

Minutes of a Meeting of the Overview Committee held at the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH on Tuesday, 17th June, 2025 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Fiona M. Martin, M.B.E. (Chairman)
Councillor Carleen Dickinson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Dick Edginton, Stephen Evans, Neil Jones, James Knowles, Jill Makinson-Sanders and Robert Watson.

Councillor David Hall attended the Meeting as a Substitute.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Kate Marnoch	- Scrutiny Panel Member
Councillor Graham Marsh	- Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction
Councillor Ruchira Yarsley	- Scrutiny Panel Chairman

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

James Gilbert	- Assistant Director, Corporate
Peter Hunn	- Community Safety Manager
Phil Perry	- Assistant Director, Leisure and Culture
Rachel Robinson	- Group Manager Organisational Development
David Smith	- Markets Manager
Laura Allen	- Democratic Services Officer

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Danny Brookes.

It was noted that, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice had been given that Councillor David Hall had been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Claire Arnold for this Meeting only.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):

At this point in the meeting, Members were invited to declare any relevant interests. None were received.

5. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 6 May 2025 and the Special Meeting held at the rising of the Annual Council Meeting on 21 May 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

6. ACTIONS:

Members noted that the following Actions were now complete.

Actions from the Meeting held on 6 May 2025

Action No. 111 and 112 – completed.

Actions from the Meeting held on 25 March 2025

Action No. 96 (b) – completed.

Comments were received as follows:

Action No. 112(b) – 'Towns Funds Projects Update' – In reference to the Embassy Theatre in Skegness, clarification is requested on the external building materials being used on the development, page 77 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member commented on the use of cladding and made reference to the type of cladding that was used for Grenfell Tower.
- A Member further requested assurance on the type of cladding that was being used for the Embassy Theatre in Skegness. In response, the Chairman confirmed that a written response would be requested.

Action No. 112(c) – 'Towns Funds Projects Update' – In reference to a request to be made to communications to ensure that the font in Members' Point Brief is made larger and easier to read, page 77 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member spoke in support of the update which stated that the font size in Members' Point Brief had been increased which was in line with the disability act.
- Members discussed their experiences with increasing text size by pinching the screen on touch sensitive devices.

Action No. 96 – Section 106 Agreements Update, page 78 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member commented that the NHS had been expected to have commenced the work on reviewing the Integrated Care Board (ICB) approach for S106 requests sooner than September 2025.
- The Chairman advised Members of the online briefing in relation to the Director of Public Health Report 2024 which was held on 16th June 2025.

Further to a discussion, Members supported that Clair Raybould, the new Interim CEO of the Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board would be invited to attend a future Meeting of the Committee.

Action No. 99 – South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Volunteer Scheme Update, page 78 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member stressed that the volunteer scheme should make clear that opportunities related only to those at East Lindsey District Council and not in the wider East Lindsey district.
- A Member commented on the benefits that the Council's volunteering scheme had achieved in Sutton on Sea which had aided sand clearance initiatives through providing access to equipment and assisting with compliance requirements.
- The Chairman supported that there was a lack of clarity on where the volunteering opportunities existed either within the Council or externally and advised Members that a briefing note would be requested from the Community Leadership Manager.

7. UPDATED ANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF CONSULTANTS 2024/25:

The Chairman welcomed James Gilbert, Assistant Director (Corporate) to present Members with the Updated Annual Report on Use of Consultants 2024/25, pages 1 to 8 of the Supplementary Agenda refer.

At the request of Overview Committee, the purpose of the report was to enable Members to understand where consultants and interim/agency staff had been used to support the Council, the types of activity being undertaken and the levels of expenditure during the 2024/25 financial year.

Appendix B of the Supplementary Agenda revealed that the Council's expenditure on interim/agency staff in the year 2024/25 was £1.3M.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member commented on the non-existence of comparative figures from other local authorities on the use of consultants to provide a baseline.
- A Member queried the process for the selection of consultants. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) explained to Members that a procurement exercise was undertaken unless there was an exemption, or services could be acquired for less than £5,000 when appointments could be made directly. Members were further advised that three quotes would be obtained for appointments between £5,000 and £25,000 and that government frameworks would be used for pre-tendered work for specialised work requirements.

