

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

AGENDA

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

**Prosperous Communities Committee
Tuesday, 7th December, 2021 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber - The Guildhall**

PLEASE NOTE DUE TO CAPACITY LIMITS WITHIN THE GUILDHALL THE PUBLIC VIEWING GALLERY IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED

This Meeting will be available to watch live via: <https://west-lindsey.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Members:

- Councillor Owen Bierley (Chairman)
- Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor John McNeill (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Stephen Bunney
- Councillor Christopher Darcel
- Councillor Michael Devine
- Councillor Steve England
- Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne
- Councillor Tom Regis
- Councillor Jim Snee
- Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee
- 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

(PAGES 3 - 16)

To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 2 November 2021

4. **Matters Arising Schedule** (PAGES 17 - 18)
Setting out current position of previously agreed actions as at 29 November 2021
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**
- i) Economic Recovery Plan (PAGES 19 - 58)
 - ii) West Lindsey Tenancy Strategy (PAGES 59 - 80)
 - iii) Voluntary and Community Sector Grants 2022/23 (PAGES 81 - 90)
 - iv) Workplan (PAGES 91 - 93)

Ian Knowles
Head of Paid Service
The Guildhall
Gainsborough

Monday, 29 November 2021

Prosperous Communities Committee – 2 November 2021
Subject to Call-in. Call-in will expire at 5pm on 7 December 2021

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 2 November 2021 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Owen Bierley (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson (Vice-Chairman) and
Councillor John McNeill (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Christopher Darcel
Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne
Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Jane Ellis
Councillor Roger Patterson

In Attendance:

Sally Grindrod-Smith	Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration
Ady Selby	Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services
Grant White	Enterprising Communities Manager
David Kirkup	
Darren Mellors	Performance & Programme Manager
Andy Gray	Housing and Enforcement Manager
Sue Leversedge	Business Support Team Leader
Emma Redwood	Assistant Director People and Democratic Services
Katie Storr	Democratic Services & Elections Team Manager
Ele Snow	Senior Democratic and Civic Officer

Apologies:

Councillor Steve England
Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Trevor Young

Membership:

Councillor D. Dobbie sat as substitute for Councillor T. Young
Councillor J. Ellis sat as substitute for Councillor S. England
Councillor R. Patterson sat as substitute for Councillor T. Regis

34 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

35 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 14 September 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

36 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

With no comments or questions, the contents of the Matters Arising schedule were duly **NOTED**.

37 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors R. Patterson and S. Bunney declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 6b (Platinum Jubilee Community Fund) as they were Members of the Platinum Jubilee working group.

Councillor O. Bierley declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 6b (Platinum Jubilee Community Fund) as he was a Member of the Community Grants Panel.

Councillors M. Snee and J. Snee declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in relation to agenda item 6b (Platinum Jubilee Community Fund) as a family member worked for the team responsible for community grants.

38 DECISION / DELEGATION PROTOCOLS NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (NSIP)

The first report of the evening was introduced by the Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration regarding the decision and delegation protocols for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. She explained that the Council had recently been made aware of three Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) where West Lindsey District Council would perform the role of 'Host Authority' in the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. It was explained that NSIPs were considered by the Planning Inspectorate for ultimate decision by the relevant Secretary of State, in this case, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The Committee heard that the three NSIPs all proposed large scale solar farm development. The scale of the proposal was measured in megawatts, with anything above 50 megawatts being an NSIP. All three proposals were significantly above this 50-megawatt scale, meaning they sat outside of the realms of the Town and Country Planning Act. Timescales were still being firmed up by the developers with early indications that they would enter the statutory stage of public consultation by mid 2022 with a view to submitting the DCO application late 2022.

The Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration stated there were six stages of the NSIP process and the role of the host authority – as set out in the 2008 Planning Act - was clearly defined. Although not the ultimate decision maker, the local authority had the opportunity to provide an important local perspective, and was expected to respond to the

Planning Inspectorate within tight timescales. Officers had contacted the Planning Inspectorate directly and they had offered to facilitate a workshop session with Officers and Members to ensure the Council maximised the input into the process.

One of the early tasks for Local Authorities, as set out in the PINS guidance, was to establish the delegations and decision-making process for each stage, that being the purpose of the paper presented at this stage.

Members were directed to Appendix 1 of the report, which set out the full list of documents that the local authority must prepare / agree a response to, at what stage of the process these were required and the proposed decision route. It was suggested that Prosperous Communities Committee take the decision on the Local Impact Report and the Written Representations to the examination, with the Case Officer presenting a recommended position, informed by specialists and the outcome of public engagement. It was emphasised that, where the proposed route of decision was Officer delegation, this would be in consultation with the Chair of the Committee. An important part of the process would be ongoing briefings with Members, to ensure that Members were able to fully engage in the process. It was also highlighted that, as there was a number of DCOs to be dealt with, should there be a requirement to review the process, this would be subject to a further paper to the Committee.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of engaging with the process and thanked everyone involved to date for their time and effort. Whilst it was recognised that the decision would not be made by the council, it was acknowledged that involvement in the process was still necessary and relevant. Members expressed their dissatisfaction that the decision would not be made locally, however, there was acceptance that this was the case and, in recognition of the need to maximise involvement in the process, the recommendation was moved and seconded. On taking the vote it was

RESOLVED that the decision and delegation protocols when acting in the role of “host authority” for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, as detailed in Appendix 1, be **APPROVED** and as such, delegate the following responsibilities to the Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration at this time:

- Preparation and sign off of Planning Performance Agreement
- Preparation and sign off of S106 Agreement
- Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) response
- Draft Preliminary Environmental Impact Report response (draft Environmental Statement)
- Environmental Statement (submission version) – ongoing dialogue
- Adequacy of Consultation Response (AoC)

39 WEST LINDSEY PLATINUM JUBILEE COMMUNITY FUND

The Committee was asked to consider a report with the purpose of approving the launch of the West Lindsey Platinum Jubilee Community Fund. It was explained that £500k was approved for the Community Grant Scheme for the five-year period from 2018/2019 to 2022/2023. This fund was delegated to the Prosperous Communities Committee to approve appropriate grant schemes and expenditure. As at 1 October 2021 there was a balance

remaining of £201k on the Community Grants fund. Of this balance, it was proposed to allocate £20k (the balance remaining would therefore be £181k) to the West Lindsey Platinum Jubilee Community Fund, which would launch immediately after all committee approvals had been made and run until June 2022. Spend against this allocation would be monitored to ensure the approved amount was not exceeded.

Note: Councillors D. Dobbie and S. Bunney declared a personal interest in that they would likely be applying to the fund in their roles as Town Councillors and therefore they both left the meeting at 6.57pm.

Members of the Committee welcomed the launch of the Platinum Jubilee Fund. It was suggested that funds would not be used, for example, for the burning of beacons given the environmental impact, and it was also confirmed that a parallel scheme for providing Members with a sapling to be planted for The Queen's Green Canopy was to be funded separately.

With thanks to all involved and having been moved and seconded, it was

RESOLVED that the use of £20k of the Communities Grant Fund to deliver the West Lindsey Platinum Jubilee Community Fund be approved under delegated powers.

Note: Councillors D. Dobbie and S. Bunney returned to the meeting at 7.01pm.

40 FREE PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Members gave consideration to a report in relation to providing free parking in council car parks to support Christmas events in both Gainsborough and Market Rasen. It was explained that the council operated pay and display car parks in Gainsborough and Market Rasen with parking fees applying Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm. The council was holding a Christmas Market in Gainsborough on Saturday 11 December and Sunday 12 December and would include stalls in Marshalls Yard, Market Street and the market place. Market Rasen Town Council was due to hold its Christmas event on the evening of Friday 3 December and on Saturday 4 December. This was also Small Business Saturday. It was recommended that charges in council car parks be waived in Market Rasen on Saturday 4 December and in Gainsborough on Saturday 11 December. It was also explained that there would be a car parking strategy presented to the Committee in coming months which would consider options for a recurring arrangement to be in place.

Committee Members were supportive of the proposal and felt it provided encouragement to local traders as well as being a further incentive for people to attend such events. It was suggested that, in future, further consideration could be given to the use of public transport in order to encourage reduced use of multiple vehicles and thus support climate change priorities, however, it was acknowledged that public transport in the district was not always a feasible alternative.

Having been moved and seconded it was unanimously

RESOLVED that parking charges in council car parks be waived in Market Rasen on Saturday 4 December and in Gainsborough on Saturday 11 December in support of

the Christmas events taking place on those dates.

41 PROGRESS AND DELIVERY QUARTER 2, 2021-22

The Committee heard from the Performance and Programmes Manager with the report containing Progress & Delivery performance information for Quarter 2 2021/22, which covered the months of July through to September. Where Covid-19 had impacted performance, this was identified and explained within the narrative of the report.

Members heard that as well as the discussion of performance information for Quarter 2, it was also recommended to delete the measure EN04 “percentage of licensed properties in the South West Ward” as the selective licensing scheme ended in July 2021 meaning it was no longer possible to collect data for this measure. It would, however, be replaced for the next financial year.

As an exception report, those measures that had performed above or below agreed tolerances for two consecutive periods would be discussed with a pause at the end of each portfolio to allow for any questions to be asked.

Within the quarter two report, 57% measures had exceeded their target, 19% were within tolerance and 24% were performing below agreed target. In addition, 69% of measures had exceeded their target for two quarters or more whilst the remaining 31% had been below target for two quarters or more.

Prior to commencing the read through of the report, a Member of the Committee commented that it was important for the impact of covid-19 to be recognised, whilst also ensuring that it was not used as a ‘catch-all’ for any under-performance. This was agreed, with recognition given through the report for those areas where the impact had been greatest.

Corporate Health

There had been a slight decrease in customer satisfaction compared to the same period last year however performance was still within agreed tolerances. There had been a reduction in calls volume and the performance of answering calls within 21 seconds. A review was to be undertaken to establish the cause of this.

Finance & Property Services

Performance was returned as green as rental portfolio voids had performed better than target

Homes & Communities

There were five performance measures that had performed better than target for at least two consecutive periods. Conversely, four measures had performed worse than target for two consecutive periods; these measures related to Home Choices and Homes, Health & Wellbeing. For Home Choices the measures below tolerance for two consecutive periods were regarding number of households and the number of nights in B&B accommodation. A plan had been introduced to reduce B&B stay and produce consistent exit plans for persons within temporary accommodation. It was anticipated that increased monitoring of cases should help to reduce B&B stay, and the team were also working with their partner Framework to reduce complex cases holding up spaces in the leased accommodation. It

was expected to see the impact of this plan in next quarter's P&D report.

For Homes, Health & Wellbeing; two measures had performed worse than target for two consecutive periods and these measures included average number of days from DFG referral to completion and long-term empties brought back into use. The number of days taken to complete Disabled Facilities Grant applications was steadily decreasing. A report taken to Overview and Scrutiny committee in September highlighted the issues currently being faced when delivering DFG's which included the availability of both contractors and materials. It was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny to undertake an internal review of the DFG processes to highlight any areas where timescales could be improved. This is work was scheduled to be undertaken during November and December.

The overall number of long-term empty homes remained low and equated to just 1% of the district's housing stock. The focus for empty homes work remained the Viable Housing Solution, which was looking at a specific area within Gainsborough. Complaints in regards to the worst empty properties were still being dealt with reactively using the Council's existing powers. Compulsory Purchase Orders in regards to specific empty properties were in the process of being pursued. It was not believed that at this stage any further interventions are needed to address this.

A Member of the Committee enquired as to whether the target regarding long-term empty properties to be brought back into use was realistic or whether it was set too high? The Performance and Programme Manager did not have the information to hand but confirmed he would find out. Likewise, in response to a question as to whether the Council worked with ACIS in regards to DFGs, he confirmed he would clarify that information and share with Members after the meeting.

