

Guildhall Gainsborough
Lincolnshire DN21 2NA
Tel: 01427 676676 Fax: 01427 675170

AGENDA

This meeting will be recorded and the video archive published on our website

Prosperous Communities Committee
Tuesday, 16th July, 2019 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber - The Guildhall

Members:

- Councillor Owen Bierley (Chairman)
- Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor John McNeill (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Stephen Bunney
- Councillor Liz Clews
- Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson
- Councillor Christopher Darcel
- Councillor Michael Devine
- Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne
- Councillor Tom Regis
- Councillor Jim Snee
- Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee
- Councillor Robert Waller
- Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn
- Councillor Trevor Young

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Public Participation

Up to 15 minutes are allowed for public participation.
Participants are restricted to 3 minutes each.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a) Prosperous Communities Committee 4 June 2019

To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the (PAGES 4 - 8)
Prosperous Communities Committee held on 4 June 2019.

- b) Concurrent Meeting 11 June 2019**
To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Concurrent meeting held on 11 June 2019. (PAGES 9 - 12)
- 4. Matters Arising Schedule** (PAGES 13 - 14)
Setting out current position of previously agreed actions as at 8 July 2019.
- 5. Members' Declarations of Interest**
Members may make any declarations at this point but may also make them at any time during the course of the meeting.
- 6. Public Reports**
- a) Progress and Delivery Report - Period 1 2019/20** (PAGES 15 - 41)
- b) Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme** (PAGES 42 - 59)
- c) Report to Support the Rural Services Network Proposal for a Fully Funded Government Rural Strategy arising from Motion to Council** (PAGES 60 - 94)
- d) Local Plan Review Consultation Response** (PAGES 95 - 117)
- e) Appointment of Member Champions** (TO FOLLOW)
- f) Workplan** (PAGES 118 - 120)
- 7. Exclusion of Public and Press**
To resolve that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.
- 8. Exempt Reports**
- a) Exempt record of concurrent meeting**
To note the exempt record of the concurrent meeting held on 11 June 2019. (PAGES 121 - 126)

Head of Paid Services
The Guildhall
Gainsborough

Monday, 8 July 2019

Agenda Item 3a

Prosperous Communities Committee- 4 June 2019

Subject to Call-in. Call-in will expire at 5pm on Tuesday 18 June 2019.

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 4 June 2019 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Owen Bierley (Chairman)
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan (Vice-Chairman) and
Councillor John McNeill (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Liz Clews
Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson
Councillor Christopher Darcel
Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne
Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee
Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn

Also Present: Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings

In Attendance:
Mark Sturgess Executive Director of Operations
Katie Coughlan Senior Democratic & Civic Officer

Apologies: Councillor Trevor Young

Membership: No substitutes were appointed for the meeting

1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

This being the first meeting of the new Civic Year the Chairman welcomed all those in attendance.

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- (a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 19 March 2019.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 19 March 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

- (b) Meeting of the Concurrent Prosperous Communities Committee and Corporate Policy and Resources Committee – 28 February 2019.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Concurrent Prosperous Communities Committee and Corporate Policy and Resources be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 22 May 2019.

It was noted that the two green actions related to items which needed adding to the Committee's work plan. A work planning meeting was scheduled for next week and these matters would be addressed at that meeting.

RESOLVED that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in the report be received and noted.

5 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this stage of the meeting.

6 VERBAL UPDATES FROM MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Member champions had been invited to the meeting to briefly address the Committee, setting out the activities they undertook in the role.

Apologies had been received from the Member Champion for Armed Forces, the Member Champion for Transport and the Member Champion for Young People/Skills.

Written updates had been submitted by the Member Champion for Safeguarding/Mental Health and the Member Champion for Neighbourhood Planning and Localism these were shared with the Committee.

The Member Champion for Heritage and Tourism was in attendance and spoke at length to the Committee regarding his role and the activities he undertook.

7 PROGRESS AND DELIVERY REPORT - PERIOD 4 2018/19

Members gave consideration to a report which assessed the performance of the Council's services through agreed performance measures, as at the end of Period 4. Members were asked to review performance and recommend areas where improvements should be made, having regard to any remedial measures already included within the report.

The report summary was structured to highlight those areas that were performing above expectations, and those areas where there was a risk to either performance or delivery.

Section 2 of the Executive Summary included comparison tables showing a summary of performance across the four periods to-date, as well as the direction of travel over the four periods. These were brought to Members' attention.

Areas described as performing well included:

- * Trinity Arts Centre
- * Waste Collection

Those areas described as risks included:

- * Home Choices
- * Local Land Charges
- * Housing

Further information was given on each of the above.

Debate ensued and with regard to the Trinity Arts Centre Members sought assurance that the targets set were stretching. Officers advised that in 2011/12 the Centre had been struggling, however since that time there had been a continuous improvement plan in place and the Centre had improved year on year. The targets had also been reviewed each year and "stretched" accordingly.

Several concurred with this view and spoke of the major changes and improvements which had been realised, praising the new centre manager.

It was also confirmed the Centre was losing less money. Closing the Centre would have cost the authority in the region of £80k and therefore if losses were less than £80k the Centre was in effect in profit.

Officers undertook to provide Members with information detailing the current level of subsidy in respect of the Centre.

In response to comments regarding the Director of Travel table contained within the Executive Summary, the Executive Director of Operations confirmed that the report format would be improved for 2019/20.

Making reference to Markets, some Members questioned the figures stated as too high in light of the fact that often on a Saturday there was no more than three or four stalls.

In response the Executive Director of Operations advised that the figures related to the number of stalls paid for and it could be that a trader pays for a stall but then does not trade. Markets had been in decline for a considerable period and a lot of soul searching had taken place as to how the situation could be reversed. An improvement plan was in place. The Council was working closely with Marshall's Yard to further promote the Markets, the re-location of the Farmers Market was part of this programme. A number of operational changes had also been made to reduce costs and make trading more attractive and easier.

Clarity was sought and provided in respect of the data relating to Council Tax and Business rate collection rates, and it was clarified how more money could be collected whilst the collection rate had fallen. Officers advised that benchmarking data would be included in future reports to allow Members greater ability to make comparisons between this Authority and others.

Arising from questions in respect of enforcement, the Executive Director of Operations undertook to provide Members with further information in order that they could understand what was driving the increase in demand and whether this was service specific or geographically based.

The Executive Director of Operations shared with Members details of a recent successful prosecution. Members were reminded that it was of paramount importance that the Authority used its powers proportionally. On the whole the trend in respect of enforcement was a positive one and this was as a result of extra resources having been allocated to the service.

Finally Members made reference to the Community Outreach post, in respect of leisure development, being vacant and sought information as to when the post would be filled. The Executive Director of Operations advised that he would look into this matter. Outreach leisure development was a key performance measure in the new leisure contract and assurance was offered that this area would be addressed in future leisure contract monitoring reports.

RESOLVED that having critically appraised the performance of the Council's services and key projects through agreed performance measures, and having had regard to the remedial measures suggested in the report, and the information provided in response to Member questions, no further formal action be requested at this stage.

8 WORKPLAN

Members gave consideration to the Committee Work Plan. Reference was again made to the forthcoming work planning meeting which would see the work plan extended.

Some suggestions were made for consideration including: -

- Local Plan Review
- Access Foundation
- RAF Scampton Update

The Chairman paid tribute to the previous Chairman for her excellent stewardship.

RESOLVED that the workplan as set out in the report be received and noted.

9 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

10 EXEMPT RECORD OF CONCURRENT MEETING

The exempt record of the concurrent meeting held on 28 February 2019 was noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.17 pm.

Chairman

Agenda Item 3b

Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committees- 11 June 2019

Subject to Call-in. Call-in will expire at 5pm on 25 June 2019

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committees held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 11 June 2019 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Giles McNeill (Chairman)
Councillor Owen Bierley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Liz Clews (from item 4)
Councillor David Cotton
Councillor Christopher Darcel
Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Stuart Kinch
Councillor John McNeill
Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne
Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee
Councillor Robert Waller
Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn
Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance:

Councillor Lesley Rollings
Eve Fawcett-Moralee
Ian Knowles

Alan Robinson
Elaine Poon
James Welbourn

Executive Director of Economic and Commercial Growth
Executive Director of Resources, Interim Head of Paid Service and S151 Officer
Strategic Lead Governance and People/Monitoring Officer
Local Development Order and Major Projects Officer
Democratic and Civic Officer

Apologies:

Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson
Councillor Tom Regis

Membership:

Councillor Giles McNeill substituted for Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Stuart Kinch substituted for Councillor Tracey Coulson

1 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Cotton declared an interest in item 4, Development Partner, Growth Programme and Funding Strategy as his partner worked at one of the parties involved in negotiations and could stand to benefit from those negotiations.

Following his statement he left the Chamber and took no part in the debate or the vote.

Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan declared an interest in item 4, Development Partner, Growth Programme and Funding Strategy as the Corringham Road junction was in his Ward. This did not preclude him from taking part in, or voting on that item.

2 PROCEDURE

The Democratic and Civic Officer outlined the procedure for Members, reminding them of the separate vote for Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Members.

3 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

4 DEVELOPMENT PARTNER, GROWTH PROGRAMME & FUNDING STRATEGY

Members considered a progress report on the overall growth and regeneration of Gainsborough, alongside:

- The delivery and funding strategy for the proposed leisure scheme within Gainsborough town centre;
- The delivery and funding strategy for a proposed housing scheme, public realm and riverside walkway at Bowling Green Road;
- The delivery of a new junction arrangement at the interchange between Corringham Road and the A631, to improve road safety and to unlock further growth of Gainsborough, including at the Northern Sustainable Urban Extension.

Debate between Members and officers then took place; this led to further information being provided by officers.

As the recommendations required approval from both Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committees, recorded votes were taken separately, with Prosperous Communities being first, following the resolutions being moved and seconded by both Committees. The resolutions were taken en bloc (by each committee in turn):

Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committees- 11 June 2019

Subject to Call-in. Call-in will expire at 5pm on 25 June 2019

Following an alphabetical roll call, with a total of 15 votes cast in favour and 0 against it was **RESOLVED** by Prosperous Communities Committee to:

1. Note the progress which had been made in securing funds, market interest and a delivery strategy for the redevelopment of the identified sites and key infrastructure improvements in Gainsborough as part of the overall growth and regeneration programme;
2. Approve the delivery strategy for the proposed leisure scheme in Gainsborough Town Centre as outlined in the report; and;
3. Approve the delivery strategy for a proposed housing scheme, public realm and riverside walkway at Bowling Green Road, Gainsborough as outlined in the report.

Following an alphabetical roll call, with a total of 12 votes cast in favour and 0 against it was **RESOLVED** by Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to:

4. Approve Option 1 as the preferred funding strategy to deliver the leisure scheme in Gainsborough Town Centre, including the approval of a Grant Funding agreement to the operator (delegated to the Executive Directors of Resources and Growth in consultation with both the Chairman of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and the Chairman of Prosperous Communities Committees) to be enacted by October 2019;
5. Approve Option 2 as the alternative funding strategy to deliver the leisure scheme in Gainsborough Town Centre in the event that Option 1 cannot be delivered (delegating the finalisation of the financial model to the Executive Directors of Resources and Growth in consultation with both the Chairman of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and the Chairman of Prosperous Communities Committees);
6. Approve the funding strategy for a proposed housing scheme, public realm and riverside walkway at Bowling Green Road, Gainsborough as outlined in Section 4, including the sale of the Council's freehold interest in this site and a Grant Funding Agreement to ACIS and partners (delegating the finalisation of the disposal of the land and Grant Funding Agreement to the Executive Directors of Resources and Growth in consultation with both the Chairman of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and the Chairman of Prosperous Communities Committees);
7. Approve expenditure of up to £1m of the approved Capital Budget for Corringham Road and the A631 Junction in Gainsborough to improve road safety and to unlock the further growth of the town including via the Northern Sustainable Urban Extension as outlined in Section 5 (with £0.5m from the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) grant and £0.5m from private sector contribution via Section 106 funding (if planning permission is granted) (delegating the finalisation of the Grant Funding Agreement to the Executive Directors of Resources and Growth in consultation with both the Chairman of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and the Chairman of Prosperous Communities Committees);

Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources
Committees- 11 June 2019

Subject to Call-in. Call-in will expire at 5pm on 25 June 2019

8. Approve that the Council underwrites the £0.5m private sector contribution due to Lincolnshire County Council should the trigger date of March 2021 not be achieved;

9. Agree that all delegations granted by this report will be subject to a maximum 10% tolerance to allow for negotiations.

The meeting concluded at 7.32 pm.

Chairman

Prosperous Communities Matters Arising Schedule

Purpose:

To consider progress on the matters arising from previous Prosperous Communities Committee meetings.

Recommendation: That members note progress on the matters arising and request corrective action if necessary.

Matters arising Schedule

Meeting	Prosperous Communities Committee				
Status	Title	Action Required	Comments	Due Date	Allocated To
Black	Social Lettings Agency	Extract from mins of mtg 29/1/19 Officers be authorised to investigate the principle of establishing a Social Lettings agency in order to bring back a viable proposal to present to the Prosperous Communities Committee in June/July 2019.	item has been added to the october agenda	31/07/19	Diane Krochmal
Black	Trinity Arts Centre Subsidy	Extract from min of Meeting 04/06/19: Officers undertook to provide Members with information detailing the current level of subsidy in respect of the Centre.	Information provided by e-mail to all cttee members 24 June 2019	30/06/19	Karen Whitfield
Black	Enforcement Demand	Extract of mins from meeting 04/04/19: Arising from questions in respect of enforcement, the Executive Director of Operations undertook to provide Members with further information in order that they could understand what was driving the increase in demand and whether this was service specific or geographically based.	Details sent out 25 June 2019	30/06/19	Andy Gray

Black	Leisure Development - Community Outreach Post	Extract from mins of meeting 04/06/19: Finally Members made reference to the Community Outreach post, in respect of leisure development, being vacant and sought information as to when the post would be filled. The Executive Director of Operations advised that he would look into this matter. Outreach leisure development was a key performance measure in the new leisure contract and assurance was offered that this area would be addressed in future leisure contract monitoring reports.	For information to ensure you pick this up in your monitoring report and I dont know if you can offer any information re the outreach position. Information regarding the outreach post was circulated to all Members of the Committee by e-mail on 24 June 2019	30/06/19	Karen Whitfield
Green	Health Work	extract from mins 29/1 (b) an update report on progress of health related work be submitted to the Committee in one year's time;	please add this to the reports system for Jan 2020	31/07/19	Diane Krochmal



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

16 July 2019

Subject: Progress and Delivery Report - Period 1 2019/20

Report by:

Executive Director of Operations

Contact Officer:

Mark Sturgess
Executive Director of Operations

mark.sturgess@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To consider the Progress and Delivery report for period one 2019-20.

RECOMMENDATION(S): To assess the performance of the Council's services through agreed performance measures and indicate areas where improvements should be made, having regard to the remedial measures set out in the report.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:
There are no legal implications as a result of this report

Financial : FIN/41/20/SL
There are no financial implications as a result of this report

Staffing :
There are no staffing implications as a result of this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

N/A

Risk Assessment :

N/A

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

N/A

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1.0 Introduction

Councillors have received Progress and Delivery (P&D) reports since 2012. These performance reports provide information on how the Council is performing using a balanced scorecard approach that measures performance of Council services based on the following perspectives:

- Customer
- Financial
- Process
- Quality




The purpose of the P&D reporting cycle is to provide Councillors on policy committees the opportunity to discuss service based performance with officers and for Councillors to be given assurance that proposed measures to remedy consistently below target performance are sufficient enough to allow for required improvements. Once the report has been received by each policy committee, the Council's Challenge and Improve Committee is given the opportunity to scrutinise any challenges made, thus feeding in to a cycle of continuous improvement of the Council's performance management processes.

As per the Council's Constitution, this report provides information on an exception basis, i.e. those performance measures that are performing above or below agreed targets for at least two consecutive periods. Where performance is below expected standards, Team Managers are required to provide explanatory commentary, including what remedial action is/will be taken to improve performance to the expected level. Performance measures that are performing within agreed tolerance levels are not included in this report, though all P&D performance measures continue to be monitored corporately, facilitated by the Performance and Programmes Team.




Performance measures for 2019/20 were agreed by a member steering group in February 2019.

How to use this report

Performance is assessed using the RAG traffic light system as follows:

	Performance is below agreed tolerance levels
	Performance is within agreed tolerance levels
	Performance is better than agreed tolerance levels.

The municipal year is divided into four periods in alignment with the Council's committee schedule. Period one covers April and May, period two runs from June – September, period three covers October – December and period four runs from January – March. As well as current performance, information for the preceding three periods is included in the report on a rolling basis to provide context and to allow for comparison. In addition, direction of travel is also included which compares performance for the current period to the same period the previous year, i.e. period one 2019/20 is compared to period one 2018/19.

	Performance has improved
	Performance has remained static
	Performance has declined

Contents

Executive Summary	2
Measures where performance is outside agreed tolerance levels for at least two consecutive periods	4
Corporate Health.....	8
Appendix A: Service Exceptions	10
Asset and Facilities Management	10
Benefits	11
Building Control.....	11
Contracts Management and Procurement	12
Council Tax and NNDR.....	12
Democratic Services	13
Development Management.....	14
Enforcement and Community Safety	14
Garden Waste Collection	15
Healthy District.....	16
Home Choices	17
Housing.....	18
ICT	19
Licensing.....	19
Local Land Charges.....	20
Regulatory Services	21
Street Cleansing	21
Systems Development	22
Town Centre Management.....	22
Trinity Arts Centre	23
Waste Collection	23

Executive Summary

1.0 Overall Summary of Performance

Table one shows a summary of service performance for period one (April-May) 2019/20 which also includes the preceding three periods for comparison. A total of 88.6% of the Council's key performance indicators are either meeting or exceeding target compared to 11.4% that are below target. Further information relating to those areas that have performed above target can be found in the 'commentary' column of [Table 2](#) (measures where performance is outside agreed tolerance for two periods or more), and in the associated tables in [Appendix A](#).

57.7% of all performance measures are outside agreed tolerance levels (red or green) for the period. Of these, 50% have been outside agreed tolerances for two periods or more. Of these indicators:

- 60.7% of indicators have been above target for two periods or more (green), equating to 17 indicators.
- 21.4% have been below target for two periods or more (red), equating to 6 indicators.
- The remaining 17.9% (or 5 indicators) have been outside tolerance for at least two periods but the position is mixed, i.e. performance has moved from above to below target (green to red); or from below to above target (red to green).

RAG	2018/19			2019/20
	Period Two	Period Three	Period Four	Period One
Exceeding target	43%	32%	36%	48%
Meeting target	30%	45.5%	48%	40.6%
Below target	23%	21.5%	16%	11.4%
Missing information	4%	1%	0%	0%

Table 1: Overall summary of performance

2.0 Identified Improvement Actions

[Table 2](#) identifies measures where performance is outside agreed tolerance (red or green) for two periods or more. Where remedial action has been identified to ensure underperformance is rectified, this has been included in the 'commentary' column.

Those measures where additional improvement action has been requested by Management Team have been highlighted below, Members will be kept informed of progress on a rolling basis through Progress and Delivery reporting.

[Home Choices](#)

A performance workshop was held on 10th April 2019 and the following improvement actions were identified.

Action(s)	Who	When	Updates
Temporary accommodation usage			
Understand funding opportunities from the burden budget for additional referrals	Home Choices Team Manager	Period 2 (2019/20)	
Bed and breakfast nights			
Identify escalation process to raise complex cases as soon as possible	Home Choices Team Manager / Executive Director of Resources	Period 2 (2019/20)	
Need to ensure potential long-term customers and reference in performance reports	Home Choices Team Manager	Ongoing	
Action(s)	Who	When	Updates
Average length of stay in temporary accommodation			
Need to understand maximum and minimum time in performance levels	Home Choices Team Manager /	Period 2 (2019/20)	

	Senior Performance Officer		
Make linkages with Enforcement Manager in regards to customers being made homeless due to arrange closure of housing as a result of sub-standard conditions	Home Choices Team Manager	Period 2 (2019/20)	
Homelessness Prevention			
Need to explore Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) usage at WLDC; how are the payments used? What is the process and identify improvements	Home Choices Team Manager / Benefits Team Manager	Period 2	
Safeguarding			
Need to ensure measure sets are reflective of compliance measures	Home Choices Manager / Senior Performance Officer	Period 2	
Monitor performance at service level with annual report to Prosperous Communities Committee	Home Choices Team Manager	TBC	
Wellbeing			
Monitor performance at a service level with six monthly report to Prosperous Communities Committee	Home Choices Team Manager	TBC	
All Performance Measures			
Implementation of team training and development plan	Home Choices Team Manager	Ongoing	
Instigate benchmarking of measures	Home Choices Team Manager / Senior Performance Officer	Period 2 (2019/20)	The Senior Performance Officer is working with other local authorities to enable benchmarking to take place. A meeting is scheduled with South Kesteven DC in July 2019 specifically to focus on homelessness benchmarking.
Team Specific			
Development of operational risk register	Performance & Programmes Team Manager	Period 2 (2019/20)	

Measures where performance is outside agreed tolerance levels for at least two consecutive periods

Service	Measure	Preceding three periods			Current period		
		P2 (2018/19)	P3 (2018/19)	P4 (2018/19)	Current Target	P1 (2019/20)	Commentary
Asset and Facilities Management	Rental income – car parks	£67,616	£44,840	£45,620	£308,300	£120,588	The bulk of income for this period comes from car parking permits; sales of which always peak during period one. The annual target of £308,300 was set in line with the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which assumes a buyer would be found for the former Lidl site. However, this hasn't been the case meaning it is unlikely the target will be met by year-end unless a buyer is found during period two or three.
	Rental income – received assets	£191,821	£130,033	£112,274	£671,700	£125,405	The target set is for the year as a whole. Current performance suggests this is on track to be met.
	Rental portfolio voids	8%	9%	8%	12%	7%	No issues noted.
Benefits	End to end processing times	4.5 days	5.2 days	3.7 days	5 days	3.9 days	Fewer new claims received as claimants are being transferred to UC meaning there are fewer transactions to process.
	Number of claims older than 30 days	20.0	14.3	9.0	20	15.5	There are fewer new claims received due to claimants transferring to UC. This makes it easier to manage the number of older claims.
Building Control	Income received	£78,632	£49,804	£51,365	£44,600	£55,025	There has been an unusually buoyant market and a greater focus by the service on marketing our core business with almost double the amount of quotations sent in April and May compared to the preceding two months. This has generated more applications.
Council Tax and NNDR	Number of properties on the tax base per FTE	5,528	5,798	5,737	5,000	5,384	369 fewer properties compared to last year due to a member of staff being on long-term sick leave and three staff members on maternity leave. All vacancies have been filled and staff training is ongoing which will lead to an improvement in performance during period 2. Performance remains above target, despite staffing issues.
	NNDR collection rate	58.39%	82.77%	98.63%	95.11%	25.81%	The target is set for the year as a whole and current performance suggests this will be met or exceeded. A total of £4,458,385.87 has been collected during period 1. The Inland Revenue paid its instalment earlier than usual (in April) which equates to 1.74% of the overall debt. The police headquarters have also paid instalments earlier than usual, equating to 0.4% of the total debt. Early payments are a one-off situation that may not be repeated next financial year.

