

**Questions to Council Under Rule 11 of the Constitution –
Council 28th January 2026**

Q1. Councillor Travis Hesketh to Councillor Tom Kemp, Portfolio Holder for Finance

Please provide a schedule of all capital projects within the 2026 budget exceeding £20,000. For each project, please set out the expected return on investment, including quantified financial impacts and anticipated community outcomes, along with the relevant delivery milestones and timescales over which benefits are expected to be realised.

- A. I thank Councillor Hesketh for notice of his question, the draft capital programme for 26/27 is being finalised as part of the annual budget setting process that I am leading with officers.*

That draft will be presented to the Executive Board at its meeting on 19 February and will be published in advance. Rather than try to go through line by line today, I will ensure officers provide the information you have requested.

Q2. Councillor Stef Bristow to Councillor Tom Kemp, Portfolio Holder for Finance

I would like to see a breakdown of the additional revenue the doubled council tax charges has brought in, and how these additional funds are being shared out with town/parish councils, county council and the Police. How is ELDC using its share of the doubled charge?

Secondly, what benefits has this doubling brought to our district? In Sutton on Sea, it has led to a glut of properties for sale which has affected property prices but in no way have they come down to prices that would be considered "affordable", nor has it led to an increase in the rental properties we desperately need. Hence, I am very curious to know what benefits it has brought elsewhere in the district.

- A. At 31 December 2025 there are 1,277 dwellings in ELDC which are occupied periodically, are substantially furnished but do not have a permanent resident. Commonly referred to as 'second homes'.*

The total premium being charged is £1,852,927.

Of this East Lindsey DC retain £215,495, The Police & Crime Commissioner £266,451 and Lincolnshire County Council £1,370,981.

At the start of the year, there were 1,380 dwellings, with premium totalling £2,458,918.

This means that over the 9 months to December, there has been a reduction of 103 dwellings.

The income is administered through the collection fund and reflected in the annual budget setting process. As such the income generated goes towards maintaining services and investing in Council priorities.

Noting your comment regarding the increase in properties for sale and the impact on property prices. Whilst we are keen to support the provision of Housing which is affordable, a significant or rapid decline in property prices would impact all homeowners in the area and as such is something we would need to be mindful of.

It is not possible to say with certainty what has caused the decline in the number of 'second homes' and it is too early to know whether this will be a trend which continues, but we can see that the number of second homes has reduced which I am pleased to say will help with local housing supply.

Q3. Councillor Ellie Marsh to Councillor Adam Grist, Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and the Rural Economy and Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services

Spilsby Buttercross Car Park - On a Monday no car parking is allowed due to the auction taking place. When the auction is not on why can't we allow parking in this car park? Spilsby is a market town yet one of its car parks sits abandoned and unused for 2 months of the year when the auction is not on. Surely this is not good use of the space? Apparently, the traffic restriction cannot be lifted on these occasions, surely we can tell the third-party enforcement agency the dates when not to ticket people? It is hampering business growth and is a ridiculous rule.

A. I thank Councillor Marsh for notice of her question, the matter she raises poses a genuine challenge and I am happy to work with her, Councillor Foster and our officers to see how we might reach a more optimal solution.

Q4. Councillor Ellie Marsh to Councillor Adam Grist, Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and the Rural Economy

When are we going to stop wasting money on markets that do not work? The Monday market in Spilsby is down to 2/3 traders each week. Is this really good value for money? Surely, we should invest money into our high streets and improve what is there rather than trying to push a market that is poorly attended and is not representative of current market and shopping trends.

A. The re launch of the Spilsby Market in March 2025, is an investment in the revitalisation of the town centre offer, rebuilding trader confidence in the Town, with 7–10 traders, trading throughout the warmer months. The market saw traders selling fresh fruit and veg, fresh fish, baked goods, cakes, locally produced oils, locally grown plants and flowers and the market also provided a space for charities, and a local school to engage with visitors.

These numbers hadn't previously been seen for several years, and all 12 gazebos were frequently in use until October, showing the market's potential under

favourable conditions. January is traditionally the quietest month for outdoor markets nationally. Traders often take annual leave, weather reduces footfall, and many casuals pause trading. This is a seasonal dip, not a deterioration in the underlying trend. Looking ahead, the auctioneer is set to return in February, and in March other local traders are also due back to Spilsby.