- A Member highlighted concerns in relation to frameworks and commented that Lincolnshire County Council had paid significantly greater amounts to utilise consultants rather than using in-house expertise.
- Referencing the high spends for interims at Appendix B of the report, a Member stressed the need for explanations on the issues with recruitment in order to identify ways to reduce cost, page 7 of the Supplementary Agenda refers. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) referenced the advantages and disadvantages of using frameworks and highlighted instances where there was an urgent need to utilise consultants to fill immediate staff shortages, such as the need to staff waste vehicles.
- A Member queried whether the figure for interims 2024/25 under the AD Economic Growth had been affected by the Visit Lincolnshire organisation that had recently closed due to financial difficulties. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) advised Members that the report related to the 2024/25 period and would not have been affected by Visit Lincolnshire.
- Councillor Graham Marsh as Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction explained to Members that some of the drive for interims had been encouraged by Councillors who had pushed for sooner completion of tasks.

Further to a discussion, it was agreed that the Committee's comments to see more permanent staff recruited was a valid challenge and this would be communicated to the Executive Board.

- A Member highlighted that the utilisation of agency staff was standard practice in the UK for many organisations and queried whether information could be provided on the differences in cost between in-house and agency staff. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) explained to Members that agency staff were usually utilised where the Council was experiencing difficulties in recruiting or where there were specific skills shortages. Members were advised that further information would be sought and provided to the Committee.
- A Member highlighted his personal experience of agency work and supported that it provided advantages for specific skills shortages.
- A Member referenced the significant costs that United Lincolnshire had inherited from employing nurses and the successful cost reductions that had been made in relation to employing interims and bank staff. In response, the Chairman queried whether information could be requested on the ways in which costs had been reduced. In follow up, the Outside Body Appointee to the

Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire confirmed that she would request further information on this matter.

- In relation to the Council's spend on interims, Members requested a detailed explanation for the figure for the Neighbourhoods Directorate which was reported as the highest spend across all services, page 7 of the Supplementary Agenda refers. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) confirmed to Members that a briefing note would be requested from the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods.

No further comments were received.

The Chairman thanked James Gilbert, Assistant Director (Corporate) for the report.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

8. ANNUAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL 2025:

The Chairman presented Members with the draft Annual Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Council 2025, pages 81 to 86 of the Agenda refer.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member highlighted that other Partnership Councils scrutinised decisions by the Executive in a more robust way and queried whether the Overview Committee were effectively scrutinising the decisions of the Executive Board. In response, the Chairman advised Members that it was beneficial to undertake learning from other officers. Members were assured that the Scrutiny and Policy Officer regularly provided feedback and advice on best practice to the Executive Board.

The Chairman further commented on the benefits of joint scrutiny panels and supported that there was a strong attendance at joint scrutiny meetings by ELDC Members.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the Overview Committee Annual Report be presented to Council at its Meeting to be held on 16 July 2025.

9. **WORKFORCE REPORT:**

Rachel Robinson, Group Manager (Organisational Development) presented Members with a verbal Workforce report which provided key metrics from Q4 2024-25.

A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix A to the Minutes.

Members were provided with an overview of the following:

- Sickness - Days lost per Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
- Sickness Absence
- Recruitment and Retention
- Age profile
- Results from the Staff Poll
- Interventions Summary