		Preceding three periods			Current period		
Service	Measure	P2 (2018/19)	P3 (2018/19)	P4 (2018/19)	Current Target	P1 (2019/20)	Commentary
Democratic Services	% of FOIs turned around in the statutory time limit	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	There have been 122 FOIs received during the period. The increase in requests can be linked to the implementation of GDPR which has increased people's awareness of their rights to access information. Information continues to be made publicly available where possible in an effort to reduce the number of requests received.
Development Management	% of major planning applications determined on time	100%	100%	100%	90%	100%	14 major applications were determined within statutory timescales during the period.
	% of non-major planning applications determined on time	99%	99%	99%	80%	99%	Of the 148 non-major applications during the period, 147 were determined on time.
	Planning appeals allowed as a % of all appeals	2%	2%	1%	9%	2%	During the period, 3 appeals were allowed and 2 were dismissed
Enforcement and Community Safety	% of licensed properties in Gainsborough south-west ward	77%	82%	82%	90%	95%	95% of properties in the south-west ward are now licensed which equates to 626 properties. Licensing of properties is ongoing where new landlords enter the market. There will always be a certain percentage of properties that are unlicensed as we are in an ongoing process of identifying new, unlicensed properties.
Healthy District	Customer satisfaction with West Lindsey leisure facilities	95%	95%	95%	80%	94%	Satisfaction levels remain consistently high and will continue to be monitored.
	Volume of people using the West Lindsey leisure centre	96,674	65,632	92,303	52,500	57,131	Usage has increased by 11.5% compared to the same period last year.
Home Choices	Number of households in temporary accommodation	23	23	34	12	20	High risk offenders and people with complex needs have been refused assistance from a number of move on projects. A new procedure has been established to ensure that exit plans are agreed before the customer moves in. Regular meetings are held with support staff and the customer with clear

		Preceding three periods			Current period		
Service	Measure	P2 (2018/19)	P3 (2018/19)	P4 (2018/19)	Current Target	P1 (2019/20)	Commentary
							guidelines set out from the start about what is acceptable behaviour and what is expected of the customer in finding future accommodation.
	Number of cases prevented from becoming homeless within the statutory target	80	57	58	60	48	Performance continues to decline. Explanation as above
	Number of nights spent in B&B accommodation	123	77	148	0	59	Performance has improved by 30 days compared to the same period last year. Three families were unable to be accommodated on police advice due to violence related issues. Performance has improved by 30 days compared to the same period last year but remains below target.
Housing	Average cost of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)	£7,259	£7,094	£6,214	£7,500	£3,859	The average cost of a DFG has reduced by 60.9% compared to the same period last year. It is difficult to predict performance across periods as it depends on the type of work carried out.
Page 23	Average number of days from DFG referral to completion	124	132	133	120	199	The increase in days from referral to completion is due to long-term staffing absence. The staffing absence has now been resolved and performance is expected to come back on target during period 2.
Licensing	Income received	£51,804	£28,650	£31,278	£118,700	£22,476	The target is for the year as a whole and performance is measured against direction of travel. Income is up by 13.7% compared to the same period last year. This is a result of an increase in licensing applications received, in addition to the increase in animal welfare fees as a result of recent changes in legislation.
	% of licensing applications processed in the target time	96%	86%	86%	96%	99%	Performance has improved significantly from the last quarter of 2018/19.
	Number of licensing applications received	299	282	232	130	178	The number of applications has increased.

Service	Measure	Preceding three periods			Current period		
		P2 (2018/19)	P3 (2018/19)	P4 (2018/19)	Current Target	P1 (2019/20)	Commentary
Local Land Charges	Number of searches received	440	924	633	386	158	The number of searches received is impacted by the housing market and searches are lower than expected across the industry.
	Market Share	64%	65%	59%	65%	68%	Although the number of searches is lower than expected, the Council's market share has improved, showing confidence in the service provided by the Council.
Town Centre Management	Average number of paid for market stall - Tuesday	15.7	12.6	13	14	9.5	During the period, a total of 74 stalls have been paid for, compared to 129 for the same period last year, this represents a 43% decrease. This is due to traders giving notice, adverse weather and long-term sickness of traders. In house operational changes have been implemented which should lead to efficiency savings being made by the end of 2019/20. An interim arrangement is in place with Marshall's Yard in the meantime.
Trinity Arts Centre	Audience figures	6,414	5,747	4,548	2,400	3,136	Audience figures have increased by 2.89% compared to the same period last year
Waste Collection	Missed black and blue bin collections	318	255	198	95	105	There has been a high staff turnover during the period (leavers and new starters) which has affected performance. Missed bins collected within the service level agreement of 5 days remains within acceptable tolerance at 93% for the period. Regular crews will be kept together in order to reduce the number of missed collections. Further training is being provided for office staff following an office staff restructure.

Table 2: Measures performing outside agreed tolerance levels for at least two consecutive periods

Corporate Health

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Budget forecast outturn	0.31%	0%	2.35%	↑	Performance remains above target	Continue to monitor
Time taken to pay invoices	11.4 days	14 days	9 days	↑	The time taken to process invoices has improved by 21% compared to the same period last year	Continue to monitor
% of debtors that are late by 30 days or more	N/A	NTS	6.69%	N/A	This is a new measure for 2019/20.	2019/20 is a baseline year and a target will be set in 2020/21.
Average Customer satisfaction rating out of 5*	N/A	3.5*	3.8*	N/A	This is a new measure for 2019/20. Satisfaction is rated out five stars with a target of 3.5 stars which equates to a 75% satisfaction rating. This is based on baseline data gathered during 2018/19.	Further work has been carried out to enable additional services to collect customer satisfaction and these will be included in the results for period 2.
Complaints received	32	NTS	44	↓	Complaints have increased by 37.5% compared to the same period last year. The complaints received can be categorised into the following areas: quality of service (24), decision made (6), staff behaviour (4), manner of staff communication (1), incorrect information provided (3), lack of communication or response to the customer (1) and missed bins (2). The remaining 3 complaints were out of scope.	Detailed analysis will be undertaken to identify any trends. There has been an increase in complaints regarding missed garden waste collections. Customer Services is working with the garden waste service to ensure customer expectations are met.
% of complaints where the Council is at fault	44%	45%	46%	↓	Analysis of the complaints received during the period will be completed by the end of July with the findings to be discussed at Quality Monitoring Board where recommendations for improvement will be made.	The planned service redesigns will identify where improvements can be made to improve the customer's experience.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Average number of days to resolve a complaint	9 days	21 days	5.6 days	↑	The time taken to resolve complaints has improved by 3.4 days compared to the same period last year, despite the increased number of complaints.	Continue to monitor
Digital demand	44%	NTS	33%	↓	Demand has fallen compared to the same period last year as a result of the early launch of green waste subscriptions which resulted in a peak in digital demand in January.	Digital demand for services varies according to customer requirement and how services are delivered to customers. The same pattern is expected to emerge for 2020/21 garden waste subscriptions; therefore the expected peak will be captured in performance figures for period 4.
% of calls answered within 21 seconds	82%	80%	81%	↓	The volume of calls to the Council has decreased which is part of a wider trend for a reduction in customer contact across all channels	Continue to roll out the Customer First programme and embed the customer standards
Staff absenteeism	0.41 days	0.6 days	0.46 days	↓	Sickness absence remains consistently above target.	Continue to monitor
Server and system availability	100%	98%	100%	→	Performance remains consistently above target.	Continue to monitor
Number of data breaches resulting in action by the ICO	N/A	0	0	N/A	New measure for 19/20. There have been 20 data breaches reported during the period, all of which have been dealt with internally and did not require escalation to the ICO.	The majority of data breaches relate to user error. This is being mitigated through improved GDPR training and consistently reinforcing good practice to all staff.

Table 3: Corporate Health measures

Appendix A: Service Exceptions

Asset and Facilities Management

Despite an increase in rental income compared to the same period last year, it is not expected that the target for the year as a whole is likely to be met. As agreed by fees and charges, parking permits effectively doubled in price, accounting for the increased income during period one, however, the majority of permits have been purchased now and it is not expected that this increased income will continue. Although the income target has been reduced to account for the lack of income from the former Lidl site, it is still a stretch target and, unless the former Lidl site is occupied, it is not anticipated that the target will be met by year end.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Planned Maintenance	65%	70%	18%	↓	The planned works programme and general servicing contracts have not yet commenced. Responsive maintenance for the period stands at 82%	Most planned works are performed and paid for in the second half of the year. Condition surveys are due to be carried out in September 2019. Performance is therefore expected to meet the year-end target.
Rental income – car parks	£72,773	£308,300	£120,588	↑	The bulk of income for this period comes from car parking permits; sales of which always peak during period one. The annual target of £308,300 was set in line with the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which assumes a buyer would be found for the former Lidl site. However, a buyer hasn't yet been identified.	Unless a buyer is found for the former Lidl site during period two or three, it is unlikely that the year-end target of £308,300 will be met.
Rental income – received assets	£123,542	£671,700	£125,405	↑	The target set is for the year as a whole. Current performance suggests this is on track to be met.	The circa £2,000 increase in income compared to the same period last year is a result of Retail Price Index rent reviews.
Rental portfolio voids	2%	12%	7%	↓	The number of voids has increased by 1 additional property (30 Church Street) but both this, and the former Lidl premises have offers currently out. There has also been interest received from 2 parties in relation to space at The Plough Business Hub.	Timelines are dependent on how the lease negotiations progress.

Table 4: Asset and Facilities Management performance exceptions

Benefits

April and May have been busy months for claim reviews but the team has seen a steady fall in New Claims received as most working age claimants now claim Universal Credit (UC) for help with housing costs. There has been a high demand for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs), with many applications received from people wishing to move house or finding that budgeting is a problem following the transfer to UC. End to end processing times for new claims and changes in circumstance have fluctuated during the period and this will continue to be monitored.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
End to end processing times	5.6 days	5 days	3.9 days	↑	Fewer new claims received as claimants are being transferred to UC meaning there are fewer transactions to process.	Continue to monitor
Number of claims older than 30 days	22	20	15.5	↑	There are fewer new claims received due to claimants transferring to UC. This makes it easier to manage the number of older claims.	Continue to monitor. The length of claims is affected by the customer's circumstances which are sometimes beyond the Council's control.

Table 5: Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Support performance exceptions

Building Control

The service has seen a higher than expected number of applications during the period and this is reflected in the income figures, particularly in May. This is a result of the service placing a higher emphasis on core business. At 71%, market share is down compared to the same period last year (82%) although performance is still within agreed parameters. Of the applications received during the period, 72 were building notices, 35 were full plan applications, 2 were partnership applications, 10 were partnership applications from other authorities and 2 were regularisation applications. A member of staff has left during this period and the recruitment process is underway to fill this vacancy with a new officer expected to be in post by October 2019, pending a successful recruitment process.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Income received	£40,453	£44,600	£55,025	↑	There has been an unusually buoyant market and a greater focus by the service on marketing our core business with almost double the amount of quotations sent in April and May compared to the preceding two months. This has generated more applications.	Continue to monitor

Table 6: Building Control performance exceptions

Contracts Management and Procurement

It has been a busy start to the year, with a number of procurement exercises run to obtain support for the delivery of the Council's key capital projects. Across all work areas, nine contracts have been awarded in the period, of which three were awarded to local suppliers.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
% of contracts awarded to local suppliers	22%	20%	33%	↑	Local contractors were awarded three out of a possible nine contracts during the period.	Continue to monitor.

Table 7: Contracts Management and Procurement performance exceptions

Council Tax and NNDR

A total of 45,206 Council Tax bills were issued in March with 2,185 reminders issued during May in respect of unpaid April instalments. The new long-term empty property premium was implemented in April, including a policy for exceptions to be claimed providing certain criteria were fulfilled. Five such exception applications have been received so far, all of which have been awarded in line with the policy.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
No of properties on the Council Tax base per FTE	5,753	5,000	5,384	↓	369 fewer properties compared to last year due to a member of staff being on long-term sick leave and three staff members on maternity leave.	All vacancies have been filled and staff training is ongoing which will lead to an improvement in performance during period 2.
Council Tax in year collection rate	20.01%	98.08%	19.88%	↓	The target set is for the year as a whole and current performance suggests this target will be met or exceeded. A total of £12,882,516.10 has been collected during period 1. A total of 8,957 customers are paying over 12 instalments and there has been an increase in collectible debit from 2018/19 of £3.6 million.	The team rigorously pursue non-payment of Council Tax; with reminders being issued every month and summonses issued most months. Recovery action is taken in accordance with legislation.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
NNDR in year collection rate	25.70%	95.11%	25.81%	↑	The target is set for the year as a whole and current performance suggests this will be met or exceeded. A total of £4,458,385.87 has been collected during period 1. The Inland Revenue and Police headquarters have paid their instalments earlier than usual which equates to 2.14% of the total debt.	Early payments are a one-off situation that may not be repeated next financial year. NNDR continues to be monitored monthly, with regular monitoring meetings held with City Of Lincoln Council.
Cost of service per property tax base	£6.85	£9.10	£10.15	↓	The costs for May have not yet been posted.	Ensure costs are posted before the close of period going forward.

Table 8: Council Tax and NNDR performance exceptions

Democratic Services

Democratic Services have been busy following the local elections in May. New and returning Members have been inducted into the Council, with 19 training sessions and familiarisation events held during the period. The roll out of new equipment for Members has been positive with good feedback so far. The Council continues to receive increased volumes of Freedom of Information Requests (122 for period 1 compared to 120 in the same period last year) but has maintained its 100% response rate within statutory timescales. The increase in FOI requests can be linked to the implementation of GDPR which has increased awareness of people's rights to access information. FOI requests have been received across 39 different areas with the most frequent requests relating to Business Rates, Planning, Housing and ICT.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
% of FOIs turned around in the statutory time limit	100%	99%	100%	→	There have been 122 FOIs received during the period. The increase in requests can be linked to the implementation of GDPR which has increased awareness of people's rights to access information.	Information continues to be made publicly available where possible in an effort to reduce the number of requests received.
Number of FOI challenges that are subsequently upheld	0	5	0	→	No challenges upheld during the period	Continue to monitor

Table 9: Democratic Services performance exceptions

Development Management

The number of applications received during the period was above target, with a higher number of non-major planning applications received. This is reflected in the fee income for the period of £104,310 which is on track to meet the year-end target although income is £10,570 lower than the same period last year. Performance remains high for processing all types of planning applications and the quality of decisions made is reflected in the fact that only 2% of all appeals were allowed.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Received planning applications	259	230	278	↑	Applications for the period can be broken down as 4 majors, 61 minors, 85 other and 128 additional.	Continue to monitor
% of major planning applications determined on time	92%	90%	100%	↑	There were 14 major applications determined within statutory timescales during the period.	Continue to monitor
% of non-major applications determined on time	100%	80%	99%	↓	Of the 148 non-major applications during the period, 147 were determined on time.	Continue to monitor
Appeals allowed as a % of all appeals	0%	9%	2%	↓	During the period, 3 appeals were allowed and 2 were dismissed	Continue to monitor

Table 10: Development Management performance exceptions

Enforcement and Community Safety

Revised measures are in place for housing and planning enforcement that provide a more accurate reflection of performance across all aspects of the service's activity. It should be noted that significant progress has been made in regards to performance measures for planning and housing enforcement and officers should be commended for their work not only in regards to day to day cases, but also for the successful prosecution achieved during the period. There has been a significant improvement in the number of housing enforcement cases closed with 81% of cases being closed within six months. In May, 86% of cases were provided with an initial response within 20 working days. The time taken to resolve enforcement requests has reduced by 31 days which is a significant improvement and further demonstration of progress within the service. The licensing of properties in the South-West Ward continues to progress and it is estimated that 95% of eligible properties are now licensed, bringing the total to 626. Alongside this, compliance continues to be achieved for community safety notices and resolution of community based issues. There have been 12 formal notices served during the period alongside prosecutions being progressed and civil penalties being issued.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Average time before a community safety case is closed	10.5 days	15 days	8 days	↑	Work relating to community safety continues to achieve compliance with notices and resolution of community based issues.	Continue to monitor.
Number of community safety cases closed following compliance with Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN)	N/A	40	50	N/A	The average time taken to close a community safety case has reduced by 13.5% to 8 days. This is due to the reduction in longstanding cases and a now consistent and ongoing caseload for early presentation of waste offences in the south-west ward which, in most cases, are able to be closed within a week.	Continue to monitor.
% of licensed properties within the South-West ward	73%	90%	95%	↑	95% of properties in the south-west ward are now licensed which equates to 626 properties.	Licensing of properties is ongoing where new landlords enter the market. There will always be a certain percentage of properties that are unlicensed as we are in an ongoing process of identifying new, unlicensed properties.
% of housing enforcement cases closed within 6 months	N/A	75%	81%	N/A	There have been 12 formal notices issued during the period alongside prosecutions being progressed and civil penalties being issued.	Continue to monitor.

Table 11: Enforcement performance exceptions

Garden Waste Collection

The online subscription form was opened to customers in January, which was earlier than the previous year and ensured that customers were provided with as many opportunities to subscribe to the service as possible. A new system to allow repeat customers to renew their subscriptions online was rolled out this year. Some customers did report issues accessing the online form though these were satisfactorily resolved by Customer Services and frequent comms messages were put out to notify customers and keep them informed during periods of high demand. Negotiations are currently ongoing with the Council's payment provider to ensure these issues are resolved going forward. Problems with the production of bin subscription stickers, late subscribers to the scheme and new crews becoming acquainted with the collection rounds resulted in missed bins at a level anticipated by the service and plans are in place for next year to ensure that stickers are sent earlier in the year to new customers during year three to prevent repeat problems. Changes have been made to the round sheet to highlight new subscriptions/ renewals to assist crews on their rounds which will result in a reduction of missed collections.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Income generated by the Garden Waste service	£850,199	£780,615	£882,385	↑	A successful comms campaign during the period resulted in an increase in customers.	Some residents are presenting their bins without a subscription. The crews are placing hangers on these bins with instructions for customers of how to renew their subscription.
Subscription take up	N/A	58%	62%	N/A	This is a new measure for 2019/20. A total of 2,530 bins were sold during the period.	The service continues to be marketed to residents with a clear comms plan in place.
% of garden waste collections that were missed	N/A	0.2%	0.14%	N/A	This is a new measure for 2019/20. The volume of missed bins has reduced by 21 bins compared to last year. Collections have been missed as a result of problems with the production of bin subscription stickers, late subscribers to the scheme and new crews becoming acquainted with rounds.	Stickers will be sent earlier next year to prevent repeat problems. Changes have been made to the round sheet to highlight new subscriptions/renewals which will better assist crews on their rounds.

Table 12: Garden Waste performance exceptions

Customer satisfaction with the newly refurbished leisure centre remains high and issues surrounding the wet-side showers have been resolved, resulting in positive customer feedback. There have been 116 outreach users during the period and a total of 70 users referred by GPs through participation in the Healthy Lifestyle scheme. The Active Communities Manager position is currently vacant which has caused a delay in some activity. The position is currently being advertised and it is hoped that the vacancy will be filled during period 2. Interim arrangements are in place to cover this work in the meantime and the vacancy is not expected to have an impact on performance.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Customer satisfaction with West Lindsey leisure facilities	95%	75%	94%	↓	Customer satisfaction remains high and issues surrounding the wet-side showers have now been resolved.	Continue to monitor
Volume of people using the West Lindsey leisure centre	51,240	57,131	52,500	↑	Usage figures have increased by 11.5% compared to the same period last year.	Continue to monitor

Table 13: Healthy District performance exceptions

Home Choices

A performance workshop was held for this service on 10th April 2019 and the outcome of this is included for Member's attention in the [executive summary](#) of this report. A total of 12 people from the Housing Register have been supported with finding accommodation during the period. This is a new measure introduced for 2019/20 to show the proactive work being undertaken by the service to assist people in need of housing. The target for the number of nights spent in bed and breakfast accommodation is always set at zero in line with government recommendations, however, in reality it is difficult to achieve this target as complex cases require the use of B&B accommodation while suitable alternatives are found.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Number of households using temporary accommodation Page 34	15	12	20	↓	High risk offenders and people with complex needs have been refused assistance from a number of move on projects.	A new procedure has been established to ensure that exit plans are agreed before the customer moves in. Regular meetings are held with support staff and the customer with clear guidelines set out from the start about what is acceptable behaviour and what is expected of the customer in finding future accommodation.
The number of cases prevented from becoming homeless within the statutory target (56 days)	32	60	47	↑	Performance continues to decline though it has improved by 15 cases compared to the same period last year. Explanation as above. New measures imposed by the Homeless Reduction act means prevention and relief cases need more in depth work and so cases will take longer to achieve formal outcomes.	As above
Homeless Relief	N/A	30	18	N/A	This is a new measure for 2019/20. The number of preventions is higher than relief cases which shows that the team are becoming involved with cases earlier to prevent crisis situations. Referrals from Acis Group have been low due to their staffing issues.	Discussions with Acis have resumed re referrals of those at risk of eviction. The team have become involved in more strategic discussions with partner agencies to resolve complex issues for a number of households rather than deal with each case individually.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Number of nights spent in B&B accommodation	89	0	59	↑	Three families were unable to be accommodated on police advice due to violence related issues. Performance has improved by 30 days compared to the same period last year but remains below target.	As of 17 th June 2019, 2 out of 5 units of accommodation are available with clear plans in place to avoid further use of B&B accommodation for the remaining families in Cross Street. Plans have been put in place for single person households to be accommodated out of area but, due to the needs of the people involved, it hasn't been possible to find suitable accommodation that isn't B&B.

Table 14: Home Choices performance exceptions

Housing

The grant provided for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) has increased again for 2019/20. In order to ensure that the grant is fully spent it is essential to ensure that timescales for completion improve. The work area is now fully resourced and a staff member on long-term absence has returned which is expected to have a positive impact on the timescales for completion in period 2. The volume of grant received to deliver these works has also increased, therefore the level of resource required to enable this will also be reviewed during 2019. With regards to empty properties, there were 573 empty properties at the end of period one which is within agreed tolerance levels. The focus has been on providing assistance via the empty property grant scheme for which there are 22 applications in progress and 9 grants that have been completed to a total value of £66,000. Indicatively, within the Gainsborough South-West ward, the number of long-term empty properties has reduced by 8% from 99 to 91.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Average cost of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)	£9,863.50	£7,500	£3,859	↑	The average cost of a DFG has reduced by 60.9% compared to the same period last year.	Continue to monitor. It is difficult to predict performance across periods as it depends on the type of work carried out.
Average number of days from DFG referral to completion	127	120	199	↓	The increase in days from referral to completion is due to long-term staffing absence.	The staffing absence has now been resolved and performance is expected to come back on target during period 2.

