

**Questions to Council Under Rule 11 of the Constitution –  
Council 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**Q1. Councillor George Horton to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.**

**At a recent Town Council meeting we had to undertake the second annual training in a Sexual Harassment and Bullying. We were informed this is statutory and all councillors must undertake this training and have also had to sign paperwork stating we had read and understood this policy. Why has this not happened in this authority?**

- A. Thank you for the question. The statutory duty for employers to take reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace, applies to employees. The duty is specific to sexual harassment only and does not explicitly extend to protect non-employed individuals. Though there are indications with future Employment Rights Bill changes to extend this duty to third parties.*

*Some employers may take steps to extend policies and training to others that are regularly present in their workplaces. District Councillors are required to undertake mandatory training on the Councillor Code of Conduct which incorporates the elements you mentioned.*

*The Council will continue to monitor legislative changes in this area and if further steps or training are considered appropriate will take the necessary action.*

**Q2. Councillor George Horton to Councillor Graham Marsh, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture and Carbon reduction.**

**Following on to the refusal for planning permission for a 3G pitch on Wood Lane in Louth and being told at the time how important this facility would be for the residents of East Lindsey, what have we done to find an alternative site?**

- A. Although Wood Lane was the only option the Council had itself for the provision of a 3g pitch, we continue to work with the Lincolnshire FA and the Football Foundation on identifying and working on suitable sites across the District, such as Horncastle and Alford. The Horncastle project went before Planning Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 where permission was granted. This means the residents of East Lindsey could still get the outdoor 3g pitches, they desperately need. Two further small sided 3g pitch projects are also being progressed for Spilsby and Sutton on Sea.*

**Q3. Councillor George Horton to Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services**

**How many fly tips have gone to court in the last two years?**

A. *In the period 02/10/2023 to 02/10/2025, there have been a total of 35 fixed penalty notices issued for fly-tipping / household waste duty of care offences. 14 penalties have been paid. 3 have been cancelled as unrecoverable and there are 18 cases being progressed to prosecution.*

**Q4. Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Adam Grist, Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and the Rural Economy and Councillor Tom Kemp, Portfolio Holder for Finance**

**Why when we have a director in charge of markets, a markets manager and a markets officer did we have to employ an outside company, called Checkmate Productions, to run the recent Louth and Drink Festival? In view of this, how much did it actually cost ratepayers to stage this market? Please include staff time in this figure.**

A. *\$\$ - Answer to follow.*

**Q5. Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Adam Grist, Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and the Rural Economy and Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services**

**What tangible improvement has there been since employing a number of staff to run East Lindsey markets. Examples and takings to be factored in please?**

A. *Since the appointment of the new East Lindsey Markets team in June this year, a series of tangible and impactful improvements have been delivered across the district's market operations, engagement, and performance.*

*1. Increased Market Occupancy*

*While market occupancy rates are declining nationally, East Lindsey has bucked the trend with a 5% increase in occupancy for Q2. This upward trajectory reflects the effectiveness of the new team's approach and the growing confidence of traders in our markets.*

*2. Enhanced Digital Engagement*

*The launch of the East Lindsey Markets Facebook page has significantly boosted our online presence. Since June:*

- The page has received over 340,000 views*
- We've seen just under 10,000 new interactions, a 481% increase compared to the previous period*
- Follower numbers have grown by 19.8%, now exceeding 1,000 compared to the previous period*

*These figures demonstrate a strong and growing interest in our markets from both traders and the public.*

*3. Growth in Trader Applications*

*We've received 30 new market applications since June, compared to 24 in the previous period, indicating increased trader interest and confidence in East Lindsey's market offer.*

#### **4. New Event Development**

*A brand-new event — the Horncastle Makers Christmas Market scheduled for 20th December — has already attracted 24 applications within two weeks, and is expected to reach full capacity, a milestone not achieved in several years.*

#### **5. Revitalisation of Spilsby Market**

*Spilsby Market has seen a remarkable turnaround. Previously operating with just one regular trader, it now boasts nine regular traders, with additional casual bookings on top. This revival is a direct result of the hard work, promotion, and marketing carried out by the new markets team, alongside their ongoing support for traders. The transformation of Spilsby Market is a clear example of the team's commitment to breathing new life into underutilised spaces.*

#### **6. Improved Trader Engagement**

*For the first time in several years, the Markets Officer now attends every market, engaging directly with traders and visitors. This daily presence has created a vital channel for feedback and support, which has been met with overwhelmingly positive responses from the trading community.*

#### **7. Modernisation of Systems**

*The team is currently developing a new booking and payment system, with testing anticipated in the coming months. This has been a major undertaking, and preparations are in place to provide training and guidance to traders to ensure a smooth and successful transition.*

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

**Do we monitor appointed councillors' attendance on outside bodies, if not why not, and what steps are taken if there is no regular attendance? Do we have these figures we can share, please?**

**A.** *Thank you for your questions. Attendance at outside body meetings is not monitored by the authority but by the outside body. Should an attendance concern be raised by the outside body this will be followed up internally and if a Councillor has difficulty with fulfilling their commitments to the outside body, they should raise this with their respective group leader in the first instance.*

### **Q7. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.**

**After comments expressed by the PCC at a recent forum and comments made from elsewhere can you confirm that LGR for Tier 2 is not, nor likely to be progressed in this Parliament?**

- A. Thank you for the question. The new Secretary of State at MHCLG, Steve Reed OBE MP, has written to Councils to confirm his Department's intention to continue with LGR. This communication was shared with all Councillors. There has been no indication from Government at this time that LGR isn't continuing; or indeed that the timescales will change.*

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

**To date how much has East Lindsey spent on its share of developing and progressing preferred options for LGR?**

- A. The Executive Board allocated a budget of £175,000. To date, the Council has spent £118,117.*

*The Council has received just over £40,000 from Government, which will mean the Council's overall expenditure will be circa £135,000 (£175k - £40k) if the full £175,000 budget provision is required.*

**Q9. Councillor Edward Mossop to Councillor Steve Kirk, Portfolio Holder for the Coastal Economy.**

**Now that the Colonnade building at Sutton on Sea is up and running could we have some measures of the success in terms of visitor numbers and people attending the organised programme through the Story-tellers and other ad-hoc events? In terms of future sustainability of this building what is the long-term strategy to ensure this public building does not become a burden to the tax-payer?"**

- A. I thank Councillor Mossop for his question and am pleased to advise that following open advertisement to the market in the summer through our appointed agent, the Council has received a number of very credible expressions of interest that are currently being evaluated by our project team against the very clear evaluation criteria we set out in our marketing brochure.*

*As soon as we have completed any final competitive dialogue, and are at a point of being able to agree a formal lease, I will revert to Councillor Mossop and all other Councillor colleagues with details.*

*In terms of attendance at Colonnade events, officers are collating information for the summer period from the many session organisers that have used the facility that can be shared with Councillor Mossop when complete.*

**Q10. Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.**

**I want to put forward a question on behalf of Louth and the town council. This week a developer came to us telling us his company is going to build over 330 new homes on the outskirts of town, two miles from the town centre and more than walking distance from local schools. My town is desperate. We cannot attract doctors, dental services impossible, no jobs being created, ancient drainage systems which see human faeces overflow into the river, flooding from frequent run off, a declining town centre which after 25 years is still classed by English Heritage as at risk and I could go on and on and on....We are full to bursting and the town just gets more and more dumped on it. Who can we get to listen, who at this council cares? Yes we want to grow but not in this manner, things have got to catch up for the good of us all who are suffering from having our living standards impoverished week on week. How is this council going to put its back into helping us?**

- A.** *I would like to confirm that the current Local Plan stands with all its allocations. We are yet to start developing a spatial distribution for East Lindsey as part of the Local Plan review and will engage with stakeholders early on in the process of the review plan including LCC, Anglian Water, Health services etc. Please rest assured that we are at the very start of the review process so your community will have every opportunity to consider options and proposals as they are outlined through each stage to help shape and construct a sustainable spatial strategy for the district.*

**Q11. Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.**

**Following a motion I put forward and was agreed, what progress has been made in taking AI forward for use in council processes. Do we have an IT roadmap which includes AI integration and what are the timelines, please?**

- A.** *AI is already being used in several departments in the Council and its partners in PSPS.*

*The Council doesn't have an ICT roadmap specifically focusing on AI integration. However, all services are empowered to consider how AI might work for their service, what service specific AI products might benefit their operation and for them to bring forward any business case for investment where there is merit in something being pursued. This is supported by an AI Working Group involving key officers.*

*You'll be aware as a PSPS Board member that AI is already being used in Revenues and Benefits to support claim processing and the company is looking to expand its use further in this service. PSPS is also looking at a proof of concept for invoice processing.*

*General AI tools are available to the workforce in both the Council and the company through the Microsoft suite - a product called Copilot. Copilot reduces administrative duties, like note taking at meetings, as well as supporting with a whole range of Microsoft based tasks that increase general efficiency.*

Ends.