

Guildhall Gainsborough  
Lincolnshire DN21 2NA  
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This meeting will be held via MS Teams and streamed live to our website  
(address below)

## AGENDA

Prayers will be conducted prior to the start of the meeting.  
Members are welcome to attend.

**Notice** is hereby given that a meeting of the Council will be held in the Via MS Teams at <https://west-lindsey.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>, on **Monday, 12th April, 2021 at 7.00 pm**, and your attendance at such meeting is hereby requested to transact the following business.

**To: Members of West Lindsey District Council**

1. REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE
  
2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING  
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 March 2021.  
  
**(PAGES 5 - 19)**
  
3. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
Members may make any declarations of interest at this point and may also make them at any point during the meeting.
  
4. MATTERS ARISING  
**(PAGES 20 - 24)**

Agendas, Reports and Minutes will be provided upon request in the following formats:

Large Clear Print: Braille: Audio: Native Language

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - i) Chairman of Council
  - ii) Leader of the Council
  - iii) Chief Executive
  
6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
  
7. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9
  
8. MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10

### **Support for Farmers**

“Chairman, Councils in England dealt with 976,000 fly-tipping incidents in 2019-20, according to figures released by Defra. These figures account for waste illegally dumped on public land, reported to the local authorities and represent a 2% increase from the 957,000 reported incidents in 2018-19.

Just under two thirds (65%) of these fly-tips involved household waste. The most common place for fly-tipping was on pavements and roads, which accounted for 43% of total incidents in 2019-20. Fly-tipping incidents in England have risen by nearly 40% in the past five years, according to official council figures. Significantly, these figures do not include incidents of dumping on private land and there is therefore widespread under-reporting.

Farmers and landowners are plagued by fly-tipping and there is widespread anger and frustration that existing laws do not go far enough in supporting victims.

Responsibility for dealing with fly-tipping on private land rests with the private landowner and is not subject to mandatory data reporting, so is not included in the Defra report and cases of fly-tipping on privately owned land are significantly more than on public land.

When litter and fly tipping occur on private land such as farmers’ fields, it is down to the owner to have it removed – and to foot the bill for doing so. The costs involved are huge. The effects are not all financial either. Fly tipping takes time to clear responsibly, can block access and can cause safety issues not only for farmers and their employees, but also for livestock and wildlife.

Part of the problem is that it’s currently too simple to gain a waste-carriers

licence, these are issued by the Environment Agency to businesses who wish to transport waste. Residents may check online whether a business has one of these licences, however there is no guarantee that their waste will be disposed of responsibly. This system needs urgent reform in order that residents can be reassured their waste is being disposed of in the correct way. A revamped system would act as a deterrent; in addition, there should be new legislation which would allow farmers to recover the cost of fly tipping on private land when it is obviously household waste.

I ask that Councillors support a motion to write to the Government and ask for new legislation around waste carriers licences and farmers rights to help with removal of household waste. We should also commission our Member representative on Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to encourage partners in that forum to similarly raise concerns with the Government.

I so move.

Councillor Anne Welburn”

## 9. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

- a. Review of the Allocation of Seats to Political Groups on Committees and Sub-Committees

To note the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government Act.

**(PAGES 25 - 35)**

- b. Appointment of Committees

In accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to appoint Members to Committees for the Civic Year, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Political Groups.

**(PAGES 36 - 42)**

- c. Appointments to New Outside Bodies - Gainsborough Transport Strategy Delivery Board (GTSDB) and the Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board (LTSDB)

**(PAGES 43 - 49)**

- d. Appointment of Monitoring Officer

**(PAGES 50 - 54)**

Ian Knowles  
Head of Paid Service  
The Guildhall  
Gainsborough

Wednesday 31 March 2021.

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## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held Via MS Teams at <https://west-lindsey-public-i.tv/core/portal/home> on 1 March 2021 at 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Steve England (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway	Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Liz Clews	Councillor David Cotton
Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson	Councillor Christopher Darcel
Councillor Timothy Davies	Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor David Dobbie	Councillor Jane Ellis
Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Mrs Caralyne Grimble
Councillor Mrs Cordelia McCartney	Councillor Giles McNeill
Councillor John McNeill	Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne
Councillor Keith Panter	Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Mrs Judy Rainsforth	Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings	Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee	Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Robert Waller	Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn
Councillor Mrs Angela White	Councillor Trevor Young

**In Attendance:**

Ian Knowles	Chief Executive
Alan Robinson	Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer
Tracey Bircumshaw	Assistant Director of Finance and Property Services and Section 151 Officer
Angela Matthews	Benefits Manager
Katie Storr	Senior Democratic & Civic Officer
Ele Snow	Democratic and Civic Officer

**Apologies**

Councillor Cherie Hill  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Tom Regis

### 53 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Prior to requesting the Monitoring Officer to undertake the formal roll-call to confirm all Members were in attendance, having offered Prayers for Councillor John Matthews, Mayor of Market Rasen, prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman paid tribute to his colleague

.and friend, following his untimely passing. Members joined the Chairman in a minute's silence, as mark of respect, following which, numerous, tributes were paid across the "Chamber".

Members spoke of Councillor Matthew's passion and enthusiasm, his friendship, his dedication and commitment, and of his pride in having been the Mayor for a number of years. Councillor Bunney, Ward Member for Market Rasen and fellow Market Rasen Town Councillor gave a moving and lengthy heartfelt tribute and spoke of his pride at having served alongside such a wonderful man for a number of years, and of the great loss both he personally and the town of Market Rasen were feeling.

The roll-call for both Members and Officers was undertaken, during which apologies were noted from Councillors C Hill, T Regis and P Howitt-Cowan.

#### **54 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

a) Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on 25 January 2021

Having being moved and seconded, and with no questions raised, it was: -

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on 25 January 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

#### **55 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

For the avoidance of doubt, the Chairman advised the meeting that Members did not need to make a declaration in respect of the Council Tax Setting, as this was an area in which all Councillors were granted an exemption by the relevant legislation.

#### **56 TO ELECT A DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

On resignation of Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan, it was proposed and seconded that Councillor Anne Welburn be appointed as the Deputy Leader of the Council.

There were no further nominations but there were political statements by the Opposition in reference to a further change in the Administration's leadership. On being put to the vote it was: -

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Anne Welburn be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the remainder of 2020/21 civic year.

#### **57 MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman introduced the report advising Members that the report would be taken "as

read” unless Members had any questions.

In response to questions, the Monitoring Officer advised that the Anti-Semitism action remained green as only those elements of the Constitution review, which had directly affected the Scheme of Officer Delegation, had progressed through to Council, in the absence of there having been an Annual Council in 2020. All outstanding matters from the 19/20 review, including that referenced in the outstanding matters arising, would be brought to Council alongside any additional matters to be considered as part of 20/21 review.

The Leader of Council, on being questioned, advised that unfortunately, to-date he had not received a response from the Chief Executive of the United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust. He gave his assurance to Members that this matter would be further pursued and Members would receive notification of any response received.

With no further comments or questions and with no requirement for a vote, the Matters Arising were **DULY NOTED**.