Table 15: Housing performance exceptions

ICT

A performance workshop was held with the ICT service on 12th June which has identified an improved set of performance measures that will reflect activity across the service in a more meaningful way. These new measures are due to be signed off at the Partnership Board in September 2019, after which they will be rolled out through P&D. Baseline data will be gathered during period two and a request for ICT benchmarking data has been sent to the East Midlands Councils Performance Network. Benchmarking data will also be gathered through other available avenues.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Incident and problem management	106%	95%	105%	↓	These measures are being reviewed to ensure information provided is more meaningful and reflective of service activity.	A revised set of measures is due to be signed off at the Partnership Board in September 2019, after which time they will be incorporated into the P&D cycle.
Change management	100%	93%	115%	↑		

Table 16: ICT performance exceptions

Licensing

Period one has produced positive results with higher than expected income received. This has been generated by a 21% increase in applications (which equates to 31 applications) compared to the same period last year. The number and type of applications fluctuates from period to period, an example of this is applications made under the new animal welfare regulations for things like dog breeding/boarding, which has increased for P1 2019/20 when compared to P1 of 2018/19. There has also been an increase in the number of Temporary Event Notices in relation to alcohol and entertainment. In the main the number of applications received is demand led and to a great extent beyond our control.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Income received	£19,769	£118,700	£22,476	↑	The target is for the year as a whole and performance is measured against direction of travel. Income is up by 13.7% compared to the same period last year. This is a result of an increase in licensing applications received, in addition to the increase in animal welfare fees as a result of recent changes in legislation.	Continue to monitor
Number of applications received	147	130	178	↑	There has been an increase in applications of 21% compared to the same period last year. See service summary above for an explanation of the type of applications that have been received.	Continue to monitor

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
% of applications processed within the target time	100%	96%	99%	↓	Performance has improved significantly from the last quarter of 2018/19 (86%). Additional resource allocated to the team has contributed to this improvement.	Continue to monitor

Table 17: Licensing performance exceptions

Local Land Charges

Performance within the team has been negatively impacted as a result of a vacant post. Following successful recruitment, the post has been filled with the new officer due to start in early June 2019. It is therefore expected that the time taken to process a search will be back on target by the end of period 2 (September). Whilst the number of searches received is below target, this is largely dependent on the housing market and the number of searches received has dropped across the industry. Despite this, the Council's market share is above target which demonstrates confidence in the service provided by the Council.

Page	Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
37	Number of searches received	193	386	158	↓	This is impacted by the housing market and searches are lower than expected across the industry.	Proactively market the service to encourage new and repeat customers.
	Market Share	64%	65%	68%	↑	Although the number of searches is lower than expected, the Council's market share has improved, showing confidence in the service provided by the Council.	Proactively market the service to encourage new and repeat customers.
	Time taken to process a search	6.78 days	10 days	19 days	↓	There has been a loss of 12 working days during April due to staff absence, as well as two bank holidays which have impacted turnaround times.	The vacant post in the team has been filled with the new officer due to start in June. The team is now back to full capacity and it is expected that performance will be back on target by the end of period 2.

Table 18: Local Land Charges performance exceptions

Regulatory Services

Previous Progress and Delivery reports have highlighted the unsatisfactory volume of food inspections completed, which was due to the resources that have been available to undertake them. As a result, an additional resource for this work has been approved with the new post holder due to commence work during summer 2019. The level of service requests within the Environmental Protection work area is consistent and this is expected to continue over the course of the year.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
% of food premises rated at 3* or above	97%	95%	97%	→	Performance remains consistently above target. Of the premises that are rated 3* or above, 72% of these are rated 5*	Continue to monitor
Number of Environmental Protection requests received	N/A	82	110	N/A	This is a new measure for 2019/20. No performance issues noted during the period.	Continue to monitor
% of Environmental Protection cases closed within 6 months	N/A	75%	97%	N/A	This is a new measure for 2019/20. For overall case closures, only three have taken longer than six months to deal with.	Continue to monitor

Table 19: Regulatory Services performance exceptions

Street Cleansing

The cost per household for period one 2019/20 is £12.69, this represents a 3.9% increase on last year (£12.21), mainly due to rising fuel costs, although it still places the Council in the top quartile of all local authorities when benchmarked through APSE. The service continues to have strong links with communities, the Great British Spring Clean initiative helped increase the number of voluntary litter picks in April/May and has helped in to keep communities engaged in further community tidy ups which is reflected in a higher target being set for the year. The numbers engaging in community tidy ups is ever increasing, with an increase of 20% compared to the same period last year. It is expected that that this trend will continue through further community engagement. Since the introduction of Schedule 4, the scheme to remove abandoned shopping trollies, there has been a 70% reduction in the amount of abandoned shopping trollies, as well as generating additional income for the service. The weed spraying Service Level Agreement with LCC is set to continue for 2019/20, this will generate an income of £18,000, which should be realised in period two. There were 132 instances of fly tipping in period one of which 125 were collected and disposed of within the Service Level Agreement, which represents a collection/removal rate of 95.5%. The street cleansing service continues to strive to deliver an excellent service to its stakeholders and again for period one compliments far exceed complaints.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Income generated	£5,043	£8,733	£9,037	↑	This figure includes income from collection of abandoned shopping trollies of £5,400	Continue to monitor
Volunteer litter picks	25	12	30	↑	The Great British Spring Clean continues to be promoted to positive effect.	Further community engagement is expected to lead to a continued increase in the number of litter picks and this is reflected in the higher target set for 2019/20

Table 20: Street cleansing performance exceptions

Systems Development

The change in service provider for the Local Land and Property Gazetteer during the period was successful and resulted in only minimal disruption to the service during the implementation phase. The silver LLPG award is therefore particularly positive given the scale of change during the implementation of the new system during April.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Level of LLPG standard achieved	Gold	National standard	Silver	↓	LLPG standards are measured from a minimum National Standard, progressing through to bronze silver and gold. Performance remains consistently above target	The new system is being monitored regularly and plans are in place to ensure export files are sent each working day in line with the Council's obligations.
Website availability	100%	98%	99%	↓	A planned maintenance outage in April led to a slight drop in performance.	Robust monitoring of the service ensures performance remains consistently high.

Table 21: Systems Development performance exceptions

Town Centre Management

The Council is now undertaking to monitor footfall in Gainsborough and Market Rasen, with Caistor to be included later in the year. 2019/20 is being used as a baseline year with footfall during the period standing at 7,257 for Gainsborough and 2,997 for Market Rasen. Gainsborough Market continues to underperform against targets, stall take up by traders on the Tuesday market has slowly declined, for period one there has been a take up of 291 stalls against 377 for the same period last year, representing a 23% decrease although the number of stalls for the period is within expected parameters. Stall take up for the Saturday market has also declined by 43% compared to the same period last year. The decline in the number of stalls is due to traders giving notice, adverse weather and long term sickness. In-house led operational changes have now been implemented which should lead to efficiency savings being made. Further options are to be viewed, the Council is seeking to understand options around different delivery methods for Gainsborough Market, and meanwhile an interim

arrangement with Marshalls Yard is in place. The Gainsborough Farmers Market has now been relocated onto Market Street, Gainsborough, this will forge a link with Marshalls Yard & the Gainsborough Market Place which is hoped will bring extra footfall into the Market Place. There is a new, three day event scheduled for 7th – 9th June 2019, The Gainsborough Food and Garden Festival which will be taking place mainly in the Town Centre will help support the local community/shops, charities and the general Market. After engagement with traders a new payment system has been implemented, as of December 2018 traders are required to pay their market rent via debit/credit card on a day by day basis. The new system has been well received by traders and is much preferred to the old invoicing system.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Average number of paid for market stalls - Saturday	16.5	14	9.5	↓	During the period, a total of 74 stalls have been paid for, compared to 129 for the same period last year, this represents a 43% decrease. This is due to traders giving notice, adverse weather and long-term sickness of traders.	In house operational changes have been implemented which should lead to efficiency savings being made by the end of 2019/20. An interim arrangement is in place with Marshall's Yard in the meantime.

Table 22: Town Centre Management performance exceptions

Trinity Arts Centre

The Arts Centre's financial performance has started off on a very strong footing, with box office income at £33,925.02 for the period. This allows for an optimistic outlook for the rest of the financial year. The new season brochure has now landed on the doorsteps of patrons and uptake of future shows demonstrates a positive start for the year. The Centre's new contracts are now in regular use meaning that TAC will begin to retain more income for visiting productions as a result of stronger deals being negotiated. May was a quieter month for the number of performances available to the public as a result of school holidays during the period which resulted in TAC programming additional performances specifically for young people.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Audience figures	3,048	2,400	3,136	↑	Audience figures have increased by 2.89% compared to the same period last year	Continue to monitor

Table 23: Trinity Arts Centre performance exceptions

Waste Collection

The recycling rate has risen as a result of the green garden waste collection service commencing again. A successful communications campaign at the beginning of the year has ensured a higher number of subscribers for the green garden waste service compared to the same period last year. We are working closely with the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to be able to offer a more comprehensive recycling collection service and we are also working with Lincolnshire County Council to reduce the amount of contamination within the recycling stream. A communications plan is being developed to support this. The amount of residual

waste collected remains consistent and, while other local authorities are seeing a rise in residual waste, West Lindsey's approach to residual waste encourages recycling. Commercial waste continues to outperform predictions in the business case and there are now 350 customers signed up to the service.

Measure	Baseline Perf (P1 2018/19)	Target	Current Perf (P1 2019/20)	DOT	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Income generated by the trade waste scheme	N/A	£159,000	£33,220	N/A	This is a new measure for 2019/20. Larger contracts have been awarded and there are now 350 customers signed up to the scheme.	Improved advertising to continue to attract more customers
Missed black and blue bin collections	120	95	105	↓	There has been a high staff turnover during the period (leavers and new starters) which has affected performance. Missed bins collected within the service level agreement of 5 days remains within acceptable tolerance at 93% for the period	Regular crews will be kept together in order to reduce the number of missed collections. Further training is being provided for office staff following an office staff restructure.

Table 24: Waste Collection performance exceptions

Agenda Item 6b



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

16 July 2019

Subject: Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

Report by:

Rachel Parkin

Contact Officer:

Rachel Parkin
Home Choices Team Manager

rachel.parkin@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

For members to gain a comprehensive knowledge of the progress of the scheme so far and to agree to participate.

- 1. RECOMMENDATION(S): Members agree to participate in the Home Office Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and agree to accommodate 2 households.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: Whilst recognising the pressures that local authorities are faced with, the country has a statutory duty to provide support and assistance to those who are most in need.

The Asylum and Immigration Act 1999 makes direct provision for the Secretary of State to provide support to those claiming and to instruct the cooperation and support of local authorities in doing so. The 1999 Act was introduced with the intention of sharing the impact of dispersal of asylum seekers across the UK and to ease the over reliance on any one area. However, the Home Secretary has stated that Local Authorities will not be instructed to take part in these schemes.

In the event that asylum is granted, eligibility for services including housing, and a local connection to the district would be gained. In the event that asylum is granted, cases would receive a 28 notice to leave their accommodation and would be considered statutorily homeless.

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial Implications: FIN/24/20

Asylum seekers accommodated under this scheme remain the responsibility of the Home Office until such a time that asylum is granted. Funding has been outlined in the paper below 3.1.1. Costs will be met from this funding.

In the event that asylum is granted, there would be longer term cost implications and demand on services to be considered.

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing: Officers would be required to engage with registered providers including Acis Group and private landlords to help determine availability and suitability of accommodation to be used for asylum dispersal.

Intense resource needed for initial set up but minimal input from local authority staff after this stage.

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

NB: Please explain how you have considered the policy's impact on different groups (for example: young people, elderly, ethnic minorities, LGBT community, rural residents, disabled, others).

Risk Assessment :

Data Protection Implications : None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

Community tensions if communication is not managed correctly and in line with agreed messages

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Home Office Asylum Dispersal Scheme 15/09/15

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

Executive Summary

Overview

This report is aimed at informing members of the progress of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme in Lincolnshire within the last 12 months and for members to agree to accept 2 households into the district.

The scheme is currently being led by North Kesteven District Council for Lincolnshire and significant progress has been made since 2015 when an initial report was brought to committee.

It was decided that in this scheme Lincolnshire would act as 1 authority and not as individual districts. Lincolnshire has already accepted 7 families shared between South Holland, City of Lincoln, North and South Kesteven but it is asked for each authority to pledge a bigger commitment.

Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council have not signalled any commitment at this stage but East Lindsey are looking for member approval. It has not been decided for further numbers across Lincolnshire in terms of commitment to support further resettlement through this scheme beyond the March 2019 charter but this is to be tabled for a discussion in June 2019.

What is required?

If members agree to participate in the scheme, it is expected for the council to provide accommodation which was initially welcomed by Acis Group in August 2018 but this would need to be revisited. A welcome pack of support would be provided by a company called Upbeat Communities, Health Services which are funded separately and flexibility of council staff to accommodate some out of hours provision. Further details can be found in the memorandum of understanding in Appendix 1.

Information to inform members of difficulties our neighbouring districts have faced and of the lessons learned can be found in Appendix 2. This is to ensure there is a comprehensive understanding in making the decision as to whether to participate in this scheme.

Available funding

Funding is available which will be administered by the Home office by NKDC as the lead authority. Further details are documented in section 3.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In September 2015 a paper was brought to committee for consideration to agree to participate in the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. This paper is included above.
- 1.2 The paper was agreed in principle but we awaited further information from Lincolnshire County Council re financial support for education and health and facilities available for persons after 2017. This has now been agreed.
- 1.3 Lincolnshire agreed in 2015 to operate as a cluster area meaning we would accommodate families as a county rather than 7 separate districts.
- 1.4 It should be noted that at the Greater Lincolnshire Chief Executives meeting on 22nd June 2018 it was agreed that Lincolnshire would accept a limited number of Syrian refugee families in common with many areas of the country.
- 1.5 East Midlands Councils (EMC) are coordinating this initiative and to date 7 families have been accommodated in the county. The partnership agreed to consider the position with regard to any additional families at a future meeting in June 2019 which has since been delayed.
- 1.6 If accommodation is offered, East Midlands Councils will have regard to education placements and other support services such as Special Educational Needs.

2. Overview - Asylum Dispersal

- 2.1 The receiving authority would be notified by the Home Office of any domestic abuse, violent crimes or safeguarding issues.
- 2.2 There is additional support for people identified by the Home Office as vulnerable. This consists of provision of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Language), a meet and greet, a 12 month support plan, community rehabilitation and access to education. The details of this implementation is yet to be learned. WLDC members are attending sessions to understand the practical details our neighbouring authorities have undertaken.

2.3 Asylum seekers accommodated within dispersal schemes are required to report regularly to the Home Office and that a local reporting mechanism would need to be established in the areas that are used.

3. Overview - Funding

3.1 The receiving authority will receive payments for households accepted onto the scheme. Payments are administered by the lead authority – North Kesteven District Council.

3.1.1 Funding is given every year for five years to include educational costs, improve English language skills as well as given support for 12 months. Funding is set on a 'per person' tariff basis for direct local authority costs. This is broken down as follows:

UNIT COSTS					
	Adult Benefi t Claim ant	Other Adults	Children 5-18	Children 3-4	ChildrenU- 3
Local Authority Costs – Year 1	£ 8,520	£ 8,520	£ 8,520	£ 8,520	£ 8,520
Education	0	0	4,500	2,250	0
TOTALS	8520	8,520	13020	10770	8520

Additional costs for Years 2-5

Year 2 - £5,000

Year 3 - £3,700

Year 4 - £2,300

Year 5 - 1,000

3.1.2 Note: Position beyond 2020 unclear. Suggested at a recent partnership meeting that post 2020, funding may reduce from 5 years to 3 years. Funding and arrangements beyond 2020 are expected at any time. Additional support is also available for education and medical needs

3.2 At the point that asylum is granted, a 28 day NTQ is given by the Home Office. This is an important consideration for us in terms of our ability to accommodate longer term and impact on our temporary accommodation use and access to sustainable housing solutions. Failed asylum seekers will be managed and detained / removed by the Home Office.

3.4 Refugees are able to access welfare benefit payments and other public services. On arrival in the UK Refugees are issued with 5

year Humanitarian Protection Visa and are able to work immediately.

- 3.5 The grant is not ring fenced and can be used by LA's to provide support to refugees as required, e.g. support for integration, English language training, social care, etc. The funds can be pooled and managed across all areas and all refugees in a sub-regional arrangement
- 3.6 Lincolnshire District Councils already participating in the scheme are currently analysing costs to date.

4. Refugee Resettlement in Lincolnshire

- 4.1 It is important to ensure the implications of participation in this scheme are fully understood. At the request of the Lincolnshire Chief Executive's Group, the Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership was convened in 2018 to provide a partnership approach (Local Authority Resettlement) to resettle and integrate refugees in Lincolnshire.
- 4.2 A memorandum of understanding for the partnership has been agreed and signed by the participating authorities and agreed that NKDC take a coordination role for the partnership (appendix 1).
- 4.3 WLDC officers have attended Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership meetings but have been clear that a decision has not yet been made in respect of WLDC participation in the SRP. We will need to have a decision as to whether the authority intends to participate.

5. Practicalities of Resettlement

- 5.1 There is guidance available for Local Authorities who participate in the scheme including checklists and advice to facilitate resettlement. Additionally, the Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership provides a framework that has been tested, and a forum within which experiences can be shared to support future resettlement in Lincolnshire. On a practical level, there are a number of things to consider, including:

	WLDC Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local property market – types of accommodation available and rental cycles 	<p>Evidence shows that the scheme can be successful using LA / RP stock or PRS stock. When discussed in June 18, Acis Group Director of Operations – Paul Woollam showed support for the initiative and a further meeting on 16th July has been arranged. Also in discussion with The Longhurst Group re provision of accommodation. Families are matched to properties via the Home Office</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of school places 	The latest data suggests there are school places across Lincolnshire, including in many different areas in West Lindsey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to local services and potential transport issues 	Transport and proximity to services is a risk factor. However the scheme has been successful in other rural areas. This would be an important consideration for WLDC and analysis of services and transport links would be required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity of local population and existing cohesion issues 	This would be an important consideration. No work has been undertaken to address this. Feedback from the families placed in South and North Kesteven has not created any community tension
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of health provision 	GP access could be a challenge and would be an important consideration. The funding tariff and potential to develop a specific mental health offer for the Lincolnshire cohort would be a positive opportunity. LPfT engaged in the wider partnership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support and integration 	Support via an experienced provider already delivering in Lincolnshire could be extended to West Lindsey. This would be most successful if the location of a resettled family were near to the district boundary to allow for a cluster of families to be supported. Additionally there may be an important role for the community and voluntary sector to play to enhance this. Experience has also shown that online support networks have been valuable.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The recommendation at this time is to accommodate 2 families to primarily assess demand on resource. Resource to initially arrange facilitation into the property will be intensive albeit short term and will be the responsibility of the Home Choices Team Manager with assistance from the Home Choices team. This will be undertaken as separate duties to the general day to day requirements.
- 6.2 Should East Midlands Councils request a further commitment a further paper will be brought back to committee to ask for delegation to chair and vice chair to decide on specified number of households.
- 6.3 A further paper will be brought back to committee in 3 years to review the scheme.

Appendix 1 – Memorandum of Understanding



Syrian Vulnerable
Persons Resettlement

Appendix 2 - Learnings and experiences from NKDC and SKDC who have participated in the programme.

Housing	Teething problems with properties – i.e. working the heating systems Used LA stock, ensuring that it was good quality and giving consideration to the type of housing the family had previously had (garden was an important consideration, plus minor bathroom adaptations)
Schools / Education	School placements – all children now in school and nursery. Some challenges – issues with birth certificates; led to child aged 2 being placed in pre-school incorrectly initially
Health	GP access has been a challenge Mental health continues to be an issue nationally. £2600 available per refugee available (£600 primary healthcare, £2000 secondary healthcare). £1.5m fund available for East Midlands region. In Derbyshire a specialist MH practitioner has been employed – good success rate. EM Councils keen to take learnings from this model to allow for replication elsewhere. CCG funding may no longer be available post 2020.
Demand on Local Authority	<i>“Primed to have a lot of demands but this hasn’t been our experience so far”</i> Initially labour intensive as a learning process but this has become much easier. We did need to commit staffing resource to oversee this process.
Translation Services	Translation services locally non-existent – this has been a challenge. Resorted to the use of language line. Upbeat Communities (support service) arranged independent translator to attend GP with family
ESOL	A challenge to facilitate access to ESOL classes due to their location and need for tutors to be accredited. Opportunity to access classes in Newark It is likely that funding for this would have to be paid for from District Councils due to the cost of the sessions. This could be determined on per person basis. Current estimates for this are being looked at. The literacy levels of the families resettled require additional work as

	<p>they are not yet at a standard where they can access the ESOL classes. Funding is sought from the monies available but once this has been exhausted this would have to be subsidised by the local authority.</p> <p>However an appropriate location such as Newark would mean families from across a number of districts could attend the same classes reducing the need for separate arrangements which would increase costs.</p>
Community Integration and Cohesion	<p>Online support networks – there is a Facebook community for those that have resettled and this works well</p> <p>Support workers have connections with local Muslim communities</p> <p>Families attending prayer rooms locally</p>
Support	<p>Fire Safety leaflets have been translated. Home Fire Safety Checks offered</p> <p>Flag on property with the police</p> <p>Commissioned specialist provider to deliver support – this has worked really well and seen as key to being successful (See Appendix 2)</p>



Memorandum of Understanding

Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership

Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership: Memorandum of Understanding

1. Purpose and Scope

This Memorandum of Understanding (“the MoU”) forms the basis of a **Resettlement Partnership** (the RP) within Lincolnshire (the parties) and delivery partners.

The MoU has been established to demonstrate the parties’ commitment to collaborate to ensure delivery of resettlement services. The MoU defines and formalises the relationship between the parties and sets out their roles and responsibilities within the partnership.

The MoU covers the functions or services agreed by the parties, to be designed and delivered within the RP. The agreed services to be delivered are found in the national ‘statement of requirements’, which sets out exactly what the local authority must deliver. See more at:

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/6869714/Syrian+VPR+Statement+of+requirements.pdf/8b2c4d78-57da-474e-a9ef-c61a56809bc9>

For the purposes of the MoU:

District Councils are defined as being:

- All District Councils within Lincolnshire

The County Council is defined as being:

- Lincolnshire County Council

Other Public Sector organisations are defined as being:

- Lincolnshire Police
- Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT)

The Delivery Partner is defined as being:

- an appointment to coordinate and provide support for refugees to be resettled in Lincolnshire through a procurement process (initially Upbeat Communities)

Partners are defined as:

- All parties represented on the Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership

Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership: Memorandum of Understanding

2. Objectives of the Partnership

The objective is the resettlement and integration of refugees in Lincolnshire.

The RP objective is consistent with the national Vulnerable Persons Resettlement and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme set up by Government in 2015. The three objectives of the national resettlement programme are that it should:

- Secure and protect refugees and the UK;
- Have the wellbeing of the refugee and the welcoming communities at the centre of decision making, including by delivering refugee independence and self-sufficiency to enable better social cohesion
- Deliver value for money for the UK tax payer, including by minimising the burden on local and national government by securing independence and self-sufficiency.

3. Lead Organisations

The RP is a multi-agency partnership. While this MoU will extend to wider partners, third sector delivery partner supplier(s) and other public sector commissioners, the MoU also highlights the "Lead" partner organisations. All partners contributing will however be asked to commit to the MoU.

North Kesteven District Council will;

- Act as coordinator and liaison point with East Midlands Councils and Government through the MOVEit portal.
- Act as Finance Lead Authority under the national programme.
- Make relevant finance returns to Government; this includes the initial claim upon arrival for year 1 and then make the appropriate claims for years 2-5 as per timings and agreements in Government Funding Instructions.
- Ensure the provision of the appropriate amount of Government funding is released to support the local delivery of the statement of requirements for the first year after arrival and then in years 2-5.
- Coordinate county wide communications in liaison with partners.
- Claim for further funding in cases of 'compelling circumstances' if required for educational circumstances and necessary social care costs.
- Procure & manage the formal contractual arrangements with the delivery partner.