N.B Councillor Dick Edginton left the Meeting at 10.54am.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member spoke in support of the report and commented on the positive increase in Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) over 12 months and stated that it was important to monitor workforce satisfaction.
- In relation to the age profile of workers, a Member expressed concern that the 21 to 30 and 61+ age ranges had similar numbers of workers and recognised the difficulties with recruiting a younger workforce.
- At the indulgence of the Chairman, Councillor Ruchira Yarsley queried whether workers had a set number of days leave per month as frequent out of office responses were received when contacting officers. In response, the Group Manager (Organisational Development) confirmed to Members that employees had maximum number of days leave which was generous and beneficial to recruitment. Members were further advised that annual leave was specified within the Council's time off policy and managed locally by managers.
- At the indulgence of the Chairman, Councillor Ruchira Yarsley highlighted concerns that the younger population of workers was not high enough and wished to understand which jobs the Council could offer to unskilled people. In response, the Group Manager (Organisational Development) assured Members that the Council was undertaking efforts to visit schools, engage with students and to encourage and promote work experience opportunities and career paths. Members were further advised that work was being undertaken across the Partnership to support staff 25 years and under and improve their introduction to work experience.

- A Member further queried whether the 16 to 20 age group included apprentices and the ways in which the Council encouraged younger age groups to seek job opportunities. In response, the Group Manager (Organisational Development) explained to Members that the 16 to 20 age group included a proportion of apprentices.

N.B Councillor Dick Edginton returned to the Meeting at 10.59am.

- A Member spoke on the benefits of receiving staffing reports and wished to see the workforce report return on a quarterly basis to keep Members better informed.
- The Chairman commented on indicators previously reported to the Committee on staff sickness. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) confirmed that the indicator was still included in the Q4 2024-25 report.
- Members discussed the level of information that would be beneficial in regular reports provided to the Committee. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) advised Members that the next report presented to the Committee would look at the changes that had occurred and to consider whether there had been any interventions.
- A Member commented that 10.45 days lost per FTE was considered high. In response, the Chairman and Group Manager (Organisational Development) assured Members that the figure had not changed significantly in a number of years.
- A Member queried the way in which the challenges with capacity was being reflected in workforce reports and the effect they were having on the workforce. In response, the Group Manager (Organisational Development) assured Members that reports examined the issues in a wider context.
- At the indulgence of the Chairman, Councillor Ruchira Yarsley highlighted that caring responsibilities for children and adults was a consideration for the impact on workplace absence.

The Chairman thanked Rachel Robinson, Group Manager (Organisational Development) for her comprehensive update and requested that a copy of the presentation slides be circulated to Members.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

N.B Rachel Robinson, Group Manager (Organisational Development) left the Meeting at 11.10am.

10. LGA CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE ACTION PLAN 6 MONTHLY UPDATE:

James Gilbert, Assistant Director (Corporate) presented Members with the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan 6 Monthly Update.

A copy is included at Appendix B to the Minutes.

Members were provided with a summary of the report and advised that the majority of the Action Plan was on track.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- In reference to Action Plan Recommendation No. 3 'Seize opportunities for deeper Greater Lincolnshire and strategic county-wide conversations about the place', a Member commented that opportunities were not being observed in relation to market towns.
- In reference to Action Plan Recommendation No. 4 'Prioritise Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) work around policies and embed it within the work of the council, including identifying a corporate lead where it stated that the EDI Strategy was to be adopted across the Partnership with governance board', a Member queried whether the Council was employing an officer to undertake the work. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) advised Members that an officer was assigned to the role on a part time basis across the Partnership and that it was a specialist area that required compliance.
- A Member further queried whether the role could be assigned to PSPS as part of its HR function. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) advised Members that transferring responsibility to PSPS was possible but would involve a cost.
- A Member requested clarification on the management of the Cultural Board and Towns Board. In response, Councillor Graham Marsh as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture and Carbon Reduction confirmed that he sat on the Cultural Board which was Chaired by Rob Pitman. Members were further advised that the Cultural Board was a collaborative effort to determine spending of the money allocated by Arts Council England to develop culture.

Councillor Graham Marsh as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture and Carbon Reduction further confirmed that the Cultural Board was focused on everyday living and improving people's experiences.

- A Member queried the representatives on the Towns Board from East Lindsey District Council. In response, Councillor Graham Marsh as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture and Carbon Reduction confirmed that Councillor Willaim Gray and Councillor Adam Grist sat on the Towns Board.