To support the development of our markets, a new East Lindsey Markets Facebook page and a new Instagram presence have been established, significantly expanding reach and engagement. The Markets Team will run paid Facebook advertising through 2026, for all Louth, Horncastle and Spilsby Markets, repeating the promotional push that helped refill pitches in 2025.

Q5. Councillor Ellie Marsh to Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services

When are the market towns getting their improved toilets? It is nearly 2 years since we did the scrutiny work, even by local government standards this is a ridiculous time scale, and I am getting bored of giving Spilsby residents the same worthless answer. Will this work still be outstanding when LGR takes place?

A. *I thank Councillor Marsh for notification of her question; as she will recall, the budget to enable the refurbishment six sets of public conveniences and the replacement of a seventh was only agreed by Full Council on 8 October last year; with the forecast completion dates being:*

- *Spa Road PC's, Woodhall Spa – 14/08/2026*
- *St. Lawrence Street PC's, Horncastle – 10/09/2026*
- *Market Place, Wragby – 07/10/2026*
- *High Street PC's, Spilsby – 21/07/2026*
- *Pullover PC's, Anderby Creek – 01/06/2026*
- *Brooks Walk PC's, Wainfleet All Saints – 25/06/2026*
- *Castle Lane PC's, Coningsby – 16/11/2026*

Q6. Councillor Ellie Marsh to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture and Carbon Reduction.

What are the Council doing to improve grassroots sports in areas such as Spilsby? What financial investment is taking place in these areas to encourage residents to take part in sporting activity?

A. *The Council is strengthening grassroots sport in Spilsby through a combination of facility investment and expanded community programming. Working with Magna Vitae and local clubs, the Council supported the major improvements at Spilsby Playing Fields, including a £10,000 investment to advance the pavilion redevelopment to planning stage, work supported by the FA and Football Foundation, who contributed a substantial external funding once designs were completed.*

Alongside facility development, the Council has commissioned Magna Vitae to deliver the Inland Conurbation Project across several towns and villages, including Spilsby, with £100,000 per year for two years dedicated to co-producing new sports and activity opportunities with local young people and clubs. In Spilsby, programmes already delivered, such as the School's Out holiday activities and sports sessions at the Youth Club, have provided football, cricket, gymnastics, and structured youth activities, helping to increase participation and strengthen grassroots sport provision in the town.

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

If there is any Councillor Grant money left over can this not be put into one pot? Councillors could then apply for the leftovers, and it go to areas that need a little bit extra rather than just going back centrally.

- A. Thank you for the question. In 2025/26 the base budget (£55k) for the Councillors' Community Grants Scheme was significantly uplifted by a further £165k of reserves to benefit all communities across the entire District. It is likely that much of this funding will be committed this financial year, however the Executive Board is considering options to fund the Scheme in 2026/27 and will bring forward proposals as part of the 2026/27 budget.*

Q8. Councillor Ellie Marsh to Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services.

What is being done to tackle dog fouling?

- A. There is a Public Space Protection Order in place covering the whole district and the beaches that we are responsible for. This makes it an offence not to clear up after a dog has fouled in a public space. The PSPO also requires dog owners to be in possession of a means to clear up after their dog at all times.*

There are signs provided throughout the district and in key public locations informing residents and visitors of this requirement and we have enforcement officers that conduct routine patrols to both deter, inform and advise dog owners. Information is available on our website, and the public can report incidents of fouling which will be followed up by our enforcement officers and/or our cleansing teams. We also post regularly on our social media channels to raise awareness and discourage irresponsible dog owners. We also rely on our communities to report issues to us.

In the two calendar years 2023 to 2025, 86 FPNs have been issued for dog fouling and/or not having means to pick up dog fouling.

Q9. Councillor Travis Hesketh to Councillor Steve Kirk, Portfolio Holder for the Coastal Economy.

A number of beach huts were built as part of a project (for example one in the shape of a gin and tonic) along the Mablethorpe and Sutton foreshore. They

seem to have been left unused for many years. What is the plan to bring these back into use?

- A. *I thank Councillor Hesketh for notice of his question, there are currently only two 'Bathing Beauties' chalets left along our coast; all of the others built as part of the project have long since been removed. The two that remain are structurally sound and in fair condition but are not in use as they were designed as pieces of art that could be accessed periodically as opposed to functional beach huts for year-round use with there being no plans to put the two remaining structures into day-to-day operation.*

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

PS2 has a very different volunteering policy from this council. I have been asked by members of staff to ask if we can review our policy and base it on the more community supportive model our LATCO follows successfully. What is your opinion, please?