Lincolnshire County Council will;

- Pre arrival - collaborate with partners to provide information regarding availability of school places in District Council areas.
- Receive and process school admission applications.
- Provide appropriate contacts for appropriate health agencies including CCGs (access to GP services)
- Take the lead and provide social care provisions required by the family.

Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership: Memorandum of Understanding

District Councils will:

- Ensure the provision of properties to house refugee families allocated to the County.
- Assess the identified properties to ensure suitability and sustainability.
- Manage the process to support and enable the use of local housing allowance / benefits to cover rent costs.
- Convene the pre arrival planning sessions & collaborate with partners to ensure that the properties are mapped to school; educational and primary care (GP) services required at post arrival.
- Post arrival –
 - lead on the local arrangements around support (in association with the Delivery Partner)
 - ensure property tenancy management of the allocated properties
 - ensure the collation of local performance data both quantitative and qualitative from the third sector delivery partner.

LPFT will:

- Take the lead and provide services to meet mental health needs of the family. Where the mental health is not covered by LPFT service provision, they will be signposted appropriately.

4. Governance

Governance will be undertaken through Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership meetings which will comprise:

- Lincolnshire County Council
- All District Councils
- Lincolnshire Police
- LPFT
- Other Appropriate organisations as agreed by the Partnership

5. Other Roles and Responsibilities

The Delivery Partner will be responsible for:

- Working with all partners to develop resettlement services;
- Supplying the services to the agreed timescales and specifications;
- Communicating any constraints to other partners;
- Supplying financial information and relevant information in relation to any subcontracts;
- Facilitating the engagement of interfaith and community groups;
- Providing service delivery and performance information; and
- Providing constructive feedback on the partnership experience.

Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership: Memorandum of Understanding

Partners will be responsible for:

- Working with the Delivery Partner to develop services;
- Identifying services for delivery and performance expectations;
- Ensuring resettlement services fit with wider organisational plans;
- Communicating requirements clearly to the third sector delivery partner supplier(s);
- Providing constructive feedback on the partnership experience;
- Ensuring that their respective organisations are appraised of developments; and
- Ensure that the humanitarian principles of the programme are front and centre of future planning.

6. Accountability

It is the responsibility for all partners involved within the RP to share, inform and secure agreement within their own organisational governance arrangements for the RP and its full delivery. It will be each RP partner's obligation to highlight any discrepancy between their own governance arrangements and the RP model and delivery, as and when any discrepancy arises, so that any issues can be assessed and acted upon in a timely manner.

7. Duration of the MoU

The MoU is designed to cover the period during which the RP is operating and is effective from the date of signing. The MoU will be subject to an annual review by the RP

8. Partnership Values

The RP relationship will be based on:

- Equality;
- Mutual respect and trust;
- Open and transparent communications;
- Co-operation and consultation;
- A commitment to being positive and constructive;
- A willingness to work with and learn from others;
- A shared commitment to providing excellent resettlement services; and
- A desire to make the best use of resources available via central Government.
- Challenging stigma, prejudice and educating the wider community as appropriate.
- Being discreet, respecting the privacy and safety of the families.

9. Communications

The Parties to the RP commit to communicating openly and constructively and to sharing good practice.

Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership: Memorandum of Understanding

The Parties agree that they will consult and co-operate together in order to achieve the maximum benefits for the resettled refugees. This co-operation will include the sharing of appropriate information and maintaining effective communication, where this will inform and improve the delivery of services and enhance the learning. The parties also commit, so far as is reasonably possible, to communicating relevant information regarding progress to the wider set of stakeholders and interested parties.

10. Confidentiality and Data Protection

- The Parties confirm that they understand their respective obligations and agree to only process Personal Data in accordance with the data protection principles set out in Data Protection Legislation
- Data Protection Legislation and the Data Sharing Agreement will govern all transfers of Personal Data between the named Parties
- The Parties confirm that they understand their respective obligations under Data Protection Legislation, to ensure that the families' personal data is held securely at all times
- The Parties will have in place appropriate technical and organisational security measures to guard against unauthorised or unlawful processing of the Personal Data and/or accidental loss, destruction or damage to the Personal Data
- The Parties will not disclose or transfer the Personal Data to any third party, unless prior written consent of the families is obtained (save where such disclosure or transfer is specifically authorised)
- The Parties will take all reasonable steps to ensure colleagues who have access to the Personal Data are informed of its confidential nature and to not publish or disclose to any third party, unless directed in writing to do so by the Lead Authority
- The Parties will take all reasonable steps to ensure colleagues have undergone adequate training in the use and handling of Personal Data
- The Parties will notify the Lead Authority within five working days if it receives from a Data Subject (or a third party on their behalf):
 - A Data Subject Access Request
 - A request to rectify, erase or restrict any Personal Data
 - A request to withdraw consent to Processing of the Data Subject's Personal Data
- To notify the Lead Authority within five working days if it receives any communication from the Information Commissioner's Office or a request from any third party for disclosure of Personal Data where compliance with such a request is required by law.

11. Amendments and Dispute Resolution

- Once agreed, the MoU may only be amended by mutual agreement, signed by the authorised signatories of all parties to the RP. Once approved, amendments should be attached as annexes to the original MoU.

Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership: Memorandum of Understanding

- The MoU will be reviewed annually or earlier if required. Any changes will be mutually agreed and signed by the Parties.
- Any issues or disputes which cannot be immediately resolved to all parties' satisfaction should be escalated to the RP Governance Group.
- The MoU is not intended to be legally binding, nor to give rise to any liability of any kind whatsoever. The Parties will therefore be individually liable for any costs arising from amendments to the MoU.

12. Termination

If any of the Parties wishes to dissolve the partnership, a minimum of three months' notice must be given in writing to the other Party, with reasons for the termination.

This clause applies only to the partnership arrangement covered by the MoU and does not affect any commercial contracts for the supply of goods and services which may exist between the Parties.




13. Key Organisation Contacts

The key contacts for the RP are as follows:




Brein Fisher, East Midlands Councils, Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

14. Acceptance

We the undersigned, as authorised signatories of the Parties to the RP, have read and accepted the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the identified Provider(s) and the Public Sector Partners and accept these.

Providers		
Organisation	Contact Name and Role	Signature/Date
Lincolnshire County Council	Derek Ward Director of Public Health	 18/03/2019
North Kesteven District Council	Philip Roberts Deputy Chief Executive	 15/01/2019
South Kesteven District Council	Harry Rai Assistant Director	 25/01/2019
West Lindsey District Council	Mark Sturgess Executive Director Operations and Head of Paid Service	

Lincolnshire Refugee Resettlement Partnership: Memorandum of Understanding

City of Lincoln Council	Daren Turner Director of Housing and Investment	
South Holland District Council	Jason King Housing Landlord Service Manager	 17.5.19
East Lindsey District Council	Michelle Howard Assistant Director, People	
LPFT	Sarah Connery Director of Finance & Information	 01/03/2019
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue	Sean Taylor Area Manager Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue	 15/01/2019
South West CCG	Claire Raybould Sarah Button	

Agenda Item 6c



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Tuesday 16th July 2019

Subject: Report to Support the Rural Services Network Proposal for a Fully Funded Government Rural Strategy

Report by:

Executive Director of Resources and Head of Paid Service

Contact Officer:

Ian Knowles
Executive Director of Resources and Head of Paid Service

ian.knowles@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

This report is designed to support the Rural Services Network for a fully funded Government Rural Strategy

RECOMMENDATION(S): Members are asked to:

1. Agree that the challenges set out in this report are the challenges that a fully funded Rural Strategy would need to address
2. Agree to support the RSN by asking the Chair of the Prosperous Communities Committee to write to Sir Edward Leigh and the relevant government minister in support of the RSN campaign for a fully funded Rural Strategy ahead of Brexit.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Financial: FIN/50/20/TJB

The Rural Services Delivery Grant totalled £474k in 2019/20.

It is important that rural councils continue to lobby for a fairer funding for rural communities.

Staffing:

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

Risk Assessment:

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Lords Select Committee – Rural Economy Committee:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/rural-economy/publications/>

Rural Services Network:

<https://www.rsonline.org.uk/time-for-a-rural-strategy>

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

No

Key Decision:

Yes

No

1.0 Introduction

WLDC has been a member of the Rural Services Network (RSN) for many years and it has been a source of many lobbying successes, not least of which was the introduction of the Rural Services Delivery Grant in 2015.

RSN have issued a paper urging government to establish a fully funded Rural Strategy ahead of Brexit. The Authority issued a press release promoting the RSN press release in March this year.

At its meeting on 4th March, Full Council received a motion from Cllr Bierley seeking support from the Council for the RSN campaign. At that meeting, the matter was referred to Prosperous Communities Committee.

This report fulfils Council requirement for this committee to consider the RSN campaign for government to establish a fully funded Rural Strategy ahead of Brexit.

2.0 Background

The paper makes a case for a fully funded Rural Strategy for a number of reasons, including the so called “rural mainstreaming...[leading]...to policies which are inappropriate in a sparsely populated or rural setting.” The paper states that a Rural Strategy would “raise rural opportunities and challenges up the political agenda...”

The paper argues that there is a compelling case for a fully funded Rural Strategy and identifies the following as policy challenges common to most rural places.

Policy Challenge	Local Context
<p>Ageing: Rural areas have a high proportion of residents in older age groups, raising demand for services such as health and social care. Moreover, growth in the population aged 85 or over is expected to happen fastest in rural areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Lindsey continues to have an ageing population. Large areas of the Lincoln Fringe, such as Saxilby, Nettleham, Cherry Willingham, Lea and Torksey are classified as having rapidly ageing populations. • By 2036, projections show that 32% of the local population will be aged 65 or over higher than the UK projection of 26% • The average age of West Lindsey residents is 47, significantly higher than the UK average (40).
<p>Living Costs: the cost of housing is typically high, whilst local wages in rural areas are 10% below the national average, leading to severe affordability issues. Costs of transport and infrastructure and home heating are also higher than average in rural areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local average salary is £6.6k lower per annum than the national average. • 24.2% of children in West Lindsey are living in poverty after housing costs are taken into consideration. This figure is higher in more rural areas of the district. Child poverty is projected to rise over the next decade. • 9.3% of local residents are living in fuel poverty, higher than the regional average. Fuel poverty is more prevalent in more rural areas of the district

Policy Challenge	Local Context
<p>Infrastructure: it is relatively costly to build infrastructure, like broadband and mobile phone networks, putting many rural homes and businesses at a disadvantage. Maintaining rural roads is also an issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87.3% of West Lindsey residents have access to superfast broadband, significantly lower than the UK average of 96.1% • The parliamentary constituency of Gainsborough is ranked 578 out of 650 for broadband coverage, speed and connectivity
<p>Accessibility: limited public transport options often leave vulnerable groups isolated or without ready access to jobs, training, key services and social opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living in rural areas such as West Lindsey have, an average one hour local travel time to the nearest hospital, double that of urban areas. • The average commute to places with 5,000 or more jobs is 56 minutes in rural areas compared to urban areas.
<p>Delivery: organisations responsible for delivering services to rural communities face added costs due to the time and expense of travelling, a need to operate from multiple service outlets and lost economies of scale.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Lindsey is one of the largest and most rural local authority areas in the country. Its size, topography and rural nature places added costs on to organisations responsible for delivering services.
<p>Perception: portrayals of rural life often paint a stereotypical and affluent picture, failing to recognise the very real poverty that exists.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compared to the rest of Lincolnshire, access to services is classed as 'moderate' to 'poor' in areas outside Gainsborough and Market Rasen • West Lindsey ranks 249 out of 324 local authority areas on the vibrant economy index, placing the district in the bottom quartile • See 'living costs' section above for further detail around poverty

The paper argues that 24% of all registered businesses in England (547,000) are based in rural areas; that 11% of all premises in England's rural areas are unable to access high speed broadband (defined at speeds of 10mbps); that residents living in small rural settlements (villages and hamlets) travel an average of 10,055 miles per year (in 2016/17) which is 54% more than the average for residents in urban towns and cities; and that average house prices in rural areas are £44,000 higher than urban areas (2017) making housing less affordable in predominantly rural areas.

3.0 The Rural Challenge

The attached document defines the rural challenge as:

Rural Economy - reducing the productivity gap:

- Helping rural businesses to grow locally
- Supporting further diversification, especially into high value-added sectors
- Sustaining high streets and their businesses and their businesses in rural towns and
- Creating better paid and more secure jobs

Digitally Connected Countryside – extending broadband networks to those premises still missing out:

- Future-proofing broadband policy so rural areas do not fall behind again

- Capitalising on the benefits from the roll out of superfast networks
- Addressing issues with mobile network coverage (4G)

A place that everyone can get around – Reversing the widespread decline in rural bus service provision:

- Making bus services a more attractive option for rural travellers
- Providing sustained support for complementary community transport schemes
- Ensuring future transport innovations will benefit rural communities

An Affordable Place to Live:

- Bringing forward development sites at a price suited to affordable housing
- Making sure such homes are, and remain genuinely affordable
- Planning new housing in ways which attract community support
- Ensuring the funding model for affordable house building adds up

A Fair Deal on Health and Safety – ensuring that patients can get to secondary and tertiary health services

- Delivering quality primary health care locally within rural settings
- Making sure social care reaches those who need it in remote locations
- Benefitting rural clients through improved health and social care integration

A Place to Learn and Grow

- Sustaining schools with small (or fluctuating) pupil numbers
- Managing school budgets when operating costs are high
- Recruiting and retaining teaching and support staff
- Finding appropriate models for school collaboration

A Settlement to Support Local Action

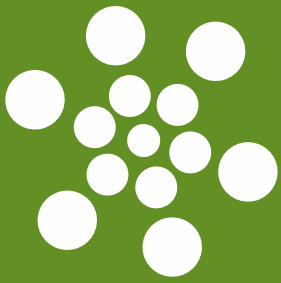
- Ensuring that local authorities retain the capacity to serve their rural communities
- Boosting the capacity of parish and town councils to bring about local solutions
- Recruiting and retaining volunteers with sufficient time and the right skills
- Providing the support infrastructure to facilitate community action in more areas

A Rural Proofed Policy Framework

- Reaffirming the rural proofing commitment and placing it on a firmer footing
- Providing sufficient staff and resources to carry on the rural proofing function
- Making it clearer what rural proofing actions policy makers are taking
- Ensuring that rural proofing filters down more consistently to the local level

4.0 Conclusion

The document attached as Appendix A makes proposals for how these challenges set out above and in more detail in the document could be addressed by a fully funded government Rural Strategy. Members are invited to visit the Rural Services Network website to individually add their names to the call for this strategy (link provided in background papers).



**RURAL
SERVICES
NETWORK**



IT'S TIME FOR A RURAL STRATEGY
A CALL ON GOVERNMENT BY THE RURAL SERVICES NETWORK 2019

Time for a Rural Strategy

Why a Rural Strategy?

The Rural Services Network (RSN) calls on the Government to take the lead, working with other interested organisations, to produce a comprehensive, long-term and funded Rural Strategy.

This document should set out the Government's priority objectives over the next decade for England's rural communities and rural economies. It should also define a set of policies and initiatives which will achieve them. Given the diversity of rural areas these should, wherever possible, be delivered locally. Some of these policies and initiatives will be new, whilst others may exist now and simply need enhancing to better meet rural needs. One key component of the strategy should be a more effective framework for rural proofing policies.

Rural communities are frequently overlooked in a policy environment dominated by (majority) urban thinking and by urban policy concerns. So called "rural mainstreaming" has often led to policies which are inappropriate in a sparsely populated or rural setting. The result is that communities miss out on the benefits or experience unintended consequences from policies which are poorly thought through from a rural perspective.

Rural economies are also widely misunderstood, with their potential to grow and add value to the national economy overlooked. Too often they are conflated with agriculture and land-based industries. Whilst agriculture certainly remains an important consideration, it is today one element within broad-based and diverse rural economies.

It is time for a Rural Strategy which raises rural opportunities and challenges up the political agenda: which is forward looking and ambitious, recognising the contribution that rural areas make and those they could make to the wellbeing and prosperity of the nation as a whole.

The RSN considers there is now a compelling case for such an approach. Years of public sector austerity have left significant challenges for service delivery in rural areas, which must be addressed. There is an urgent need to define a new settlement for rural areas, replacing the current model based heavily on European Union policies and funding streams. Change is also needed to overcome issues with the rural policy framework which were highlighted by a House of Lords Select Committee inquiry into the NERC Act.

The Rural Services Network is the national champion for rural services, ensuring that people in rural areas have a strong voice. It is fighting for a fair deal for rural communities to maintain their social and economic viability for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

The RSN membership is 154 local authorities (counties, unitaries, districts and boroughs) from across England and over 85 other public, private and civil society sector organisations, such as fire and rescue authorities, housing associations, bus operators and land-based colleges.

The context

Rural areas are home to 9.4 million people according to 2016 population estimates. That is, 17% of the population of England live in small rural towns, villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings. This is more people than live in Greater London.

Those rural areas are varied in type and character. They include – among others – remote and upland communities, coastal settlements, commuter belt villages and former mining settlements. Indeed, they often vary within a single local authority area. Policies ought to be flexible in their design and delivery, if they are to meet the needs of such diverse places.

There are, however, a number of policy challenges which are common to most rural places and which are frequently inter-connected. They are:

- **Ageing:** rural areas have a high proportion of residents in older age groups, raising demand for services such as health and social care. Moreover, growth in numbers aged 85 or over is expected to happen fastest in rural areas;
- **Living costs:** the cost of housing is typically high, whilst local wages in rural areas are 10% below the national average, leading to severe affordability issues. Costs of transport and home heating are also higher than average in rural areas;
- **Infrastructure:** it is relatively costly to build infrastructure, like broadband and mobile phone networks, putting many rural homes and businesses at a disadvantage. Maintaining rural roads is also an issue;
- **Accessibility:** limited public transport options often leave vulnerable groups isolated or without ready access to jobs, training, key services and social opportunities;
- **Delivery:** organisations responsible for delivering services to rural communities face added costs, due to time and expense travelling, a need to operate from multiple service outlets and lost economies of scale;
- **Perception:** portrayals of rural life often paint a stereotypical and affluent picture, failing to recognise the very real poverty that exists.

In 1995 and in 2000 the Governments of the day published a Rural White Paper. In many respects these were impressive documents, outlining a wide range of policy measures in an effort to address rural challenges at the time. Eighteen years have passed since the more recent White Paper. The Rural Productivity Plan of 2015 was welcome, but was narrower in its scope and is already largely out-of-date.

In March 2018 a report published by a House of Lords Select Committee reviewed progress since the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. It highlighted serious concerns with the way that Government handles rural needs and a diminished focus on the potential of rural areas. It called for a strengthening of rural proofing, with all Whitehall departments doing more to ensure a rural dimension within their policy making.

The RSN accepts that producing another full White Paper may be overblown. However, it believes a comprehensive, properly resourced and up-to-date Rural Strategy is urgently

needed to provide the required vision, priorities and policy drive to meet the challenges in rural England. Such a document would reassure rural communities their needs are recognised and being addressed.

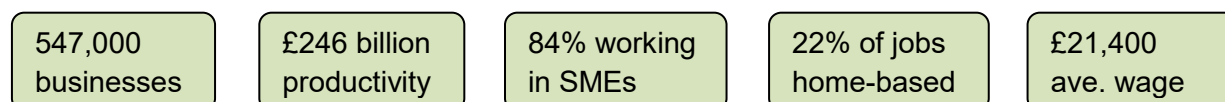
This should have buy-in and bite across sectors and at all levels. To a significant degree it will depend on local delivery. It should therefore be drawn up in consultation with local government, rural interest organisations and others, creating a shared framework for action.

It must provide an overarching approach to the future sustainability of rural communities. It is clear that a piece-meal or short-term approach simply will not deliver.

A thriving rural economy

Businesses of all types, sizes and sectors should be supported to prosper, grow and provide decently paid employment opportunities. This will be of direct benefit to rural communities and will contribute significantly to the national economy.

Key facts¹

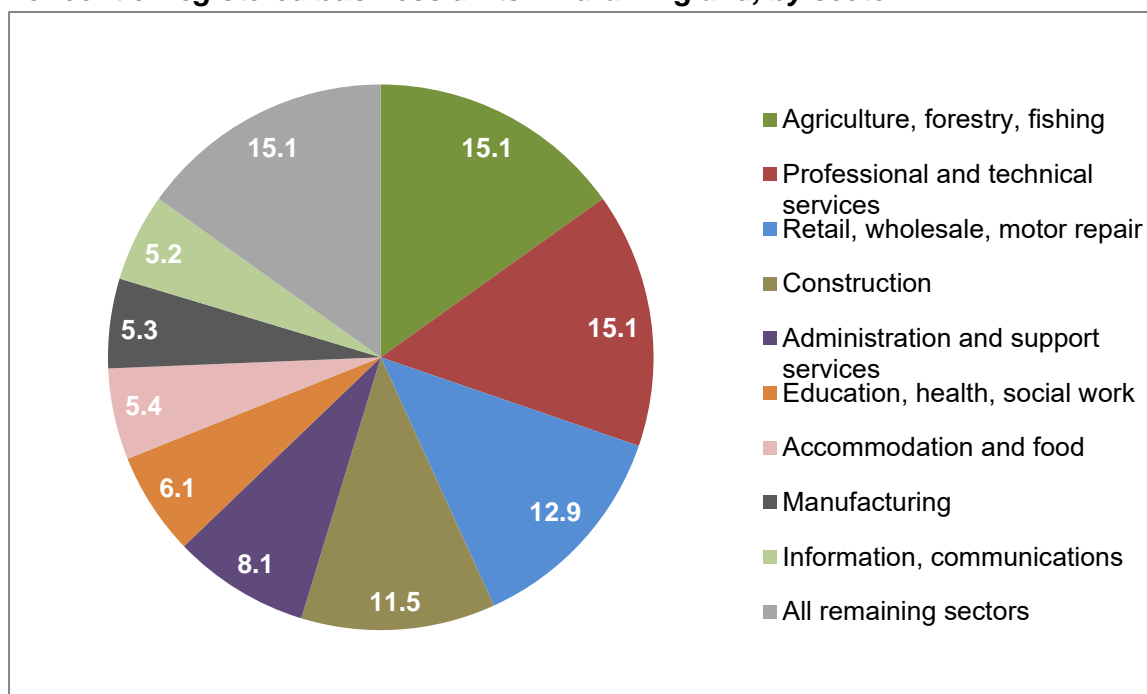


There are 547,000 registered businesses based in rural areas (and probably as many micro-businesses again which are unregistered). They are 24% of all the registered businesses in England, so form a vital part of the national and regional economies.

Those registered businesses have an annual turnover of £434 billion or £124,000 of turnover per person employed. Productivity (Gross Value Added) in rural areas is £246 billion (2016 figure) or £44,740 per workforce job, which is below the England average (£50,270).

Rural economies are diverse, with businesses from across the range of sectors. Land-based businesses (including farming) are important, but 85% of rural businesses are from other sectors. Other key sectors are professional services, retail and construction.

Per cent of registered business units in rural England, by sector



¹ Sources are Defra and ONS. All figures in the Key facts section relate to 2017 unless otherwise stated.

Most registered businesses in rural areas are small. Indeed, almost 18% of them have no employees, being sole traders or partnerships (more than double the equivalent urban figure). Some 84% of employees in rural areas work in SMEs.

Those registered rural businesses employ 3,500,000 people. This figure implies a significant outflow of people commuting to urban-based jobs. However, home working has grown and 22% of all rural jobs are home based (compared with 13% in urban areas).