## **58 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Chairman**

The Chairman started his announcements advising that Civic commitments for obvious reasons had been limited. He was hopeful for more positive times ahead due to the successful vaccine rollout. Both the Chairman and his Lady had now received their vaccine and the Chairman spoke of the amazing organisation and efficiency he had witnessed at the vaccination centre and of his admiration for the volunteer Marshalls standing out in all weathers to ensure everything ran smoothly. He encouraged everyone to take up the offer of their vaccine.

The Chairman spoke of his delight at working with his fellow ward councillors to produce the first Ward Newsletter. He congratulated the Communications team for their excellent work. The publication had focussed on community spirit within the ward. It was appreciated that this was indicative of the marvellous ways in which communities across the district had come together over the last twelve difficult months. The Chairman expressed sincere thanks to all the District’s residents for their fantastic and continued response to these challenging times.

### **Leader**

The Leader made the following address to Council: -

“I very much welcome the publication by the Cabinet Office last week of the ‘COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021’ guidance, setting out the roadmap out of the current lockdown for England. This is made possible by the notable success of the vaccination programme to date, with over 20m doses delivered nationally up to the end of February, mirrored here in Lincolnshire by more than 200,000 doses up to 14<sup>th</sup> February.

From a West Lindsey perspective this provides considerable clarity in helping form the delivery of our leading role in support of the recovery from the pandemic through the Council's core competencies, especially in our business, community and health and well-being service areas. It remains vitally important though that, individually and collectively, we continue to follow the rules set out in the interests of everyone.

In January we were pleased to welcome Graham Biggs, the Chief Executive of the Rural Services Network, as one of the guest speakers at our Member Strategy Event. Mr Biggs outlined the development of RSN's Revitalising Rural: Realising the Vision campaign and the rationale and thinking behind it, including a focus on why it is of such importance to rural areas in general and West Lindsey in particular. I can advise that the campaign was officially launched this morning.

Last week I was privileged to join the Big Conversation virtual conference, most ably organised and promoted by the Lincolnshire Youth Commission. Young people gave some really valuable insight into the five priority themes affecting their lives and their views on how improvement could be delivered through partnership working with organisations in all sectors of society. The Lincolnshire Youth Commission was instigated by our Police and Crime Commissioner and I very much look forward to continued engagement with them.

I have accepted an invitation to chair a workshop session at a national conference on Friday entitled 'Post Covid Recovery: Planning, Places and Building Back Better' and next month, alongside Mr Selby, to present at a national seminar on Cemeteries and Crematoria.

Finally Chairman, whilst we should never underestimate what we have achieved so far as a Council during a time of unprecedented challenge and change, much remains to be done and will be done on behalf of those we represent. My heartfelt thanks go to each and every one of you, to our colleagues in local government and to all of our partners in the community."

## **Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive addressed Council, and started his announcements by formally thanking Alan Robinson, Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer for all his support to him personally over the last seven years and to the Council over the last 17 years. He expressed his personal well wishes to him in his new role at South Kesteven.

The Chief Executive was pleased to advise members that the Council had been successful with its bid to the Salix fund having been awarded £68k to support Solar Panels and battery storage in the new depot. The Council had also been successful with a joint bid, alongside other district councils, to support the development of our Local Heritage List.

Thanks were expressed to those members who took part in the Strategy Event on the 29<sup>th</sup> January. Formal feedback was being sought, and those Members who had attended were encouraged to respond.



Members were advised that the Council had now paid out a total of £24.9m to businesses during the Covid period. The second payment for this current lockdown has already been paid within West Lindsey. In terms of the vaccination roll out, Lincolnshire had made really good progress and continued to do so.

## **59 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chairman advised the meeting that no public questions had been received.

## **60 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9**

The Chairman advised the meeting that one question pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No.9 had been submitted to the meeting. This had been circulated separately to the agenda.

The Chairman invited Councillor Mick Devine, Gainsborough Independent and Ward Member for Gainsborough East to put his question to the meeting, as follows: -

“Leader

In recent years WLDC has had it’s Regional Support Grant reduced by Central Government, this resulted in a debate on how best to proceed to support services., It was agreed by Members to build an investment portfolio with strict criteria with the aim of providing an income to support services to our Communities.

In recent weeks and months there have been a number of Social Media posts regarding the property investments made by WLDC, the comments made are I believe misleading the residents of West Lindsey and Gainsborough in particular and I quote

“Current WLDC Tory Controlled Council recently spent over 20 million pounds of council tax payers money on projects outside the district”.

This I believe to be misleading the people of Gainsborough and they deserve to know the true facts.

Can you please put on Public Record the facts as they are

- 1 Where the investments have been made
- 2 The year when the investment was made
- 3 The total value of new investments by year
- 4 The total net income by year of the investments to support Services

Many thanks”

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Owen Bierley, responded as follows: -

“Thank you for your question Councillor Devine.

As part of the Commercial Strategy, agreed in 2015, Council approved the development of an investment portfolio, with strict criteria, that would deliver a minimum of 6% gross return (3% net) with a maximum expenditure of £20m. This amount was subsequently increased to £30m.

In accordance with the approved Commercial Property Investment Strategy the Council has now purchased six properties for £20.455m. (When including stamp duty, legal and professional fees the total costs have been £21.666m)

In terms of location, our strategy identified that if all of the properties were located in West Lindsey this would bring risks associated with investment in a single economic area. Similarly the strategy recognised that by investing in a variety of sectors we would avoid any single sector risk.

35% of the investment has been in West Lindsey.

The first purchase was made in 2017/18 at a total cost of £2.490m with the property located in Keighley.

Four properties were purchased in 2018/19 at a total cost £13.494m of which one is in West Lindsey whilst two are in Sheffield.

A further property was purchased in Doncaster in 2019/20 at a total cost of £5.682m.

The portfolio has achieved gross and net income in excess of the strategy targets, with net income contributing to and supporting the provision of our valued services being;

Year	Actual Rental Income	Annual Gross Yield %	Net Income	Net Yield %
2020/21	£1.305m	6% CVA /6.38%	£0.763m	3.52%
2019/20	£1.300m	6.53%	£0.718m	3.31%
2018/19	£0.721m p/y	6.72%	£0.446m	2.8%
2017/18	£0.079 p/y	6.4%	£0.052m	2%

The Council has been completely transparent in reporting these transactions through the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

Even through this difficult year for businesses the portfolio will achieve the returns expected and other than one tenant, the Travelodge (which is subject of a Company Voluntary Arrangement) all full year rentals have been met.

In addition the current valuation of the portfolio has increased to £20,727,200.

This compares to the purchase price of £20,455,000.

Thank you again for your question.”

With the discretion of the Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition responded and questioned the motives of the question and called into question Councillor Devine’s current political affiliation and membership within the Administration. Investments had been outside of the District to the benefit of residents outside of the District. He considered rentals had only been maintained due to Government furlough schemes and other benefits and time would tell, quoting loss made in a number of sectors. The continuing asset value was questioned, as was the saleability of the investments.