The Assistant Director (Corporate) further explained to Members that there was a Towns Board in Skegness and Mablethorpe and that they had been responsible for overseeing Towns Fund projects.

- At the indulgence of the Chairman, Councillor Ruchira Yarsley queried whether Horncastle was included under the Towns Board or whether the focus was more towards coastal towns. In response, the Chairman advised Members that a briefing note would be requested on the different responsibilities of the Cultural and Town Boards and to understand the ways in which wider communities such as Horncastle, Louth and Wragby were kept engaged, page 5 of the LGA Peer Review 12 to 15 November 2025 Action Plan refers.
- Councillor Graham Marsh as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction further advised Members that the Cultural Board and Towns Board were government directed with a focus on coastal poverty.
- In reference to Action Plan Recommendation No. 2 'Carry out a thorough review of the strategic effectiveness and influence of internal and external communications – Commission a review of communications', a Member commented on the lack of progress with improving communications. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) confirmed that the newly appointed Digital Content Advisor could be asked to attend a future meeting of the Committee to address Members' concerns.

No further comments and questions were received.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Director (Corporate) for his update.

11. SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP BODY WORN VIDEO (BWV) POLICY 2025:

The Chairman welcomed Peter Hunn, Community Safety Manager to the Meeting to present the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Body Worn Video (BWV) Policy 2025.

The purpose of the report was to advise Members of a new Body Worn Video Policy across the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership to ensure arrangements across the Partnership provided assurance that the Council's legal obligations and all data protection controls were effectively managed and to consider the (BWV) Policy prior to approval at Executive Board, pages 87 to 162 of the Agenda refer.

Councillor Graham Marsh as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction commented that body worn video cameras were a valuable initiative for gaining evidence and to help keep staff safe, especially for the enforcement of littering and dog waste.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member commented that it was not always necessary to fine people when they could be requested to rectify the issue. In response, Councillor Graham Marsh as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction explained to Members that evidence supported that body worn cameras were very effective to keep people safe.
- A Member highlighted the successful work undertaken by the CCTV Panel and queried who would be able to request and access the use of body worn video cameras. In response, the Community Safety Manager advised Members that cameras were not a mandatory requirement and would primarily be available for frontline uniformed officers.

The Community Safety Manager advised that formal external training and regulatory sign off was required before the cameras could be worn and that officers needed justification to use them.

Members were further advised that elected Members were also able to request access to body worn video cameras and assured that they were a valuable tool for frontline staff especially those who worked in anti-social behaviour, planning enforcement and car parking.

- A Member spoke in support of the report and highlighted a correction that was needed to the numbering for the subheading 'Evidential footage', page 106 of the Agenda refers.
- In reference to paragraph 8.3 Equipment, a Member requested clarification on where devices would be stored securely in East Lindsey District Council owned buildings and cross-referenced paragraph 8.10 where it stated that 'all BWV devices shall be stored within the Partnership's CCTV suites', pages 99 and 100 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Community Safety Manager advised Members that only Boston Borough Council had a CCTV Suite whereas East Lindsey and South Holland District Councils would have secure docking stations at Council buildings to securely upload the data to the Boston CCTV suite.
- In reference to paragraph 17.2 and 17.3 'Evidential footage', a Member requested a correction in the abbreviation of i.e. to e.g., page 106 of the Agenda refers.

- A Member queried the costs to the Council for body worn video camera equipment. In response, the Community Safety Manager advised Members that value was approximately £5000 for a docking station and six body worn video cameras and confirmed there had not been a cost to the Council due to Home Office funding. Members were further advised that Duncan Hollingworth, Group Manager (General Fund Assets) had paid £5000 of funding from his own budget for equipment at Skegness.
- A Member spoke in support of the initiative to protect staff through the use of body worn video cameras and commented that explanations on the data protection requirements would benefit from simpler guidance for those who would wear them. In response, the Community Safety Manager assured Members that every officer would undertake two hours of training and would be given clear guidance on procedures.
- A Member queried whether officers would be able to request access to stab vests. In response, the Community Safety Manager advised Members that the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) team had been issued with stab vests, and that the homelessness outreach team could also access them if requested.