Whilst the unemployment rate in rural areas is relatively low, many job opportunities are poorly paid, seasonal or insecure. Many have two or more part-time jobs to make ends meet. Median (average) annual earnings from rural employment are £21,400. This is 10% less than annual earnings in England as a whole (£23,700).

The rural challenge

Rural economies in different areas vary and some are closely integrated with urban centres. The level of entrepreneurship within them all presents a policy opportunity, but there are significant challenges which should be addressed by a Rural Strategy. They are:

- Reducing the productivity gap;
- Helping rural businesses (especially SMEs) to grow locally;
- Supporting further diversification, especially into high value-added sectors;
- Sustaining high streets and their businesses in rural towns; and
- Creating better paid and more secure jobs.

What would make a difference?

The Rural Services Network believes that the following initiatives should be included within a Rural Strategy for thriving rural economies:

- ✓ **A dedicated rural business support programme:** in 2020 EU programmes, such as the LEADER and EAFRD initiatives, will end. Although rather cumbersome and modest in scale and scope, these have provided grants to support rural business growth, diversification and innovation. Government should replace them with a dedicated, rural business support programme, which could be funded from its proposed Shared Prosperity Fund. This should be flexible in scope – potentially beneficial to all business sectors, including social or community enterprise – so it can be locally delivered in ways tailored to locally decided priorities. There is now an opportunity for Government to scale-up its ambitions for rural economies by announcing a significant investment programme.
- ✓ **A rural proofed Industrial Strategy:** many objectives in the Government's Industrial Strategy are highly relevant to the needs of rural economies. However, in order for its benefits to reach into rural areas careful 'rural proofing' is required. This should apply to Local Industrial Strategies as they are developed by Local Enterprise Partnerships, to ensure they take account of rural needs and opportunities. Where new initiatives are tested this should include rural pilots and where groups are set-up to take forward elements of the Strategy they should include rural specialists. In seeking to boost productivity the Strategy places a lot of focus on hi-tech and

innovation sectors. This needs balancing with support aimed at more traditional and numerous rural sectors, such as retail and tourism.

- ✓ **A re-purposing of Local Enterprise Partnerships:** these partnerships (LEPs) are the conduit for considerable sums of public money to support growth and economic development. Most operate across a mix of urban and rural places. However, whilst some have performed well in taking rural priorities into account, others have failed to do so – focussing their efforts on a few large urban projects. All LEPs whose geography includes rural places should have to identify and target their priorities through a bespoke strategy or action plan, the delivery of which is monitored. Building on the 2018 LEP Review, Government should ensure LEP Boards receive training on rural proofing and that LEP end of year reports state publically what has been delivered in their rural areas.

- ✓ **A training offer to suit small rural businesses:** all businesses should be able to benefit from training. This would assist them to develop or grow their businesses. Equally it would help them stay up-to-date on matters such as tax and regulation. Finding the time to attend and getting to training events can be a barrier for the smallest rural businesses. Sessions or courses therefore need to be made as readily accessible as possible. Training providers should seek to deliver early evening sessions in easy-to-reach rural locations. They should also consider whether more courses could be delivered online, including as distance learning.

- ✓ **A Further Education system accessible to rural pupils:** young people from rural areas often experience difficulties getting to Further Education (FE) colleges or sixth forms. This has not been helped where FE Area Reviews have resulted in college mergers. For some this means undertaking long or complex journeys to get there and back, whilst for others it means compromise on the course topics they take. This dampens young people's aspirations and curtails their opportunities. One rural barrier would be removed if those travelling to post-16 education or training were entitled to subsidised bus fares. Those aged 17 and 18 should receive the same free travel as the statutory and reimbursed provision for those aged up to 16.

A digitally connected countryside

All rural households and businesses should have the option of affordable and reliable access to broadband and mobile networks. Digital infrastructure should be considered essential for a modern economy and to enable fair access to services and other opportunities.

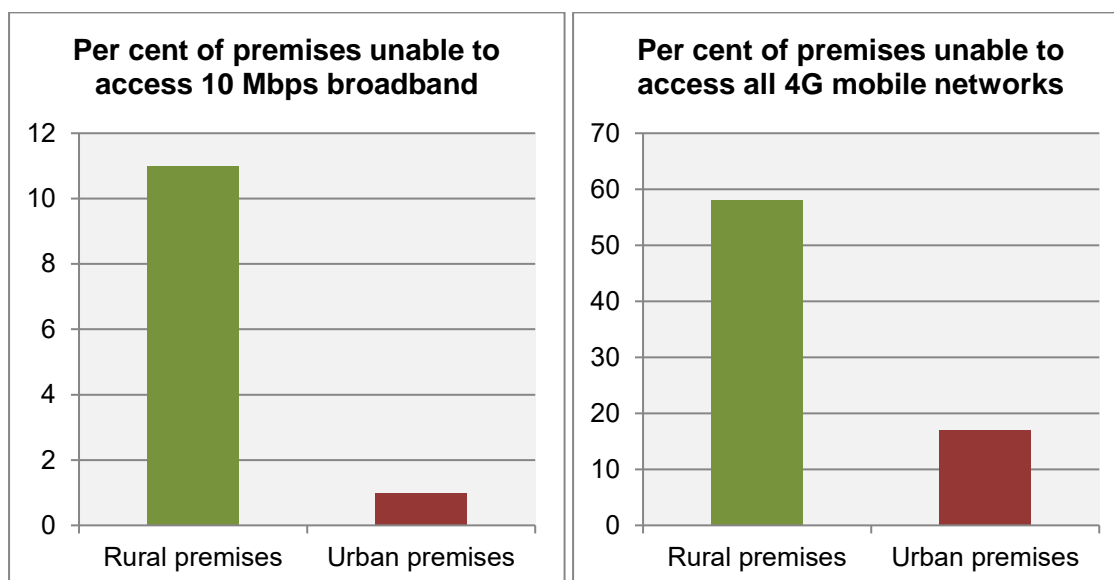
Key facts²

Significant sums of public expenditure have been invested to extend the reach of superfast broadband networks into less commercial areas. This included match funding from rural local authorities (a cost not borne by urban authorities). However, there remains a noticeable gap between levels of connectivity in rural and urban areas.

In England's rural areas 11% of premises – households and businesses – are unable to access a broadband connection with a 10 Megabits per second (Mbps) download speed. Industry regulator, Ofcom, considers this a necessary speed for everyday online tasks.

In the most remote rural locations connection speeds can be significantly worse. A survey of its members by the National Farmers Union in 2017 concluded that half (50%) could not yet access a basic 2 Mbps connection.

Mobile connectivity has improved, but the indoor signal is poor in England's rural areas, with phone calls on all four networks only possible at 67% of premises. Meanwhile, using 4G on all networks – giving fast internet access – is only possible inside 42% of rural premises.



Rural take-up of superfast broadband is fair where it is available, with almost four in ten premises upgrading. However, a rural business survey by Rural England and SRUC found only 19% had a superfast connection and most (59%) relied on standard broadband. It also found high rates of dissatisfaction with connection speed and reliability.

² Sources are Ofcom (2018), NFU (2016) and Rural England/SRUC (2017).

The survey, cited above, identifies significant and wide-ranging rural business benefits from digital adoption. It estimates that if constraints to digital adoption, such as skills and recruitment, could be overcome it would unlock at least £12 billion of extra productivity per annum (Gross Value Added).

Rural businesses say their top three benefits from digital adoption are:		
It enables remote working	It improves access to customers and suppliers	It boosts overall business efficiency

The rural challenge

Broadband and mobile networks are improving and rural business adoption of digital technologies demonstrates real potential. However, there are significant challenges which should be addressed by a Rural Strategy. They are:

- Extending broadband networks to those premises still missing out;
- Future proofing broadband policy, so rural areas do not fall behind again;
- Capitalising on the benefits from the roll out of superfast networks; and
- Addressing issues with mobile network coverage (including 4G).

What would make a difference?

The Rural Services Network believes that the following initiatives should be included within a Rural Strategy for a digitally connected countryside:

- ✓ **A USO that is fit for purpose:** in the short term, the planned introduction (in 2020) of a broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) is welcome. However, the proposed USO level, at 10 Mbps, risks becoming out-of-date. Ofcom should review this prior to its introduction, not least because there will be pressure to leave the USO unchanged for a while to bed down. When the USO is applied decisions about upgrading networks should be taken on a value for money basis and not just a cheapest solution basis. Whilst the cheap option may get premises or areas just over the 10 Mbps threshold, a value for money solution could deliver much higher speeds that result in more sustained benefits.
- ✓ **A focus on full fibre roll out:** the Government's Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review (FTIR) is welcome, setting a longer term goal for the nationwide roll out of full fibre networks. That technology should avoid rural areas falling behind again as demand for bandwidth continues to grow. Significant public funding, as indicated by the FTIR, is clearly justifiable given the market failure that would exist otherwise, with many rural areas considered uncommercial for the roll out. The plans for a rural first (or outside-in) approach to using public funds are exactly what are required. Further announcements, how the goal will be turned into practice, will be eagerly awaited. The upcoming Spending Review needs to allocate funding, building on the £200 million mentioned in the 2018 Budget.

- ✓ **A drive to connect rural businesses:** evidence from the Rural England and SRUC survey of rural businesses is that those with a superfast connection realise more business benefits and face fewer digital challenges than those still dependent on a slower connection. The survey report concludes that, in order to capitalise on the public investment in superfast networks, more businesses should be encouraged to upgrade (where they have the option to do so). Government and local broadband partnerships should reinforce their efforts to promote the business benefits. This could include finding rural businesses which are already adopters and are willing to act as broadband champions among their peer group. Alongside this should be training and resources to help rural SMEs improve their digital skills.

- ✓ **A review of mobile connectivity:** whilst mobile connectivity is improving, rural areas lag behind and there are particular rural issues, such as signal strength inside premises and signal loss for those on the move. Previous targets set for mobile network providers (as part of their licences) proved insufficient. It is imperative the regulator, Ofcom, sets sufficiently stretching targets when auctioning the next round of licenses. These should apply equally to all awarded a licence and ensure many more rural communities gain access to mobile internet/data services (as well as basic voice/text services). The sharing of phone masts by providers, to address gaps in provision, should be supported and, if necessary, regulated for. Looking ahead, it is crucial that rural communities feature prominently in plans to develop 5G networks.

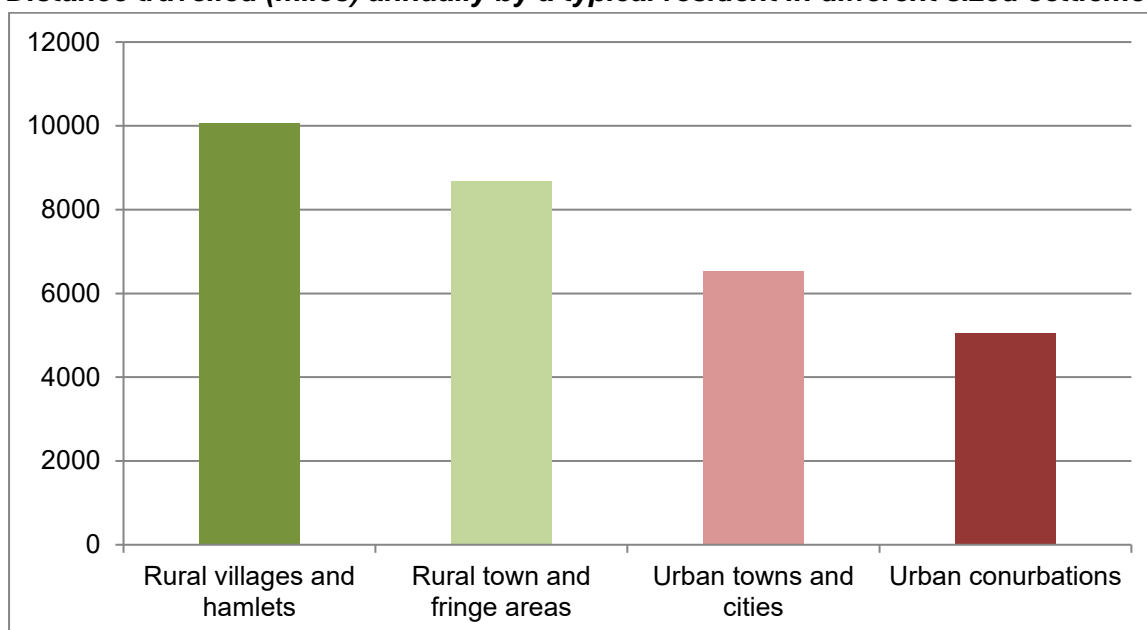
A place everyone can get around

People of all ages must have the means to travel to services, jobs and other opportunities. Not least those in the one in nine rural households that do not have a car. Transport is crucial to life opportunities and its absence can compound isolation and loneliness.

Key facts³

Rural residents need to travel further than their urban counterparts. Those living in small rural settlements (villages and hamlets) travelled an average of 10,055 miles per year in 2016/17. That is 54% more than the average for residents living in urban towns and cities.

Distance travelled (miles) annually by a typical resident in different sized settlements



Car ownership is relatively high in rural areas. Particularly notable is that low income households are 70% more likely to run a car if they live in a rural (rather than urban) area. Car ownership is a necessity for many to get around and an added cost they face.

Less than half (49%) of households living in small rural settlements (which are villages and hamlets) had access to a regular and nearby bus service in 2012. This figure, which is due to be updated, seems likely to have decreased since.

Local authorities in rural areas have far less funding available to them to support bus services. In 2017/18 expenditure in predominantly rural areas was £6.72 per resident to subsidise services, compared with £31.93 in predominantly urban areas. Expenditure to cover concessionary bus fares was £13.48 (rural) and £25.54 (urban) respectively.

³ Data sources are Department for Transport, Rural Services Network, Campaign for Better Transport and Community Transport Association.

Over the six years to 2016/17 transport budgets in shire local authorities were cut by:



There have been widespread cuts to rural bus services which depended on some public subsidy. During 2016/17 alone some 202 bus services were withdrawn altogether in shire areas and a further 191 services were reduced or altered.

Around half (52%) of all community transport organisations either wholly or mostly serve rural communities. However, in rural areas these organisations tend to be small-scale and they rely more heavily on fare revenue (receiving less grant income).

The rural challenge

Rural bus services are under huge financial pressure and, despite much good practice, community transport struggles to plug the gaps left behind. There are significant challenges which should be addressed by a Rural Strategy. They are:

- Reversing the widespread decline in rural bus service provision;
- Making bus services a more attractive option for rural travellers;
- Providing sustained support for complementary community transport schemes; and
- Ensuring future transport innovations will benefit rural communities.

What would make a difference?

The Rural Services Network believes that the following initiatives should be included within a Rural Strategy for a place everyone can get around:

- ✓ **A fair deal from local government funding:** it is inevitable that many bus routes require some subsidy to survive. The widespread cuts to rural bus services primarily result from the long-term squeeze on local government budgets, coupled with growing demands on their other statutory functions. That squeeze must now be ended. Funding rural bus services would also be far easier if the distribution of funding between local authorities was fair. In 2016/17 urban local authorities received 40% more (£116 per resident more) in funding than rural authorities. This historic imbalance needs correcting, with proper account taken of the added (sparsity) cost of service delivery, like supported bus routes, in rural areas.
- ✓ **A viable deal for transport operators:** Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) provides operators with a 60% fuel duty rebate for commercial services. It is particularly valuable in rural areas, where it helps sustain many financially marginal routes. From time to time BSOG has come under scrutiny. A positive signal from Government recognising the importance of BSOG and committing to retain it (at least) at its current level would stabilise the market and provide longer-term reassurance for operators. Where BSOG is paid out via local authorities (for

tendered services) it must remain fully funded by central Government. Bus operators should be able to offset against tax their capital expenditure to retro-fit vehicles in order to meet latest emission standards.

- ✓ **A sustainable approach to community transport:** many rural communities are struggling to establish schemes to replace lost bus services or to keep existing schemes viable. Grants may be sourced from local authorities, the national lottery and various trust funds, though often these offer only start-up or short-term funding. That said, the Government's £25 million Community Minibus Fund has been useful, if modest compared with the growing level of need. A £50 million per year fund, which targets rural areas, could easily be justified. A fair funding deal for local government (as above) would enable more grants to be paid to sustain rural community transport schemes.
- ✓ **A realistic concessionary fares scheme:** the statutory concessionary fares scheme, which gives pensioners and the disabled free bus travel, is overly restrictive in a rural context. It covers only weekday travel after 9.30 am. Some villages are served by just a few daily buses, one or two of which may run early morning. Others are served, not by traditional buses, but by community transport schemes which fall outside the current concessionary fares scheme. The statutory scheme therefore needs (funded) reform to make it valuable and fair to rural users. Government should also consider amending the law so that pensioners entitled to free travel may make voluntary contributions to help keep services viable.
- ✓ **A search for new rural solutions:** there is more scope to build on the learning from Total Transport pilot projects, which sought to improve use of existing resources, not least by pooling vehicles used by different sectors (such as education, social services and health). Government could pump prime more projects with an investment pot open to local and health authorities, and ensure the learning is shared among transport practitioners. Government could also explore whether there is rural merit in the Scottish system which allows local authorities to set up a transport company. The Government's Future of Mobility work – part of its Industrial Strategy – should examine rural transport needs and recommend rural applications. Any subsequent technology trials should include rural pilots.

As highlighted in the 'thriving rural economy' section, local authorities should also be funded to provide subsidised travel for 17 and 18 year olds travelling to further education.

An affordable place to live

Rural communities are only likely to thrive economically and socially if they are home to residents from a mix of age groups and backgrounds. This includes providing those brought up locally or working there with a chance to buy or rent a home they can afford.

Key facts⁴

Average house prices are £44,000 higher in rural areas than urban areas (2017). Housing is less affordable in predominantly rural areas, where lower quartile (the cheapest 25%) house prices are 8.3 times greater than lower quartile annual earnings (2016).

Options for those on low incomes seeking social rented housing are typically limited in small rural settlements. Only 8% of households in villages live in social housing. By contrast, 19% of households in urban settlements live in social housing (2011 Census).

Per cent of households that live in each type of housing tenure (2011 Census)

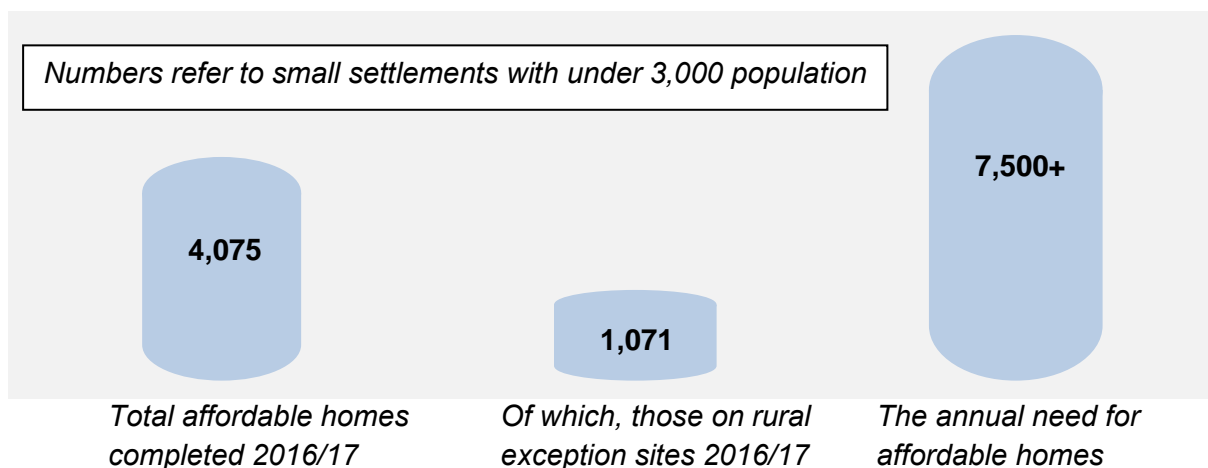


The rural stock of social rented housing has shrunk under the Right to Buy policy, with sales quadrupling between 2012 and 2015 to reach 1% of the stock each year. Although the sale income is intended for reinvestment, only 1 replacement home was built in rural areas for every 8 sold during this period, and these replacements are rarely in the same settlement.

Second homes and holiday lets often add to rural housing market pressures, especially in popular tourist areas. They form a particularly large share of the housing stock in some local authority areas – Isles of Scilly (15%), North Norfolk (10%) and South Hams (9%).

It has previously been estimated there is a need to build 7,500 new affordable homes each year at England's small rural settlements, a figure now considered an under-estimate. Around 3,700 such homes were completed in 2015/16 and just over 4,000 during 2016/17.

⁴ Data sources are Halifax Building Society, ONS, Rural Housing Policy Review, MHCLG and Rural Services Network.



Two thirds of rural local authorities say that affordable housing delivery decreased in their rural areas in 2017. This follows a change in planning policy, with developers no longer required to include any affordable homes on small market development sites.

The rural challenge

Rural communities are generally attractive places to live, but they need to be able to grow in ways which meet the needs of local people. There are significant challenges which should be addressed by a Rural Strategy. They are:

- Bringing forward development sites at a price suited to affordable housing;
- Making sure such homes are and remain genuinely affordable;
- Planning new housing in ways which attract community support; and
- Ensuring the funding model for affordable house building adds up.

What would make a difference?

The Rural Services Network believes that the following initiatives should be included within a Rural Strategy for an affordable place to live:

- ✓ **A planning policy to fit rural circumstances:** most development sites in rural areas are small. Recent changes to planning policy exclude small sites (of less than 10 dwellings) from the requirement that private developers include a proportion of affordable homes. Despite certain qualifications in designated rural areas, the impact on affordable housing delivery is proving significant and negative. Indeed, this had been the main way that such housing was built and it required no public subsidy. A simple solution would be to exempt all small rural settlements from the policy change, allowing affordable housing quotas again where they are most needed.
- ✓ **A realistic definition of affordable:** in most rural areas the greatest need for affordable housing is that for social rented housing. Many households cannot afford to pay anywhere near open market prices or rents. However, national policy has broadened the definition of 'affordable housing' to include Starter Homes, which are for sale at a 20% discount, and Affordable Rent, which is for rent at up to 80% of market prices. These tenures have their place, but the overriding need is to increase

the supply of truly affordable homes. This could be assisted by improved funding for housing associations (see below) and allowing local planning authorities more discretion to set tenures in Local Plan policies.

- ✓ **A dedicated rural affordable housing programme:** a specific grant programme is needed, designed to boost delivery by housing associations in small rural settlements. This could be managed by Homes England and run at a scale which meets the shortfall in delivery identified by the 2014 Rural Housing Policy Review. It should offer grant rates which account for the fact that small-scale development in rural areas is comparatively costly. Grants should also be sufficient to encourage good design and energy efficiency measures. Similarly, a share of the Community Housing Fund, which usefully supports community land trusts, co-housing and self-build projects, should be allocated to rural projects, thus meeting the original objective for this fund.
- ✓ **A bolstering of landowner and community support:** landowners' willingness to release land for rural exception sites, at prices which forego hope value, depends on them being assured it will only ever be used for affordable housing. At present there is uncertainty, which undermines policy delivery. One way to boost delivery of exception sites would be putting into law the ability to attach an affordability purpose to the sale deeds. Rural community support for affordable housing development would be enhanced if the occupancy of new homes was widened from those on local housing registers, to include those in nearby parishes or settlements who currently live in insecure rented or tied accommodation. Government could also explore exempting the sale of land for rural exception sites from Capital Gains Tax.
- ✓ **A replenishing of social housing:** the Right to Buy policy for local authority housing tenants has severely depleted the stock of affordable homes in rural areas. Figures show that for every 8 rural homes sold to their tenants, only 1 replacement home was built. At present only half of the sale proceeds go back to local housing authorities. Those authorities should be able to retain 100% of the proceeds from Right to Buy sales, enabling them to re-invest it and replenish the stock of affordable homes. This would complement the recent Government announcement, that it is lifting the cap on local authority borrowing to build social housing.