Operational and Commercial Services

There were six performance measures that had performed better than agreed targets for at least two consecutive quarters. On the flip side; there were four measures whose performance was below target for two consecutive quarters. The first of which was Leisure Facilities usages for the Gainsborough centre. Restrictions had now been lifted and both centres were fully open. SLM were working hard to build up the centres, increase the membership and develop more activities for all age groups. SLM were also working to develop a Social Wellbeing Programme to incorporate a range of suitable activities for the referral scheme.

In regards to Markets, quarter two saw traders being able to fully return to the market. Officers were currently working on a Market Traders Grant scheme to help support traders on the general market and farmers market following the impact of the pandemic.

There was significant discussion regarding the lack of outreach services within leisure facilities. It was described that the request for outreach work had been very clear and it was disappointing that this had not yet occurred. It was explained that the contract manager was working closely with SLM regarding this and it was very much a focus of the leisure facilities portfolio. The impact of the pandemic was recognised, however, it was felt that there had been sufficient time passed for plans to have been actioned and again, there was disappointment voiced that this was not yet happening.

There was support from Members regarding the number of litter picks supported by the

Council, with several Members commenting the involvement in their communities. Additionally, the Operational Services response to fly-tipping was commended.

Democratic Services

There were no measures where performance was below or above target for two consecutive periods. Apologies were given as there was an error within this section of the report. The performance for attendance at member training events (KPI DS02) should have read as green and not red.

Planning & Regeneration

There were four measures which had performed better than target for at least two consecutive periods, all of which relate to the Councils Development Management service. There had been no measures that had performed below target for at least two consecutive periods.

Change Management and Regulatory Services

Nine measures had performed above their targets for two consecutive periods and there were four that had performed below their targets. Of these four; NNDR Collection rate had been below target for the first half of the year due to the award of Emergency Relief Payments as detailed in the quarter one P&D report. This was beginning to show signs of improvement as instalments become due and were either paid or recovery action was able to be taken to secure payment. The Council continued to work with businesses to ensure they received all the reliefs to which they were entitled.

The number of Planning Enforcement reports received continued to exceed the Council's ability to respond. Additional resources were in place and the number of cases opened this year did exceed the number closed, which had resulted in some of the time delays for closure of cases and time taken to provide an initial response. A review of longer-term cases had been undertaken. Temporary agency support had also been brought in to assist

The number of food hygiene inspections was gradually increasing as the volume of covid related complaints and responsibilities reduced. There was still a general resource challenge in relation to meeting the target number of inspections in the Food Standards Agency recovery plan and steps were being taken to ensure that additional resources were in place to achieve this. Staff vacancies within Environmental Protection and subsequent issues recruiting into these vacancies had resulted in issues within the service. These vacancies were going out to advert shortly.

A Member of the Committee sought clarification on the details of the environmental protection requests, to what they were related. It was explained that they related to the statutory environmental protection powers and covered complaints such as noise, odour, pollution and water quality. The number of requests had increased significantly since pre-pandemic levels and continued on that trend. It was highlighted that it was not a service concern, however the volume of requests was highlighted as being significantly more than the Council would expect to receive.

Having reached the conclusion of the report, the Committee had the opportunity to ask any further questions. A Member of the Committee wished to highlight the outstanding performance of the Planning Department, especially given it was a service that could come against frequent criticism. The outcome of the appeals often went in the favour of the

Council and was testament to the work undertaken by the team.

Having been moved and seconded, the Chairman took the vote and it was

RESOLVED that

- a) the performance of the Council's services had been assessed through agreed performance measures and areas where improvements should be made, having regard to the remedial measures set out in the report, be indicated; and
- b) the deletion of key performance indicator EN04 "% of licensed properties in the Gainsborough South-West Ward" be approved, as the cessation of the Selective Licensing Scheme in July 2021 means it is no longer possible to collect data for this performance measure. EN04 to be replaced with a new measure to monitor wider activity relating to Selective Licensing as part of the annual review of the Council's Progress and Delivery measures that is currently underway.

42 MEMBERSHIP OF KEEP BRITAIN TODAY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DEFRA VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT

The Committee gave consideration a report which sought to provide a response to the Full Council Motion requesting consideration be given to becoming a member of Keep Britain Tidy and implementing the DEFRA Voluntary Code of Conduct. Members were informed that the Voluntary Code of Conduct enabled a framework and agreement to be put in place between authorities and businesses that contributed to litter generated by fast food or food on the go. The framework was entirely voluntary and no business could be mandated to sign up to it. It was suggested that Officers further investigated the resource required to implement the DEFRA Voluntary Code of Conduct for Fast Food Outlets, alongside other work to redefine the way the Council approached environmental crimes. The costs and implications of membership of Keep Britain Tidy were set out in the report and it was explained that, at this stage, it was suggested that the Council did not become members of Keep Britain Tidy but continued to support their campaigns across the district.

Members supported the suggested approach, however, in recognition of the impact of the Keep Britain Tidy symbol, Members enquired as to whether the council could develop their own communications or branding to help share the message. Members also highlighted that often, littering was not the fault of fast food outlets, who often provided litter bins on or near their premises, rather it was customers who chose to litter, for example throwing empty food packaging out of car windows as they drove. It was noted that there was an increasing emphasis on producers to reduce packaging and improve recyclability of packaging.

With widespread support, and having been moved and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

- a) further consideration be given as to whether to implement the DEFRA

Voluntary Code of Conduct as part of the broader review of resources in relation to environmental crime; and

- b) this review of the above be presented back to the Prosperous Communities Committee before the end of quarter 2 of the 2022/2023 financial year; and
- c) the Council does not become members of Keep Britain Today at this time, but continue to support the campaigns they deliver and encourage other bodies to join.

43 SELECTIVE LICENSING - FUTURE OPTIONS AND PROPOSALS

The Committee gave consideration to a report from the Housing and Enforcement Manager seeking approval, based on the feasibility information, to consult on future proposals for Selective Licensing in West Lindsey. He explained that there were a number of appendices in relation to this item, with the main justification report attached at appendix 1, this being the report that would be used in any consultation, subject to approval. He highlighted that item 8a on the agenda was an exempt appendix relating to the phase 2 and 3 procurement. He also emphasised that the Committee were being asked to approve that consultation was undertaken on the proposals, not to confirm any final scheme. A further committee decision would be required for this, following on from any consultation.

Members were advised that Section 3 of the main report provided the overall findings of the feasibility work and set out the preference to explore option 1 as the preferred approach. Section 5 set out the financial proposals for the level of fee and advised that approval for the additional revenue to carry out phases 2 and 3 of the work would require approval from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee. Section 8 set out how it was intended to carry out the consultation to ensure that the legislative requirements were met.

The Committee commended the work that been undertaken, both in relation to the previous scheme and also in preparing for subsequent schemes. Members recognised the importance of engaging with landlords, whilst recognising that any scheme would likely be seen as an additional fee for them. It was accepted that there had been opposition to the original scheme and that there were elements that could and would be improved in the future. It was also acknowledged that the work to date had provided a clear oversight of the needs of the district, and, in some cases highlighted surprising results.

Note: Councillor M. Devine briefly left the meeting and returned at 8.08pm

The Committee was also keen to note that there were some complex issues to be addressed and it would overlap with other areas of the council's work. Any future scheme would play an important role in improving conditions across the district.

The Chairman reiterated the purpose at this stage was to approve consultation on future options, and, having had a proposer and seconder, he took the vote. With thanks once again extended to the Housing and Enforcement Manager and his team it was

RESOLVED that

- a) the supporting evidence, financial information and risks in relation to the Selective Licensing proposals, be considered and noted; and
- b) it be noted that, as per the report, alternative options had been considered in regards to improving the Private Rented Sector within the District; and
- c) the preferred option for consultation to be presented to Prosperous Communities Committee is option 1; an initial designation for Gainsborough South West Ward, followed by a further designation for four additional wards; Gainsborough North, Hemswell Cliff, Wold View and Market Rasen; and
- d) the proposal for a consultation exercise as required by Section 80(9) of the Housing Act 2004 for Selective Licensing to consider the preferred option and proposals, draft selective licensing conditions and draft selective licensing policy be approved; and
- e) the specific details of the consultation (exact start dates and methods), be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Prosperous Communities Committee; and
- f) the report be referred to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to seek a decision in relation to the financial commitment of £126, 921 needed to deliver phases 2 and 3 of the scheme.

44 OPERATIONAL SERVICES SEPARATE PAPER AND CARD COLLECTIONS

The Committee gave consideration to a report from the Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services regarding progress with the introduction of a twin stream recycling collection service in Lincolnshire and proposing a timescale for roll out in West Lindsey. It was explained that this was a county wide project led by Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, with links to the objectives of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire and would deliver a number of environmental benefits. Members heard that full roll out had taken place in Boston in April and was currently underway in North Kesteven, following successful trials. West Lindsey could potentially be rolling out the scheme in the spring of 2022, which Officers felt was a good timeframe as problems associated with the initial roll out would have been ironed out. If approved, it would result in the introduction of a new 240ltr purple lidded bin for the separate collection of paper and card and this bin would be collected on a 4 weekly cycle (black, blue, black & purple). This would not affect the garden waste service.

It was highlighted that there were significant environmental benefits associated with introducing this scheme, including collecting a better quality and higher quantity product, no increase in the carbon impact of collections as the methodology would remain the same and it also would achieve a reduction in the carbon impact of Material Recycling Facilities, as this step would no longer be needed. Members were advised that this initiative was about recovering a valuable resource and to help deal with contamination. The current recycling mix had over a 30% contamination rate and this contamination impacted most heavily on paper and card by reducing its value and quality. Boston was already reporting benefits as, since implementation, their contamination rate had dropped from 35% to 20%. In the first

week of collection in North Kesteven, they collected over 400 tonnes of paper and card that could be put back into the paper stream.

As the disposal authority, Lincolnshire County Council were funding the scheme (comms, additional resources such as boots on ground talking to residents), and they were also supplying the bins and any replacements until 2024.

Potential issues were summarised as follows:

- This would be a major service change and would have implications for most residents in terms of housing an extra bin and changing their recycling behaviours. Operational Services were experienced in delivering major change including the triple bin scheme, introducing a subscription based garden waste service and moving to a new depot. It was, however, important to work closely with Lincolnshire County Council, especially considering the lessons learnt from the roll out at other councils, in order that it happen as smoothly as possible in West Lindsey
- The scheme could not be implemented in the South West Ward of Gainsborough as the mills could not currently handle bags, however, the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership was working to find a solution.
- Finally, a hard line was being taken on contaminated bins in order to set expectations and behaviours early on, however this could lead to negative feedback from residents as bins could be rejected.

Despite these potential difficulties, it was explained to the Committee that the recommendation was to introduce a twin stream recycling collection service in areas of the district which received a wheeled bin collection service, as per option two within the report.

The Chairman thanked Officers for their work on this proposal and invited comments from the Committee. There was recognition of the potential complaints regarding multiple bins, the need for storage space and collections being seen to be reduced, however, Members were keen to emphasise the importance of maximising recycling opportunities and highlighted the success of previous changes, particularly the triple bin scheme. It was agreed that district wide communications needed to be the priority and engagement with residents from the outset would have a great impact on the success of the scheme.

With support from Members, and having been moved and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that a twin stream recycling collection service, including separate collections of paper and card, in areas of the district which receive a wheeled bin collection service, as per option two of the report, be introduced.