The Chairman thanked Peter Hunn, Community Safety Manager for his informative report.

No further comments or questions were received.

Following which, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and presented to the Executive Board on 2nd July 2025.

N.B Peter Hunn, Community Safety Manager and Councillor Graham Marsh as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture and Carbon Reduction left the Meeting at 11.45am.

12. REVISED MARKET POLICY:

The Chairman welcomed Phil Perry, Assistant Director (Leisure and Culture) and David Smith, Markets Manager to present the Revised Market Policy.

The purpose of the report was for consideration of an update to the ELDC Markets Policy and the introduction of the ELDC Markets Severe Weather Policy, pages 9 to 58 of the Supplementary Agenda refer.

David Smith, Markets Manager advised Members that the Council's Market Service covered the Council's Charter markets in Louth, Horncastle and

Spilsby and that the report detailed the draft of new policies for the service as it had evolved following the last full review of the Market Policy in 2013.

Members were further advised that a review of the current ELDC Markets Policy (included at Appendix 1) had been necessary to support the implementation of a new online bookings and payments system to replace a redundant intranet-based system, and the introduction of a new Severe Weather Policy. It was explained that the purpose of the new Market Policy (included at Appendix 2) and Severe Weather Policy (included at Appendix 3) was to set out the matters the Council would take into account when undertaking its duty to provide and manage its markets, detailing the responsibilities of the Council and its expectations of the Market Traders.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- In reference to the new Market Policy under the subheading 'Frequency' at paragraph 4.2, a Member queried the reasons that markets were not held on Bank Holidays, pages 27 to 50 of the Supplementary Agenda refer. In response, the Markets Manager explained to Members that holding no markets on Bank Holidays had been a longstanding practice of the Council which took into account the increased staffing requirements and costs to hold markets on Bank Holidays. Members were further advised that only Spilsby Market currently operated on a Monday and that further consideration could be given if traders made a request to operate on Bank Holidays.
- In reference to 'Trading on East Lindsey Markets' at paragraph 8.2 in relation to regular and casual traders, a Member expressed concerns that Councillors had not been consulted or contacted to be given the opportunity to provide feedback.
- A Member agreed and highlighted that Councillors were able to provide valuable insight of issues relating to local markets.
- A Member commented that uniform stalls with mandatory canopy colours had been a local aim that had been overlooked within the new policy, page 38 of the Supplementary Agenda refers. In response, the Markets Manager explained to Members that the canopies were owned and stocked by the Council and that multiple choice of colours had been offered following previous consultation with stallholders. Members were assured that the Markets Manager was happy to revisit colour considerations with stall holders if requested.
- A Member highlighted that adherence to displaying food requirements including allergen warnings had not been observed at local markets, pages 47 and 50 of the Supplementary Agenda refers. In response, the Markets Manager advised Members that a

request could be made to the Environmental Health team to undertake inspections if there were concerns that food information was not being displayed in line with food and hygiene requirements.

- A Member queried the 35mph wind or wind gust trigger for activating the policy and commented that Louth Market had been known to experience wind tunnel issues, page 54 of the Supplementary Agenda refers. In response, the Markets Manager explained that the 35mph figure was only guidance and was sourced from information on wind gusts and wind speeds from the Market Federation website.
- A Member queried the need for better communication relating to the appointment for the new Markets Manager. In response, the Markets Manager explained to Members that the manager role had been a shared officer role, and that a new communications campaign had been relaunched including a new Facebook page as of 1st April 2025. Members were further assured of the efforts made to contact individual Councillors to discuss the management of markets.
- A Member highlighted that there were other Councillors whose wards included markets and would welcome further contact.
- The Chairman supported the provision of one Market Policy for all districts.
- A Member queried the support that was available for market traders who struggled with literacy. In response, the Markets Manager assured Members that he was personally going to visit and engage with traders and added that traders were able to undertake in-person training if required.
- A Member commented in support of the report and queried whether the Markets Manager had experience as a stall holder. In response, the Markets Manager confirmed that he had not had experience on markets as a trader.
- In the summary of the report, a Member queried whether it was correct that it was the Council's duty to provide and manage its markets, page 9 of the Supplementary Agenda refers. In response, the Markets Manager confirmed that the wording would be revised as it was a choice rather than a duty, unless the Council was duty bound by a Charter to provide a market.
- A Member highlighted issues with illegal and inappropriate goods being sold on market stalls. In response, the Markets Manager advised Members that stall holders were challenged where unlicensed goods had allegedly been sold and would be reminded of their responsibilities. Members were further advised that Trading