A fair deal on health and social care

Rural communities, like communities everywhere, need access to high quality health care and some require extra support from social care services. This is fundamental to wellbeing and anything less may pose a health risk. They should not have to pay extra for this (either directly or indirectly).

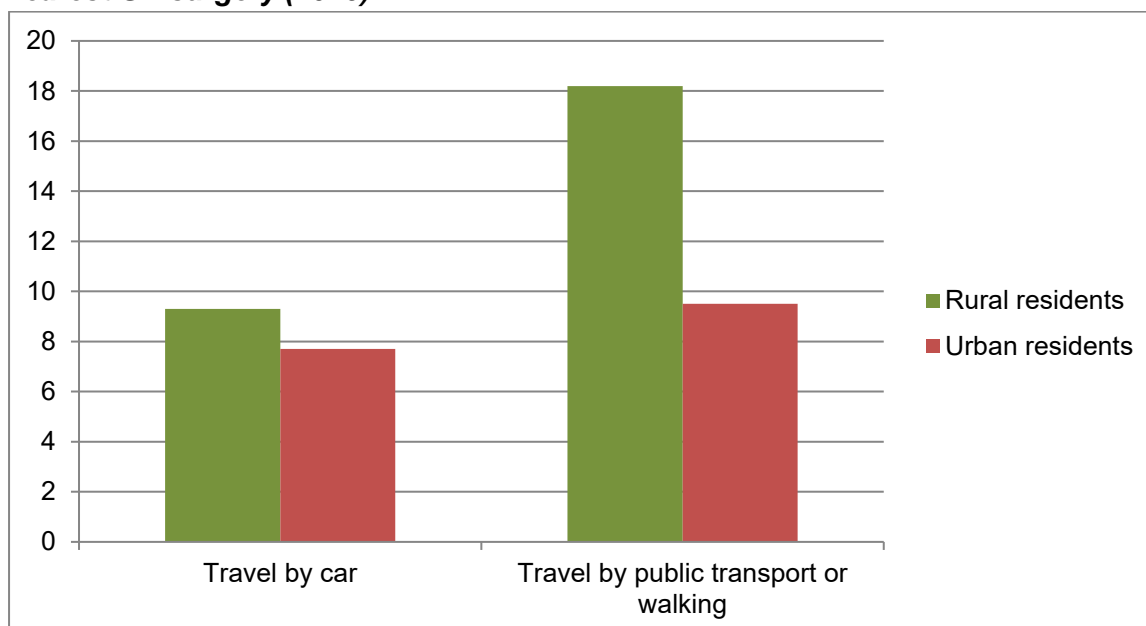
Key facts⁵

Older age groups form a significant and growing share of the rural population. In 2011 29% of the rural population were aged 60 or over, up from 24% in 2001. Comparative urban figures were 21% in 2011 and 20% in 2001. By 2039 nearly half of all households in rural areas will contain people aged 65 or over.

Rural and urban areas receive similar funding (per resident) under the NHS allocations to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). This does not reflect the older rural demographic, which places extra demand on NHS services due to chronic illness, disability and mortality.

Rural residents face longer journeys to reach a GP surgery than their urban counterparts. Those who travel by public transport or walk have an average 18 minute journey, though this figure takes no account of the frequency of such transport and hence any waiting time.

Minimum travel time, in minutes, for average rural and urban resident to reach their nearest GP surgery (2016)



The Government's resource allocation system for local government (Settlement Funding Assessment) provided urban areas with 40% more funding per resident than rural areas in 2016/17. With reducing budgets, spend to meet on growing social care needs risks overwhelming rural county and unitary council budgets at the expense of other services.

⁵ Data sources are ONS, National Housing Federation, Department for Transport, Rural Services Network and Rural England.

Rural residents also face an additional cost burden for the adult social care provision in their areas. In 2017/18 they funded 76% of the cost of its provision through their Council Tax bills. The urban comparator figure was 53%.

Home care providers face various challenges in rural areas, including difficulties recruiting staff and unproductive staff travel time between geographically spread clients. Rates of delayed transfer of care upon hospital discharge are higher in rural than urban areas.

Rates of delayed transfer of care from hospitals in 2016/17

Predominantly rural areas:

Rate = **19.2** cases per 100,000 adult population

Predominantly urban areas:

Rate = **13.0** cases per 100,000 adult population

Almost 12% of all residents who live in rural areas are providing informal care to someone else on a regular basis. That figure doubles to 24% amongst older people who live in rural areas. Both these figures are higher than the urban equivalents.

The rural challenge

On measures of healthiness the rural population can score rather well, but demand for health and social care services is growing and access to them is frequently a concern. Significant challenges should be addressed by a Rural Strategy. They are:

- Ensuring that patients can get to secondary and tertiary health services;
- Delivering quality primary health care locally within rural settings;
- Making sure social care reaches those who need it in remote locations; and
- Benefitting rural clients through improved health and social care integration.

What would make a difference?

The Rural Services Network believes that the following initiatives should be included within a Rural Strategy for a fair deal on health and social care:

- ✓ **A fair allocation of funding to rural areas:** funding for the NHS⁶, social care and public health should each be overhauled to reflect actual patterns of demand and to take full account of the extra costs of service provision in sparsely populated areas⁷. As a matter of principle, rural and urban residents should receive equitable service provision. Rural residents should not be paying more Council Tax for fewer services. Despite some additional funding announced in the 2018 Budget, local taxation has become unable to meet the growing need for social care and a case now exists to finance social care services managed by local authorities differently, with their statutory provision fully funded by central Government. This would address the current unfairness and make it easier to cope with future demand.

⁶ This should include the additional funding allocated to mental health services by the 2018 Budget.

⁷ To this end, the Government's Fair Funding Review for local government finance is welcome, but it needs progressing and implementing more rapidly.

- ✓ **A rural proofed model for health care delivery:** in many areas the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) propose reconfiguring secondary and tertiary health care services, including A&E, elective and other hospital provision. Often these plans would result in more centralised services. Whilst a medical case can be made for specialising care at one location, this needs balancing against the need for patient (and visitor) access to services, not least from outlying rural areas. STPs should also seek more local delivery for non-urgent treatments at clinics, health centres and community hospitals, whilst improving hospital patient transport.
- ✓ **A stronger focus on filling vacancies:** recruiting GPs, care workers and other health or social care professionals is difficult in many rural areas. A growing number of surgeries report unfilled vacancies for family doctors, with postings in smaller or rural surgeries apparently less attractive to trainee and younger health care professionals. It is important that rural communities benefit sufficiently from the NHS fund to attract recruits into hard-to-fill posts. Helpful recent recommendations made by the new National Centre for Rural Health and Care include introducing a spatial component to Health Education England's STAR workforce planning tool and developing centres of excellence in rural health and care delivery.
- ✓ **A joined up approach to health and social care:** options for integrating health and social care services may be constrained in rural areas, but the benefits of doing so are perhaps even greater than elsewhere. To that end, the Better Care Fund has been a helpful (pooled) funding pot, despite giving less to rural than urban areas⁸. The direction of travel indicated by the NHS Long Term Plan is helpful, placing the emphasis on preventative approaches and encouraging innovation. The delayed Social Care Green Paper needs to offer further opportunities to move to a more sustainable and effective approach. It will be important for it to recognise rural service delivery cost issues.
- ✓ **A housing policy ready for an ageing population:** the Social Care Green Paper should also address housing issues, such as access to specialist housing for older people and adapting homes for those who live independently. This is important in rural areas where there are typically limited housing choices. Extra funding announced in the Budget for the Disabled Facilities Grant is welcome, though will hardly scratch the surface. New housing should be built to meet the accessibility needs of an ageing rural population. This is more effective and efficient than adapting homes later. Government should work with local authorities, housing associations and the house building industry to ensure that many more new homes are designed and built to meet the Lifetime Homes standard.

⁸ This Fund will provide £29.54 per rural resident and £37.74 per urban resident in 2019/20.

A place to learn and grow

Rural schools typically play an important role at the heart of their community and provide a high quality education. It is imperative that education policies – focussed on the needs of children – support them and help them to face particular rural challenges.

Key facts⁹

There are roughly 5,300 schools located in rural areas. This represents almost 27% of the total number of schools across England (2014 data). Some 53% of Church of England primary schools are located in rural areas.

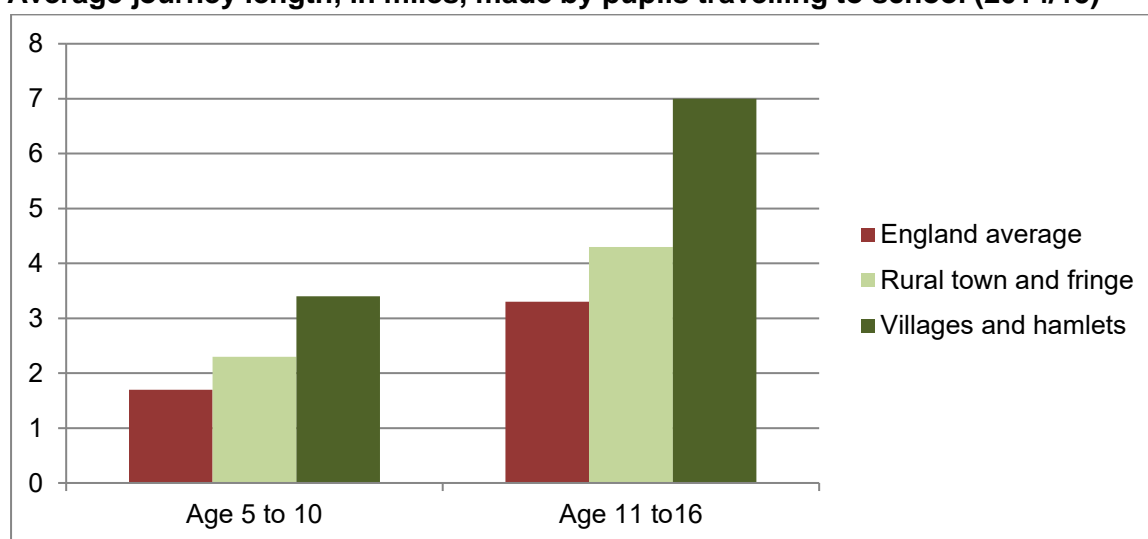
A large proportion of rural schools are small. More than 33% can be defined as ‘very small’, having fewer than 110 pupils, whilst another 29% can be defined as ‘small’, having between 110 and 209 pupils. Comparators for urban schools are 5% and 16% respectively.

School running costs (per pupil) increase as school size shrinks and they rise sharply where schools have fewer than 50 pupils. Core costs, such as teaching salaries, energy bills and catering, are all typically above average in rural schools. Home to school transport costs are many times higher in rural than in urban areas.

Many rural schools have older buildings which are expensive to run and maintain. A large number have nineteenth century and some have Listed Buildings. High ceilings can make them expensive to heat.

Pupils from rural communities travel further to school than their peers who live elsewhere. Those from small rural settlement travel an average of 3.4 miles to a primary school and 7.0 miles to a secondary school.

Average journey length, in miles, made by pupils travelling to school (2014/15)



⁹ Sources are: Church of England Education Office (2014 data), Cumbria County Council (2018 data), Hampshire County Council (2016/17 data), Defra (2014/15 data) and The Key (2018 survey).

The top challenges identified by head teachers of rural schools were (in order of priority) not having sufficient funding, maintaining or improving pupil performance, providing for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities and meeting the needs of all their pupils.

Teaching and support staff in rural schools frequently need to multi-task, as a result of the (small) school size. For the same reason many pupils at rural schools are taught in classes with mixed age groups.

Surveyed rural schools where:	As a proportion of all rural schools
All classes consist of mixed age groups	45%
Some classes consist of mixed age groups	24%

In a 2018 survey most rural school head teachers identified that they have pupils from poor families whose incomes lay just above the threshold which would have earned them the pupil premium grant (or top up funding).

Small schools with few staff can find it harder to offer a broad curriculum or after school enrichment opportunities, such as music and sports. They may address this by collaborating with other nearby schools, though this typically involves some extra travel for pupils.

The rural challenge

Rural schools often benefit from having experienced staff and most of them perform well, if measured against pupil achievements at key stages or in exam results. However, there are significant challenges which should be addressed by a Rural Strategy. They are:

- Sustaining schools with small (or fluctuating) pupil numbers;
- Managing school budgets when operating costs are high;
- Recruiting and retaining teaching and support staff; and
- Finding appropriate models for school collaboration.

What would make a difference?

- ✓ **A presumption against school closures:** the long-standing Government policy, which is a presumption against rural school closures, has been helpful in protecting many small schools. There can be circumstances where closures are justified, but generally if village schools close there is a considerable social cost: the community is less sustainable and children are required to travel further. School rolls are more prone to fluctuation from year to year in small schools and the presumption helps protect them through this cycle. A rural strategy would offer a good opportunity to restate the intention behind this presumption and its 2013 statutory guidance, while stressing that decisions should make the interests of children paramount.
- ✓ **A fair and realistic funding basis:** historically, the funding (per pupil) received by schools varied significantly and to the detriment of those in predominantly rural

areas. The National Funding Formula for schools, now being gradually introduced, is very welcome, but it should allow for more than minimum staffing levels and should benefit all small rural schools (which it currently does not). Schools with a small roll often miss out on capital funding for maintenance or modernisation, with expenditure being focussed on larger school development projects. It is important that sufficient funding is set aside for smaller projects, to make rural schools fit for purpose.

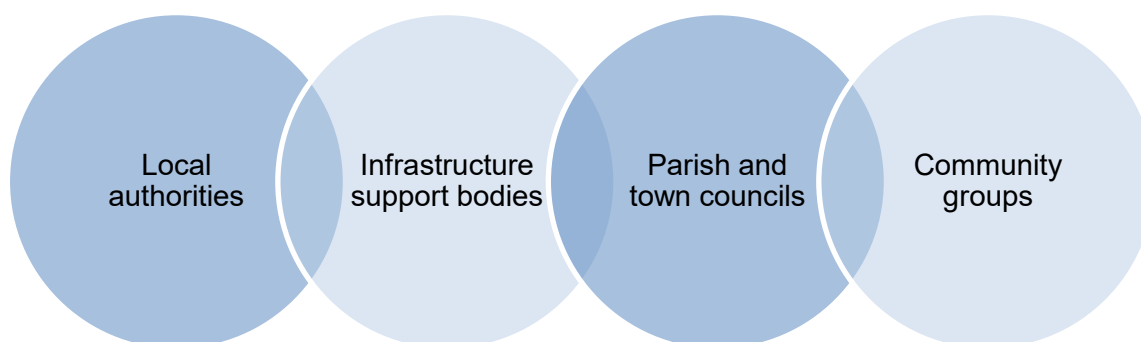
- ✓ **A stronger focus on rural recruitment:** a third of rural head teachers say that their school's location impedes their ability to attract new teaching staff. Some teachers are put off by the prospect of teaching mixed age groups or having less opportunity to develop specialisms. Gaps in staffing can also be harder to manage in small schools. A more effective strategy is needed to encourage teaching staff to take up vacancies that arise in rural schools. This could include exposure to rural schools during teacher training, more effort to attract people from rural communities into the teaching profession and the provision of (affordable) key worker housing.

- ✓ **A workable approach to collaboration:** smaller rural schools may benefit particularly from collaboration or clustering, where it allows them to share resources and expertise. This can include shared Heads and shared teaching staff. Moreover, there is some evidence that collaboration is associated with better pupil performance. However, given their higher cost base, small or isolated schools are often seen as unattractive by Multi-Academy Trusts – the Government's preferred collaboration structure. National policy should recognise this limitation, making extra support available so that small rural schools can adopt a model which best suits their circumstances and enables them to deliver an excellent education.

A settlement to support local action

The needs of rural communities are best met when policy decisions are taken locally by those who understand the area. This means devolving decisions to local authorities and those they work with in the public, private and civil society sectors, including parish councils and community groups. Local action can also help to address issues such as isolation, loneliness and vulnerability.

Key facts¹⁰



Local authorities are fundamental to efforts to ensure sustainable and inclusive rural communities. They provide democratically elected local leadership, address community needs and deliver a range of important public services, either directly or working with others.

To be effective local authorities must be sufficiently resourced. In rural areas their capacity has increasingly been curtailed both by funding cuts, which affect the whole local authority sector, and because they receive less funding than local authorities in urban areas.

At the very local level there are roughly 10,000 Parish and Town Councils, mostly in rural areas. Increasingly, they are taking on facilities and services which principal local authorities can no longer afford to run. This is a positive response, though the long term survival of such services often remains uncertain.

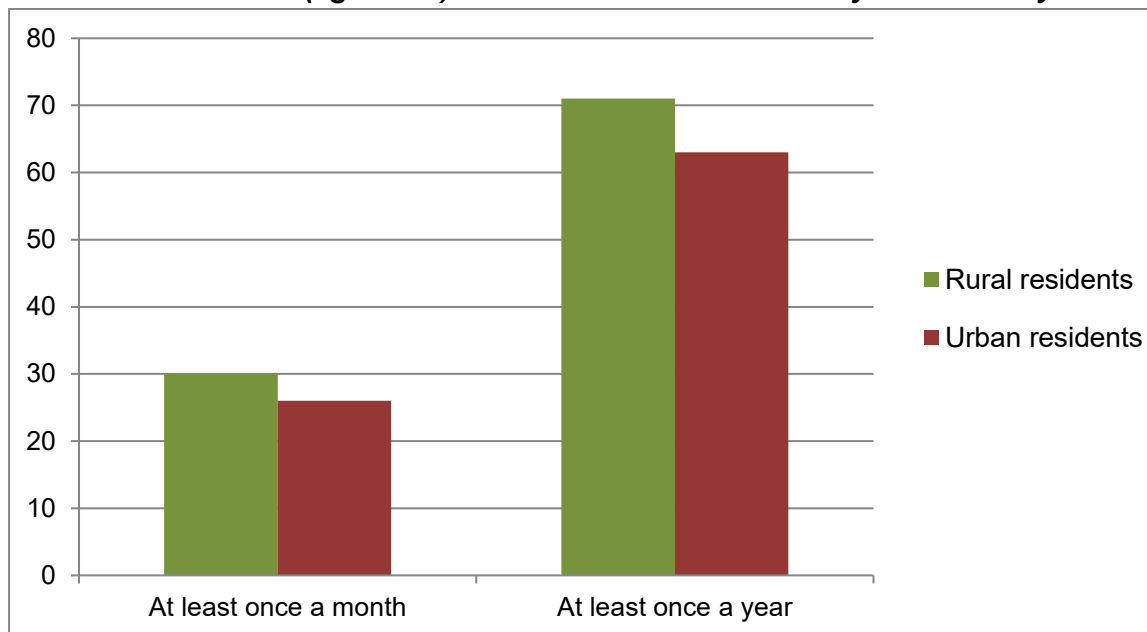
Rural England has almost 10,000 village halls or community buildings, usually managed by volunteer trustees. These are venues for a wide variety of social, sports, recreation and arts activities. Many host services like a pre-school, outreach post office, country market or cafe.

Much of the growth in numbers of community-run shops, pubs and libraries has taken place in rural communities where their private or public provision has disappeared. In 2016 there were 296 community-run shops in England, some 59% of which hosted a post office.

Survey data shows that 30% of rural residents aged 16 or over volunteered on at least a monthly basis (2017/18), which is higher than the urban figure (26%). The voluntary sector, however, often expresses concern about growing expectations and volunteer burn-out.

¹⁰ Data sources are NALC, DCMS, ACRE and Plunkett Foundation.

Per cent of residents (aged 16+) who volunteer either formally or informally



In many parts of the country local action has been taken to draw up Community Resilience Plans. This is particularly important in rural areas where residents and businesses have experienced extreme weather events, such as flooding, drought and storm damage.

Earlier sections in this document contain other facts relevant to local action, such as those about community transport and neighbourhood planning.

The rural challenge

The extent of community activism and self help is a positive feature found in many rural communities. However, there are significant challenges which should be addressed by a Rural Strategy. They are:

- Ensuring that local authorities retain the capacity to serve their rural communities;
- Boosting the capacity of parish and town councils to bring about local solutions;
- Recruiting and retaining volunteers with sufficient time and the right skills; and
- Providing the support infrastructure to facilitate community action in more areas.

What would make a difference?

The Rural Services Network believes that the following initiatives should be included within a Rural Strategy for a settlement to support local action:

- ✓ **A properly resourced local authority sector:** from 2011 to 2017 revenue funding to pay for local authority services was reduced by £16 billion, forcing the sector to make uncomfortable cutbacks which impact negatively on the quality of residents' lives. Those impacts have been particularly felt by rural residents, as their local authorities had below average levels of funding to start with. Ending the long funding squeeze would take pressure off vital services now at risk, as would a move to fair funding

allocations. It would also provide rural local authorities with more headroom to work with and support their communities.

- ✓ **A realistic deal for parish and town councils:** many parish and town councils have taken on discretionary services previously provided by principal local authorities, such as maintaining open spaces, public footpaths and public toilets. Typically they do this well and it can be a chance to redesign services. But with shrinking local authority budgets these services must often be taken on without accompanying funding. This inevitably adds to the level of the Council Tax precept set by town and parish councils. Government should therefore remove its threat to impose a cap on increases to the precept they charge. More of these councils could be encouraged to group together to provide services cost-effectively.
- ✓ **An underpinning for local action:** the rural voluntary and community sector needs access to support and training. That includes advice on governance, finance, operational and other matters. In some areas there is limited community action and more intensive support is needed to build capacity. All this requires infrastructure bodies, such as the ACRE Network, that provide advice, training and support to rural community groups and volunteers. Such bodies offer good value for money, but can only survive with some underpinning funding. Wherever possible this should last a few years, to give more certainty and let them focus on delivery. Proposals outlined in the Government's Civil Society Strategy have potential to address this rural need, especially if local authorities are resources to fulfil the expected enabling role.
- ✓ **A support package for communities:** community activism is low cost, but rarely comes free. This is especially so when community groups take on buildings or other assets. Various trusts are generous funders of local projects. Government, too, has provided some grant funding through bodies such as Locality and has announced new funding for village halls. If rural communities are expected to play a growing role in service delivery and the management of local assets it is imperative this funding continues and at a level which matches the policy aspiration. This should be backed up with resources, such as good practice guidance and networks where communities can learn from each other.
- ✓ **A local response to extreme weather:** rural communities have increasingly experienced extreme weather events. In recent years rural communities in places such as Cornwall, Somerset and Cumbria have faced torrential rainfall and flooding. In 2017 some communities were cut-off by snow and in 2018 many suffered from drought conditions, not least those homes and businesses which rely on abstracted water from bore holes, springs, streams and the like. Communities in vulnerable locations need assistance in the form of infrastructure and measures to mitigate future risk, and having plans in place to respond to extreme circumstances. Local Community Resilience Plans should be encouraged and supported.

