

APSE Awards

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership is an APSE award winner!

The Home Energy Advice and Retrofit Team won the Best Building and Housing Initiative at the APSE Service Awards 2024 held in Bristol on 12th September. The was in recognition of the 575 properties improved across East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland under the Sustainable Warmth retrofit programme in 2023 which awarded grants to those at risk of fuel poverty to improve the energy efficiency of their properties. This saw the team deliver 24% of the entire East and West Midlands programme under the Home Upgrade Grant 1 (HUG1) scheme and a declaration from the Retrofit Academy that they were a 'beacon of good practice' in the HUG world.

Skegness Culture House

Following approval of planning consent in September, the Council has moved quickly to enable the start on site of works under a £4.1million programme of extensions and enhancements to the Embassy Theatre in Skegness to provide a flagship venue for the further development and programming of a nationally significant arts and cultural offer on the Lincolnshire coast. The programme of works, which is being funded from the Town Deal award for Skegness and Arts Council England's Cultural Development Fund will include significant upgrades to the main auditorium, an extended storage area for staging and equipment, and the creation of a new feature entrance and multi-purpose space to the rear of the building.

The planned improvements are based on the Scandinavian founding principles of the 'culture house' concept, which is aimed at boosting local engagement in the arts and diversifying a venue's offer all year round. The ambition for the Embassy Theatre is to create new internal spaces to support the exploration and enjoyment of new opportunities and activities for young people and the local community, whilst continuing to develop the local creative industries sector which is already developing and forming new national and international connections, including the Embassy's ongoing partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company and its Associate Schools Programme.

The main contractor is working on a live Theatre site throughout the construction phase and regular meetings are being held to minimise any disruption to current programmed events and ticketed performances. Internal works to the auditorium will take place during January and February next year during the normal closedown period for maintenance works. The new programme of investment is currently due for completion and handover in April next year ahead of the main summer season.

Development Management Team

Planning officers from the Development Management team have been invited by the regional body of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) to provide CPD at an event at Nottingham Trent University on 'Sustainable Water Management in New Developments'. The invitation is in recognition of good practice of the department in use of PAD and achieving successful best practice design solutions incorporating SuDS in new developments, without reliance on detailed design guidance. In recognition of the good partnership working with the County Council as Local Highway and Lead Local Flood Authority, appropriate highway and drainage officers from the County Council will also

support the event and provide wider overview and further guidance on the positive experience of PAD and better-quality design outcomes.

Wellbeing Service

It is my great pleasure to update you, that following a competitive tender exercise, we as lead authority, working with colleagues from other District have again secured the **Wellbeing Service contract** for a further 5-10 years.

The current service provided since April 2018 has been a great success, providing services to allow vulnerable adults to remain safe at home, avoiding the need to access NHS and Adult Care services.

As part of Lincolnshire County Council's wider strategy to develop digital service delivery across their own functions and external contracts, the service will soon also include a digital offer from early January when the contract will be launched.

Whilst formal decision making will be taken in due course, to best prepare us during the short mobilisation period, preparatory work will commence immediately.

Household Support Fund

Household Support fund is a significant welfare fund to help those in greatest need and on lowest incomes with the costs of household essentials, food and utility bills.

ELDC have fully spent our local allocation of £378,529.45 available to us under round 5 of the scheme, which ended in September.

The Government have announced a further allocation of funding for Lincolnshire, but there is no guidance yet published on the requirements and conditions for which Councils can use the funding.

We continue to work as part of Lincolnshire Financial inclusion Partnership and the county Household Support Fund working group so ensure any available funds will help those just about managing households and our established community support networks.

Events

- Best year of engagement for **Teenage Markets**; 9 events held throughout Horncastle, Louth, Spilsby including the first time we have had a market presence at the Alford Craft Market, Wragby Show and the Spilsby Show. Been invited back to these again next year where we hope to build on previous events. 30 young traders now who regularly attend the markets. Quote from Handmade Jewellery by Meghan: *'Personally, the teenage market for me is one of my favourite markets as all the other stall holders are so friendly. It's not just trading it's a day out and a fantastic experience. It's a great way to begin trading and gain new contacts. Everyone at the teenage market is so friendly.'*

Horncastle was mentioned on BBC Radio 4's PM programme by High Street Taskforce as being a fantastic example of high street regeneration success with specific mention of the Teenage Market

- Very positive feedback from event organisers regarding the new **marshalling and stewarding contract** place with Onyx Event Management. Feedback from Brian Burbage. Chairman of the Horncastle Christmas Market Committee: *'The Horncastle Festivals committee have held the Christmas market successfully for around 15 years but this year without this help our event may have had to be cancelled. ELDC's forward thinking in providing this facility will help Horncastle recover from some very hard times. We send our most grateful thanks for all your help.'*
- 2nd **Louth Food and Drink Festival** on 29th September with nearly 60 stalls and an eclectic mix of entertainment and food demos showcasing the best of local food and drink.