45 REVIEW OF BULKY WASTE CHARGES

Members gave consideration to a report regarding a review of the current charge for bulky waste collections and seeking to understand the potential impact of free or reduced price collections on incidents of fly-tipping. The Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services explained that Officers had been asked to look at whether changing the charging regime for bulky waste would help reduce levels of fly tipping. He summarised that the report considered why a charge was originally introduced a number of years ago, including the

introduction of a user pays ethos and supporting local charities. These reasons were still valid when considering whether to reintroduce free or subsidised collections, however it was increasingly necessary to consider the negative environmental impacts, including additional fleet required, mileage travelled but also a reduction in reuse and recycling within the district.

It was explained that the report looked at both the local and national context, with the vast majority of authorities charging for the service and most locally charging on a par with West Lindsey. It was highlighted that Lincoln City provided free bulky waste collections to pensioners, those entitled to benefit payments and those people with disabilities, however no one outside of those groups could access bulky waste collection services, either free or paid for.

Further detail within the report highlighted levels of flytipping, particularly the dramatic rise last year, which was in line with national trends. In addition, a 2019 BBC report summarised at appendix 1 found no link between flytipping and charging for waste services. Members were informed that, within the BBC report, there was a case study in which one authority reverted to free bulky waste collections but did not benefit from a reduction in flytipping.

With regard to the options set out by Officers, it was explained to the Committee that it was difficult to see any benefit to offering a reduction in cost or making collections free, other than it being popular with residents. Environmentally, there were no benefits as it would mean people would dispose of more material, more miles would be travelled by more vehicles and there would be an impact on charitable organisations. Financially, any increase in demand would probably result in needing another vehicle and staff. It would mean a move away from the 'user pays' ethos and would lose income. Introducing free or subsidised collections was not considered to fit in with the environmental aspirations of either the council or Lincolnshire Waste Partnership. For these reasons, it was suggested to the Committee that the best option was to continue with the current charging regime including an in year inflationary rise.

Members were appreciative of the work undertaken by Officers and supported the ethos of encouraging reusing and recycling. It was noted that the origin of the report had been to ascertain any link between the cost of bulky waste collections and rates of flytipping, the evidence presented demonstrated there was no link. With this summary, the recommendation was moved and seconded and it was unanimously

RESOLVED that option four of the report (to continue with the current pricing schedule, plus inflation, for bulky waste collections) be recommended to the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee for approval.

46 GREEN GARDEN WASTE CHARGES 2022/23

The Committee heard from the Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services regarding options for the subscription charge for the Garden Waste Service for 2022/23 and 2023/24. It was summarised that, a subscription based garden waste model was introduced in 2018 and since then the service had continued to grow with over 28,000 subscriptions being achieved this year. The charge for the service had remained at £35 per bin per year throughout the three years of operation. West Lindsey provided eighteen collections per year, the winter suspension having been introduced a number of years ago as very little

material was being collected during the winter months. Members heard that there were few queries about extra collections and consultation exercises had highlighted that the majority of residents did not want to pay more for extra collections. In addition to this, residents had voiced concerns that the charge did not become a 'stealth tax' with small increases each year. It was for this reason that it was proposed the price be fixed for two years.

It was explained to the Committee that whilst the subscription costs had stayed the same, the cost of delivering the service had risen due to increases in pay for operational staff and vehicle costs, including vehicle purchase, maintenance, fuel and tyres. There were also increased costs resulting from the move to the new depot at Caenby Corner. The options to consider were to leave the subscription charge at £35, or to increase it to £38, £39 or £40. If the charge was not increased, this would lead to a pressure of circa £177k in the next financial year. Having considered predicted costs of the service over the coming two years, and in consideration of the Government proposal to make garden waste collections free for all through its Environment Bill, the suggestion was to increase charges to £39 per bin per annum, aiming for cost neutrality.

Members discussed the increase of new housing developments and whether these affected running costs. It was explained that an increased number of bins would lead to needing more lorries to undertake the collections which then also needed more operatives to staff the lorries. The aim of the service was to be cost neutral, which the suggested increase would achieve. It was also noted that, as much as the collection service was cost neutral for West Lindsey District Council, the same was said for Lincolnshire County Council in terms of disposing of the collected garden waste.

Having been moved and seconded, the Chairman took the vote and it was

RESOLVED that an increase in the subscription for receipt of the Garden Waste collection service, to £39 per bin per year for the 2022/23 financial year, and £39 per bin per year for the 2023/24 financial year, be recommended to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

47 PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES 2022/2023

Members gave consideration to a report detailing the proposed fees and charges to be implemented from the 1 April 2022. Members were advised that the appendices to the report provided service specific detail around performance, future demand and the rationale behind the proposed fee for next year. Consideration had been given to total cost recovery, benchmarking data, and team manager knowledge of the market when proposing fees, in line with the fees, charges and concessions policy. In addition, during this years' budget consultation exercise, nearly two thirds of respondents felt that the council should only increase fees by inflation this year, to then review again next year. It was confirmed that, in the vast majority of cases, this was the increase that had been applied. The percentage would appear higher than inflation in the schedules where the fee had been rounded up to the nearest pound or 50p. Inflation had been applied as at June's RPI rate of 3.9% for 2022/23, then 2% thereafter. Where no increase had been proposed, or an increase above inflation, the reasoning for this was contained within the report. In the majority of cases, the non-statutory fees had 2% inflation already built into the MTFP from 2022/23, therefore the impact of an inflationary increase was minimal. The budget implications included in the

report for information, reflected both the impact of proposed amendments to fees, and the forecast demand over the period of the MTFP.

The net impact of the Fees and Charges review for the Prosperous Communities Committee was an increase in income of £1,600 in 22/23, , rising to £107,700 in 26/27. The significant increase in the fifth year related to forecast demand for planning fee applications.

Of the 59% of fees which were non-statutory – those with significant budget implications were:

- Car parking fees – where no amendment was proposed at this time, pending the strategy due later in the civic year
- Building control – it was proposed to keep the hourly rate at the same level currently charged, as this brought West Lindsey District Council in line with other local authorities
- Land charges – inflation had been applied at 3.9%
- Planning pre-application advice – inflation had been applied at 3.9%

Members were advised that there had been an amendment to the narrative within the fees schedule for Cemeteries (included both in Appendix 2 and the new fee listed at 3.8) in relation to the interment of children. It had been amended to read 'Single grave (3 - 17years)' and a line had been added to state that there would be no charge up to 3 years.

In response to a prior query regarding the section 17 paragraph which stated the belief that charges for the bulky waste service may impact on fly tipping, it was noted that this appeared to be out of date based on the findings of the separate bulky waste report presented to the Committee earlier in the meeting and that reference would be removed.

It was noted that Members were asked to consider the proposed fees and charges, and to make recommendation to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

A Member of the Committee enquired as to whether there was any conflict of interest as a Town Councillor, considering the Town Council owned cemeteries. It was confirmed that as he was no more affected than any other individual, there was no declarable interest.

The Chairman thanked the Business Support Team Leader for her detailed summary of the report and, having been moved and seconded it was

RESOLVED that the proposed fees and charges for 2022/2023 be recommended to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

48 WORKPLAN

Members gave consideration to the Committee Work Plan and, with no comments, questions, or requirement for a vote, the Work Plan was **DULY NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 8.59 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

Status	Title	Action Required	Comments	Due Date	Allocated To
Green	enforcement Training for Parish Councils	<p>Extract from mins 22/10/19</p> <p>in the past Officers from within the enforcement team had provided training to local residents in order that they could be certified to issue fixed penalties. The number of tickets issued by such persons however was very limited because although they had received training catching the culprit in the act still remained a challenge. This was something Officers were prepared to take away and see if further training could be offered as it had been previously and if there was desire and need in the community</p>	<p>this is something the council have offered previously and can continue to offer should Parish Wardens wish to issue FPNs for matters such as dog fouling or litter. Any individual has to be authorised and receive specific training. Information on this provision can be outlined within the Parish Charter.</p> <p>Currently on hold due to COVID -19 rules - virtual training not appropriate . target deadline extended as no change in rules</p>	31/12/21	Grant White
Green	information pack for parish councils re reporting issues	<p>Extract from mins of mtg 22/10/19</p> <p>Officers undertook to prepare a guidance and information pack for Parish Councils covering some of the top issues affecting a number of parishes, explaining how to report certain issues and the options available to them. This was welcomed.</p>	<p>At previous Committee Meetings the Parish Charter document has now been approved and a new Parish Council Support webpage has been created as part of this. This page lists details of schemes open to parish/town councils and links to reporting things to the District Council. The page is now live at: www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/parishsupport.</p> <p>Lead Members have sought confirmation that this page has been promoted with the parishes,.</p> <p>Limited promotion undertaken due to COVID 19 impact on the nature of this work and activities within the charter</p>	31/12/21	Grant White

Green	<p>parish charter publicity and promotion and yearly impact review</p>	<p>approval to commence the publicity and promotion of the charter as per section 4 of the parish charter report.</p> <p>Also need to put in yearly review report as per section of the report</p>	<p>Publicity and Promotion of the Charter has had to be adapted due to COVID 19 . the adopted Parish Charter is now live on our website. It is available on its own webpage: www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/parishcharter</p> <p>A page has also been created for Parish Forum events: www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/parishforum At the minute this page states we have no current planned events due to Covid-19 but that we are looking at a virtual event.</p> <p>GW Will liaise with Comms Teams and send out comms about this to Parish/Town Councils when we can also promote the virtual event so it's all linked up.</p> <p>Target date extended due to continuing covid restrictions</p> <p>Additional comment for information to be shared with Members in relation to Parish communications in order that Members can liaise with their Parishes and highlight such information</p>	<p>31/12/21 Grant White</p>
Green	<p>CCTV Case studies for Members Newsletter</p>	<p>extract from mins of mtg 14/7/2020</p> <p>Members felt it imperative that there was better reporting of outcomes directly resulting from CCTV intervention or information in order to improve public confidence. Officers undertook to publish some case studies in a future edition of the Members Bulletin</p>	<p>New comms and promotional material showing the use and impact of CCTV is planned to take place beginning January/February 2021. This timing coincides with comms on CCTV as part of the Safer Streets funded project to upgrade and expand CCTV in Gainsborough. In the meantime social media posts will be used to promote routine duties performed by CCTV where possible especially in the run up to Christmas and New Year.</p> <p>Update: Items for newsletter to be called every 4-6weeks, in line with pre-covid practices, CCTV included in call for items.</p> <p>Update: request raised with Team Manager for upcoming publication of newsletter</p>	<p>31/12/21 Grant White</p>



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Tuesday 7th December 2021

Subject: Economic Recovery Plan for West Lindsey

Report by:	Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration
Contact Officer:	Sally Grindrod-Smith Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration sally.grindrod-smith@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To present the draft West Lindsey Economic Recovery Plan and enclosed Recovery Action Plan for approval.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. The West Lindsey draft Economic Recovery Plan and Action Plan are approved.
2. Members receive an annual update on progress and performance against the agreed action plan.
3. The key themes and guiding principles of the Economic Recovery Plan are used to form the basis of the review of the Economic Growth Strategy (due by 2024).

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: the development of the Economic Recovery Plan has no direct legal implications for the Council. Legal implications may be identified for specific interventions or projects but those will be subject to separate scrutiny as part of the business case and delivery process for that specific activity.

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

Financial : FIN/123/22/JA/PC

No financial implications arising as a result of this report.

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

Staffing : no staffing changes or implications as a result of this report. The actions and projects contained in the Action Plan will be co-ordinated and delivered by Officers of the Growth Team with the contribution of other colleagues within the Council and/or external partners as determined. Additional resources or skills requirements to deliver specific projects will be continually reviewed and monitored.

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

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

The Council's ambition is to ensure that neither the effects of Covid-19, nor the costs of levelling up, disproportionately affect any residents of the District. The Recovery Plan will reap many co-benefits that have the potential to promote equality, diversity and inclusive growth. Ultimately the purpose of the Plan is to create the socio-economic conditions in which our communities and businesses can become more productive and resilient and relate to the levelling up agenda, where everyone can contribute and benefit from it.