Councillor Brockway by way of point of information, sought to remind the Chamber a short question had been permitted, and considered the comments being made were misleading.

Another Member suggested that without the money generated through these investments the Council’s financial position would be very different.

By way of point of information, Councillor J McNeill outlined to the Chamber Which Committee scrutinised such investments and of planned reports to do just such.

Councillor Devine by way of right of reply strongly refuted the question was political motivated nor was his political persuasion relevant. Rather more, he had considered it appropriate and necessary to put on formal record the status of these investments, as in his view, social media posts had been misleading the people of Gainsborough regarding the true facts.

## **61 MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

The Chairman confirmed to the meeting that no motions had been submitted under Procedure Rule No.10.

## **62 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS PLAN AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22 - 2025/26 AND 2021/22 BUDGET**

Members gave consideration to a report which presented the Executive Business Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2021/22 – 2025/26. These documents were central to the Council’s financial and strategic planning.

The Executive Business plan detailed the deliverables to supporting achievement of the Corporate Plan Objectives and provided a national and local context to the environment the Council was working within.

The Medium Term Financial plan included the financial strategies, principles and assumptions which had been applied in developing the medium term financial analysis which forecast the revenue budgets over a 5 year period.

The report proposed a balanced budget for 2021/22 with a budget requirement of

£13,279,100. The one year Local Government financial settlement was detailed within the report and had provided additional resources, to those previously forecast for 2021/22.

The General Fund working balance, which was forecast in excess of the £2.5m minimum balance, both provided the opportunity to create new Earmarked Reserves, and increase reserves for future investment.

The budget assumed approval of a Council Tax increase of £5, the maximum allowable within referendum limits, and in terms of future year's, an assumption of a 3% increase in the Council Tax had been applied.

In accordance with the Spending Review announcement, no pay award had been included for the 2021/22 budget, although 2% had been assumed with future year's budgets.

Members' attention was drawn to the statement on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves in setting the budget presented. The Statement also provided the context in which the Capital Programme had been set, mitigating future financial risks and its affordability . (Page 82 of the reports pack related).

The fees and charges, had been recommended by both Policy Committees and were included at appendix 3 for approval.

In respect of our Capital Investment Programme the current year budget was £9.4m rising to a total £20.7m over the Medium Term, this level of investment was deemed to be both affordable and sustainable in the long term.

The Treasury Management Strategy, policies and prudential indicators had been scrutinised by the Governance and Audit Committee and were presented for Council approval.

Also included for approval was the Statutory Pay Policy Statement along with the Human Resource numbers on which the employee budget had been based.

In conclusion, the S151 Officer was please to confirm that the MTFP met the requirements of the regulations;

- \* the requirement for the local Authority to agree a balanced budget for each financial year, prior to the start of that year;
- \* the requirement for the local Authority to establish the level of Council Tax for the coming year on the basis of that budget; and,

Furthermore, met best practice (supported by CIPFA) by setting out the coming year's budget in addition to a 5 year MTFP

The Leader of the Council made the following speech in response: -

“The Executive Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021-22 to 2025-26 are the documents that form the Council's Budget.

Firstly I would like to place on record my thanks and those of the Administration, to the officers involved in preparing these plans and strategies. This will have

been a difficult year in terms of the demands on the Finance Team as a result of the Covid response and we therefore thank you accordingly.

These Plans, Strategies, budgets and fees and charges have been presented to our Policy Committees and the Treasury Management Strategy has received scrutiny from the Governance and Audit Committee and they are now presented here to Full Council this evening.

The Budget for 2021-22 will be £13,279,100 and is aligned to the Administration's Corporate Plan priorities and recognises the good financial position the Council is in.

The Government's one year financial settlement has provided us with the opportunity to set aside £1m to support the delivery of future strategies for Environment and Climate Change, Culture and Health and Wellbeing, in addition to earmarking £0.500m for investment in Growth and Regeneration, all of which will deliver long term outcomes for our residents and support of the Council's vision for West Lindsey to be a great place to be where people, businesses and communities can thrive and reach their potential by continuing to deliver award winning services.

Whilst there remains considerable uncertainty around future funding for local government, we are well placed to mitigate the impact through the earmarking of £1m, which will provide resources over the medium term in balancing the budget, should it be required.

We will continue to support our communities, businesses and residents through the recovery from Covid-19 and we have therefore set aside £0.500m of our own resources to support additional costs and to help mitigate our own income losses.

We are committed to investing throughout the District and indeed, our Capital Investment Programme totals some £21m. It will see investment in Caistor, Gainsborough, Market Rasen, Hemswell and Nettleham as well as in the new Central Depot at Glenthams, which will open during the summer giving our Operational Services teams much needed facilities that are both environmentally sustainable and future proofed as our communities grow. With these funds we can also invest in Council services and continue to deliver award-winning services, improving the experience of our residents and through investment in new technology continue to deliver efficiencies. We will invest in growth and regeneration projects to support the creation of jobs, skills and housing whilst improving our infrastructure and the built environment.

In respect of Council tax a £5 increase (equivalent to 2.99% or 10p per week) is proposed. With future uncertainty and the expected longer term recovery of our income streams it is appropriate that we take the opportunity this year to maximise our Council Tax increase to the governments referendum limit.

West Lindsey is a district that has made significant progress in delivering on the commitments that we made to local residents. The Administration's record is one

that has not been about short-term opportunism, or quick fix solutions to the challenges we face; but the dedicated, deliberate and steady long-term approach to policies designed to make the Council's financial position more resilient at a time when central government continues to reduce grant funding and consider limiting our ability to find innovative solutions to fund the frontline services that local people expect and rely on from this Council.

Chairman, this budget clearly sets out how we, as a Council, will maximise the leadership and support provided to businesses, communities and individuals in West Lindsey in recovering from the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. As such I commend it to Council and move the recommendations set out in the report.

Thank you Chairman."

The Leader of the Opposition in responding, whilst accepting the Council had done well in setting its budget questioned whether the budget was as ambitious and aspirational as it needed to be, given the difficult years ahead and the recovery. He questioned wider Member's involvement in budget setting and other Members' ability to effect its content in its preparation and considered this view had been accepted at the most recent Corporate Policy and Resources Committee. He was of the view that both the consultation and engagement process around budget setting needed to be extended.

The Leader in responding was satisfied the budget was both ambitious and aspirational but more importantly achievable. Comments around greater engagement had been taken on board, and the Leader was of the strong belief the Council was at its strongest when it worked collaboratively.

Debate ensued and the budget was welcomed but some questioned whether the monies put aside for climate and sustainability work were enough. In response to questions relating to new 5 bids detailed at 4.5, only 4 appeared to be listed, the fifth being food waste collection, £531k had been allocated and it was expected LCC would fund the bulk of costs related to any change in waste collections. The Leader acknowledged that more monies would be needed in respect of climate and sustainability work. The allocation set out a clear intent to deliver against this programme, for it be a priority, and as the action plan developed, with costed schemes, further allocations would be made as appropriate and funding bids made where feasible.

