams and drainage will follow, and the steel frame will start to be erected later this spring.

The planning application for the National Trust at Sandilands was approved in December 2023. RIBA stage 4 design work is well advanced, and they are currently on programme for a start on site in autumn 2024, following the end of the bird nesting season.

The Changing Place (funded by Levelling Up Fund via ELDC) has been ordered and is due to be installed during February. In addition, a grant application for £1.5m from National Highways has been submitted for technical review, with a decision expected in March.

The Town Centre Transformation scheme in Mablethorpe will see work commence this Easter. Grant funding agreements have been made to support shopfront improvements and the conversion of the canopy into a functional balcony at 70-72 & 74-78 High Street (the Coffee Lounge & Empire Amusements). It has been agreed that the project will be carried out in two phases, to avoid disrupting the businesses during the height of the Season; the shopfronts will be installed between Easter and the school summer holidays, with balcony work taking place from mid-September. A planning application has been submitted for similar works at neighbouring 66 High Street (Blades of Glory).