Data Protection Implications : individual Data Management Protocols will be established with input from the Data Protection officer as required

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: climate change and sustainability are the underpinning principles of this Recovery Plan which aspire to put green recovery at the centre of our economic revival and growth.

An Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy was approved by the Council in June 2021 which sets a high level ambition and commitment to reduce our carbon footprint to net-zero by 2050. The Recovery Plan is proposed to be a complementary policy framework to the Climate Change Strategy which shares the same vision of decarbonising our district and communities and championing the transition to a low carbon economy.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: Public realm projects that include improvements to empty buildings and high streets, or regeneration of areas with poor quality built environments, will significantly contribute to the creation of welcoming and safer public spaces that are liveable and pleasant to use for both businesses and residents.

Health Implications: Health and wellbeing are strongly linked and interwoven into the aims of the Economic Recovery Plan and are seen as co-benefits of a more inclusive and sustainable way of living.

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

“Protecting, Progressing, Prospering” – A Greater Lincolnshire Covid-19 Economic Recovery Strategy

[https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/2875_GL_LEP_Revival_Plan_ART - No logos page.pdf](https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/2875_GL_LEP_Revival_Plan_ART_-_No_logos_page.pdf)

.

Risk Assessment : over the last 18 months the Growth Team has been working hard with many partners to tackle and mitigate the socio-economic risks and impacts of Covid-19 to our residents and particularly to our business community with regards to issues such as mental health, unemployment, redundancies, financial hardship, self-isolation etc. The Recovery Plan is therefore focused around those risks and builds up from the experience and the joint work undertaken with the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum and the Covid-19 Task Force in dealing with emergency preparedness and response

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 Due to Covid-19, the last 18 months have seen unprecedented and devastating effects on a global scale not only for the health and welfare of the world's population but also in terms of catastrophic repercussions for countries' economies and businesses. Nationally and locally, no industry was spared, although retail hospitality and leisure represented the sectors that had been hit the hardest.
- 1.2 In an unparalleled effort to save jobs and businesses during the national lockdowns, Central Government requested Local Authorities to distribute centrally sourced business grants that would provide a lifeline to all businesses affected either by forced closure, or still open but operating at a substantial loss.
- 1.3 In addition to delivering the Government financial support package, the Council responded to the economic crisis by working incessantly with local partners and communities to ensure that whilst most services had been shifted to remote provision, those would still be accessible and guaranteed to the business community via regular on-line communication, signposting and emergency assistance.
- 1.4 During the last 18 month the Council has been confronted with a number of challenges impacting the local economy and by adopting a partnership approach it has made every effort to effectively respond to some of those challenges to ensure longer term resilience and sustainability. This process has been facilitated via three key stages: 1) coordination of emergency interventions; 2) understanding and assessment of the economic impact of Covid-19; 3) informing the initial development for a medium and long-term recovery, renewal and transformation.

2 The Economic Recovery Plan

- 2.1 The attached draft Economic Recovery Plan (Appendix One) presents Members with a framework of plans and actions that should be considered in the medium and longer term to fulfil our ambitions and vision to build a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient economy in a post Covid-19 world.
- 2.2 Also, the purpose of this document is to inform the West Lindsey Economic Growth Strategy next iteration (due by 2024), in the light of the profound transformation and challenges brought about by the pandemic as well as the emerging opportunities that are reshaping our "new economy" including climate change, digitalisation and exit from the European Union.
- 2.3 The framework sets out a clear and strategic narrative on how West Lindsey, in partnership with other key stakeholders, is determined to take full advantage of the changes and opportunities that have arisen both in the national context and local settings and aims to utilise them as lever

to address the longer-term challenges that constrain growth in the district.

2.4 The Economic Recovery Plan document is structured in five main sections:

- An overview of the national and local socio-economic context in the midst of the pandemic, during which the Council has navigated its recovery work approach to keep people safe and support communities, residents and businesses;
- An outline of the overarching strategic framework that has informed the rationale behind the plan and its linkages with WLDC and Greater Lincolnshire wider economic plans and policies;
- A snapshot of our assessment of the implications of Covid-19 to our local economy and workforce with key challenges we expect to face going forward;
- An illustration of the main activities undertaken by the Council and the Growth Team to support businesses in response to the pandemic;
- The Economic Recovery Action Plan which sets out the key themes and actions that will help implement and deliver our Programme.

2.5 The Plan is an evolving document and will be regularly reviewed, any existing actions re-configured or new projects added at the necessary time where it is recognised that flexible and dynamic interventions are required to stabilise further and/or speed-up the journey to recovery.

2.6 Progress and performance against the Action Plan will be reported on an annual basis to Prosperous Communities Committee.

3 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The attached Economic Recovery Plan wishes to recognise the contribution of the Council and its partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors who, over the 18 months, have joined forces in an unparalleled effort to provide vital support to our business community and local economy.

3.2 It is important that the Economic Recovery Plan reflects any lessons learnt during this period of crisis and acknowledges the socio-economic

changes and challenges that we will continue to confront in the face of uncertainty.

- 3.3 In this respect, the adoption of the Recovery Action Plan will enable the Council to stress test our existing Economic Growth Strategy and focus our priorities in light of these changes to ensure that our economy is better prepared and can respond flexibly and adequately to changing circumstances.

Economic Recovery Plan

2021 - 2024



The purpose of this plan is two fold:

1. To provide an overview of the interventions and actions that the Council has taken over the last 18 months in response to the pandemic and the devastating effects it has had on our communities and local economy.
2. To set out a plan and pathway that will inform our way towards long term recovery and economic growth centred around inclusiveness, sustainability and resilience.

During the first year of the pandemic, Councils experienced an unprecedented challenge of having to rapidly adapt and change the way they would operate and serve their communities. This was characterised by an immediate emergency response from WLDC, in collaboration with partner organisations, where we strived to ensure continuity to deliver critical services and respond to urgent welfare needs.

As the pandemic halted the global and local economies and national lockdown restrictions were imposed, the priority of the Growth Team was to focus primarily on supporting local businesses and protecting jobs. During a period of 18 months the Team delivered nearly £32million in Government Covid-19 related grants assisting circa 1,800 businesses and to date we continue to advise on any financial support and initiative that may be made available to businesses as we transition out of the pandemic (see Appendix A - Page 31 - for a summary of the financial support awarded by WLDC to local businesses).

With the Council having moved from emergency to recovery phase, going forward, the emphasis will now shift to more medium/longer term priorities also aligned with the overarching vision and strategic aims of our Corporate Plan. In this respect, the attention will not remain solely on immediate business and financial support to address loss of trade and income, and safeguarding jobs but will extend to a more concerted effort to future-proof our socio-economic environment against the long lasting effects of Covid-19 and other emerging and future challenges.

This means that any support and action identified in the Recovery Plan will set the foundations and will feed into the Review of our Economic Growth Strategy (due by 2024) to ensure that our long term vision for economic recovery and growth reflects and captures both local changes and global megatrends (such as climate change, digitisation and EU Exit) - whilst at the same time exploring how those can be capitalised into new areas of opportunity.

The Recovery Plan is a key strategic document which is complementary to other Council's strategies, policies and plans and closely aligned with the West Lindsey Corporate Plan. The Recovery Plan is a new addition to the overarching Council's strategic framework and has specifically been developed in the wake of the pandemic. Due to its function and priorities the plan will be regularly reviewed to ensure that its trajectory is still relevant and in tune with the fast-pacing socio-economic environment we are in.

The current review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan presents another great opportunity for our Recovery Programme to focus on the sustainable development of our district, town centres and rural villages and supports the aim and objectives of other important strategies that affect Central Lincolnshire's future.



Background

The content of this Plan is the result of ongoing work that has been carried out over the last 18 months by WLDC also in collaboration with key partners such as the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) with adjoining Local Authorities. Much of the evidence base and business intelligence informing the Plan has been captured during the pandemic by the Growth Team as part of the Covid-19 business grants process and other platforms such as the LRF 'Business and Recovery Task Force' and the Lincolnshire Growth Hub.

Whilst this process may have put into evidence gaps and weaknesses in our local economy that will call for specific interventions and measures, it has also reinforced the need to continue to build on the wider work that was already underway with the GLLEP in respect of the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) in which our economy has a clear role to play.

To complement and support the LIS, the GLLEP has recently produced an Economic Plan for Growth called 'Protecting, Progressing, Prospering', a road to recovery and revival map document that acknowledges the effects and changes brought about by Covid-19 across the Great Lincolnshire area and outlines the strategic steps necessary to re-stabilise and level up our economy in the longer run.

The West Lindsey Recovery Plan is based around the key themes and principles set out in the GLLEP Revival Plan (see Figure 1 on Page 5) and will aim to cascade those into a more localised and relevant delivery model for our district so that whilst rebuild is driven at local level any action will be fully integrated and represented into the Greater Lincolnshire wider context.

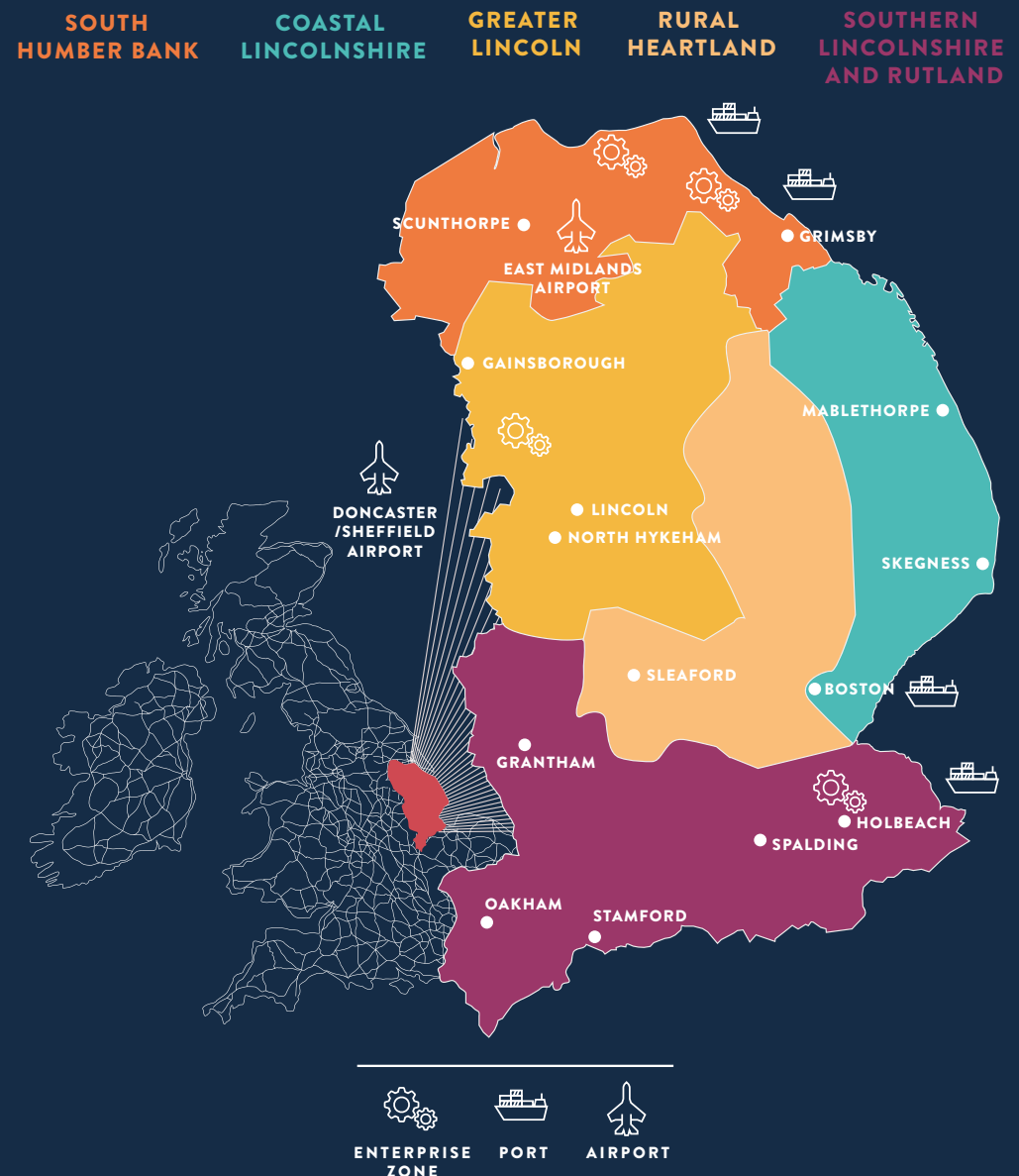




Figure 1: Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Responding to Covid-19 across the Five Foundations of Productivity

Place:

Our ambition is to capitalise on the dispersed economy to create a leading polycentric, productive economy.