Given the difficult unprecedented year, and the challenges Covid had brought, the budget should be seen as a good news story. Members questioned how news of the budget was shared with residents, citing the importance of ensuring residents were clear about the percentage increases and which authorities were applying them. It was suggested an Executive summary aimed at residents should be produced ensuring the information was clear to residents. Clarity was sought as to whether the increase was 2.99% or 2%.

In responding, the Chief Executive confirmed a press release would be issued as soon as the budget was agreed and would be very clear about the impact to residents. It

was also confirmed that a “leaflet” was issued alongside the Council Tax Bill, including the revised Council Tax and level increase, but this was predominately in recent years an e-leaflet. There was some concern that there was a presumption that all residents had access to on-line services.

Members welcomed the good spread of investments and the income this was generating for the Council to be used to fund its services. Continued returns were even more welcome given the difficult year. It was questioned how or if negative interest rates would affect the Council

This being the last year of new homes bonuses , some Members called for monies gained through the scheme to be re-invested back to those villages where the homes had been built.

In responding Officers advised the Council had received confirmation from its bank that they would not be charged a negative interest rate. It was possible for money markets to go into negative equity which would mean the Council in effect would be charged for holding monies. The Council was managing and moving its money as necessary to avoid any such charges where possible and had planned accordingly for reduced income from investments.

£13million had been generated from New Homes Bonuses and had been re-invested in regeneration schemes. It was anticipated an alternative scheme would be introduced and the Government was looking at ways to incentivise Councils to deliver affordable housing and these were outlined to the Chamber. Consultations through central Government were ongoing and the Council was fully engaging.

Referring to early comments regarding wider member involvement in budget setting, the newly appointed Deputy Leader, re-iterated her commitment to drive wider inclusivity across the Chamber and her hopes to re-establish the Member Forum, where Members could come together informally. She spoke of previous successful initiatives which had been developed this way in years gone by.

Given the interest being offered by banks and alike some Members questioned why the Council’s investment Strategy and approach continued to be discredited, citing the building of the crem, the leisure centre contract, investment of property , all of which were contributing to sustaining services and plugging gaps in government funding.

By way of point of order Councillor Young questioned the accuracy of the previous speaker believing the leisure contract to not be cost neutral but at the cost of three quarters of a million pound. The S151 Officer advised that Covid support monies had been applied and £180k funding bid had been applied for to offset such costs.

Responding to further criticism of the commercial approach, Members across the chamber again re-iterated the context in which the Council was operating, diminishing government grants, rising costs and the need to fill the gap. Alternative funding proposals were welcomed but had not been forthcoming from opposition Members. The planned investments were welcome, as was the return of the Members Forum which it was hoped would give all Members a forum in which they could share views. Working remotely had resulted in some dis-jointedness. The Strategic Away Day it

was considered had the potential to allow members to engage on these wider strategic matters , and organisers were urged to consider the setting of the budget to be a future topic at such an event.

In responding to comments regarding changes to procurement potentially in the future the Chief Executive confirmed the Council already had procurement rules which sourced local first where appropriate. For major contracts, to ensure value for money, framework arrangements were used. Procurement rules were being revised in light of Brexit however it was noted that many of the EU rules were in fact set by the UK , so increased flexibility was not necessarily going to be gained.

Returning to comments about greater and wider engagement in budget setting, whilst the forums, away days and workshops were to be welcomed, and would be referenced briefly in the annual review of the constitution, it was argued that budget setting was not a surprise. Opposition Members were at liberty to propose their own alternative spending plan to be considered, something they had chosen not to do.

The lack of social return considerations and the treatment of some decisions as pure spreadsheet exercises was where Opposition concerns lay, citing examples including the leisure centre contract. Out of District investments did not provide the knock on social return that local investments would, and only looking at income and expenditure failed to address social issues and investment opportunities.

Following a lengthy political exchange and having had the recommendations, as set out in the report, moved and seconded, they were put to the vote. In accordance with required legislation for voting on the Council's budget, a recorded vote was taken.

Votes were cast as set out below:

**For:** - Councillors Bierley, Boles, Bunney, Brockway, Clews Coulson, Davies, Devine, Ellis, England, Fleetwood, Grimble, Lawrence, McCartney, McNeill G, McNeill J, Milne, Panter, Patterson, Rodgers, Snee J, Summers, Waller, Welburn, White (25)

**Against:** - Councillors Cotton, Darcel, Rollings, Young (4)

**Abstain:** - Councillors Dobbie, Rainsforth, Snee M (3)

With the majority of Councillors voting for the proposals, the motion was declared **CARRIED** and on that basis it was:-

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) the external environment and the severity of the financial challenges being faced as detailed in the Financial Strategy be recognised;
- (b) the Statement of the Chief Finance Officer on the Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves be accepted;
- (c) the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2025/26 (Appendix 1) be approved with an awareness of the associated risks included in Appendix 2.



- (d) a Mid Year Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan be received during 2021/2022;
- (e) the Revenue Budget 2021/22 (Appendix 2) be set;
- (f) the movement in reserves be approved;
- (g) the Fees and Charges 2021/2022(Appendix 3) be set;
- (h) the Capital Investment Strategy (Appendix 4) be adopted;
- (i) the Capital Programme 2021/2022 to 2025/2026 and the Financing and Expenditure on Business as Usual Schemes (Appendix 5 and 6) be approved;
- (j) the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/2022 be approved and the Treasury Investment Strategy, the Borrowing Strategy and Treasury and Borrowing Prudential Indicators (Appendix 7) be adopted;
- (k) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy as contained in the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 7 ) be approved;
- l) a £5 increase in the Council Tax to £222.74 be approved (Appendix 8 – 12); and
- m) the 2021/2022 Pay Policy Statement (Appendix 13) and the Human Resources Statement 2021/2022 (Appendix 14) be approved.

### **63 DISCRETIONARY DISREGARD OF WAR PENSION INCOME - HOUSING BENEFIT POLICY**

Councillor Anne Welburn as Chairman of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, was pleased to present the report to Council which provided Members with details of the current arrangements for the treatment of War Pension, War Widows Pension and Armed Forces Compensation income in the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement.

Historically West Lindsey District Council had agreed a policy to apply a 100% disregard of all War Pension incomes when assessing Housing Benefit entitlement. The Department for Work and Pensions subsidised the first £10 of War Pension disregard in full and 75% of any additional discretionary disregard leaving the remaining 25% to be funded by the Local Authority.

The current policy aimed to ensure that a payment received in respect of a loss incurred during service in the armed forces did not negatively affect the person's entitlement to housing benefit.

Nationally all bar four Local Authorities applied a discretionary disregard of such income and the cost to West Lindsey of the current policy was £6,492 in 2018/19 and £5,479 in 2019/20.

The current year cost to West Lindsey up to Quarter 3 was £3,690.

This report was being presented direct to Full Council as a result of new audit requirements of the Department for Work and Pensions, which required the Disregard Policy to be acknowledged and agreed by Members.

Councillor Welburn concluded her introduction by moving the recommendation, which was duly seconded.