British Food Fortnight Campaign on the various #LoveLincolnshireWolds satellite sites.

- High profile article on Horncastle #shoplocal in Lincolnshire Life also including the imminent launch of the 20 **Horncastle Heritage Trail Interpretation Boards** pg 40: [Lincolnshire Life Magazine-October 2024 \(mediablender.net\)](#)
- **LightWaves** – the first East Coast Light Night is coming to Sutton on Sea on Oct 26th funded through the NPO.

['LightWaves' to shine a light on Sutton-on-Sea this October - East Lindsey District Council \(e-lindsey.gov.uk\)](#)

- The dates for **2025 Outdoor Festival** have been agreed, it will run from 17th May to 1st June 2025 (2 weeks, 3 weekends, bank holiday and half term).
- **Conservation Area Appraisals** for Horncastle, Wainfleet, Alford and Spilsby have been produced and been subject to an informal consultation. The documents are now being readied for a formal public consultation due to commence in October.

UKSPF

- On the LCF grants, this is inclusive of funds awarded under the additional Community Reserve monies but exclusive of funding still to be awarded (there is about £150k still to go). Across, the Partnership, ELDC has the best record on Leveraged Additional Investment on Community grants (58% average rate of intervention), leading to £1.35m being invested in small grants to community facilities in only a year.

For A4G/G4G, it's possibly not useful to give individual business details etc. - I can if needed but in the interests of digestibility at this time in the morning, I thought some over-arching stats for ELDC would be more useful. As of the 31st August...

- 158 East Lindsey businesses are enrolled on the G4G/A4G Programme (all Small, Medium and Micro)
- 132 Growth Action Plans and Specialist Growth Action Plans have been delivered through the Advice 4 Growth Programme.
- (as of 19/9/2024) - £503,251 awarded in grants to local businesses, leveraging an estimated additional £1.1m of direct private sector investment in business growth in ELDC.

The most user-friendly way of exploring UKSPF awards and where they are located in East Lindsey is through our interactive UKSPF map, which charts awards made through LCF and the main UKSPF Programme:

<https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/23065/UK-Shared-Prosperty-Fund>

On impact - We have also been selected as an example of 'best practice' in UKSPF Programme delivery by Central Government as part of the ongoing work on UKSPF renewal nationally and so I thought it would be useful to share the 'one side' submission of evidence we put forward and some of the messaging around impact there. In relation to ELDC specifically:

- On outcomes, the ELDC Programme is likely to exceed the vast majority of its core Investment Plan targets across the three themes, with a particular strength in Communities and Place (confirmed by external evaluation).
- In **Communities and Place**, the Programme is contracted to deliver 802 additional volunteering placements for local residents and has so far achieved 602. Our Investment Plan target was 294. We are contracted to either improve or create 65 additional community facilities, we have delivered 40 such improvements or additions to date. The facilities we have supported have recorded 10,077 additional users over the period of the Programme.
- In **Supporting Local Business**, our A4G offer is something of the 'jewel in the crown' of the UKSPF Programme. Combining the work of A4G with the wider UKSPF SLB Programme, 194 businesses have received growth advice and support (as opposed to an overall Investment Plan target of 140 in ELDC). The Programme is also doing well on productivity growth and supporting businesses to export (both on trajectory to at least achieve double of the IP target number). On new business creation and job creation, it's more disappointing and we look set to miss our IP targets on both. Part of this is due to an unrealistically high IP target (which we flagged to MHCLG in May 2023), but we are also focussing on improving our absolute numbers. On balance, however, the picture is positive.
- In **People & Skills** – It's very early (as the P&S strand is a year shorter – so we don't have much data yet) but the omens are reasonable. 173 East Lindsey residents have attended a training course funded by UKSPF and we aim to do in the region of 700 by the end of the Programme. 91 of those residents have been supported with essential digital skills (mostly through Roxanne Warrick's Digital Skills project, which was on GB News as a feature a couple of days ago). We aim to have around 400 residents completing a qualification (accredited or industry recognised) through UKSPF.
- The Programme currently stands at 98% committed and with the claims currently in the pipeline, 51% spent. Spend is behind trajectory but is much improved in quarter, with the team taking (very) proactive steps to bring it to where it needs to be.