Ideas:

Our ambition is to broaden and deepen the base of innovating firms in Greater Lincolnshire, aligning innovation with the priority sectors, and trebling the level of innovation investment in the region.

People:

Our ambition is to enable our residents to reach to their potential in the labour market and participate in a flourishing and inclusive economy.

Business Environment:

Our ambition is to create a supportive business environment for entrepreneurs, micro and SMEs to grow and become more productive and resilient.

Infrastructure:

Our ambition is to develop the infrastructure needed to support business growth, move goods, connect employees, trainees and visitors, and be prepared for future growth and challenges.

In terms of geography, West Lindsey is one of the largest and most rural districts in England. Gainsborough's position in the westerly part of Greater Lincolnshire adjacent to the River Trent forms a natural getaway into Central Lincolnshire from the Sheffield City Region and Nottinghamshire. Both the market towns of Market Rasen and Caistor have strong appeal and potential in supporting the growth of their neighbouring economic geographies whilst retaining their distinctive landscape and attractiveness of a rural location.

The district serves a population of 96,200 and circa 3,800 businesses with micro businesses (employing 0-9 people) making up 90.6% of all business in the district and only 1.2% of medium size businesses (50 to 249) representing this group.

Page 30



Whilst West Lindsey GVA performance has generally fared lower compared to other districts in Greater Lincolnshire, its rate of growth has shown a strong and steady trend between 2016 and 2019 reflecting an average annual growth of 1.61% (compared to 1.67% for the United Kingdom).

However, since March 2020, as elsewhere the Covid-19 pandemic has started to significantly cripple the district's economy and workforce. As of December 2020 there were 40,000 economically active people resident in West Lindsey as opposed to 46,000 in the previous year.

As of June 2020, approximately 27% of the eligible workforce was on furlough with the number of job on furlough being reduced down to an estimated 3.5% in August 2021. (Source: GLLEP Covid-19 Impact Monitoring Dashboard). This was coupled with a substantial increase in the take up of Universal Credit Claims by almost 40% between the period March 2020 and August 2021 (however this may also cover a broader range of out of work or low work benefits due to the roll out of the new Universal Credit Full Service).

Experimental statistics published from HM Revenue and Customs show that in West Lindsey around 3,400 individuals claimed for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) up to 15 August 2021. This represented over 70% of the total potentially eligible population with a total value of claims amounting to over £29million. At regional level the sector with the highest number of potentially eligible individuals and the highest proportion of claims was the construction industry.



From the analysis of the ONS GDP Quarterly Estimates, the most severe effects of the pandemic on the district's economic activity have been experienced as a result of the first national lockdown in March 2020 when almost £7million in production of goods and services was lost in one quarter. The Retail, Hospitality and Leisure sectors were the most hardly hit.

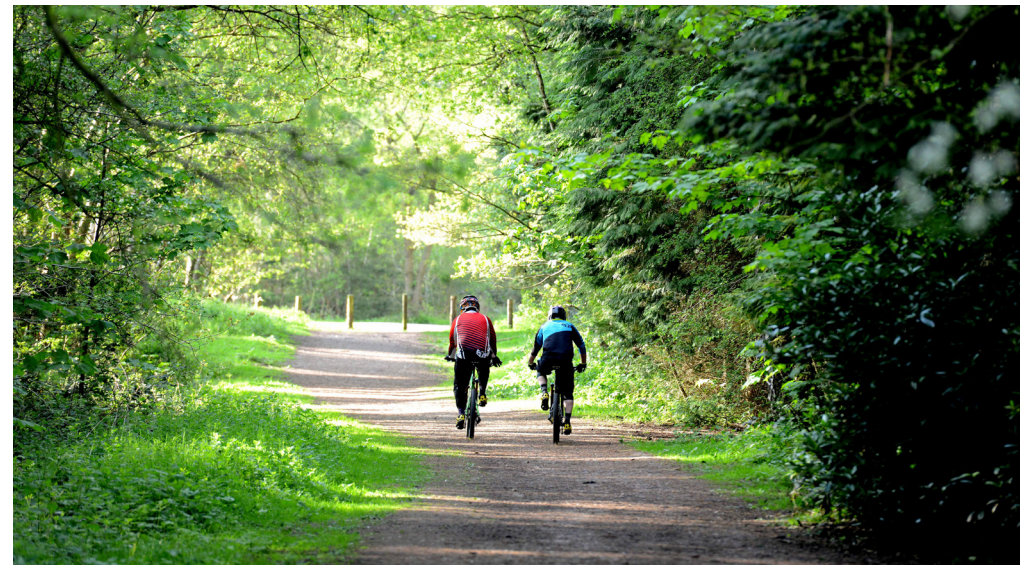
Since then the sharp fluctuations in downturn and depression have slowly stabilised as the economy gradually and partially started to reopen with the enforcement of health and safety measures and the vaccine campaign.

Whilst the economy has suffered a total loss of circa £4.7million in outputs since March 2020 those estimates also indicate that West Lindsey, has been the Local Authority with the least severe depression across Greater Lincolnshire. This may also be attributed to the contribution of high-value added sectors such as Construction and Manufacturing which have a strong presence in our economy and were not affected by full industry closure.

Key Challenges

Covid-19 has brought into stark relief some of the challenges that West Lindsey was already facing before the pandemic, and the effects of the pandemic amplified and exacerbated those aspects even further:

- Sparse population and social isolation issues due to district's rurality: this not only emphasised existing vulnerabilities but increased the divide in both economic and health inequalities.
- Prevalence of low skills base and difficulty attracting skilled workers from outside the district also due to remoteness from social opportunities and poor public transport.
- Comparatively low economic output/productivity due to low value micro enterprises dominating our business fabric.
- Low activity in inward investment.
- Ageing workforce and population – aligned with out-migration of younger people.
- Connectivity challenge for rural locations and the role of mobility and digitalisation in the way services are accessed in rural places including health provision.
- Leverage of new infrastructure investment to deliver inclusive and sustainable growth that will contribute to bridging the gap between urban and rural areas and will make our place and people more resilient. Lack of much needed upgrades and improvements in existing infrastructure will severely hinder and affect our Place making vision and aspirations.
- The revitalisation and future sustainability of our rural towns and high streets with the shift to increased online shopping and customers' changing behaviours.



In addition to the above, feedback and evidence captured from local businesses during the Covid-19 grant process, highlighted a number of recurrent areas for consideration and a set of asks on the Local Authority to help businesses restart and recover.

After Financial Support, improved and more frequent communication was the second most common ask amongst our businesses. They called upon more easily accessible online signposting, business webinars and dedicated business advice. They also requested regular updates from us in relation to future grant funding.

Another repeated theme was 'Rethink local'. In order to boost and level up the local economy the Council will have to deliver locally led interventions that will target the inequalities that emerged during the pandemic and at the same time to invest resources that will also harness the district's local assets and economic strengths.



Messages such as 'Shop small', 'Closer Together', 'Support local' and develop more 'Shop local' initiatives, have emphasised the desire of businesses to forge a more cohesive community where they can intertrade with each other, support the local supply chains and make residents more aware of the offer they have at their doorsteps in order to encourage more localised shopping.

Another area of activity where businesses felt they wanted to see more of or receive more support from the Local Authority, was in relation to advertising and marketing. Linked also to the think local agenda, businesses welcomed more initiatives championed by the Council that would promote the place, increase footfall and attract more visitors and tourists not only to the key market towns but also to more rural parts of the district.

What have we done to date?

The Growth Team distributed
£32million
in Central Government Grants



We circulated regular e-Briefs to
Over 3,000
businesses, keeping them informed of any changes or updates



We gave extra support to 233 hospitality businesses via TOPUP grant totalling
£700,000

Page 34



We were awarded
£169,196
as part of the Reopening the High Street Safely Fund/Welcome Back Fund

We have promoted
150 Businesses
on our Think Local online platform



We developed a
Covid-19 Toolkit
to help businesses open safely

Over 175 Businesses
accessed the West Lindsey Business Revival Grant



We partnered with the Federation of Small Businesses to offer
50% discount
to new members

We appointed a dedicated business advisor who helped
185 Businesses
navigate their way through the pandemic

We approved
125
commercial planning applications during the lockdown periods

Summary of Key Activities Undertaken

The following section provides a review of some of the main business support initiatives led by the Council during the pandemic:



Page 35

Central Government Grant Support:

Since March 2020, the Growth Team has led on the distribution of new financial packages of Government support released in response to Covid-19 and national lockdowns. To date this has resulted in a total spend of almost £32million and a total of 7,735 grant awards split between mandatory and discretionary schemes (for full details of Covid-19 Business Grants see Appendix A - Page 31).

West Lindsey Business Revival Grant:

This grant scheme was aimed at supporting businesses to reopen, recover and prosper.

It was one of the latest initiatives in a programme of support to assist businesses to respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. This support was in addition to the Restart Grants and previous Local Restrictions Support Grant.

Businesses could apply for up to £5,000 to help them to adapt, diversify and to support long-term sustainability. The types of measures that could be supported included specialist advice or purchase of equipment and/or new technology to enable sustainable ways of working and improve resilience.

Federation of Small Business Programme:

To provide help to our small-business community, West Lindsey District Council has partnered with the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), who are able to provide smaller businesses in the district with information to respond to the challenges they are facing due to Covid-19.

Membership benefits include: free business banking, 24/7 legal advice, HR support, tax guidance, late payment and financial help, insurances, health and safety information plus healthcare.

eBrief:

As part of the Council's ongoing commitment to maintain regular communication with businesses during the pandemic, the Growth Team increased the frequency of ebrieffs to be issued to businesses to keep them informed of any update in respect of funding, Government policy changes and restrictions and additional guidance.

Think Local Campaign:

Creation of an online platform to promote and support local businesses encouraging local people to shop locally and businesses to use local supply chains.

Re-opening High Streets Safely/Welcome Back:

In June 2020 West Lindsey was allocated £84,598 from the 'Reopening the High Street Safely Fund'. This funding allocation was then merged into the Welcome Back Funding scheme, which had a broader criteria. West Lindsey were then awarded a further funding allocation taking our total funding to £169,196. This funding has to be defrayed by March 2022.

The fund allows local authorities in England to put in place additional measures to create and promote a safe environment for local trade and tourism, particularly in high streets as their economies reopened.



Support to our Commercial Council Tenants:

In light of the request from Government for most businesses to close during Covid-19 lockdown, West Lindsey's Property & Assets team anticipated that rental payment holidays requests would come forward from some of the Councils commercial tenants. A general consensus was reached by West Lindsey that tenants requesting assistance would be offered a reviewable 3 month rent deferral period on the proviso that any deferred rent would be paid back in full by the 31st March 2021.