In response to questions it was confirmed that no amendments from the previously approved scheme were being recommended, but given that it had been many years since the last policy had been viewed by Members, bringing it to Members' attention again, was considered appropriate. There were no governance reasons to review the policy on an annual basis.

On being put to the vote it was:-

**RESOLVED** that the content of the report be accepted and the continued application of the Discretionary Disregard War Pension Income – Housing Benefit Policy, in line with national opinion, be approved.

#### **64 RE-ALIGNMENT OF COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS**

The Chairman presented the report to Council which sought to amend a number of previously made appointments to Committee Vice Chairmanships, arising from the change in Deputy Leadership and at the request of the Administration.

Having been moved and seconded it was: -

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Jeff Summers be appointed Vice Chairman of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and Councillor Tracey Coulson be appointed Vice Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee.

**Note:** Due to the recommendation contained within the following item of business, the Chief Executive left the meeting, prior to its consideration.

#### **65 APPOINTMENT OF AN ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER AND RETURNING OFFICER**

The Chairman of Council presented a report which sought to appoint the Chief Executive, Mr Knowles, as the Council's Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. The responsibilities were currently assigned to Mr Robinson who would be departing the Council imminently.

The Chairman moved the recommendation, which was duly seconded, and on being put to the vote it was: -

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) In accordance with the requirements of Sections 8 and 35 of the Representation of the Peoples Act 1983, Mr Ian Knowles, Chief Executive, be appointed as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer with immediate effect.
- (b) The Constitution be amended, as necessary, to reflect this revised appointment.

This being the Monitoring Officer's last full Council Meeting the Chairman led tributes to Mr Robinson, for his services to the Council over the last 17 years and for his personal support both as a Councillor, but also that given to him in his role of Chairman.

A number of Members in turn paid moving tributes to Mr Robinson, speaking highly of his personal attributes, his integrity, his commitment, his desire and willingness to support and assist Members whatever the hour. Several spoke of the personal support he had offered them during their years of service and of the difference, his work had made within their local communities and with regard to their personal learning and development. His diplomatic nature together with his sense of humour would be missed in the organisation.

With the permission of the Chairman, Members joined in a round of applause as a sign of gratitude and well wishes for Mr Robinson.

Mr Robinson in turn thanked Members for their kind words, well wishes and of his fondness for West Lindsey.

The meeting concluded at 9.50 pm.

Chairman

**Purpose:**

To consider progress on the matters arising from previous Council meetings.

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

**Matters arising Schedule**

Meeting	Full Council				
Status	Title	Action Required	Comments	Due Date	Allocated To
Black	<b>motion to Council - combating litter</b>	<p>extract from mins of mtg held on 2/11/20 RESOLVED that the motion as amended, be ACCEPTED and as such the Council commits to :-</p> <p>(b) by way of report to Prosperous Communities Committee, examine the merits of becoming a local authority member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network, and identify which of the campaign's including Love Parks and Charity Bins, could be introduced in the District;</p> <p>(d) by way of report to Prosperous Communities Committee, investigate whether promoting take-up of the DEFRA voluntary code amongst our fast food businesses and local business partnerships is appropriate and investigate the resource and capacity implications, of seeking their sponsorship for the introduction of a Charity Bin scheme and for a public education</p>	<p><b>This item has now been re-scheduled for June as opposed to March as previously indicated to Members .</b></p> <p><b>Item will remain on the schedule until the report has completed its route through Committee</b></p>	15/12/20	Ady Selby

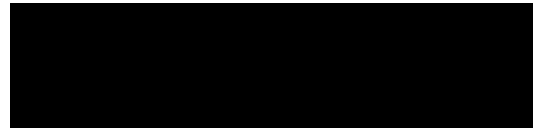
		programme. Prosperous Communities Committee are charged with making a formal decision in respect of this aspect of the motion.			
<b>Black</b>	<b>motion regarding flyposting</b>	extract from mins of mtg 25/1/21 On being put to the vote, it was RESOLVED that the motion be ACCEPTED and be REFERRED to the Council's Regulatory Committee for further exploration.	<b>This matter has been added to the regulatory committee workplan for june 2021.</b>  <b>Item will remain on the schedule until the report has completed its committee route.</b>	01/03/21	Andy Gray
<b>Black</b>	<b>motion to Council regarding John Coupland Hospital Services</b>	Extract from mins of mtg 25/1/21  On being put to the vote, it was RESOLVED that the motion as submitted, be ACCEPTED and as such Full Council requests the Leader of The Council to write to ULHT regarding service provision at the John Coupland Hospital, in line with the motion.	<b>Requested letter has been sent Copy attached to previous MAS report to Council 1/3/21 Council will be kept informed of any response received.</b>  <b>At the mtg on 1/3/21 Councillors requested that this matter be "chased up" .</b>  <b>Response now received and attached to MAS report to Council on 12 April</b>	19/02/21	Katie Storr
<b>Black</b>	<b>changes to chairmanships</b>	all relevant departments be notified and web pages and simialr systems be updated	<b>completed</b>	03/02/21	Katie Storr
<b>Green</b>	<b>Anti-semitism in constitution</b>	extract from mins 20/1/20  • The Leader had been in correspondence with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government about Anti-Semitism and he had asked that Mr.	<b>this will be considered as part of the annual review of the constitution .</b>  <b>Report has been considered by G and A Cttee awaiting annual council for approval</b>	11/05/21	James O'Shaughnessy

		Robinson and Councillor J. McNeill look at ways to incorporate this into our Constitution and procedures			
<b>Green</b>	<b>motion to council on slow ways</b>	<p>extract from mins of mtg 25/1/21</p> <p>use its Social Media Platforms and communication tools to encourage our residents and communities to sign-up personally, to walk and review a Slow Way.</p>	<p><b>Council have passed a motion to support slow ways, please can you undertake work necessary to promote this. Full detail of the motion, are on the website for council meeting on 25/1/21. Cllr A Welburn was the motion submitter.</b></p> <p><b>Please feed back through this matters arising what activities and actions have been undertaken: -</b></p> <p><b>As at 31/3 -</b></p> <p><b>Slowways was due to be promoted nationally in the last week of January but due to covid and the current conditions they have delayed this until conditions improve.</b></p> <p><b>The Communications Team are waiting on a new date for the launch but as soon as it is launched we will be promoting in the residents newsletter, parish news and social media and the website and local press.</b></p>	30/04/21	Julie Heath

<b>Green</b>	<b>Appointment of Returning Officer</b>	Extract from mins of meeting 1/3/2021 Ian Knowles be appointed and the Constitution be amended as required to reflect such	<b>revision made to scheme of delegation and will be re-published as part of the Annual Review</b>	01/05/21	Katie Storr

Lincoln County Hospital  
Main Entrance  
Greetwell Road  
Lincoln  
LN2 5QY

24 March 2021



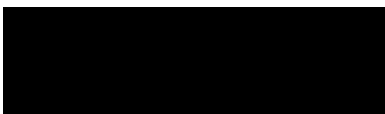
Dear Councillor Bierley,

Thank you for your letter dated 12 February 2021 regarding concerns in relation to consultant led clinics being stopped at John Coupland Hospital in Gainsborough. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

There is broad agreement with all system partners for ULHT to review what services are provided and by who in community hospitals which will include John Coupland Hospital. We are committed to providing accessible services across a range of locations increasingly using telephone and video consultations. Where face to face appointments are needed we need to review who is best placed to provide these services. Details of what may change are yet to be decided; however please be assured that the Trust is committed to undertaking appropriate engagement and where necessary consultation to help in shaping the future service arrangements.