A rural-proofed policy framework

Mainstream policies, such as those on housing, health, education, planning and economic growth, must be workable in rural areas, where there can be distinct challenges delivering to small and scattered settlements or where economies of scale are harder to achieve.

Key points

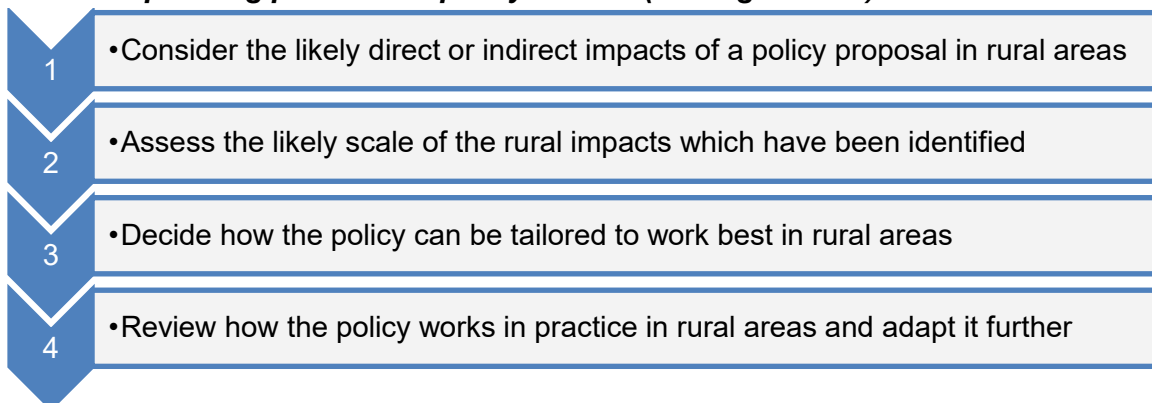
Policies that work in an urban context will not necessarily work in a rural context. Rural areas have specific needs and circumstances which need to be taken into account.

Rural proofing is the policy making process intended to achieve that end. Unfortunately, various reviews have found that its implementation is patchy – including, most recently, the Independent Rural Proofing Implementation Review led by Lord Cameron.

The review by Lord Cameron concluded that Defra has insufficient staff resources working on rural affairs. It questioned the ability of Defra, as lead department on this topic, to engage sufficiently with other Whitehall departments and to support rural proofing.

Various commentators have cited other factors that, when in place, make rural proofing more likely to succeed. They include having buy-in from departmental Ministers, policy makers consulting with rural interest groups and making rural proofing a more transparent process.

The rural proofing process for policy makers (Defra guidance)



That rural proofing can work well seems clear. A recent example of good practice is the Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review issued by DCMS. This seeks to address market failure in rural areas, proposing an approach to ensure rural communities are not left behind.

Rural proofing can add just as much value at the local level, where services and policy initiatives are typically delivered. Its application can be especially beneficial in administrative areas that are mostly urban in character, yet which also contain rural localities.

The challenge

Whilst the application of rural proofing has a mixed record, it has nonetheless proved a useful lever for seeking to have rural needs and circumstances taken into account. To improve its effectiveness a Rural Strategy should address certain points. They are:

- Reaffirming the rural proofing commitment and placing it on a firmer footing;
- Providing sufficient staff and resources to carry out the rural proofing function;
- Making it clearer what rural proofing actions policy makers are taking; and
- Ensuring that rural proofing filters down more consistently to the local level.

What would make a difference?

- ✓ **A proper legal basis for rural proofing:** there is now a real case for placing rural proofing on a stronger legal footing, in the way that it has been in Northern Ireland. The centrepiece of a Rural Strategy should be to place a responsibility on all public bodies, to have regard for rural needs whenever they develop or revise policies, strategies and plans. This duty would be the best way to ensure rural proofing is more consistently and adequately applied. It would also send a welcome, visible signal that the Government of the day reaffirms its commitment to the wellbeing of rural communities and the success of rural economies.
- ✓ **A more transparent proofing process:** it is frequently unclear the extent to which Whitehall departments have considered rural needs and circumstances when developing policies or initiatives. Three actions could help. First, policy making teams could more often consult rural interest groups who have relevant subject expertise. Second, departments could report annually and publically on their rural proofing activities. Third, the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Select Committee could hold a short, regular (say, biennial) inquiry to review progress.
- ✓ **A better resourced team within Defra:** the dedicated rural affairs team within Defra has a key role to engage with policy making teams across Whitehall, helping them to understand rural issues, to undertake rural proofing and to apply rural evidence. This is an ongoing function: rural proofing activity quickly withers if it is not supported. Whilst Defra staff will never be able to engage with every policy development that takes place, there nevertheless needs to be sufficient resources to cover a broad sweep of topics which impact significantly on rural communities and economies.
- ✓ **An effective approach to local policy delivery:** the principle of rural proofing should also apply at the local level where policies are delivered. A legal basis for rural proofing would cover statutory bodies. It should be good practice for private and civil society sector organisations too. Local practice can include adopting rural strategies, assessing rural impacts, holding rural scrutiny sessions, testing initiatives with rural pilots, appointing rural champions to key groups or committees and monitoring rural outcomes. It will help if there are opportunities and resources that enable the sharing and learning from existing rural practice. Organisations such as the Rural Services Network, ACRE and Rural Coalition stand ready to play their part.

Our call to Government and others

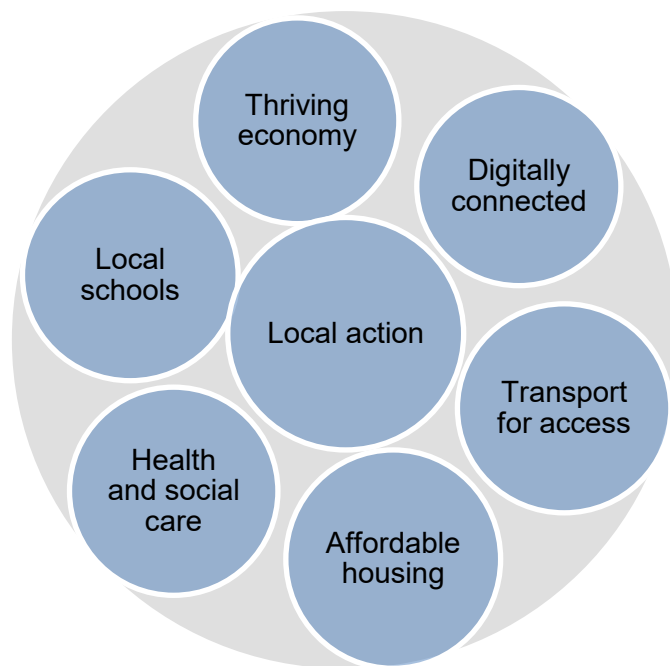
In this document we have set out our ideas for a Rural Strategy. Although they have been described under a series of headings, there are strong links between them and actions taken under one heading will create benefits under others. Truly sustainable rural communities need job opportunities, digital connectivity, transport options, affordable homes and access to services.

Whilst this document commands wide support across the extensive membership of the Rural Services Network, it was not written as a set of fixed ideas and we look forward to discussing it with Government and other interested parties.

What we do feel strongly about is that such a strategy must be:

- ✓ Ambitious – setting challenging objectives for rural England a decade from now;
- ✓ Comprehensive – addressing a range of important policy agendas that impact on rural prosperity, wellbeing and quality of life;
- ✓ Current – ensuring rural areas benefit fully from latest Government strategies and green papers, such as those for industry, connectivity and social care, and take proper account of future trends;
- ✓ Resourced – providing realistic financial resources to deliver on its ambitions, recognising that delivery almost always costs more in rural areas; and
- ✓ Supported – commanding wide support from across Government and beyond.

At a practical level, to be effective a strategy must have buy-in from across Whitehall departments and must be capable of delivery at a local level and in ways which match local circumstances. Rural areas are not homogenous and the best solutions are frequently those defined and delivered locally.



We are convinced there is an opportunity for Government to make a real difference, benefitting rural residents, businesses and communities alike. We are similarly convinced that this would prove beneficial to the nation as a whole. If business support and digital connectivity boosts the productivity of the rural economy, then the UK wins. If preventative measures reduce demand on health and social care services in rural areas, then taxpayers at all levels win.

If pressed to name one way in which a Rural Strategy could leave a lasting legacy, our answer is that it should contain a commitment to introduce a Rural Needs Bill, to place rural proofing on a firmer, statutory footing. Why? Because rural proofing is intended to inform and influence every policy agenda that impacts on rural life.

Our conclusion? It is time for a Rural Strategy. We hope that others agree.



www.rsonline.org.uk



01822 851370



admin@rsn.gov.uk



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

16 July 2019

Subject: Local Plan Review Consultation Response

Report by:	Executive Director for Economic and Commercial Growth
Contact Officer:	Rachael Hughes Development Contributions Officer rachael.hughes@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To agree the formal response by West Lindsey District Council to the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Review Consultation

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Members consider the content of the consultation response as drafted and contribute further observation and commentary within the Prosperous Communities Committee meeting as appropriate.

Members agree and endorse the proposed consultation submission in relation to the Reg.18 Public Participation stage as identified within the indicative timetable contained with the Local Development scheme (Jan 2019).

Members delegate authority to Executive Director for Economic and Commercial Growth (in consultation with the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee) to submit the final version of West Lindsey District Council's formal response to the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation incorporating any additional comments expressed and agreed throughout the debate.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: Any legal matters arising from the Review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan will be addressed by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team and appointed legal representatives

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/53/20

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Any officers time expended will be covered by existing budgets.

(N.B.) All committee reports **MUST** have a Fin Ref

Staffing : N/A

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report **MUST** have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

The revised Local Plan will be supported by an equality analysis as part of the formal Local Plan process which will address any equality or human rights issues which may arise from the policies in the Local Plan

Data Protection Implications : N/A

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : N/A

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations : N/A

Health Implications: It is not anticipated that the elements of the Local Plan which deals with Health and Wellbeing (LP9) will form part of this review, unless consultation responses and associated evidence suggests otherwise

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee Paper with resolution to begin the review

- <https://democracy.n-kesteven.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=66522>

Local Development Scheme (Jan 2019)

- <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/about-central-lincolnshire/>

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Consultation Documents (06/06/19 – 18/07/19)

- <https://central-lincs.inconsult.uk>

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

Executive Summary

The changes in National Policy including updates as detailed in the report have made a review to the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan necessary.

West Lindsey District Council in the role of consultee has an opportunity to provide comments on the initial Issues and Options Paper which consists of 26 questions and considers a range of policies and some suggested updates.

This is the first of a number of consultations on the Local Plan review which gives West Lindsey District Council an opportunity to comment, shape and inform the final draft to be submitted for examination.

Prosperous Communities Committee as West Lindsey District Council's Policy Committee are requested to consider the Issues and Options Consultation paper and provide where appropriate responses to the issues raised.

Cllr. Bierley, Cllr. McNeill and Cllr. Howitt-Cowan as Chair and Vice Chairs of Prosperous Communities Committee with the support of Officers have provided an initial consultation response on behalf of West Lindsey District Council which can be found in appendix A for the Committee to consider, agree and endorse for submission.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As Members of Prosperous Communities Committee are aware since 2009 the council's statutory local planning function has been delivered by a separate local planning authority (established by parliamentary order) known as the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (CLJSPC), supported by a team of officers. This CLJSPC is made up of members from the four contributing councils, including three members (plus one reserve) from West Lindsey.
- 1.2 The CLJSPC committee's role is to oversee the production and review of the local plan through to adoption and make decisions on new planning policy requirements. That means the approval and adoption and subsequent review of the local plan lies with the CLJSPC.
- 1.3 The current Local Plan adopted in April 2017 was developed in accordance with legislation and national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and includes a detailed policy framework for Central Lincolnshire. Some key elements of the current adopted Local Plan include:
 - a. A housing need of 1,540 dwellings per year and a total housing requirement of 36,690 dwellings between 2012-2036;
 - b. A large number of site allocations from 25 dwellings up to 6,000 dwellings in size;
 - c. A settlement hierarchy for Central Lincolnshire to help manage housing and employment growth; and
 - d. Many other policies relating to development and land use intended to ensure that Central Lincolnshire grows sustainably and that it remains an attractive place to live, work and visit.
- 1.4. These policies have been in operation across Central Lincolnshire since the plan was adopted.
- 1.5 The role of the WLDC committees in this joint function is one of a consultee, with the authority's CLJSPC members making delegated decisions on the final content of the plan.
- 1.6 At the CLJSPC meeting on 14th January 2019 a paper was presented to the committee outlining a number of changes to National Policy and associated challenges faced by Central Lincolnshire. It was also however acknowledged that the majority of the April 2017 Local Plan continues to operate well in considering and making decisions on planning applications however due to changes in National Policy it was recommended that a review of the Local Plan be approved.
- 1.7 Much of the change to the NPPF relates to enhancing clarity and reordering sections, however, there are some fairly significant changes with implications for Central Lincolnshire. In summary, these are:

- a. A new standard method for calculating local housing need, which will act as a minimum for housing requirement figures in local plans;
- b. Local Plans must be reviewed to consider whether they need to be updated within five years of being adopted;
- c. A requirement to stipulate the different needs for housing, including, but not limited to, affordable housing, family housing, older persons accommodation, students, people with disabilities, people wishing to rent their homes;
- d. An obligation to include housing requirements for designated neighbourhood areas;
- e. A new Housing Delivery Test has been introduced which can impact on the effectiveness of local plan policies;
- f. A requirement for local plans to include 10% of the housing requirement to be allocated on sites of 1 hectare or smaller;
- g. An allowance for 'entry-level exception sites' to be delivered at the edge of existing settlements on sites of up to 1 hectare or smaller or less than 5% of the size of the existing settlement; and
- h. An advanced requirement to include the infrastructure needs for the area and a more robust viability assessment of the local plan in order to reduce viability assessments needed in support of planning applications.

1.8 The proposal recommended to the Committee was for the Local Plan to be reviewed commencing in this calendar year. Reasons for this recommendation were as follows:

- a. The changes to the national context are significant and could mean that a number of current local plan policies become out of date and carry less weight for decision making;
- b. Delivery on a number of allocated sites has been slower than anticipated and, as such, a review of the sites being allocated provides an opportunity to review the deliverability of the sites, potentially de-allocating sites on which there has been little or no progress and to identify the most suitable locations for homes to be delivered;
- c. The new local housing need methodology currently results in a lower housing requirement for Central Lincolnshire than that adopted in the Local Plan. Whilst the precise number is yet to be firmed, based the resulting figure from the originally proposed method and the revised method currently proposed by government it is likely that the housing need figure would be lower than that adopted in the Local Plan. This does not mean that a Local Plan review could not aspire for more growth than the minimum, but it would likely result in a stronger housing supply position when tested at appeals in the coming years;
- d. The adopted local plan includes a cut off in December 2020 for the Liverpool method to be applied in housing land supply

calculations (spreading the past shortfall of housing across the plan period rather than delivering them in the first five years of the plan). When comparing the current projected rate of housing delivery against the housing requirement in the adopted Local Plan, unless more progress is made on Sustainable Urban Extensions and other allocated sites, there is a substantial risk that Central Lincolnshire will not demonstrate a five year supply after this date. This risk can only be mitigated through a Local Plan review;

- e. A review of the plan offers an opportunity to reflect on the policies to ensure that they are working correctly and to address any issues;
- f. Much of the local plan will not need revision as it is operating effectively and much of the evidence base is up to date. This should help streamline a plan review;
- g. A review of the plan provides an opportunity to provide greater clarity for neighbourhood planning groups about what the expectations and limitations exist for them; and
- h. A review of the local plan offers the opportunity to consider whether new policies or allocations are needed to reflect changing circumstances and opportunities that were not incorporated in the adopted local plan.

1.9 The committee members voted unanimously to support a review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The Committee resolved:

- a. That the committee note the content of the report and approve the proposed review of the Local Plan;
- b. That the number of principles that will guide the review of the Local Plan be approved;
- c. That that Local Development Scheme be approved for publication

1.10 As detailed within the published Local Development Scheme for the review, stage 1 of the Public Participation is programmed twice for June – July 2019 and February – March 2020. This stage of the review is designed to provide opportunities for interested parties and statutory consultees to consider the options for the plan before the final document is produced.

2.0 Current Position

2.1 The first stage of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Review - Issues and Options consultation started on 06th June 2019 and runs until 18th July 2019. Much of the plan is not proposed to be changed, but there are a number of areas where policies need to be reviewed to address changes to national policy and local circumstances.

2.2 As such this consultation provides an initial opportunity for Prosperous Communities Committee in capacity of consultee to comment on proposed changes detailed in the Issues and Options Consultation Document.

2.3 Cllr. Bierley, Cllr. McNeill and Cllr. Howitt-Cowen as Chair and Vice Chairs of Prosperous Communities Committee with the support of Officers have provided an initial consultation response on behalf of West Lindsey District Council. Key messages in relation to the consultation are:

- a. Sustainability criteria should be reflected more in the context of the rurality of the district to support communities
- b. Enabling a more buoyant visitor economy and opportunity for diversification should be given greater consideration
- c. Support for a new RAF Scampton Policy
- d. Deliverability of sites should be a key factor in retained and new allocations

The full consultation response can be found in appendix A of this report.

2.4 It is important for members to note that whilst West Lindsey District Council will submit a single formal response all Councillors and Parish and Town Councils are able to submit their own consultation responses throughout the duration of this consultation period and indeed future consultations in relation to the Local Plan review.

3.0 Next Steps

3.1 Following the close of the first consultation period a full assessment of responses will be made and these responses will be used to help inform revisions to policy, which will again be consulted on in early 2020, with further opportunity for councillor, resident and stakeholder comment.

3.2 The review is currently aligned with the indicative timetable provided within the Local Development Scheme published in Jan 2019, however further updates on the timetable and opportunities to comment will continue to be provided to Members throughout the review period.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members consider the content of the consultation response as drafted and contribute further observation and commentary within the Prosperous Communities Committee meeting as appropriate.

4.2 Members agree and endorse the proposed consultation submission in relation to the Reg.18 Public Participation stage as identified within the indicative timetable contained with the Local Development scheme (Jan 2019).

4.3 Members delegate authority to Executive Director for Economic and Commercial Growth (in consultation with the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee) to submit the final version of West Lindsey District Council's formal response to the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation incorporating any additional comments expressed and agreed throughout the debate.



Issues and Options Consultation Response Form

Your views are being sought on the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation which is open from **6 June to 18 July 2019**. The Issues and Options consultation document can be viewed at <https://central-lincs.inconsult.uk> along with other supporting information. The consultation document includes a number of questions on proposals and options for the plan review for which your opinion is being sought.

This form can be used to respond to the consultation as an alternative to the online questionnaire. Responses should be submitted to the Local Plan Team at talkplanning@central-lincs.org.uk or via post to: Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team, District Council Offices, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF.

Comments must be received by 23:59 on 18 July 2019, late comments will not be accepted.

Part A: Your Details

Respondent details	Agent details (where applicable)
Name* : Prosperous Communities Committee on behalf of West Lindsey District Council	Name: Insert agent name here
Organisation: West Lindsey District Council	Organisation: Insert agent organisation here
Address* : Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA	Address: Insert agent postal address here
Email: Rachael.hughes@west-lindsey.gov.uk	Email: Insert agent email address here
Tel: 01427 676548	Tel: Insert respondent telephone number here

* indicates required field

Important information about data protection

Your responses will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and your personal information will never be sold or shared for marketing purposes.

Any comment you make as part of the consultations relating to the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan cannot be treated as confidential and will be made public as it is a statutory requirement to publish comments. These will be published online. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Local Plan Team. Published content will not include email addresses, postal addresses, and telephone numbers. As copies of representations must be made available for public inspection, they will be available for inspection in full.

Your information will be retained by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team as part of the statutory plan making duty, until no later than 6 months after the Plan is adopted, at which point your information will be securely deleted, unless you confirm that you wish for it to be retained. If you wish to be contacted at subsequent stages of the Plan preparation to keep you informed and to allow you to submit further comments please tick this box.

By submitting your response you are agreeing to these conditions and to your information being processed in line with our privacy notice available at: www.central-lincs.org.uk/contact.

Part B: Your response

This response form only includes the questions being asked in the Issues and Options consultation and should be read with the main consultation document which includes the proposals to which each question relates.

Q1 – The Vision	
Do you agree that the Vision should remain the same for the new plan with only the plan period and housing growth level being updated?	
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Yes, in the light of the Local Plan only being adopted 2years ago it is appropriate that the vision and objectives should remain the same.	

Q2 – Objectives	
Do you agree that the Objectives should remain the same for the new plan?	
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: As above	

Q3 – Policies not intended to be changed	
Do you agree with the list of proposed policies that are not intended to be changed significantly in the new plan? If not please provide details.	
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: LP7 requires some additional narrative in relation to types of tourism uses, policy states tourism provision currently required to be adjacent to settlements, however clarity required in relation to holiday accommodation such as caravan sites? LP8 requires some minor adjustment in relation to wording to bring it up to date. Consideration given to clarifying uses accepted on identified green wedges in LP 22.	

Q4 – Plan Period	
Do you agree with the proposed plan period of 2018-2040? If not please provide details.	
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: A forward looking plan is appropriate in the context of National Planning Policy	

Q5a – Tiers of the Hierarchy

Do you think the 8 tiers of the Settlement Hierarchy should be retained in the new Local Plan? If not, please provide details of what changes you think should be made.

Yes

No

Comments: Identifying the tier in which a settlement fits in is a useful reference point. However consideration must be given to the rurality of parts of the Central Lincolnshire and as such understanding the functional geography and economic interdependence of clusters of villages is equally as important in order to allow communities to meet their needs and evolve sustainably which is a principle supported by para. 78 in NPPF.

Q5b – Defining the Tiers of the Hierarchy

Do you think that the number of houses in a settlement should be used to define what tier of the hierarchy it is within? If not, please provide details of what you think should be used.

Yes

No

Comments: Accept that this is an easily defined approach, however it doesn't necessarily represent how villages function together and provided complimentary facilities/services, as reference in the response to Q5a. Would be beneficial to consider a cluster model alongside existing hierarchy.

Q5c – Threshold for Tiers in the Hierarchy

Do you think the dwelling number thresholds (i.e. 750+ for Large Villages, 250-749 for Medium Villages, etc.) for what tier of the hierarchy a village is within should be retained?

Yes

No

Comments: Notwithstanding the Settlement Hierarchy Methodology would welcome further definition in relation to the development areas included which influences the tiers. Accept that a return to settlement boundaries is not for consideration however further detail on the rationale for inclusion/exclusion welcomed. Would also help with the understanding of the relationship between larger and smaller settlements which to all intense and purposes function together despite having a strong individual identity, for example: Osgodby, Kingerby & Kirkby Also the new approach to assessment has led to some contradictory results, for example Riby was a small village but is now considered not and has been split. This is not the reality in relation to the actual operation of the village. Concerned there may be others where this unintended consequence has occurred.

Q5d – Allocations in the Hierarchy

In what tiers do you think housing sites should be allocated in the new Local Plan? (please tick all that apply)

Lincoln Urban Area

Main Towns

Market Towns

Large Villages

Medium Villages

Small Villages

Hamlets

Countryside

Comments: Support the opportunity to allocate sites in small and medium villages. This approach recognises the rurality of the area, maintains a planned growth approach whilst helping sustain existing facilities such as village schools and ensure the community remains vibrant.