Further support was also offered to tenants that allowed them to change their rent payments dates e.g. from Quarterly to Monthly payments to aid their business cash flow and this was taken up by some of the larger commercial tenants.

WLDC also offered support to their Guildhall tenant, The Department of Works & Pensions, by facilitating extended office hours to their staff in order that they could manage their workloads and continued to allow The Plough Business Hub micro business tenants to use the facility (with Covid-19 procedures in place).

Retail/Visitor Economy direct business support:

West Lindsey District Council has secured the support of Clare Bailey, a Lincolnshire-based independent business advisor, to help businesses to navigate their way through the current situation and to help ensure they are recovery ready.

Covid-19 Safe Re-opening Support/Guidance Packs for safe re-opening:

Guidance, detailing the measures businesses should take to meet the necessary social distancing and hygiene standards, was developed and published on our website; this included a Covid-19 Tool Kit which aimed to help businesses become Covid-19 secure, resume trading safely, and protect their staff and customers as lockdown is eased.

Number of planning applications received and determined:

Comparing the same periods pre and post Covid-19 (March 2019/2020 and March 2020/2021), it appears that in terms of commercial applications the figures have remained fairly stable (respectively 136 against 125); this suggests that during lockdown certain areas of business activity have continued to occur and have allowed businesses to progress their investment plans – whether in the form of physical refurbishments or new developments.

Also, due to the eligibility criteria set out in the Government Covid-19 business grants which required businesses to be appearing on the rating list, this triggered a number of new planning applications for some of those businesses that were not registered on the system.





Lincoln Distillery, Saxilby

This family run business was established in 2017, becoming Lincoln's first commercial distillery since 1863. They are the home of Lincoln Gin, which is now available in London Dry, Cask Aged and Navy Strength varieties.

The owner, Matthew Felgate, works alongside his farther-in-law, John. They have taken the business from its humble beginnings in the family kitchen to an established craft distillery.

Matthew has a variety of roles that include the everyday running of the distillery, business development, distilling, blending, bottling and labelling, social media and even deliveries.

Matthew said: "I love the creativity and the pride it gives producing something of a high standard. The relentless variety of work offers multiple obstacles and reminds us we are always learning."



CLK Books, Searby

Clare Kendall, the owner of CLK Books, is a bookkeeper, licensed and regulated by the Institute of Chartered Bookkeepers (ICB), providing bookkeeping services to the local area including VAT returns, self-assessment tax returns and help with accounting software.

Clare helps small businesses across the Lincolnshire area including Brigg, Caistor, Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Barton and the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Clare said: "I love helping people succeed in business! The one thing entrepreneurs can be weak at is the paperwork and numbers, often wasting their precious time catching up on the necessary administration involved. I can help business owners understand the numbers and take away all the paperwork, freeing them to grow their business and giving them free time to enjoy with their families and friends."

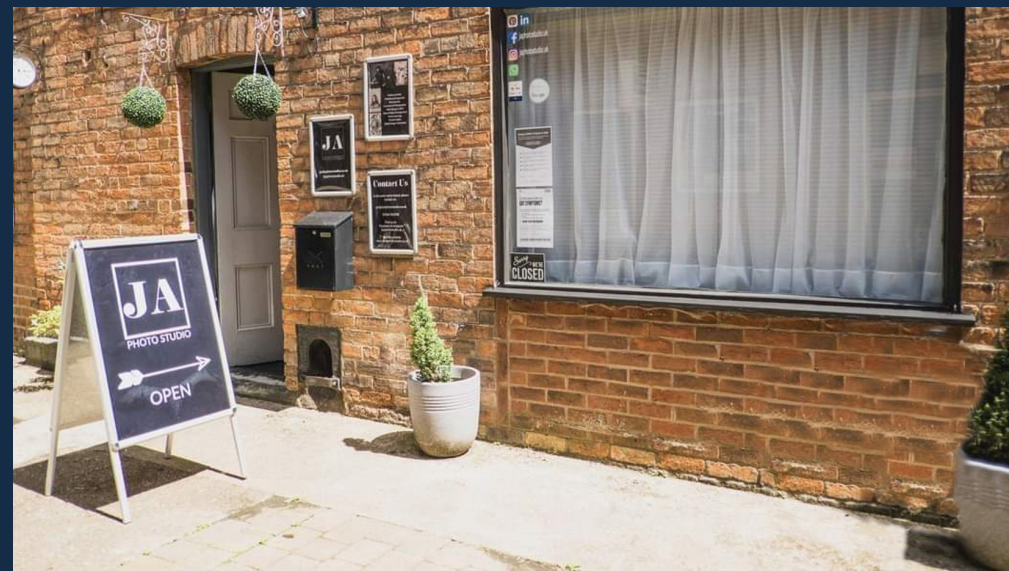


Salutation Inn, Nettleton

In response to the Covid-19 lockdown, The Salutation Inn set up a community shop in their pub, selling essential items to support those in need. They also supported local businesses in the area by teaming up with their local veg supplier and butcher.

Back in May 2020, we spoke to Jo Parsons, who runs the pub. She said: "We sell items at cost and do not make a profit. The shop operates on a call and collect service with designated collection times to ensure social distancing."

Since then, the pub was able to reopen like normal and they post regular updates about their service on their Facebook page.



J A Photo Studio, Gainsborough

Ranked number 1 on Google, J A Photo Studio is one of the only professional photography studios in Gainsborough, offering high quality services such as modern family portraits, stunning full day wedding photography and commercial services.

Jason, a MPA Certified Professional Photographer & Web Developer, runs the studio alongside his wife Amy. He said: "I am so lucky that I get to do what I love every day! I enjoy meeting people from all different walks of life, constantly learning new skills and working for myself."

As well as commercial photography and marketing services for businesses of all sizes anywhere in the UK and beyond, they also offer mini sessions all year round, including school portraits and Christmas sessions.



Waltham Herbs Willow Vale Nursery, Caistor

This local nursery has used the money from the Revival Grant to purchase bees and beehives, and enable 8 acres of their business to remain a green space for pollination.

Collecting the honey and looking after the bees and beehives provides many health and wellbeing benefits, both to those working on the site and customers who choose to buy it.



BoardGame ParaDice, Gainsborough

This small independent business has created two 'green areas' at the front and rear of the shop. The front is now an oasis of planting, with the double benefit of being a bee/insect haven, along with the mental wellbeing benefits when a person encounters even a small haven of beauty. The rear has now been converted into a covered decking area, which provides space for a small sustainable food source, and an area for customers to peacefully reflect away from the busy main road.

The outside lighting at the rear of the property has been converted to low energy lighting, reducing the carbon footprint of the building. The landmark clock at the front of the building has been restored to working order, with the internal lighting again converted to carbon reducing low energy lighting. The hope is that the funding, along with hard work, will benefit the local area, and may even encourage other people to bring one of the main roads in Gainsborough into a safe and attractive area.



Glentham Grange, Glentham

This caravan site has created a sheltered outdoor space to encourage guests to have a more outdoor approach to their stay.

The space is large enough to satisfy guests requirements and affords the ability to social distance where appropriate. It is effectively an all weather all season viewing area, overlooking the newly created lake and the Lincolnshire Wolds. This will encourage guests to leave the confines of their touring caravans, televisions, laptops etc. in favour of fresh air and the opportunity to socialise.

They have also incorporated a barn owl flight within the enclosed roof space which is already providing hunting roosts for the resident barn owls.



Gainsborough Forge, Marton

This rural micro business specialises in the design and manufacturing of bespoke hand crafted metal products and furniture.

The business used the Revival Grant to take full advantage of digital tools and applications that would enhance both the business visibility online as well as the customer experience.

Part of the grant helped with the development of a brand new website, with an online shop facility and showroom displaying existing products and previous designs. The funding also supported the purchase of new IT equipment and specialist design software that would allow the business to create and share orders' ideas with the customer in a more professional way.

What will we be doing next?

As a Council, despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, we have continued to deliver high quality services to our residents and business community.

We have shifted our delivery model to a hybrid of remote and in-person service, maximising the effectiveness of new digital technologies and efficient ways of working. Where necessary we have flexed our resources to respond to urgent and emerging priorities.

Economic regeneration and growth that benefits all of our communities is a key focus in our Corporate Plan.

Encouraging investment, supporting our businesses, developing growth and employment opportunities and harnessing the potential of green recovery underpins our recovery plan which, developed around our understanding of the challenges, with feedback from our businesses and informed by our opportunities is based around the following key themes:

- Green Recovery
- Business Environment
- Regeneration and Levelling Up
- Key Sector Development
- Infrastructure (Physical and Digital)
- Supporting People and Skills



Green Recovery:

The Plan will champion and promote the transition from a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) to a more circular economy (a system which is designed to re-use, repair and recycle as many of its products, including waste products, as possible).

The shift to a zero carbon economy will have major impact on the existing workforce and industries with creation of job opportunities and growth in new sectors. The economy will experience a transition from high carbon jobs to more technologically innovative roles.

Inevitably there will be a greater need and requirement to support the transition of existing workforce from high carbon industries to a low carbon economy (without the necessary level of training and skills provided this could lead to unemployment, job displacement or loss of livelihoods so support during this transition is key).



Business Environment:

The focus of this Plan is to create a thriving and dynamic economic environment in which our enterprises can be more competitive, productive and reach their full potential. We will continue to offer practical support to our businesses to survive through the crisis and recover at the earliest opportunity.

We will also encourage diversification and investment in new market areas particularly in those low carbon, high value and innovative sectors that will reshape the future of our economies.



Regeneration and Levelling Up:

Place-based investment and heritage-led regeneration underpin both the GLLEP Revival Plan and WLDC Recovery Plan.

Gainsborough serves a large rural catchment area due to the existing infrastructure including employment opportunities, education (including post 16yrs) shops, health care facilities etc. However, the current town centre is significantly under performing and there is a need to rejuvenate the town centre and provide much needed leisure provision to develop a 24hr economy.

The Council is working to ensure that the disadvantaged residents can take advantage of economic opportunities and participate in the rising prosperity of the area by embedding social value at the heart of major development proposals (Capturing local jobs, training opportunities and local investment via procurement and contracting).

Our 'Thriving Gainsborough 2024' proposal was successfully awarded more than £10 million by Central Government in October 2021 as part of the Levelling Up Fund programme. The plans are designed to revitalise the local economy and ultimately reduce the acute deprivation experienced across several wards. It is hoped that this ambitious investment programme will have a 'domino effect' improving prosperity not only within the town but across the district.

Whilst it may be acknowledged that priority on the Levelling Up agenda has been given by Government to primarily support inner cities/towns investment plans and transport improvement schemes, the Council recognises that there is a risk that emphasis on urban areas, productivity and industrial growth may place rural economies at further disadvantage and alienate those who live and work in rural environments.

The Recovery Plan and the next iteration of the Economic Growth Strategy will ensure that rural needs and potentials have greater visibility and urban rural interdependencies are clearly embedded and represented throughout our inclusive growth policy.

Key Sector Development:

As part of the wider work on the Local Industrial Strategy and the GLLEP Revival Plan, we will continue to support the overarching vision of the GLLEP to create a productive, resilient and low carbon economic base and understand how those aims and objectives can be translated in achievable and deliverable outcomes for our district.

We will continue to build on the district's existing assets and human capital and strengthen our local based investment propositions particularly around agri-food and the visitor economy.



Infrastructure (Physical and Digital):

To realise the full potential of the area and the network which supports it, consideration must be given to the routes which provide strategic linkages and specifically any potential constraints in capacity and traffic. In this instance, extensive work including modelling of the river crossing junction at Gainsborough has taken place, with capacity issues directly linked to future growth identified. Lack of much needed upgrades and improvements in existing infrastructure to serve those networks and corridors will severely hinder and affect our Place making vision and aspirations.