I hope that this response is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely



Paul Matthew  
Director of Finance & Digital





**Council**

**Monday 12 April 2021**

**Subject: Review of the Allocation of Seats to Political Groups on Committees and Sub-Committees**

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

Katie Storr  
Democratic Services and Elections Team  
Manager (Interim)  
katie.storr@west-lindsey.gov.uk  
01427 676594

Purpose / Summary:

This report sets out the details of the political groups on the Council, the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each committee and the allocation to different political groups of seats on the committees. As a result of Notices being received in accordance with the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 1) that the details of political groups, as set out in Appendix A, be accepted;**
- 2) that the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each Committee be accepted; and**
- 3) that the allocation to different political groups of seats on committees, as set out in Appendix B, be accepted.**

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal:**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Financial : FIN/4/22/TJB**

None from this report.

**Staffing :**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Data Protection Implications :**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Health Implications:**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

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

None.

**Risk Assessment : n/a**

**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. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is required to review the allocation to different political groups of seats on committees and sub-committees.
- 1.2 The requirement to review the allocations is as a result of Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowen giving due notice under regulation 10 of the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990 that he no longer wishes to be treated as a member of the Conservative Group nor the Administration. Councillor Jeff Summers has given due notice under Regulation 9b that he wishes to be treated as Member of both the Conservative Group and the Administration.
- 1.3 It should be noted for the purposes of the political balance calculation, as the Council is carrying a vacancy, the total number of Members is based on a compliment of 35 as opposed to the 36 seats.
- 1.4 Existing political groups for the purposes of the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990 are as follows:

<b>Group</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Leader/Spokesperson</b>	<b>Deputy Leaders</b>
West Lindsey Administration Group	20	Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Anne Welburn
Liberal Democrat Group	12	Councillor Trevor Young	Councillor Lesley Rollings
Lincolnshire Independents	2	Councillor Chris Darcel	Councillor Cherie Hill

- 1.5 Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan, West Lindsey Independent is not aligned to any Group, and the Council has one vacancy.
- 1.6 The Council has delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service to agree, following consultation with the Group Leaders, the overall allocation of seats to groups resulting from the application of rounding.
- 1.7 Full details of group membership are set out in Appendix A.

## 2. The Allocations

- 2.1 In accordance with the provisions of section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Duty to allocate seats to political groups), the Council is required to give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the following specified principles:
- (a) that not all the seats on a Committee/Sub-Committee are allocated to the same political group;
  - (b) that the majority of the seats on a Committee/Sub-Committee are allocated to a particular political group where the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
  - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary Committees which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of that authority as is borne by the number of **Members of that group** to the membership of the authority;
  - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on the Committee/Sub-Committee which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Committee/Sub-Committee as is borne by the number of **members of that group** to the membership of the authority.
- 2.2 (b) above applies as there is a group with a majority of seats on the Council.
- 2.3 In order to give effect, so far as is **reasonably practicable**, to the principles specified above and in consultation with group leaders as required by the delegation, it has been determined that the best fit to meet the political balance rules is for the: -
- **Planning Committee, Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, Prosperous Communities Committee, and Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comprise 14 Members;**
  - **Licensing Committee and Regulatory Committee to comprise 11 Members;**
  - **Chief Officer Employment Committee to comprise 10 Members**
  - **Governance and Audit Committee to comprise 7 Members; and**
- 2.4 **It should be noted that it was requested that the political balance for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee not be applied (as was agreed following the District wide elections in May 2019 (to retain the suspension of political balance a separate vote will be required on the appointment of Committees report). As such 12 Places have been afforded to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.** The allocations have therefore been calculated on this basis.

- 2.5 As agreed as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution during 2017/2018, the same 11 Members comprise both the Licensing Committee and the Regulatory Committee.
- 2.6 All of the Group Leaders have been consulted on the number of Members appointed to serve on the Committees/Sub-Committees.
- 2.7 Applying group numbers to the seats available on the Committees and Sub-Committees gives the allocation set out in Appendix B, as the most reasonably practical in the circumstances.
- 2.8 It should be noted that the receipt of the two notices referred to in 1.2 above in effect negate each other in terms of the political balance of the Council. As such the number of seats allocated to each Political Group remains the same, however there is a need to re-appoint Members to the Committees, given the change of membership within these Groups.

**Local Government & Housing Act 1989**

**The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990**

**Political Groups on the District Council – April 2021**

**West Lindsey Administration Group (20 Councillors)**

**(Comprising 16 Conservatives, 2 Independents and 2 Gainsborough Independent Councillors)**

***Conservatives (16)***

Councillor Owen Bierley

Councillor Jackie Brockway

Councillor Tracey Coulson

Councillor Jane Ellis

Councillor Steve England

Councillor Ian Fleetwood

Councillor Caralyne Grimble

Councillor Angela Lawrence

Councillor Cordelia McCartney

Councillor John McNeill

Councillor Jessie Milne

Councillor Roger Patterson

Councillor Tom Regis

Councillor Jeff Summers

Councillor Robert Waller

Councillor Anne Welburn

***Independent Councillors***

Councillor Giles McNeill

Councillor Diana Rodgers

***Gainsborough Independents***

Councillor Timothy Davies

Councillor Mick Devine

**Liberal Democrat Group (12 Councillors)**

Councillor Matthew Boles

Councillor Stephen Bunney

Councillor Liz Clews

Councillor David Cotton

Councillor David Dobbie

Councillor Keith Panter

Councillor Judy Rainsforth

Councillor Lesley Rollings

Councillor Jim Snee

Councillor Mandy Snee

Councillor Angela White

Councillor Trevor Young

**Lincolnshire Independents Group (2 Councillors)**

Councillor Chris Darcel

Councillor Cherie Hill



**West Lindsey Independent Unaligned to any Group (1 Councillor)**

Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan

## Appendix B

Political Make-up of the Council, on which calculations have been based: -

West Lindsey Administration Group (WLAG)	Lib Dem	Lincs Ind	Ind	Total
20 members	12 Members	2 Members	1 Member	35 Members
57.14%	34.29%	5.71%	2.86%	100%

**TABLE 1 – ORDINARY COMMITTEES**

	WLAG	Lib Dem	Lincs Ind	Ind Mbr	Total
Prosperous Communities (14)	8	5	1	0	14
Corporate Policy and Resources (14)	8	5	0	1	14
Governance and Audit (7)	4	3	0	0	7
Planning (14)	8	5	1	0	14
Chief Officer Employment (10)	6	3	1	0	10
Total no. of seats (59)	34	21	3	1	59
As a %	57.63	35.59	5.08	1.69	100

**NOTES:** This would meet the criteria with the WLAG having a majority on each Committee, followed by the Liberal Democrats having the next largest proportion and so on.

