

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 24 February 2015 commencing at 6.30 pm.

**Present:**

Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan (Chairman)  
Councillor Nigel Bowler (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Geoff Wiseman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Stuart Curtis  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Stuart Kinch  
Councillor Angela Lawrence  
Councillor Malcolm Leaning  
Councillor Pat Mewis  
Councillor Sue Rawlins

**In Attendance:**

Manjeet Gill  
Ian Knowles  
Katie Coughlan

Chief Executive  
Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer  
Governance and Civic Officer

**Also Present:**

Councillor Alan Caine  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Chris Day  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Jeff Summers

**Also in Attendance:**

Mr Alan Hardwick – Lincolnshire Police and  
Crime Commissioner  
Inspector Simon Outen – Lincolnshire Police  
Malcolm Burke – Chief Executive

**Apologies:**

No formal apologies received.

**Membership:**

There were no substitutes appointed for the meeting.

## 51 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting, including visiting members and guest speakers.

## 52 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Dobbie declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item of business as a member of Gainsborough Town Council and former Chairman of the Riverside Festival Committee.

Councillor Geoff Wiseman declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item of business as a former Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership.

## 53 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH PUBLIC BODY – LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced himself to the meeting and in opening outlined his role to Members.

The role of the PCCs is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. They are responsible for the totality of policing.

PCCs aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their force area.

PCCs have been elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and the force to account, effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve.

PCCs ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible, and are improving local relationships through building confidence and restoring trust.

They work in partnership across a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

Under the terms of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, PCCs must:

- secure an efficient and effective police for their area;
- appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for running the force, and if necessary dismiss them;
- set the police and crime objectives for their area through a police and crime plan;
- set the force budget and determine the precept;
- contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary; and
- bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, to make sure local priorities are joined up

### Question 1 – Local Issues

Members have a number of local issues of concern, examples include action against dangerous parking (an issue of increasing concern since parking

enforcement moved to the County) and the reduction of funding for PCSOs, could you please comment on these issues and explain to the Committee the best way in which Members should report/these issues and concerns. What mechanisms do you have in place to feedback? How do we work together to find solutions to these issues?

#### Question 2 - Partnership Opportunities

There have been some very successful examples of partnership working including operation pottery and the WLDC Secondment to the PCCs office which is undertaking work with regard to victims. Can the PCC suggest any areas where partnership working could be extended or new areas identified?

#### Question 3 - Restorative Justice

We understand that there is lots of work ongoing within Lincolnshire with regard to restorative justice. Can the PCC please explain what the approach is specifically within West Lindsey and how we can use restorative justice to improve community confidence and reduce the impact of crime, particularly in problematic areas?

#### Question 4 - Budgets

Can the PCC explain how his budget and the policing budget is defined? And what challenges or opportunities do you foresee?

#### Question 5 - Support for Businesses / Farming Communities

We are experiencing a number of issues with theft and repeated targeting of certain businesses on our industrial estates, together with a number of farming related crimes. We recognise that this may be considered an operational policing issue but we feel that it may have an impact on the economic vitality of the area. We would be pleased to hear the PCCs thoughts on this issue and how we can mitigate any potential risks of businesses relocating?

#### Question 6 - Response Times

Whilst recognising policing in a rural area is challenging and with reduced resources, what methods can be implemented to ensure that response times are kept to minimum and to ensure victims needs are met?

#### Question 7 - Increasing Confidence

We hear that residents are reluctant to report crimes and ASB due to perceived lack of action, and we have particular issues within rural communities. How does the PCC feel that community confidence can be improved?

#### Question 8 - Victims

We understand the PCC has greater responsibility to victims. We are keen to understand what more needs to be done with regard to supporting victims and vulnerable people and would like to know how we can support further work in this area? In particular who supports victims of cyber crime and hoax calls for example and how?

The meeting concluded at 8.31 pm

Chairman