The A46/A15 improvements within West Lindsey provides a real opportunity to create new sustainable communities along this strategically important economic corridor between the Humber Ports and Lincoln.

Working with the LCC Highways Authority we will continue to champion the improvement of the public transport network, including rail and bus travel, particularly for our rural communities where services are less resilient, whilst developing plans for improved walking and cycling opportunities across the district.

Reliable and efficient digital infrastructure and broadband is also crucial for a more inclusive economic recovery: improved connectivity and adoption of digital technologies particularly for rural businesses can help to address digital exclusion and inequalities in communities.

Supporting People and Skills:

The impact of Covid-19 on our workforce has been severe and the opportunities for our young population significantly reduced. In addition, the end of the furlough scheme on 30th September, whilst in many ways has been very successful, it has also led to increased unemployment and redundancies rates and a higher number of unfilled vacancies in some sectors. Those trends are expected to create unemployment amongst the older, and more experienced residents with a risk that if made unemployed after furlough they may drop out of the labour force altogether.

In this respect, re-training and skills development are key enablers if we are to convert the above challenges into opportunities for our labour market and encourage more people to access emerging markets that require new skills and human capital (such as digital technology and green economy).



Green Recovery - Our aim is to support the 'Green Business' strand of the Climate Change, Sustainability and Environment Strategy.

Actions currently being delivered and proposed	Timeline
Develop and adopt robust policies within the revised Local Plan to support the transition to a net zero carbon Central Lincolnshire.	Adoption of the revision of Local Plan early 2022
Develop an appropriate resourcing and delivery plan for large scale solar projects.	March 2022
Investigate the development of renewable energy and energy storage for localised energy schemes.	2022/2023
Explore the opportunity to develop a Rural Pathfinder Project with associated Toolkit that would help assess current challenges on rural mobility and sustainable transport.	December 2022
Agree key walking and cycling routes that require investment to support rural connectivity.	December 2022
Stimulate and support the digital economy to improve digital connectivity across West Lindsey.	Ongoing
Support businesses to access funds and expertise to develop or invest in new environmentally-friendly products or energy-efficient technologies that will drive the transition to a low carbon economy.	Ongoing
Educate and support businesses to reduce, recycle and reuse materials as part of sustainable circular economy.	Ongoing
Support communities to develop Low Carbon Neighbourhood Plans which contribute to green and sustainable growth.	Ongoing
Use the council's procurement processes to ensure the local authority supply chain is minimising carbon emissions, including through circular procurement.	Ongoing
Creation of a Green Tourism Toolkit containing step by step actions that businesses in the tourism and hospitality sector can take to reduce their carbon emissions.	March 2022

Business Environment - Our aim is to diversify and strengthen the economic base, create more jobs and skills and training to serve our businesses.

Actions currently being delivered and proposed	Timeline
Delivery of Business Revival Grant to support businesses to recover, diversify and growth in response to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.	May 2021 to March 2022
Provision of specialist Retail Business Adviser to offer 121 advisory sessions and a suite of online support package.	May 2020 to March 2022
Issue of e-brief/digital newsletters to regularly inform the business community of any support programme or initiative that may be available to them.	Ongoing
Creation of an online platform to promote and support businesses - Think Local Campaign.	Ongoing
Development of a social media platform to support visitor economy and retail businesses.	November 2021 to March 2022
Delivery of a Market Traders Grant for Gainsborough, Market Rasen and Caistor designed to support traders who have regularly attended local markets throughout the crisis, and that would also encourage growth for more localised shopping.	March 2022
Continue to work in partnership with FSB / Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce to promote events and support available.	Ongoing
Plan and organise a WLDC business showcase event to highlight Council's current programme of work and present WLDC commercial opportunities available to businesses.	March 2022
Work in partnership with the Lincolnshire Growth Hub to ensure our businesses continue to have access to the wider Business Support Programmes.	Ongoing
Continue to support small and micro businesses with their path to recovery and growth potential.	Ongoing
Develop and strengthen our Business Engagement programme in order to gather economic intelligence and trends that would help shape a responsive and relevant Recovery Action Plan.	September 2022
Continue the Data collection programme including Town Centre Vacancies index and footfall data monitoring.	Ongoing
Explore the implementation of new Government Procurement Policy PPN11/20 to allow local suppliers to access Council contracts to support local jobs.	June 2022

Regeneration and Levelling Up - Our aim is to improve the economic performance of Gainsborough, Market Rasen and Caistor Town Centres.

Actions currently being delivered and proposed	Timeline
Develop the West Lindsey Place Plan.	Longer term project to commence in 2022
Continue to work with the Rural Services Network and adjoining members in pushing the Levelling Up agenda for rural areas (Revitalising Rural Campaign).	Ongoing
Utilise Re-opening High Street Safely/Welcome Back Fund to support businesses across the three market towns and main retail areas including a package of public realm improvements.	Complete by March 2022
Deliver Thriving Gainsborough 2024 (programme dependent on external funds).	Outcome of Levelling Up Funding Bid expected end October 2021
Redevelop the former Lindsey Centre.	Confirmed plan by 2022
Deliver the Gainsborough Townscape Heritage programme.	Underway with completion in 2024
Market Rasen Historic Building Grants.	March 2023
Delivery Shop Front Improvement Scheme across Caistor, Market Rasen and Gainsborough.	Ongoing (subject to budgetary implications)
Redevelopment of South Caistor as 'Gateway to the Town'.	Feasibility underway to complete by March 2022 and then agree next steps
Develop a business and masterplan for the redevelopment and regeneration of the site in partnership with the Community and future owner of RAF Scampton (masterplan to be in place prior to planning approval for redevelopment).	Disposal scheduled for December 2022
Delivery of the Living Over the Shops Scheme.	March 2022

Housing Growth - Our first aim is to deliver housing led economic growth and infrastructure.

Actions currently being delivered and proposed	Timeline
Adoption of revised Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.	Early 2022
Completion of Phase 1 Warren Wood (anticipated to be between 35-40 dwellings per year) including securing recycled grant funds for re-investment.	Monitor delivery
Master planning and planning submission for phase 2 Warren Wood.	June 2023
Thonock Park phase 1 to secure housebuilder and commence delivery.	Reserved matters application mid 2022
Monitor and maintain 5 year land supply to ensure housing growth is plan led (working with Central Lincolnshire).	Annual 5 year land supply statement

Our second aim is to drive housing growth and meet need and demand, using private sector solutions where appropriate.

Delivery of the updated Housing Strategy.	April 2022
Continue to engage with registered Providers to bring forward affordable housing schemes that can offer a range of property types and tenures to meet identified housing need within the District.	Ongoing
Work with LCC colleagues, developers and RP's to deliver specialist housing to meet the identified needs across the district. To include: working age adults with disabilities, older people, care leavers.	Ongoing
Secure policy compliant affordable housing contributions from housing development.	Annual Monitoring Report to review progress
Delivery of Viable Housing Solutions project.	Long term project
Support delivery of affordable housing being delivered through S106 off-site contributions.	All 5 projects in pipeline to be in Grant Funding Agreements March 2022

Key Sector Development - Our first aim is to position our economy to maximise its economic integration into the region and align to the local industrial strategy.

Actions currently being delivered and proposed	Timeline
Take full advantage of West Lindsey's geographical location at the heart of several important economic geographies and promote the district's offer to areas where existing economic linkages are low; for example, Sheffield City Region and Nottinghamshire.	Ongoing
Review our approach to inward investment and the account management of companies within our key sectors e.g agri food, manufacturing, visitor economy and renewable technologies.	New approach to be in place by December 2022
Continue to work with Team Lincolnshire and the Foreign Direct Investment Group (FDI) to promote the GLLEP Sector Propositions Offer and the business aftercare programme.	Ongoing
Understand and maximise the benefits and opportunities of Humber Freeport and the UK Food Valley Programme to the district's economy.	Work with LEP is Ongoing
Secure delivery of Hemswell Cliff Food Enterprise Zone and associated socio-economic benefits for the wider settlement (residential area and existing business park).	Key milestone includes supporting business to submit planning application by March 2022
Deliver the Gainsborough Townscape Heritage programme.	Underway with completion in 2024
Develop further the business case for investment in Somerby Park Employment Growth site.	June 2022

Continued on the next page.

Our second aim is to develop a Vibrant Visitor Economy.

Actions currently being delivered and proposed	Timeline
Refreshed and adopted Visitor Economy Strategy with aligned and co-ordinated cultural offer.	March 2022
Enhanced visitor profiling research.	September 2022
Continuation of dedicated business support for visitor economy/retail/town centres sector via Clare Bailey or similar supplier including support in e-commerce and on-line functionality and search engine optimisation.	March 2023
Development of itineraries for West Lindsey Area and promoting to Group Travel Operators.	March 2023
Development of new cycle routes for West Lindsey and promotion locally/regionally/nationally/internationally.	March 2023
Development of food related digital campaigns and across West Lindsey.	March 2023
Review Mayflower 400 project and understand potential for legacy.	March 2022
Deliver Townscape Heritage Activity offer.	September 2024
Cultural offer – investment in Trinity Arts Centre and hub and spoke model.	Bid for National Lottery Funding to be submitted by March 2022
Support the implementation of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan in partnership with The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (AONB Partnership)	Ongoing
Secure sustainable future for West Lindsey Markets.	Final proposal to Prosperous Communities Committee in January 2022

Infrastructure - Our aim is to deliver housing led growth and infrastructure .

Actions currently being delivered and proposed	Timeline
Develop the Strategic Case and options for improving the A15 in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, LEP and Midlands Connect.	In line with external deadline for call for projects – estimated as early 2022
Gainsborough Bridge Road Improvements.	Secure position with Gainsborough Transport Strategy and work with LCC on scheme details
Gainsborough Green Grid development.	Refresh outline business case linking with climate change action plan – March 2022
Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) representative of local priorities.	For adoption by November 2021
Develop walking and cycling priority plan for rural West Lindsey.	Secure resources and develop delivery plan by December 2022
Play an active role in the development of the South Humber Rail Link business case.	Submission of Strategic Outline Business Case to DfT November 2022

Supporting People and Skills - Our first aim is to improve access to training and employment for residents.

Actions currently being delivered and proposed	Timeline
Gainsborough Local Access Programme (GLAP) Enterprise Development support spanning 4 year period. Networking, workshops and business support will be offered to VCSE organisations in Gainsborough. Development support grants will be available ranging from £250 to £20k. Focus on supporting; Business planning, strategic planning, product development, market testing, engagement, financial support, legal support, HR support and architectural support.	Possible launch January to Marc 2022. Will begin sooner subject to draw down of funding.
Townscape Heritage Student Support Programme.	September 2024
Kickstart programme delivery across West Lindsey, supporting 16-24 year olds with a 6 months employment. Engagement with employers and gateway organisations. WLDC to offer 6-10 placements.	Programme extended to March 2022. Scheme ends September 2022
Made In Gainsborough Engineering Apprenticeship Scheme run from Gainsborough College. Target is 20+ Apprenticeships per year (1 x full time study programme). Original target was 75 Apprenticeships over 3 years (achieved) and the extended target is to deliver 100 engineering apprenticeships over 5 years.	Deliver full cohorts for 2021/22 and 2022/23
Gainsborough Jobs Fair. Target is 10 local businesses with job vacancies, and attendance target is 70 job seekers.	Week Commencing 22nd November 2021
Sector Based Work Academies (SWAPS) recruitment programme to assist larger employers with significant job opportunities. The task is 1x SWAP for Caldero Lounge, Gainsborough (Hospitality & Catering), and the target is 10 jobs.	November 2021

Our second aim is to support local schools to improve attainment levels and employment prospects for young people.