**TABLE 2**

<b>IF POLITICAL BALANCE APPLIED</b>	<b>WLAG</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Lincs Ind</b>	<b>Ind Mbr</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (14)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total no of seats as a %</b>	<b>57.14</b>	<b>35.17</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>POLITICAL BALANCE SUSPENDED</b>	<b>WLAG</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Lincs Ind</b>	<b>Ind Mbr</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total no of seats as a %</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>41.67</b>	<b>8.33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>

**TABLE 3**

	<b>WLAG</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Lincs Ind</b>	<b>Ind Mbr</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Licensing (11)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Regulatory (11)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total no. of seats (22)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Total no of seats as a %</b>	<b>54.55</b>	<b>36.36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9.09</b>	<b>100</b>

**Note the membership of the two committees above has to be identical**

# Agenda Item 9b



**Council**

**Monday 12 April 2021**

**Subject: Appointment of Committees**

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

Katie Storr  
Senior Democratic & Civic Officer  
katie.storr@west-lindsey.gov.uk  
01427 676594

Purpose / Summary:

This report sets out the wishes expressed by political groups in respect of appointment of Members to serve on the Committees of the Council.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- (1) That the rules relating to proportionality be suspended in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- (2) In accordance with the provisions of section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the wishes expressed by political groups, Members be appointed to serve to the Council's Committees for the remainder of the civic year; and**
- (3) The current committee Chairmen, and Vice-Chairmen be re-affirmed.**

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal:**

In accordance with the provisions of section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the wishes expressed by political groups

**Financial : FIN/5/22/TJB**

Special responsibility allowances for the proposed Chairs and Vice Chairs are met from the Members Allowance budget.

**Staffing :**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Data Protection Implications :**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

**Health Implications:**

None directly arising as a result of this report.

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

Notices received from the Group Leaders on the allocation of Committee/ Sub-Committee places – documents available from the Guildhall, Gainsborough (on request).

**Risk Assessment : N/A**

--

**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**

**x**

**Key Decision:**

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

**Yes**

**No**

**x**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In accordance with the provision of section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it is the duty of the Council to make appointments to Committees in accordance with the wishes expressed by political groups following the determination under section 15 (the allocation of seats to political groups).
- 1.2 Section 2 details the wishes expressed by the political groups.

## **2. Appointment of Committees**

### **2.1 Chief Officer Employment Committee (10 Members)**

Councillor Owen Bierley (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Jackie Brockway – Chairman  
Councillor Mick Devine  
Councillor Cherie Hill  
Councillor Angela Lawrence  
Councillor Diana Rodgers  
Councillor Lesley Rollings  
Councillor Anne Welburn  
Councillor Angela White  
Councillor Trevor Young

### **2.2 Corporate Policy and Resources Committee (14 Members)**

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Matthew Boles  
Councillor Stephen Bunney  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Mick Devine  
Councillor Ian Fleetwood  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Giles McNeill  
Councillor John McNeill  
Councillor Mandy Snee  
Councillor Jeff Summers – Vice-Chairman  
Councillor Robert Waller  
Councillor Anne Welburn –Chairman  
Councillor Trevor Young

### **2.3 Governance and Audit Committee (7 Members)**

Councillor Jackie Brockway – Vice Chairman  
Councillor Stephen Bunney  
Councillor Tracey Coulson  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Caralyne Grimble

Councillor John McNeill – Chairman  
Councillor Angela White

**2.4 Licensing Committee (11 Members)**

Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Liz Clews  
Councillor Tim Davies  
Councillor Caralyne Grimble  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Angela Lawrence – Vice Chairman  
Councillor Cordelia McCartney  
Councillor Jessie Milne – Chairman  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Jim Snee  
Councillor Jeff Summers

**2.5 Regulatory Committee (11 Members)**

Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Liz Clews  
Councillor Tim Davies  
Councillor Caralyne Grimble  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Angela Lawrence – Vice Chairman  
Councillor Cordelia McCartney  
Councillor Jessie Milne – Chairman  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Jim Snee  
Councillor Jeff Summers

**2.6 Planning Committee (14 Members)**

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Matthew Boles  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Mick Devine  
Councillor Jane Ellis  
Councillor Ian Fleetwood – Chairman  
Councillor Cherie Hill  
Councillor Cordelia McCartney  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Keith Panter  
Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Robert Waller – Vice Chairman  
Councillor Angela White



## 2.7 Prosperous Communities Committee (14 Members)

Councillor Owen Bierley – Chairman  
Councillor Stephen Bunney  
Councillor Tracey Coulson – Vice-Chairman  
Councillor Chris Darcel  
Councillor Mick Devine  
Councillor Steve England  
Councillor John McNeill – Vice Chairman  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Tom Regis  
Councillor Jim Snee  
Councillor Mandy Snee  
Councillor Anne Welburn  
Councillor Trevor Young

## 3. Suspension of Political Balance

The Council can, by way of a separate vote, agree to not apply the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 to a Committee or Committees. Requests have been received that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be not politically balanced.

The proposed unbalanced Committee Membership is set out below.

### 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12 members)

Councillor Liz Clews  
Councillor Tim Davies  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Jane Ellis  
Councillor Caralyne Grimble  
Councillor Cherie Hill  
Councillor Angela Lawrence  
Councillor Keith Panter  
Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor Diana Rodgers – Vice Chairman  
Councillor Lesley Rollings – Chairman  
Councillor Angela White – Vice Chairman

Should this proposal not be unanimously supported the Committee will have to be balanced. The Chairmanships for this committee will also be amended in the event a balanced committee is agreed

The proposed balanced Committee membership is as set out below: -

### 3.2 **Overview and Scrutiny Committee (14 members)**

Councillor Jackie Brockway  
Councillor Liz Clews  
Councillor Tim Davies  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Jane Ellis  
Councillor Caralyne Grimble  
Councillor Cherie Hill  
Councillor Angela Lawrence  
Councillor Cordelia McCartney  
Councillor Keith Panter  
Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor Diana Rodgers  
Councillor Lesley Rollings  
Councillor Angela White

## 4. **Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmanships**

- 4.1 Whilst the Council has had the need to re-appoint the Committees in accordance with its duty to make appointments to Committees in accordance with the wishes expressed by political groups following the determination under section 15 (the allocation of seats to political groups), all Group Leaders have indicated they have no wish to amend the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmanship appointments previously made.
- 4.2 This report therefore merely seeks the re-affirmation of these positions (subject to 3.1 above)



Council

Monday 12 April 2021

**Subject: Appointments to New Outside Bodies - Gainsborough Transport Strategy Delivery Board (GTSDB) and the Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board (LTSDB)**

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

Katie Storr  
Democratic Services and Elections Team  
Manager Interim  
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Purpose / Summary:

To formally recognise the Gainsborough Transport Strategy Delivery Board (GTSDB) and the Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board (LTSDB) as formal outside bodies.