Q5e – Settlements in the Hierarchy

Are there any comments you would like to make about the proposed Settlement Hierarchy provided in Appendix A? Please provide details

Yes

No

Comments: Similar to comments in Q5c. Greater understanding as to how the village boundaries and numbers have been calculated in relation to address points. Taking the specific example of Middle Rasen, this has moved from a large to a medium village. Is this a reflection of a reassessment of the Parish boundary and the change in data source?

Q6a – Housing Need and Requirement - Inclusion of a Range

Do you agree with the use of a range for identifying the housing need and requirement for Central Lincolnshire?

Yes

No

Comments: Yes, this means the lower need figure may be used for monitoring housing delivery whilst providing a higher figure to accord with the vision of the Local Plan including growth aspirations of the plan.

Q6b – Housing Need and Requirement – Bottom end of the Range

Do you agree with using the Local Housing Need figure as the bottom end of the range? If no, please provide a clear explanation of what alternative you think should be used and justification for this alternative.

Yes

No

Comments: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Q6c – Housing Need and Requirement – Top end of the Range

Do you agree with using 1,300 dwellings as the top end of the range and as the number which the new Local Plan will help facilitate to be delivered? If no, please provide a clear explanation of what alternative you think should be used and justification for this alternative.

Yes

No

Comments: Yes, as it demonstrates that the plan whilst meeting need continues to have an aspiration for promoting sustainable growth too. Yes, as it demonstrates that the plan whilst meeting need continues to have an aspiration for prmomrting sustainable growth too.

Q7a – Lincoln Strategy Area

Do you agree that the Lincoln Strategy Area should remain as the focus for growth in Central Lincolnshire? If not, please provide details and any alternative proposals.

Yes

No

Comments: Generally should be a focus for development however concerns in relation to the large geographical area included in the boundary which appears to include less accessible areas and excludes some of those villages which are more accessible and sustainable due to their location on main routes from the city. If the LSA remains a focus for growth villages sited on economic corridors should be considered a higher priority for development than those in the rural areas of land between the key economic corridors.

Q7b – Gainsborough and Sleaford

Do you agree that Gainsborough and Sleaford should remain as a focus for growth? If not, please provide details and any alternative proposals.

Yes

No

Comments: The development of the main Towns of North Kesteven and West Lindsey should remain a priority, however where it is clearly demonstrated that development is slow or will not come forward in these areas then alternatives options should be explored to ensure that development within the whole Central Lincolnshire area is effectively managed through a plan led system. The Plan must seek to avoid where possible a deluge of speculative development in areas already under significant pressure.

Q7c – Breaking down the “Elsewhere” category

Do you agree that the “Elsewhere” category should be broken down further to address deliverability? If so, what break down do you think should be used to reflect sustainability and/or market considerations?

Yes

No

Comments: Given the rurality of the rest of the District and a lack of evidence to suggest other specific housing and economic markets exists the ‘elsewhere’ category appears to be an appropriate approach. However further research should be undertaken to support this assumption, as consideration must be given to other housing and economic sub-markets that have been created as a result of activity beyond the boundaries of Central Lincolnshire. Consider that further evidence may be collated as part of the Whole Plan Viability Assessment undertaken as part of the Local Plan Review, which may indicate other sub-markets, if this is the case these should be referenced within the plan and Policy drafted to reflect these accordingly, which could include a more proactive approach to the promotion of these sub-market for developments and being ‘open for business’ to further stimulate economic activity.

Q7d – Consideration of the Market and Deliverability

Do you agree that market capacity and deliverability should be considered before choosing what growth to distribute to which area?

Yes

No

Comments: Deliverability of sites is absolutely key in ensuring that growth levels can be achieved. Equally however market capacity will have an impact on this and a greater understanding of factors which effect this should be prioritised as part of site assessments of new and existing allocations.

Q8 – Sustainable Urban Extensions

Do you agree that the Sustainable Urban Extensions in the 2017 Local Plan should be carried forward into the new Local Plan with policies updated to account for the latest situation on each Sustainable Urban Extension? If not, please provide details of any alternative proposals.

Yes

No

Comments: The principle and reliance on Sustainable Urban Extension within the Local Plan remains, therefore allocations should where appropriate be carried forward. However a more in depth understanding of each of the sustainable urban extensions is necessary and evidence of deliverability in both the short term (5yrs) and through the plan period should be sought from SUE promoters to ensure that the size of allocation and approach to phasing is still deliverable within the plan period to mitigate the risk of future under delivery and potential negative impact of speculative development on other settlements across Central Lincolnshire.

Q9a – Housing Allocation Threshold

Do you agree with the proposed revised lower threshold of 10 dwellings or more, in terms of minimum site size for allocations? If not please provide an alternative suggestion and justification for this.

Yes

No

Comments: Agree with this approach as it reflects the rurality of the area and supports the principle of planned growth, however consideration should be given to the appropriateness of allocations of 10 or more in small villages and how this could work if a cluster model was followed as part of the review.

Q9b – Location of Housing Allocations

Do you think more settlements should receive site allocations and if so what do you think should be taken into account in deciding which settlements should receive allocations?

Yes

No

Comments: Appropriately sized developments support the sustainability of small rural areas. Deliverability and viability of sites should be a key consideration when assessing allocations. Following on from comments made in relation to question 5a-e consideration should be given to the opportunity for assessing settlements that operate within a cluster who offer one another complementary services/facilities to support sustainable growth in a rural context and provide greater choice of areas for allocation.

Q10a – Retaining Housing Allocations from the 2017 Local Plan

Do you agree with the principle of carrying forward site allocations from the 2017 Local Plan where they are still considered suitable for development?

Yes

No

Comments: Yes but an assessment of each existing allocation must be undertaken including consideration given to the appropriateness of the development in todays context and acknowledging changes of circumstances which may impact on the deliverability, existing infrastructure, character of the settlement and where appropriate also vaibility.

Q10b – Deallocating Housing Allocations from the 2017 Local Plan

Do you agree that where there is evidence that a housing allocation from the 2017 Local Plan is no longer suitable or available, or where there has been a lack of sufficient progress on the site that it should be deallocated in the new Local Plan?

Yes

No

Comments: Where there has been no evidenced progress made in connection with development on allocated sites from the 2017 Local Plan, serious consideration should be given to removing the sites allocated status. The requirement for the Local Authority to demonstrate not only a supply but also delivery makes it imperative that all allocations made as part of this review are not only deliverable on paper but that there is a willingness by the land owner and agent to see the site brought forward.

Q11a – Use of a Growth Level for Villages

Do you agree with the principle of using a percentage growth level for villages? If not please provide alternative suggestion.

Yes

No

Comments: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Q11b – 10% Baseline Growth Level

Do you think that, like it is in the 2017 Local Plan, using a 10% baseline for village growth is appropriate? Please provide details of what you think is appropriate if you do not agree.

Yes

No

Comments: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Q11c – Increasing Growth Level

Do you agree that this baseline percentage should be boosted where certain sustainability criteria are satisfied?

Yes

No

Comments: Although consideration must be given to the aspiration of the existing communities, specifically where there is a Neighbourhood Plan in place.

Q11d – Criteria for Increasing Growth Level

Should the criteria used in the 2017 Local Plan for increasing the growth level of a village above the baseline percentage continue to be used or should alternative criteria be used? Please provide details if you propose an alternative.

Yes

No

Comments: Yes, however consider the criteria should be updated to reflect more accurately the reality of the rural parts of the District and acknowledge that services and facilities with demonstrate sustainability in a National sense do not always successfully translate to rural areas. Therefore growth levels should be considered where appropriate across a cluster of villages/settlements and where appropriate those identified within Neighbourhood Plans.

Q11e – 15% Increased Growth Levels

Do you agree that 15% is the maximum that a growth level should be set at? If you disagree, please provide details of what percentage you think is appropriate and why.

Yes

No

Comments: Yes, although there is evidence to suggest that the opportunity to use 'community support' to exceed these levels is not working appropriately as the process and interpretation causes confusion. It is considered that the best way to deal with settlements that seek to secure additional growth over and above that which is detailed within in the plan is through the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Q12 – Preferred Approach for Growth in Villages

Do you think the preferred approach to reviewing the growth level for villages in the new Local Plan is appropriate? If not, please provide details of what alternative approach you would suggest.

Yes

No

Comments: Yes it acknowledges where growth targets have been met and makes an allowance for planned growth with the benefit of planning permission but also ensures that the Local Plan retains a positive approach to growth within the Central Lincolnshire area.

Q13a – Affordable Housing Requirements

Do you agree that any new need for affordable housing arising from evidence being produced should be addressed in the new Local Plan? If no, please provide justification.

Yes

No

Comments: The Central Lincolnshire Housing Needs Assessment is expected to provide further clarity on the new definitions of affordable housing as detailed in the NPPF 2019 (as amended). The Affordable Housing policy LP11 will therefore need to be amended to address any need the assessment identifies to ensure that the policy is capable meeting need.

Q13b – Affordable Housing Delivery

Do you think there is more that the new Local Plan should do to deliver additional affordable housing? If yes, please provide details.

Yes

No

Comments: Support the provision of innovative approach to delivery of affordable housing. Current interpretation of the policy appears to be if a site is being delivered as fully affordable, according to LP11 that would be an over delivery of affordable housing based on a requirement of 20-25% depending on area. Could LP11 be amended to reflect the opportunity to provide more than 20-25% affordable housing to meet other identified need as it is acknowledge in the West Lindsey Housing Strategy 2018-2022 that the planning system alone will not deliver all the affordable housing required in our area. With LP11 stating only 20-25% on all sites can be delivered as affordable housing. This could be interpreted that a site offering more than that is not meeting this policy. Support the provision of innovative approach to delivery of affordable housing. Current interpretation of the policy appears to be if a site is being delivered as fully affordable, according to LP11 that would be an over delivery of affordable housing based on a requirement of 20-25% depending on area. Could LP11 be amended to reflect the opportunity to provide 20-25% affordable housing as a minimum? It is acknowledge in the West Lindsey Housing Strategy 2018-2022 that the planning system alone will not deliver all the affordable housing required in our area, but LP11 is stating only 20-25% on all sites can be delivered as affordable housing. This could be interpreted that a site offering more than that is not meeting this policy.

Q14 – Entry-Level Exception Sites
How do you think the new Local Plan should address the need for entry-level housing? Please provide reasons for your answer.

Comments: The Central Lincolnshire Housing Needs Assessment is expected to identify a need for entry level housing. It is likely that this need is not going to be met entirely through the planning system which appears to be supported by the introduction of the new entry-level exception site policy in the NPPF. The new NPPF does not give many options for refusing such applications as the policy is so specific, as such the plan does need to acknowledge the new policy but it will not be able to put barriers in place to prevent this type of site being granted permission. The Local Plan should take the opportunity in the review to address Central Lincolnshire’s understanding of entry –level exception sites and how they intend to be approached by Central Lincolnshire, for example Entry level exception sites should support the needs identified within the Local Plan where sufficient development sites have not been identified or delivered and what a planning application for an entry level exception should include.

Q15a – Retaining Employment Site Allocations and Designations
Do you agree that the existing employment allocations (Strategic Employment Sites, land for employment within the Sustainable Urban Extensions, and Established Employment Sites) should be brought forward into the new Local Plan unless evidence suggests that they are no longer suitable or deliverable? If not, please provide details.

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
---	-----------------------------

Comments: Strategic Employment Sites should be retained, however further work should be undertaken with specific promoters to establish their future vision for the site. In relation to allocations on the Sustainable Urban Extensions, this will be dependent on whether the scale of the SUEs are altered as part of the wider allocation. Again reference to evidence of deliverability and motivation to promote future deliverability is imperative in this context.

Q15b – Increasing Flexibility on Established Employment Areas

Do you agree that greater flexibility for other uses should be provided for Established Employment Areas where this would not undermine their role and function? If not, please explain why.

Yes

No

Comments: Click here to enter text.

Q15c – Definition for Local Employment Sites

Do you agree that the new Local Plan should include greater definition of what is a Local Employment Site under the employment policy and do you agree with the proposed definition? If not, please provide details.

Yes

No

Comments: Do not agree with the exclusion of land and buildings recently used in agriculture, as feel the promotion of diversification and the rural economy should be supported/promoted. However, is there scope to introduce a cap so that the more incidental development will not develop to a scale which competes with the existing strategic employment or established employment areas?

Q15d – Detail for Employment Sites in the Countryside

Do you agree that the new Local Plan should include definition of what development is or is not acceptable on employment sites in the open countryside? If not, please explain why.

Yes

No

Comments: Accept the principle of a definition but would want to ensure that it is not too restrictive, ensuring a balance between a working landscape and visitor economy.

Q16a – City and Town Centres

Do you agree that the new Local Plan should try to address the challenging retail environment through positively responding to issues and opportunities identified through work on the city and town centres?

Yes

No

Comments: The Local Plan is one of the best places to address the challenging environment faced by town centres. It is understood that it is the intention of the Local Plan team to review the evidence base which underpins the current Town Centre boundaries and as such fully supportive of this. For example a focus on the historic Market Place of Gainsborough itself would allow more flexibility towards the river end of Lord Street to create anchors which can direct footfall from Marshalls Yard to the historic town centre.

Q16b – Specific Changes Required for the City and Town Centres

Are you aware of any specific planning policy changes that would help to strengthen the city or town centres? If yes please provide details

Yes

No

Comments: The new NPPF has an emphasis on the diversity of uses for town centres to ensure its long term vitality and viability, including opportunities for residential uses. It may be worth considering introducing residential uses even within the Primary Shopping Area at ground floor using a 'take away (A5)' style restriction which some London Boroughs adopt. Where it restricts the level of residential permitted to a certain percentage of total frontage and restricts congregation of such uses so that they are spread out across the town centre rather than creating a large amount of dead frontage. This would help further promote existing Heritage led regeneration projects such as living over the shop etc.

Q16c – Retaining Current Designated District and Local Centres

Do you agree that the District Centres and Local Centres identified in the 2017 Local Plan should be carried forward unless evidence suggests that this is not suitable? If no, please provide details.

Yes No

Comments: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Q16d – Designation of Additional Centres

Do you agree that the plan should designate District Centres, Local Centres and Rural Centres outside of the Lincoln Urban Area?

Yes No

Comments: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Q16e – Identifying New Centres

Is there a specific centre which you think should be designated as a District Centre, Local Centre or Rural Centre? If yes, please provide details.

Yes No

Comments: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Q17 – Tourism and the Visitor Economy

Do you agree that the new Local Plan should provide greater distinction and clarity for how tourism development will be considered in the open countryside?

Yes No

Comments: Yes, promotion of visitor economy should be supported/promoted. Interpretation of the current 'overriding' test is unclear, specifically in relation to visitor accommodation. Element of flexibility, should be retained as tourism and visitor economy considered could be very varied in nature.

Q18a – Local Green Spaces

Do you agree that the Local Green Spaces in the 2017 Local Plan should be carried forward in the new Local Plan? If no, please provide details.

Yes No

Comments: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Q18b – Additional Local Green Spaces
 Do you have any suggested additional Local Green Spaces which you think meet national policy criteria, and therefore should be designated?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
------------------------------	-----------------------------

Comments: Recommend that this should be explored in detail with Parish and Town Councils.

Q19a – Areas Protected for Use or Type
 Do you agree that churchyards, cemeteries, school playing fields, sports centres, recreation grounds and allotments should be protected for their role and/or type? If no, please provide details.

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
---	-----------------------------

Comments: Although shouldn't be restrictive where development of the site is in the interests or for protecting and supporting the existing use. How does this fit with national policy and LEA?

Q19b – Important Open Spaces Methodology
 Do you agree with the proposed criteria for including or excluding sites from designation as Important Open Spaces?

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
---	-----------------------------

Comments: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Q19c – Specific Important Open Spaces
 Is there an open space that you think would meet the proposed criteria and should be designated as an Important Open Space in the new Local Plan? If yes, please provide details.

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
---	-----------------------------

Comments: Yes consider Mercer's Wood in Gainsborough. Further consultation with Parish and Town Councils for other nominations should be explored.

Q20a – Energy Performance Standards in Residential Development
 Do you think that the new Local Plan should require higher energy performance standards than are required by the building regulations for residential development, up to Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes?

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
---	-----------------------------

Comments: Supports the direction of National Policy and promotes better quality efficient homes across the area

Q20b – Energy Performance Standards in Non-Residential Development

Do you think that the new Local Plan should require higher energy performance standards in non-residential development and if so what standards should be required?

Yes

No

Comments: For the same reasons a detailed in question 20a

Q20c – Viability Implications of Higher Energy Performance Standards

If you think the Plan should do either of the above, do you have any evidence to demonstrate that requiring higher energy performance standards would or would not be viable? If so please provide this evidence. Alternatively, do you have any suggestions whereby other developer contributions might appropriately be reduced, in order to ensure development remains viable?

Yes

No

Comments: Click here to enter text.

Q21 – Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation

Are you aware of any specific needs for Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople accommodation in Central Lincolnshire? If yes, please provide details.

Yes

No

Comments: Based on discussions had with travellers and Local Authorities experience of travellers, the main identified need for travellers is transit sites. Transit sites are required close to major routes providing facilities to enable Gypsy and Travellers to have an available place to stop while travelling. It is expected this will be a recommendation that comes out of the GTAA. The GTAA is due by the end of 2019.

Q22a – Operational Ministry of Defence Sites

Do you think the operational Ministry of Defence sites should be listed in the new Local Plan?

Yes

No

Comments: Click here to enter text.

Q22b – Recently Operational Ministry of Defence Establishments

Do you think “recently operational” should be defined in the new Local Plan and if so what length of time do you think is reasonable to define this?

Yes

No

Comments: Yes for clarity this should be defined, however rather than create a new definition does the MOD have a definition of recently operational? Is there an opportunity to develop a Local Plan Policy which deals specifically with ex MOD sites which have been decommissioned over a number of years ago and as a consequence experience a range of issues as a result.

Q23a – RAF Scampton Policy

Do you agree that the future of RAF Scampton should be managed through a new planning policy in the new Local Plan?

Yes

No

Comments: Yes the Local Plan and an appropriate policy position is one of a number of important elements required to safeguard the sustainability and economic viability of the base for the future once the MOD leave the site.

Q23b – RAF Scampton Policy Scope

Do you have any preliminary views of what that Policy might seek to achieve for the site?

Yes

No

Comments: In the context of current uncertainty over the status of the RAF base in relation to constraints, a flexible mixed use policy which safeguards the future of the community through the promotion of a sustainable and economically viable place, which includes opportunities for tourism/visitor economy whilst acknowledging the bases important aviation heritage is crucial.

Q24 – Need for Houseboat and Caravan Accommodation

Are you aware of any need for moorings for houseboats or sites for caravans in Central Lincolnshire? Any evidence to support your comments would be welcome, or suggestions as to how such need could be identified in Central Lincolnshire.

Yes

No

Comments: West Lindsey Planning Department have been subject to a number of applications for 'lodges,' both large and small scale

Q25 – Parking Standards

Do you agree that minimum parking standards are needed in Central Lincolnshire? Please provide any further comments you may have, such as in relation to what the standards should be or where they should apply to.

Yes

No

Comments: Support parking standards, specifically in relation to the needs of rural and suburban communities, ensuring that there is sufficient parking for the size of the housing delivered in acknowledgement of the lack of regular public transport options in these areas. However consideration must be given in relation to the viability of parking standards imposed on certain tenures of Affordable Housing. Suggest that this is considered as part of the whole plan viability assessment and tested accordingly to ensure the policy is responsive to the needs of householders and communities whilst not inadvertently introducing a barrier to the delivery of Affordable Housing units.

Q26 – Any Other Comments

Is there anything else you would like to raise – has anything been missed, or are there any general comments you would like to make?

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments: Consideration needs to be given for the possibility of a mixed use policy which could be used to promote sites, specifically brownfield on the edge of Town Centres to give greater flexibility and increase the likelihood of development coming forward. Appendix C West Lindsey has commissioned a Gainsborough Green Infrastructure Study to assess all the current green spaces in the Gainsborough area and to suggest and prioritise a list of green infrastructure projects for the area. As part of the commission, a simplified green space audit was produced based on the green flag assessment methodology. It was produced so that neighbourhood planning groups and planning officers can utilise it to assess the quality of green spaces available to them. It is suggested that the Local Plan review considers this audit methodology and considers its suitability to supplement Appendix C as the Locally Agreed Quality criteria.</p>	

Prosperous Communities workplan (as at 8 July 2019)

Purpose:

The table below provides a summary of reports that are due on the Forward Plan for the remainder of the Civic Year.

Recommendation:

1. That members note the contents of this document.

Title	Lead Officer	Purpose of the report
10 SEPTEMBER 2019		
Shared District Council Safeguarding Policy	Rachel Parkin, Home Choices Team Manager	To request permission to join with other Lincolnshire district councils for a combined shared safeguarding policy.
Parish Charter & Public Realm Proposals	Grant White, Enterprising Communities Manager	To present a new Parish Charter and proposals on public realm related actions as requested by PC Committee.
RAF Scampton Community Governance Review	Grant White, Enterprising Communities Manager	To present the case for initiating and completing a Community Governance Review.
Housing Assistance Policy Review	Sarah Elvin, Housing Communities Project Officer, Andy Gray, Housing and Enforcement Manager	To update the Housing Assistance Policy
Consultation & Engagement Strategy	Grant White, Enterprising Communities Manager	To introduce a new corporate Consultation
Modern Slavery Statement	Rachel Parkin, Home Choices Team Manager	For information - to detail the commitment the council will take in preventing Modern Slavery within its own practices

Page 18

22 OCTOBER 2019

Place Based Strategy	Grant White, Enterprising Communities Manager	Update on place based strategy including work in South West Ward and Hemswell Cliff.
Proposed Fees and Charges 2020/21	Sue Leversedge, Business Support Team Leader	Propose Fees and Charges to take effect from 1 April 2020.
Progress and Delivery Report - Period 2 2019/20	Mark Sturgess, Executive Director of Operations	To present performance of the Council's key services against agreed performance measures and indicate where improvements should be made, having regard to the remedial action set out in the report.
Employment & Skills Partnership	Amanda Bouttell, Senior Project and Growth Officer	Report to update on pilot year achievement and set out delivery plan for continuation.
Social Lettings Agency	Diane Krochmal, Housing Strategy & Supply Manager	To report findings having been previously authorised to investigate the principle of establishing a social lettings agency

8 DECEMBER 2019

Update on Gainsborough Market	Ady Selby, Strategic Manager - Services	Update on delivery of Gainsborough Market
Selective Licensing - annual review	Andy Gray, Housing and Enforcement Manager	To provide Committee with its annual review of the selective licensing scheme in Gainsborough South West Ward

28 JANUARY 2020

Prosperous Communities Committee Budget 2020/21	Sue Leversedge, Business Support Team Leader	This report sets out the details of the Committee's draft revenue budget for the period of 2020/21 and estimates to 2024/25.
---	--	--

17 MARCH 2020

Progress and Delivery Report - Period 3 2019/20

Mark Sturgess, Executive
Director of Operations

To present performance of the Council's key services against agreed performance measures and indicate where improvements should be made, having regard to the remedial action set out in the report.

5 MAY 2020

Progress and Delivery Report - Period 4 2019/20

Mark Sturgess, Executive
Director of Operations

To present performance for the Council's key services against agreed performance measures and indicate where improvements should be made, having regard to the remedial action set out in the report.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted