250305

Questions to Council Under Rule 11 of the Constitution –
Council 05 March 2025

Q1. Councillor Robert Watson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

What resources has the council now put in place to deal with the issue of sand blowing onto the promenades and foreshore areas along the coast thus ensuring that both residents and visitors, including those who rely on mobility scooters, are able to access these areas?

A. *ELDC's Neighbourhood Service team has been provided with supplementary capital and revenue funding to purchase specialist sand clearance machinery and recruit two members of staff. The service is currently seeking expert advice to ensure the most beneficial and flexible sand clearance equipment is procured.*

The additional resource will form part of and further expand the Pride In East Lindsey Team.

The Neighbourhood Services team are also working closely with Lincolnshire County Council, relevant partner organisations and authorities, to consider ways to combine resources, to best tackle the ongoing wind-blown sand issue.

Q2. Councillor Travis Hesketh to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

RWM/NWS made a commitment that local authorities would not be out of pocket for participating in the GDF project. Will you be submitting a substantial claim for the costs and time spent on this project?

A. *Cllr Hesketh you are correct. I have asked the CX to investigate and see if we have been disadvantaged financially by our engagement with the process. I will observe that we have not commissioned any works for NWS or the Community Partnership but once we withdraw any work through the planning process for this facility will be part of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and the Council will engage on that basis.*

Q3. Councillor Robert Watson to Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services.

If you agree that the amount of litter despoiling our roadsides verges is now reaching a level whereby it blights our beautiful area for both residents and visitors, is it feasible for the council to commit additional resources to combat this?

A. *Roadside litter and fly tipping blights our local environments and is of national concern. East Lindsey District Council's Environment team deal with environmental crime by means of enforcement, where sufficient evidence is obtainable.*

The safe removal of roadside litter and fly-tipping is a significant challenge for ELDC's Neighbourhood Service Team, who schedule routine roadside litter picking activities throughout the year, when it is safe and practicable to do so.

The Neighbourhood services team recognises and continues to develop ties with and support the invaluable work conducted by trusted volunteers and local community groups, in providing cleaner neighbourhoods and public open spaces.

The Council already has a dedicated Pride in East Lindsey team supporting street cleansing activities, often alongside local parish and town council support. The further investment in a second Pride in East Lindsey team will also introduce two additional staff members who, alongside sand clearance duties, will be available for other street cleansing duties.

Q4. Councillor Travis Hesketh to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

Did you invite RWM/NWS to Lincolnshire, starting a project to bury the most dangerous nuclear waste under the Lincolnshire Coastline. Cllr Hill of LCC says you did/I?

A. *No, Cllr Hill is incorrect. I did not have any mandate to speak on behalf of LCC or ELDC.*

.....For clarity NWS exhibit at many local government conferences. I was asked at one such exhibition if our council wanted to talk to NWS. I declined and explained I did not have any mandate to make such a decision and directed them to LCC as the minerals authority.

In 2021, East Lindsey District Council was invited by Radio Active Waste Management (RWM) to join a Working Group to explore whether the former Gas Terminal at Theddlethorpe would be a suitable location for a Ground Disposal Facility (GDF). Lincolnshire County Council had already accepted the same invitation.

Q5. Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Chalk streams are a rare freshwater habitat, and we are one of the very few parts of the world where they are found. Sadly, there is no legal protection for them nationally through the NPPF and measures fall short to protect them. We are proud to have 14 such water courses in East Lindsey - there are only 200 or so throughout the world. We need to safeguard these irreplaceable habitats and I would ask this council to look favourably on building in a 50-100m development buffer as we develop our revised District Plan. How can we work together to make this happen?

A. *Given the updates to Local Plan-making being proposed by Central Government and the progression of the East Lindsey Local Plan Review the provision of*

additional safeguards for Chalk Streams and development buffers is a topic that I am very happy to ensure is fully explored through this process.

In addition, in terms of background information on this issue, it is worth noting that a draft Water (Special Measures) Bill aims to introduce stronger environmental protection measures for Chalk Streams and The Chalk Streams (Protection) Bill 2024 is currently being considered by Parliament. The Chalk Streams (Protection) Bill 2024 is due to be read in the House of Commons on 28th March 2025.

Q6. Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

At a recent conference we learnt that East Lindsey is going to outsource its waste services. Why have we not been made aware of this?

A. *There are no plans in place to outsource the waste service. Officers are currently working on the best delivery model for introducing food waste collections to residents in 2026.*

Q7. Councillor Travis Hesketh to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

Apparently, a nuclear reactor only occupies the space of a football pitch. What do you think the merits are of siting of nuclear reactors on the Lincolnshire coastline maybe in Anderby, Ingoldmells or Chapel St Leonards?

A. *As you are aware, ELDC has withdrawn from the process due to the change in the area of focus for the surface entry site to the GDF. The original rational for our engagement was based on the surface site being the former Theddlethorpe Gas terminal site. We entered the process in good faith believing it was better to be involved and influencing a potential major infrastructure development that could have far ranging impacts, both positive and negative, for our residents and communities, especially along the coast where we have significant deprivation, health inequalities and other generational challenges that need long term investment to address.*

While I appreciate the mischievous nature of the question, energy or the lack of it, is a serious matter for any development in East Lindsey and will need careful consideration as we refresh our local plan.

Q8. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

2007 ('the 2007 Act'), hereby invites any principal authority in the area of the county of Lincolnshire,
to submit a proposal for a single tier of local government.

This may be one of the following types of proposal as set out in the 2007 Act:

- **Type A – a single tier of local authority covering the whole of the county concerned**
- **Type B – a single tier of local authority covering an area that is currently a district, or two or**
- **more districts**
- **Type C – a single tier of local authority covering the whole of the county concerned, or one**
- **or more districts in the county; and one or more relevant adjoining areas**
- **Combined proposal – a proposal that consists of two or more Type B proposals, two or more**
- **Type C proposals, or one or more Type B proposals and one or more Type C proposals**

Proposals must be submitted in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 3:

1. **Any proposal must be made by 28 November 2025.**
2. **In responding to this invitation an authority must have regard to the guidance from the Secretary of State set out in the Schedule to this invitation, and to any further guidance on responding to this invitation received from the Secretary of State.**
3. **An authority responding to this invitation may either make its own proposal or make a proposal jointly with any of the other authorities invited to respond.**

What response have you made to this invitation to date and a preferred proposal for submission by 28/11/2025?

A. *Along with Leaders of all Councils in Greater Lincolnshire, I am involved in conversations at a Greater Lincolnshire level. After Council this evening there will be a discussion to help inform our next steps.*

Q9. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

What to date has been said on behalf of this council towards developing proposals in line with the criteria and guidance to deliver an interim plan on or before 21 March 2025?

A. *I have given a clear commitment to ensure the workforce is kept fully informed in regard to Local Government Re-organisation.*

There is regular direct communication to the workforce, supported by face-to-face staff briefings and an Intranet page that seeks to answer questions colleagues may have. This is supported by a specific internal communications group on LGR that is partnership-wide chaired by the Assistant Director – Corporate.

At this stage, the workforce is aware of the forthcoming timeframes. The discussion after Council this evening will help inform our next steps on how we approach the 21 March date for initial submissions to Government.

Q10. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

What consultation have you undertaken within and across this council including all Members to inform your position as to Members preference with regard to the interim plan 21/03/2025 and a preferred proposal for 28/11/2025?

A. *There will be a discussion after Council this evening.*

Q11. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

What are the latest updates relating to devolution, time frames, decision making and governance structure, governance/administrative area or areas?

A. *The Mayoral County Combined Authority for Greater Lincolnshire has now been established. The election of Mayor will take place on 1 May 2025.*

The papers for the inaugural meeting of the Authority, which takes place on 6th March, pick up many of the points you raise. You can read the papers at greaterlincolnshire-cca.gov.uk

Q12. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

Can you advise council as to its position regarding Section 24 and the handling and disposal of assets as progress is made towards devolution?

A. *I thank Councillor Simpson for notification of his question, as he will know, no formal position has been taken by this Council with regards Local Government Reorganisation, likewise, no formal consideration has been given to the possibility or likelihood of any asset disposals.*

Q13. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

Can you confirm whether there is Ward Member consultation when an application is made in a Ward area for an Asset of Community Value?

A. *I thank Councillor Simpson for notification of his question, I can confirm that as part of the assessment process, local Ward Members are consulted on applications to list assets in their area as Assets of Community Value, with material considerations being taken into account by the officer assessment panel.*

Q14. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

Who within Council makes the decision on an application for an Asset of Community Value and is a report on any decision dispatched to the applicant as a matter of course?

A. *I thank Councillor Simpson for notification of his question; decisions about whether to list an asset as an Asset of Community Value are made by a panel of three officers. Following assessment against the requirements of the Act, applicants are formally notified whether an application has met the threshold to be listed or not.*

Q15. Councillor George Horton to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

How is the equalisation of pay progressing, please? There are only 10 months left for this to be done so time is ticking!

A. *The project to implement a Job Evaluation Scheme for shared officers is progressing well.*

The new Job Evaluation Scheme has been created, Unions have provided their support to our approach, and we are currently consulting all shared staff on their role descriptions to ensure the information in the new system is a correct reflection of their work. Work on the associated salary structure is also underway. A report will come forward to each Partnership Council in the coming months to secure any necessary approvals for implementation.

Q16. Councillor George Horton to Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services.

With the increase in green waste charges was there a decrease in the uptake of this service?

A. *No, compared to the same period last year, there has been an increase of 216 subscriptions.*

1/1/24 to 28/2/24 - 22,561
1/1/25 to 28/2/25 -22,777

As residents are still able to sign up to the service, and collections do not begin until April, it is likely that the subscriptions will continue to increase.

Q17. Councillor George Horton to Councillor Graham Marsh, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction

How do you intend to get more people active with this new Sport England grant?

A. *At present, we do not have the full details of how this Sport England grant funding will be accessed or the criteria that needs to be met. ELDC Leisure Services officer is scheduled to meet with Active Lincolnshire, who will be responsible for distributing the grant funding across the district. During this meeting, we will gather further information on how to effectively utilise the grant.*

Our commitment is to ensure that this funding is used to enhance the health and wellbeing of all residents in the district. Once we have a clearer understanding of the guidelines and opportunities available through the grant, we will develop targeted initiatives aimed at encouraging more people to engage in physical activities.

Q18. Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Adam Grist, Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and Rural Economy.

Why aren't district councillors involved in the latest vital and viable initiative?

A. *Cllr Makinson-Saunders*

The short answer is they have been.

Moreover, there is still an open window of opportunity for councillors to engage and encourage residents to engage too.

We commenced the most recent process with a 'You Said We Did' (YSWD) campaign before Christmas to make people aware that an update of the town action plans would be happening in January.

There are multiple Facebook pages 'Love Horncastle'; 'Love Spilsby'; 'Love Louth'; 'Love Alford' inviting people to engage; and there have been several flyers and posters distributed in January to advertise the in-person and online sessions advertise.

The lead Consultant Dr Jo Blackwell from REAP has reached out to ward members in each relevant area, I understand Cllr Makinson-Saunders, you received an email on 2 December 2024 setting out what was due to occur in your area and have received direct correspondence updating and inviting you to a meeting on 13th January, which you have responded to.

These meetings also occurred in Horncastle, Alford, Spilsby and Wainfleet. There were approx. 13 visits, organised across the 5 towns, as well as business door to door visits.

Following those meetings links to the draft survey were sent out 24th February and to date we have received 76 responses. We encourage all councillors to engage and share the information across their wards.

Next steps – REAP are to visit Alford and Wainfleet next week this to do survey work there. Further promotion of draft plans and surveys will continue until March

7th. Data analysis will then take place and work will continue towards creating the final versions of the five plans for each respective town.

Q19. Councillor George Horton to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

Whilst I appreciate we are sovereign councils, how much would East Lindsey councillors now look forward to drawing if we had the same increase as Boston councillors.

A. *Thank you for the question. As you correctly identify the setting of allowances for councillors is a matter for each individual Council to determine following consideration of a report from their respective Independent Remuneration Panel.*

The 2024/25 basic allowance at East Lindsey District Council is £6,735.28 whilst Boston Borough Council's basic allowance is £7,000.

Ends.