To Appoint a Member to serve on each of the Boards.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- (1) That Council formalise appointments to the Gainsborough Transport Strategy Delivery Board (GTSDB) and the Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board (LTSDB) and as such these Boards be recognised as Outside Bodies; and**
- (2) That the following Councillors be appointed to the following Boards until Annual Council in May 2023.**

### **Gainsborough Transport Strategy Delivery Board – GTSDB**

Councillor Tracey Coulson

Councillor Trevor Young

Councillor Jim Snee (Reserve)

**Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board - LTSDB**

Councillor Steve England

Councillor Giles McNeill

Councillor Angela White (Reserve)

## IMPLICATIONS

### Legal:

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

### Financial : [FIN/6/22/TJB](#)

Confirming the appointment as an official outside body appointment will allow the appointed Member rep(s) to claim expenses when attending such meetings. Expenses claimed can be met from within existing budgets

### Staffing :

(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).*

### Data Protection Implications :

### Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

A primary function of this outside body is to negate the effects of climate change.

### Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

### Health Implications:

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

*Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s  
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.*

### 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**

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 In June 2018 LCC's Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider a report that outlined the status of LCC's existing Transport Strategies and endorse a more robust future approach across the whole County.
- 1.2 The intention being that once a place based transport strategy was adopted a working group would be established to review the continued viability and progress of the strategy on a regular basis.
- 1.3 LCC's engagement with stakeholders and, where appropriate, the wider public, in this way helps to inform the understanding of the current situation within the strategy area and future plans which may affect transport, but also identify potential options and generate ownership of the strategy by potential partners in its delivery.
- 1.4 As a result of the above, now active within West Lindsey are the Gainsborough Transport Strategy Delivery Board (GTSDB) and the Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board (LTSDB).

## **2. Future Membership**

- 2.1 Both meetings of, and attendance at these Boards, has to date, been on an ad hoc basis.
- 2.2 In order that the council can maintain effective partnerships within these Boards and recognising that WLDC holds the role of a key stakeholder it is recommended that Membership of these Boards is formalised beyond the current ad hoc arrangements.
- 2.3 As such Council are asked to formally recognise the Gainsborough Transport Strategy Delivery Board (GTSDB) and the Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board (LTSDB) as formal outside bodies and as such formally appoint Members to serve thereon.
- 2.4 The intention is that these Boards will now meet quarterly and will be facilitated by Lincolnshire County Council.

## **3. GTSDB**

- 3.1 Given the alignment of the Board's objectives with the work of Prosperous Communities Committee it is suggested that Members appointed to serve on the GTSDB should either be Prosperous Communities Committee Members and / or Ward Councillors for the relevant wards namely:

Gainsborough East / North / South West, Hemswell, Lea, Torksey, Scotter and Blyton and Stow.

- 3.2 In order to ensure Councillor attendance at this meeting it is suggested that 2 Members and a reserve be appointed.

The following nominations have been received: -

Councillor Tracey Coulson  
Councillor Trevor Young  
Co-councillor Jim Snee (Reserve)

#### **4. LTSDB**

- 4.1 Again given the alignment of the Board's objectives with the work of Prosperous Communities Committee it is suggested that Members appointed to serve on the LTSDB should either be Prosperous Communities Committee Members and / or Ward Councillors for the relevant wards namely:

Cherry Willingham, Scampton, Saxilby, Nettleham, Sudbrooke, Dunholme and Welton

- 4.2 In order to ensure Councillor attendance at this meeting it is suggested that 2 Members and a reserve are appointed.

The following nominations have been received: -

Councillor Steve England  
Councillor Giles McNeill  
Councillor Angela White (Reserve)

#### **5, General**

- 5.1 Those Members appointed to serve on an outside body would be expected to provide a short report on the achievements, finance and forward plans of the Body, as are all Members who serve on Outside Bodies. These reports are currently shared prior to Annual Council or through the Members Newsletter.
- 5.2 Outside Body Appointments are made for a period of four years wherever possible. It is recommended that these appointment be made until Annual Council May 2023 to bring them in line with the majority of other Outside Body appointments.

#### **6 Recommendations**

- (1) That Council formalise appointments to the Gainsborough Transport Strategy Delivery Board (GTSDDB) and the Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board (LTSDB) and as such these Boards be recognised as Outside Bodies; and
- (2) That the following Councillors be appointed to the following Boards until Annual Council in May 2023



**Gainsborough Transport Strategy Delivery Board – GTSDB**

Councillor Tracey Coulson  
Councillor Trevor Young  
Councillor Jim Snee(Reserve)

**Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board - LTSDB**

Councillor Steve England  
Councillor Giles McNeill  
Councillor Angela White (Reserve)

# Agenda Item 9d



**Council**

**Monday 12 April 2021**

**Subject: Appointment of Monitoring Officer**

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Katie Storr  
Democratic and Elections Team Manager  
(Interim)  
katie.storr@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To make an appointment to the Statutory post of Monitoring Officer for West Lindsey District Council

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

It is recommended that

- (a) In accordance with the terms of Part I, 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended) and all subsequent related legislation, Mr James O'Shaughnessy be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer, with immediate effect.
- (b) The Constitution be amended, as necessary, to reflect this revised appointment.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal:**

The Council has a statutory duty to appoint to the position of Monitoring Officer

**Financial : FIN/149/21/TJB**

There are no financial implications from this report.

**Staffing :**

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

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

**Data Protection Implications :**

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :**

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :**

**Health Implications:**

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

Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s  
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.

**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**

## 1 Background

- 1.1 The role of Monitoring Officer is a Statutory Officer, which Council has a duty to appoint to.
- 1.2 The role of Monitoring Officer is currently assigned to Mr Alan Robinson, Director of Corporate Services, and has been since 2013.
- 1.3 Council will be aware that Mr Robinson is due depart the authority on 31 March, to take up a position with South Kesteven District Council.
- 1.4 Due to the departure of the current post holder, it is essential that a new appointment is made immediately.

## 2. Regulations

### 2.1 Monitoring Officer

#### 2.3.1 *Part I, section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989*

- (i) It shall be the duty of every relevant authority –
  - (a) to designate one of their officers (to be known as “the monitoring officer”) as the officer responsible for performing the duties imposed by this section; and
  - (b) to provide that officer with such staff, accommodation and other resources as are, in his opinion, sufficient to allow those duties to be performed;

and the officer so designated may be the head of the authority’s paid service but shall not be their chief finance officer.

This was later amended in the *Local Government Act 2000 Schedule 5 (24)* as:

- 3) 1a) The officer designated under subsection (1) above by a relevant authority to which this subsection applies may not be the head of that authority’s paid service
- 1b) Subsection (1a) above applies to the following relevant authorities in England and Wales –
  - (a) a county council;
  - (b) a county borough council;
  - (c) a district council;
  - (d) a London borough council;
  - (e) a Greater London Authority; and

- (f) the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a local authority, police authority or post health authority.

### **3. Proposed Recommendations**

It is recommended that

- (a) In accordance with the terms of Part I, 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended) and all subsequent related legislation, Mr James O'Shaughnessy be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer, with immediate effect.
- (b) The Constitution be amended, as necessary, to reflect this revised appointment.