Standards could also be requested to undertake inspections when there had been concerns raised.

- In reference to paragraph 19.3 'All traders are required to fit a canopy to their stall', a Member queried whether a canopy was the same as a stall cover, page 38 of the Supplementary Agenda refers. In response, the Markets Manager confirmed to Members that was correct and that the wording in the final report would be made more uniform to clarify this.
- A Member highlighted the physical difficulties experienced by stall holders to setup and secure canopies. In response, the Markets Manager advised Members that the issue was acknowledged by the Council and that it was the stall holder's responsibility to undertake an appropriate risk assessment.
- A Member highlighted concerns with the disposal of rubbish at markets. In response, the Markets Manager assured Members that rubbish issues were monitored and that traders were reminded of their responsibilities when disposing of litter.

No further comments or questions were received.

The Chairman thanked Phil Perry, Assistant Director (Leisure and Culture) and David Smith, Markets Manager for the report.

Following which, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and presented to the Executive Board on 2 July 2025.

N.B Phil Perry, Assistant Director (Leisure and Culture) and David Smith, Markets Manager left the Meeting at 12.12pm.

13. UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY AND POLICY PANELS INCLUDING QUALITY CHECKING OF FINAL REPORTS:

(a) Scrutiny Panel Report - Review of support for Towns and Parishes across East Lindsey:

Councillor Ruchira Yarsley as Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel introduced the final report of the Panel on 'Review of support for Towns and Parishes across East Lindsey', pages 163 to 192 of the Agenda refer.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- The Chairman commented on the varying success of area committees and added that some town and parish councils were not

well informed of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), page 176 of the report refers.

- A Member highlighted the circumstances whereby volunteers could be paid, such as town councillors who received a small allowance.
- In reference to the response to the survey where 36 responses were received out of 163 town and parish councils and parish meetings, a Member commented on the disappointing number of responses, page 173 of the Agenda refers.
- A Member highlighted that it was not always clear who held responsibility for various local assets. In response, the Chairman commented on the wealth of knowledge held by parish and town clerks and the benefits of clerks being Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) qualified.
- Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of letter boxes for communication and that incoming mail should be time and date stamped to enable traceability.
- The Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel commented that many parish councils felt that the district council was not receptive to their communications.
- Councillor Graham Marsh as Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture and Carbon Reduction advised Members that the Planning Department was willing to deliver training to parish councils if requested.
- A Member further commented that the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils (LALC) also offered additional training sessions.
- In reference to the recommendations at Section B under 'Support', a Member commented on whether ELDC should proceed with investigating the need for area committees, page 180 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel advised Members that the issue should be for consideration by an appropriate scrutiny panel, particularly as Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) approached.
- Members discussed the lack of success with area committees in the past.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Ruchira Yarsley and the Scrutiny Panel Members for their contributions.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

- That the draft report of the 'Review of support for Towns and Parishes across East Lindsey' Scrutiny Panel be noted.
- That the Scrutiny report be presented to Council at its Meeting to be held on 16th July 2025.

(b) Scrutiny Panel Update - Car Parking in East Lindsey:

James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate referred Members to the briefing paper, pages 193 to 194 of the Agenda refer.

Members were advised that the Panel held its first meeting on 20th May 2025 and discussed the topic scope and lines of enquiry. The Panel was meeting again on Monday 30th June 2025 to discuss the information with Emma Thomas, Property Officer and Brendan Arnold, Finance Director and Section 151 Officer.

14. SCRUTINY AND POLICY PANEL TOPIC SUGGESTION FORMS:

(a) ELDC's contract with Visit Lincolnshire:

Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders referred Members to the topic suggestion 'ELDC's contract with Visit Lincolnshire', pages 195 to 196 of the Agenda refer.

The Chairman advised Members that Visit Lincolnshire was no longer in existence as they had ceased trading and that considerations needed to be made how the work they had undertaken would move forward.

Further to discussion, Members agreed to consider alternatives and amend the scope of the topic suggestion accordingly.

(b) ELDC Website and User Friendliness:

Councillor Ruchira Yarsley referred Members to the topic suggestion 'ELDC Website and User Friendliness', pages 197 to 198 of the Agenda refer.

Members were advised that the topic suggestion had been put forward to improve ease of locating information on the Council's website.

The Assistant Director (Corporate) explained to Members that a Digital Content Advisor had been recruited to undertake work over the next two years to improve website content and navigation and to reduce the workload on the Council's call centres.

A Member highlighted the need to ensure that residents gained value for money and spoke in support of Councillors assisting with testing and accessing information on the website.

Further to discussion, Members agreed to invite the Digital Content Advisor to attend a future Meeting of the Committee instead of

progressing the topic suggestion for the 'ELDC Website and User Friendliness.'

(c) Homelessness Review:

Councillor David Hall referred Members to the topic suggestion 'Homelessness Review', pages 199 to 200 of the Agenda refer.

Members were invited for their comments and questions.

- The Chairman acknowledged the increase in homeless people in Horncastle.
- Councillor Graham Marsh as Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction commented that the Council's planning policies should be influenced by the need to create single occupancy accommodation in centres of towns for people without a permanent address.
- Members discussed the need to provide support and educate people on identifying people who were homeless.
- Councillor David Hall highlighted the importance of reviewing and comparing the recommendations from the scrutiny that was undertaken several years previously on homelessness and to identify ways to improve the situation.

Further to a discussion, Members agreed to accept the topic suggestion for the 'Homelessness Review'.

15. HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE - UPDATE:

The Chairman referred Members to the briefing papers tabled at the Meeting from Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders, the Outside Body Appointee to the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) for Lincolnshire following its Meetings held on Wednesday 11 June 2025. A copy is attached at Appendix B to the Minutes.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- The Chairman explained the Committee's intentions to invite Clair Raybould, the new Interim Chief Executive for the NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board to a future Meeting of the Committee.
- Members discussed the level of funding for health services that came from the Grimsby area and the number of residents that visited the Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby.

- A Member highlighted the reference to the surveys on GP Provision in Lincolnshire which showed it was easier to access their GPs, where 81% described it as easy compared to 78% nationally.
- A Member further queried the statistics that stated that staff numbers were increasing with 18% more full time equivalent posts and 25 new full time GP roles. In response, the Outside Body Appointee advised Members that the statistics were unclear.
- Further to a discussion, Members agreed that an invitation should be sent to Dr Reid Baker, Medical Director of the Lincolnshire Local Medical Committee (Lincs LMC) to attend a future Meeting of the Committee to discuss general practice provision in Lincolnshire.

No further comments or questions were received.

The Chairman thanked the Outside Body Appointee for her valuable contribution on reporting back from the HSC.

16. QUARTER 4 24/25 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT:

The Chairman welcomed James Gilbert, Assistant Director (Corporate) to present the Quarter 4 24-25 Performance and Risk Report, pages 201 to 248 of the Agenda refer.

Members attention was drawn to the Q4 performance indicators with targeted performance levels (Appendix 1), and Q4 risks (Appendix 2).

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- In reference to occupation of Mablethorpe Business Centre, a Member commented on concerns that clients were being poached by other offerings in the area, page 220 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Assistant Director Corporate confirmed that more information would be obtained and brought back to the Committee.
- A Member commented that the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Kingfisher Caravan Park were disappointing, page 221 of the Agenda refers.
- In reference to the Wellbeing Lincs contract, a Member spoke in support of the overall improvement in all outcome scores across all service users leaving the service, page 222 of the Agenda refers.
- In reference to Performance Indicators with Trend Only Data, a Member queried the reasons that information was trend only, page 224 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) explained to Members that the trend section of the report contained information from areas that the Council had little influence over except in relation to policy decisions.

- A Member queried the way in which the Council could determine the level of success. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) explained to Members that the trend section of the report was not performance related and focused on providing information to assess trends.
- Members further discussed the disadvantages of examining trend only information and the reasons it had been included in reports presented to the Committee.
- In reference to visitor numbers / number of tickets sold, by venue (Altitude 44), a Member commented on concerns with the lack of sustainability, page 228 of the Agenda refers.
- In reference to Safe and Resilient Communities, Members queried the level of anti-social behaviour that was occurring and highlighted the lack of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who had previously been able to assist more quickly, page 230 and 231 of the Agenda refers.

Further to a discussion, it was agreed to seek an update from Chris Wesley, the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer on the effects on workload following the reduction in PCSOs.

- In relation to 'Efficiency and Effectiveness', a Member highlighted concerns with the yes and no approach to workforce surveys instead of further options being available, page 234 of the Agenda refers.
- In reference to 'Number of late reports not made available to the Democratic Services teams at agenda publication' a Member queried whether there had been an increase in late reports, page 237 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) advised Members that officers strived to meet report deadlines and that there were occasions when further information was awaited which had led to delays.
- A Member queried whether the delays in receiving postal Agendas could be included in the statistics. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) explained to Members that mailroom issues were PSPS's responsibility and not the Council's.
- A Member highlighted concerns with the risk of uncertainty in relation to the flood defence scheme. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) confirmed that feedback would be provided to Phil Norman, Assistant Director (Planning and Strategic Infrastructure).

No further comments or questions were received.

Following which, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Quarter 4 24/25 Performance and Risk Report be noted.

17. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKER:

Members were referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker, pages 249 to 278 of the Agenda refer.

Members were invited to review the tracker and put their comments and questions forward.

To monitor the implementation of Magna Vitae's 5-year plan, including Key Performance Indicators (part 2)

Recommendation No 1 'ELDC communications team to look at developing a promotional campaign to help increase membership numbers via their social media and communication channels', page 261 of the Agenda refers.

A Member commented on the update that the Partnerships Corporate Communications team actively shared posts and updates on its channels from Magna Vitae and was disappointed that this had occurred a long time after the recommendation had been made.

To review the running of Invest East Lindsey Limited, with a particular focus on Kingfisher Caravan Park.

Recommendation No 1 'Invest East Lindsey to establish Kingfisher as a separate commercial entity within its portfolio of activities, page 261 of the Agenda refers.

A Member commented that establishing Kingfisher as a separate company was believed to have occurred some time ago. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) advised Members that the action was not due until November 2025 and that a further progress update would be obtained.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments.

No further comments or questions were received.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker be noted.

18. EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN:

Members were presented with the Executive/Council Forward Plan 2025-26, pages 279 to 288 of the Agenda refer and were invited for their comments.

- In reference to 'Destination Lincolnshire Local Visitor Economy Partnership Destination Management Plan and SELCP Destination Management Plan', a Member queried the reasons that a decision was not being taken until 24 September 2025, page 285 of the Agenda refers. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) advised Members that due to Destination Lincolnshire ceasing to operate, the Executive Board would be required to look at the future direction of the action.
- A Member further queried the role of Jon Hinde, Place Manager. In response, the Assistant Director (Corporate) advised Members that his role was part of the Economic Growth Service.

No comments or questions were received.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the Executive/Council Forward Plan 2025-26 be noted.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The date for the next Meeting was noted as Tuesday 22 July 2025.

The Meeting closed at 1.38 pm.