- A. *I'm pleased to confirm that the Council recently reviewed and updated its Volunteer Policy in August 2025. As part of that review, we introduced a new entitlement for staff to take **up to two days of paid volunteering leave per year**, subject to approval and alignment with the Partnership's Sub-Regional Strategy. This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to enabling staff to contribute to their communities, while ensuring the arrangements remain fair, consistent and manageable across all service areas.*

*We recognise, however, that the success of any policy depends on awareness and uptake. I therefore welcome the point raised, and we will ensure that the updated volunteering provision is **more actively promoted**—including through Annual Reviews, our wider communication of Employee Benefits, and ongoing engagement with managers and teams across the Council and wider Partnership.*

In summary, the Council has strengthened its policy, we are committed to encouraging volunteering as part of our wider social responsibility, and we will continue to keep the policy under review as organisational needs develop.

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

I am taking up an issue which became apparent at Overview, but no meaningful answer was supplied. When the Colonnade building at Sutton-on-Sea was designed the architects included an attractive viewing platform to enhance the sensory experience of land meeting the sea. But now we are told this is a health and safety risk and cannot be experienced as the architect intended. Given this was such an important design feature of this multi-million-pound development, why did the professional, who we paid handsomely for his vision, make such a basic mistake? Is there no-one on the staff at the council who has the expertise to scrutinise the design process effectively to avoid such embarrassing outcomes?

- A. *I thank Councillor Makinson Sanders for notice of her question and can confirm to her that the balcony itself presents absolutely no health and safety risks; it is safe, guarded and built exactly to specification.*

What Councillor Makinson-Sanders may be aware of is the necessity for any potential hirer to provide us with a full description of any proposed use of the balcony and proportionate risk assessment in relation to that use so we can be assured that no health and safety issues may be introduced.

From an operational perspective, when there are no events running, Councillor Makinson Sanders may also be aware the whole of the top floor can be closed to the public simply because there is no oversight or supervision of the space, hence our focussed, ongoing work to contract an operator to maximise use and access of what is undeniably a fantastic, iconic asset for Sutton on Sea.

Q12. Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

The east coast and our rural hinterland are frequently described as being a desert as far as health provision is concerned. We lack sufficient GPs, Dentists, Health Visitors, District nurses, Occupational Therapists and mental health professionals to adequately address the needs of our residents. The NHS often provides what are classed as golden handshakes but how is this council working in partnership with other organisations to attract professionals to East Lindsey - examples please.

- A. *The Connected Coast's Towns Fund Investment recognised the local gap in recruitment and retention of health and social care workforce and the need to make our District a more attractive place for professionals to live, study and work.*

The Campus for Future Living in Mablethorpe has established a modern, university linked health campus to attract trainees and researchers whilst providing professional development and support.

The project is aligned to Lincolnshire System for recruiting and retaining talent and the 'grow locally stay locally' model; for example, Lincolnshire Training Hub are using the facilities for pharmacy students to offer drop-in 'health checks' for the Community.

Furthermore, the South and East Lincolnshire Healthy Living Board provides a sub-regional platform for health, local government, other responsible authorities and third sector organisations to come together to reduce health inequalities and improve health outcomes in South and East Lincolnshire. The terms of the Board include promoting a joined-up approach with other strategic partners that include better outcomes for all. This would include understanding system gaps and how collectively we may understand and assist in influencing change. For example, at the last Board meeting in December a presentation and discussion were led by the Integrated Care Board to understand the significant structural changes moving to a cluster organisation in order to increase efficiency.

In addition to the above health-focused activities, ELDC is represented at the GLCCA's Employment and skills board, which will set future direction on skills investment and sectoral development, including the health sector more broadly. We use our seat on this board to lobby for investment in areas of local interest. Our officer team are also actively involved in the preparation of the Local Skills Investment Plan (LSIP), which is designed to capture the skills needs of our key sectors, and influence how the devolved Adult Education Budget will be invested by the GLCCA from August 2026 (when the funds are devolved to combined authorities).

Q13. Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

The Mayor of Lincolnshire has been in post for nine months now. How many times has she been to East Lindsey to look at working in partnership with this council and what are the outcomes so far?

- A.** *There are 4 non-constituent seats on the GLCCA. These are held by district council leaders and ELDC has one of those places.*

The GLCCA also operates a number of boards where most of the business of the authority is undertaken.

These include the Transport Board, Employment and Skills Board and the Business and Infrastructure Board. As leader of ELDC I sit on those boards as needed and in cooperation with other district leader colleagues as agenda items dictate.

There have been allocations of monies that will potentially benefit this area supporting infrastructure and skills. I will ask the GLCCA to provide an update of those schemes and works.

I have met with the Mayor to discuss our challenges regarding transport, flood defence and our determination to tackle deprivation. As a non-constituent member we have only limited voting powers.

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

I noted in the national media generally and on the BBC " have I got news for you " programme the fine issued in Skegness to the man who spat out a leaf. How are we as a council dealing with the fine enforcement that was issued and has a refund been issued by us or the operator.

- A.** *Thank you for the question.*

The incident occurred some 12 months ago on the 21st January 2025. The fixed penalty notice was paid within the prescribed time period, discharging liability for the offence.

The recent media attention following a Facebook post by a Skegness resident does not alter that fact.

Q15. Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

Please could you update me how discussions are going with LCC about the unsightly rubbish blowing around on Louth bypass. My colleagues in the Independent Group report similar unsightly litter along roadsides too. Why is it so bad and what is the answer to making our district look cleaner and tidier before the start of the tourist season?

- A.** *Roadside litter is more visible at this time of year due to the grass and shrub growth becoming dormant through the back end of autumn, winter and early spring.*

In September 2025, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) conducted extensive shrub and tree management night works, on the Louth by-pass, over 3 nights, uncovering swathes of litter. However, their maintenance operations do not include litter picking, as part of their works.

East Lindsey District Council is the responsible authority for litter removal from the public highway and roadside verges.

The A16 Louth bypass is a particularly high-risk area when it comes to working alongside the carriageway, due to the speed of the road, the narrow verges with encroaching shrubbery, and blind bends combined with steep hills and drops.

We have since contacted Lincolnshire County Council to discuss immediate options to support the service (ELDC Neighbourhood Services) to safely remove the litter from the A16 Louth by-pass, following their maintenance works.

LCC have provided authorisation for the service to conduct lane closure(s), during the day on: 1st February 2026 – from the Horncastle junction to Kenwick top. To remove the litter.

However, LCC have advised that the remainder of the by-pass is too dangerous to authorise day lane closures, solely for litter picking activity. Therefore, we are currently in communication with LCC to reach agreement for the service to join future night highway maintenance works, on the by-pass, to ensure that litter is removed, while LCC conduct their wider maintenance works. So not repeat the current issue with unsightly litter on the by-pass.

Regarding wider litter removal from roadside verges; due to the issue of short daylight hours and poor weather conditions, at this time of year. ELDC Neighbourhood Services begin districtwide annual highway litter picking tasks from late February through to late spring/start of summer, in areas that we have risk assessed as safe to conduct litter removal operations, without the need for lane closure, but with the correct roadside management Health and Safety safeguards, in place.

Q16. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

Following on from the Scrutiny panel 'To review the running of Invest East Lindsey Limited, with a particular focus on Kingfisher Caravan Park' what recommendations of that scrutiny have now been implemented?

- A. Of the 15 supported recommendations, 9 of them have been completed. Two further recommendations are due for completion in February, pending further information requested by Overview. The final 4 recommendations are due for completion in March. All recommendations from scrutiny panels are tracked via the Overview Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker, which is on every Overview agenda for scrutiny by Committee Members.*

Q17. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

The Kingfisher Caravan Park has 726 pitches At June 12th, 2024, the pitch fees per caravan were:

Standard pitch £2905.12 +20% Vat total fee £3486.20. Super pitch £3197.37 +20% Vat total fee £3836.84. Taking average of £3000 per pitch the yield for 726 pitches £2,176,000 or £2,613,600 Vat incl. Occupancy on the site was at around 426 pitches yielding £1,278,000 or £1,533,600 Vat incl. The identified shortfall (additional revenue opportunity) in pitch revenue was around: £1,275.824 or £1,530,988 Vat incl. Taking an average of £3000 per pitch. Revenue from 16 pitches were needed to cover business rates of £48,266.40. What steps have been taken to address the shortfall in revenue opportunity to restore the maximum income generation from pitch fees?

