

## 1. Introduction

The Council's Constitution Article 7 para 7.6 states that The Challenge and Improvement Committee must report annually to the Council on both its proposed work plan and its work in the preceding year.

## 2. Chairman's Report

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL – CIVIC YEAR 2013-2014

The Challenge and improvement Committee is the successor to Performance Management and Scrutiny Committee.

The Ethos of Challenge and Improvement is Encourage, Improve and if all else fails CHALLENGE!

I believe we share a common ideal of “if it ain't broke, don't fix it”  
“ If it is broke then we are the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry appearing over the brow of the hill –  
**here to help !** “

The committee owes much to Member Forum, where many ideas are spawned, discussed, bounced around and become possibilities that can be dealt with in a formal committee setting. (Though heaven forbid that C&I should become too formal)

The 2013-2014 Civic year has seen us welcome Cllr Nigel Bowler as an additional Vice Chairman, his mathematical & analytical skills beefing up & leading on the committee's scrutiny role.

I would like to thank all members of the committee & members of the working parties for their hard work & enthusiasm throughout this civic year

Cllr Bowler has led on the Elswitha Audit report. Governance & Audit requested to set up a working party to develop a SMART action plan which is now complete and has reported back.

Cllr Bowler & his team are conducting a review of Localism and this is set to report to the Leaders Panel on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

The Progress and Delivery working group have developed a new format for the reports to try and make them more accessible and further work is ongoing.

Cllr Howitt Cowan has been working with the Heritage & Tourism group with a view to relaunching with new terms of reference & Committee status.

Gypsy & Travellers' site allocations are subject to a joint working partnership by WLDC & Central Lincolnshire, the report is anticipated to be complete by mid 2014

Village Hall Broadband (please see detailed report below)

The Village Hall wireless broadband scheme continues apace, we hit several delays due to lack of transmitter & relay masts, in the main this is due to majority of Village Halls being single storey buildings surrounded by trees which block the transmissions. Remedial action is taking place.

Thus far over thirty halls/community buildings are live with fast broadband, each venue will in due course have the advantage of a five metre exterior connection to provide access to Officers, Emergency Services, and the public.

MIP - Mobile Infrastructure Programme

Government have recognised the problems of mobile phone access in rural areas. Myself & Officers have met the Government's contractors Harlequin & Aquiva. They have identified several "not spots" within West Lindsey, they also intimated there are more in adjoining authority areas, which, given mobile phone signals have no respect for boundaries, may will improve our situation. We now have to wait for the contractors to submit plans etc.

In the period since its inception C&I has:

- Deliberated over new ways of working, which includes staff flexibility, increased use of IT and initiatives like hot desking.
- Led on paperless working, for both Members and officers, reducing printing and postage costs..
- Created a working party to investigate renewable energy and created a statement of the Council's aims through The Renewable Energy Task and Finish Group. This initiative links well with the Council's Corporate Priority of "A green district where people want to work, live and visit."
- Assisted and advised on resolving problems at GAPA
- Monitored innumerable reports
- Have monitored improvements in Planning Enforcement.
- Taking a keen interest in improved Broadband, particularly where it can assist economic development and further our paperless ambitions with town and parish councils. This initiative links well with the Council's Corporate Priority of "An accessible and connected district where all have the best opportunities in life to help themselves and others."
- Received updates on new legislation, reforms, changes to benefits and housing regimes
- Instigated a campaign to counter increasing incidents of dog fouling, littering and flytipping

I am also very grateful for the energy and enthusiasm from all our officers, at all levels, who have shown zeal for these new ways of working and the running of the committee.

Looking forward to the coming year, we intend to continue supporting members, committees and the Council and find ways to ensure we are not only efficient and cost effective but more importantly customer friendly.

The Committee will endeavour to take on projects referred to it by the Council's other Committees.

**Alan Caine – Chairman, Challenge and Improvement Committee**  
**APPENDIX - VILLAGE HALL BROADBAND & MOBILE**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME**

**Village Hall Project Summary**

- Free High Speed wireless broadband to community buildings.
- Village Halls first point of contact.
- Zero cost to communities.
- Currently 29 Village Halls connected, 5 listed buildings being scoped, and 3 churches.
- Working closely with the Lincoln Diocese to agree process for church installations.
- Awaiting final design for Riby Church installation, which should set precedent for additional church installations.
- Additional 9 halls awaiting connection after initial installs failed due to line of sight issues. Quickline infrastructure has increased their network to enable further installations.
- 7 Village Halls will never be able to connect to the Wireless due to insurmountable line of sight issues. Alternative premises will be looked at in these instances.

**MIP Update**

- Two National Implementation Plan locations in West Lindsey area: ‘nominals’ LN0161 and LN0171. (shown below)
- The search for LN0161 has been completed by Harlequin and the options identified will now need to be assessed against the various factors that will determine whether a viable location exists, i.e.
  - the extent of coverage provided to the not-spots,
  - a ‘line of sight’ transmission link,
  - power supply,
  - rental levels
  - , build costs, etc.
  - Once this work is complete, Arqiva will be in a position to provide a more detailed update with a view to entering into pre-application consultation with WLDC’s planning department.
- The search for LN0171 has yet to be undertaken, but as government funding for the project is only available until March 2015 any site will need to be identified and planning permissions secured this calendar year.

A request for a further update will be put to Harlequin/Arqiva in a further 3 months time.

Site Map:  
S York