- A. I thank Councillor Simpson for notice of his question; as relevant context to this question I would remind Council that the sole selling agency in respect of the Park is currently granted to Invest East Lindsey Limited; prior to which, it was contracted to a private sector provider.*

Access to pitches on the park is and always has been concierged through the contracted Agent as it is the Agent who sells new and used caravans onto the Park, not the Council; it is however the Council who grant all licences.

A point to really note is that the number of licences granted by the Council over the last six years, whilst the Agency has been held by Invest, exceeds the number of licences granted over the previous six years under the previous Agency, six years which were not affected by Covid, global energy challenges and a national cost of living crisis.

To help our sole Agent at the Park further accelerate our granting of new licences, the Executive is due to review the Parks licence terms and sales criteria in the next quarter.

Q18. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs.

Have all the properties built by or on behalf of Invest East Lindsey been sold?

- A. I thank Councillor Simpson for notification of his question and am pleased to clarify for him that all of the high-quality homes built by the Company at its Chapel St Leonards development scheme have been sold, with the last sale having completed on 12 December 2025.*

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

What projects are Invest East Lindsey currently undertaking?

- A. I thank Councillor Simpson for notification of his question; the Company propose its sole business focus for the period 2026/27 to 2028/29 to be on its caravan sales and hire fleet operations at Kingfisher Caravan Park.*

Q20. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Responders/ contributors to planning consultations are reporting that the Portal is not uploading or taking far too much time to be updated with submissions. What might be issues?

- A. We are not aware of any specific technical issues with the portal, however if people are having difficulties then we need to know about them so we can get them fixed.*

There are several ways in which representations can be made on planning applications, so it would be helpful for the service to hear directly from anyone experiencing issues, in order for us to understand and investigate the specifics.

If District Councillors receive complaints to this effect, please raise them with the Case Officer, or with Andy Booth, and CC me in on that correspondence so that I can follow up wherever necessary.

Q21. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning.

The Local Plan and its development generate interest across the district from various quarters. Can you update Members and the public as to the latest position?

- A. Local Plan and its development are a very important strategic issue for the Council. We are awaiting the revisions to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for guidance on methodology for the revision of the Local Plan. In the meantime, we are working on key pieces of evidence base such as strategic flood risk assessment, Sport and Recreation/Open Space Study, Playing Pitches Strategy, Local Wildlife Site reviews, Conservation Area Appraisals and Design Guidance. Further scoping of the next phase of work is being undertaken and will be informed by the revised Government guidance.*

Q22. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Can you advise Members and the public how Local Government Reform is affecting the progress of Local Plan Development?

- A.** *Similar to the previous question, we are awaiting the revisions to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for guidance on methodology for the revision of the Local Plan, and by the time we have this information from Government, the timetable for LGR will be much clearer.*

It is no secret that the various components of MHCLG responsible for LGR and Local Planning seem to operate without much obvious cooperation. As we know from the experience of the last few years, revising a Local Plan within a stable national policy and political landscape is challenging enough, doing so while the Government changes the entire structure of both Local Government and the Planning system is unlikely make our Local Plan process any easier.

Whether there is enough time left for this Local Planning Authority to achieve a new Local Plan which accords with the Government's brave new world of planning is entirely in the hands of the Government.

Nonetheless, we will continue to work on the evidence base which will be necessary to progress a new plan as outlined in my answer to Question 21, until such time as the national policy position is fixed and we can progress. It is likely that one of the first pieces of work a new Unitary Authority would wish to embark upon is aligning Planning Policies and Plans across its geography, for which the evidence base and policy work which is currently ongoing will be every bit as essential as it is to any Plan which we would wish to write over the next couple of years.

Q23. Councillor Daniel Simpson to Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning.

What updates are there on timeframes for Reports commissioned or required from outside bodies to inform the Local Plan Development being available?

- A.** *As mentioned in previous two responses, we are awaiting guidance on methodology. According to the Government announcements so far, Councils submitting plans under the new system must do so within a 30-month timeline.*

Gateway 1 Approval will set out the work programme for the Local Plans preparation with 30-month process. The deadline for Gateway 1 is April 2027. We anticipate bringing the Gateway 1 process and work programme for approval by the Council later in Autumn this year.

Ends.