Careers Hub and Enterprise Adviser Network. All West Lindsey secondary & special schools to have 1x Enterprise Adviser.	March 2022
Develop and deliver Careers Fair at Gainsborough Academy (target is for all pupils to attend).	February 2022
Re-establish the mentoring programme at Benjamin Adlard (WLDC to provide 5x mentors).	November 2021 to July 2022

Mandatory Business Closure Grant Update – 22nd Oct 2021 – Rated Businesses

The LRSG Business Closure Grant funding was awarded from government to support businesses severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions when most needed. Funding was first made available in Financial Year 2020-2021 and can be used across Financial Years 20/21 and 21/22.

Name of Grant	Grant Awards	Total Paid
CBSG Grant (March 2020)	1531	£16,810,000
LRSG Addendum (2nd November to 2nd December)	575	£844,322
LRSG CLOSED (3rd December to 4th January)	1168	£592,907
LRSG Addendum - January Lockdown (5th January to 14th February)	589	£1,291,209
Business Support TOPUP (5th January to 14th February)	578	£2,558,000
Christmas Support Payment (wet led pubs)	57	£57,000
LRSG Addendum – February Lockdown (14th February to 31st March)	595	£1,364,288
Restart	599	£4,391,377
Open and Impacted LRSG OPEN (3rd December to 30th December)	83	£38,957
Total	5775	£27,948,061

Discretionary/Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Update – 22nd Oct 2021

The Discretionary/ARG funding was awarded from government to support businesses severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions when most needed. Funding was first made available in Financial Year 2020-2021 and can be used across Financial Years 20/21 and 21/22.

Name of Grant	Amount Allocated	Grant Awards	Total Paid
Discretionary Grant (March 2020)	£927,490	109	£927,490
ARG (2nd November to 31st March)	£1,913,340	580	£534,043
ARG Business TOPUP	£849,815	51	£137,000
ARG Open and Impacted (2nd November to 31st March)		473	£372,194
ARG Hospitality TOPUP		233	£751,500
ARG Animal Boarding Grant		25	£183,840
ARG Restart		55	£104,577
ARG Restart Sector 1 TOPUP		211	£273,051
ARG Impact – Pubs and Event	£653,754	86	£67,935
ARG Revival (agreed budget £700,000)		137	£602,963
ARG Specialist Retail Support Oct-March 2022			£60,000
Total	£4,344,399	1,960	£4,014,593

Future Agreed Projects

Name of Grant	ARG Funding Available	Amount Allocated
Market Traders Grant		£50,000
Visitor Economy Digital Campaign		£100,000
Completion of Business Revival Grant		£97,036
Total	£329,806	£247,036
Remaining Unallocated Budget		£82,770

Grant Summary

Name of Grants	Number of Awards	Total Paid
Mandatory Schemes	5775	£27,948,061
Discretionary Schemes	1960	£4,014,593
Total	7735	£31,962,654

Governance, Monitoring and Review

The Recovery Plan seeks endorsement by the Prosperous Communities Committee and represents the programme of actions to support the economy of the district and its businesses to recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

The plan will be overseen by the Land Property and Growth Board, with a clear link to the Homes and Communities Board where our people focused actions will be monitored.

Prosperous Communities Committee will receive an annual update on progress.



Get In Touch:

www.west-lindsey.gov.uk
growth@west-lindsey.gov.uk
01427 676676





**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Tuesday 7th December 2021

Subject: West Lindsey Tenancy Strategy

Report by:	Assistant Director Homes and Communities
Contact Officer:	Sarah Elvin Homes, Health and Wellbeing Team Manager sarah.elvin@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	Provide update and review of existing Tenancy Strategy and propose new Strategy for approval

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. Committee approve the adoption the new West Lindsey Tenancy Strategy.**
- 2. Committee agree that any future housekeeping amendment to the Strategy can be delegated to the Assistant Director for Homes and Communities in consultation with the Chair of Prosperous Communities Committee.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

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

Financial:

None – this strategy is for Registered Providers to “have regard to” when implementing their own Tenancy Policies as per the Localism Act 2011 and so no resource is required to deliver this strategy.

FIN/121/22/SJB

Staffing:

None - This strategy is for Registered Providers to “have regard to” when implementing their own Tenancy Policies as per the Localism Act 2011 and so no resource is required to deliver this strategy. Reviewing the strategy when required will be delivered within the Homes, Health and Wellbeing Team Manager role.

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

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

An Equality Impact Screening / Pre-Assessment was undertaken for this Strategy and it was determined that a Part 2 was not required for this strategy. West Lindsey are not going to be delivering services based on this strategy.

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 :

None – no information will be collected and held by West Lindsey under this strategy

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

This strategy supports the use of Starter Tenancies by Registered Providers if a person has been evicted from their previous properties for Anti-social behaviour reasons. This is seen as a suitable reason for utilising this type of tenancy and allows Registered Providers the correct management through their own tenancy policies to ensure the right levels of support can be offered in these circumstances to try to prevent anti-social behaviour within socially rented properties and communities.

Health Implications:

Ensuring that people have a safe, secure and suitable home is a fundamental element to a person's health. This strategy sets out how West Lindsey would like to see Registered Provider partners making best use of their existing housing stock and in turn going some way to meeting the housing need of the residents of West Lindsey.

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 :

None

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

x

No

☐

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 brought in the requirement for all Local Authorities, regardless of whether they are stock holding, to produce a Tenancy Strategy.
- 1.2 The main purpose of the Tenancy Strategy is to make best use of existing housing stock with mechanisms such as flexible tenancies, succession rights and affordable rented tenures.
- 1.3 The strategy sets out West Lindsey District Council's preferred approach to managing existing housing stock. The legislation clearly states that Registered Providers should "have regard" to the Local Authority Strategies when developing their own Tenancy Policies. Even though the Strategy has no statutory weight, it can help to guide the work of Registered Providers and achieve consistency across the sector.
- 1.4 In 2013, West Lindsey in partnership with City of Lincoln and North Kesteven produced a joint tenancy strategy for Central Lincolnshire. This aligned the authorities across the housing market area in one strategy although the approaches set out within this strategy were different for each district.
- 1.5 The existing Strategy expired in 2018. After further discussions with North Kesteven District Council and City of Lincoln Council it was decided West Lindsey would produce a strategy for only West Lindsey. This was in part due to the other authorities needing to take a different approach as stock holding authorities.
- 1.6 This gave West Lindsey to opportunity to reflect and review the existing strategy and ensure the right strategy could be put in place for the district.

2. Review

- 2.1 In order to develop the new strategy, a review of the existing strategy was undertaken to determine its impact and understand the requirements going forward.
- 2.2 Alongside this, a review of the Registered Providers Tenancy Policies was also undertaken. This was to assist with determining which parts of previous Strategy had been embedded but also to evaluate whether all RP's were operating in a similar way so consistency is in place across the sector.
- 2.3 Both reviews form part of the new strategy, which can be found at appendix 1.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 states that new strategies must be consulted upon with the Registered Providers that operate within the area.
- 3.2 A copy of the draft strategy along with a pro-forma for completion was sent to 11 Registered Providers. They were given a six-week period to respond to the proposed strategy. Three responses were received.
- 3.3 All details received as part of the consultation and how the strategy has reflected those responses is included within the strategy.

4. The Strategy

- 4.1 The updated strategy takes a simpler approach to the mechanisms available within the Localism Act 2011 and focuses on the following areas:
- Fixed Tenancies
 - Existing social housing tenants
 - Succession of tenancies
 - Affordable rents
- 4.2 The reason for focusing on these areas is that it is thought these areas are where the biggest impact can be made in relation to making the best use to existing social housing stock.
- 4.3 **Fixed Tenancies** - West Lindsey support the use of fixed term tenancies to ensure social housing stock is available for those who need it most. Registered Providers have fed back they do not intend to use fixed term tenancies, however, should that decision change, it is important that how West Lindsey view fixed term tenancies is set out within this strategy.
- 4.4 **Existing social housing tenants** – existing housing tenants should be given the same security of tenure when moving to a more suitable property so as not to deter them from moving.
- 4.5 **Succession of tenancies** – the Localism Act 2011 sets out that succession is not to be given to anyone except a spouse or partner where previously any family member living at the property for more than 12 months could succeed a tenancy. If Registered Providers wish to deviate from this succession criteria, it must either be set out within the tenancy policies or written specifically into individual tenancy agreements.
- 4.6 **Affordable rents** - The concept of affordable rent was introduced as an alternative to social rent to help fund development of new affordable housing. Social rented housing has a rent level determined through the National Rent Regime. Affordable rented housing is not subject to the new National Rent Regime and rents can be set at a level of up to 80% of the market rent. All Registered Providers who have entered into a contract with Homes England will be able to charge affordable rents.

- 4.7 To ensure there is an internal governance process for reviewing the strategy, there has been a review period of three years built into the strategy itself. This will consist of reviewing Registered Providers policies and reflecting any necessary changes required within the strategy based on that review. If there are minor housekeeping changes, it is suggested, that these be delegated to the Assistant Director for Homes and Communities and the Chair of Prosperous Communities Committee for approval. The strategy can also be updated at any time through the usual governance process should new legislation or guidance be issued that would have an impact on the strategy.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 **Committee approve the adoption the new West Lindsey Tenancy Strategy.**
- 5.2 **Committee agree that any future housekeeping amendment to the Strategy can be delegated to the Assistant Director for Homes and Communities in consultation with the Chair of Prosperous Communities Committee.**

TENANCY STRATEGY

2022

Introduction

West Lindsey District Council, as the local housing authority, has a duty to prepare and publish a Tenancy Strategy as set out in the Localism Act 2011.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a fundamental reform of social housing, the principal reforms were:

- Ability for Registered Providers to offer Fixed Term Tenancies
- Increased flexibility for Councils to devise their own Allocations Policies to meet local needs and circumstances
- The ability for Councils to place homeless households in suitable private rented accommodation
- New social housing developments to include Affordable Rent model with rents of up to 80% market rent on new homes
- Registered Providers being required to adopt and publish a Tenancy Policy
- Councils being required to consult on, adopt and publish a Tenancy Strategy
- The introduction of Affordable Rents and Fixed Term Tenancies has implications for tenants who wish to Mutual Exchange
- Changes to the rights of Succession has limited those able to succeed to a Tenancy on the death of the tenant

This is the second published West Lindsey Tenancy Strategy and replaces the Central Lincolnshire Tenancy Strategy published in 2013.



Aims and Objectives

The three main aims of the strategy are:

- To make the best use of the affordable housing stock
- To reduce under-occupancy
- To reduce overcrowding

The strategy aims to give Registered Providers in the Central Lincolnshire area guidance to inform their policies and practices. It will also continue to go some way to meeting the identified housing need within the area.

The key objective of the strategy is to ensure the social housing stock is used in the best possible way to provide homes for those households who are unable to secure or afford a home that meets their needs in the private sector.

Registered Providers in the past have been required to offer the most secure form of tenure to their tenants, with a variety of tenancies being used, none of which had a fixed term.

Under the government reform in 2011, it was recognised that these tenancies are not always appropriate as people's circumstances often change. This led to the introduction of flexible tenancies whereby a Registered Provider can determine the length of a tenancy given to a new tenant. These tenancies, in turn, should assist with ensuring the best use is made of the limited social housing stock available and help to address issues such as under-occupancy.

Registered Providers must have in place a tenancy policy which sets out what type of tenancies they will offer, how they will be managed and if they are offering fixed-term tenancies, how they will either be renewed or terminated at the end of the fixed term. A copy of the policy should be sent to each local housing authority in which the Registered Provider operates.

This Tenancy Strategy details the position West Lindsey District Council has taken in relation to this reform which Registered Providers operating in the district need to have regard to in formulating their own tenancy policies. Specifically, this Tenancy Strategy provides guidance to RPs relating to:

- Fixed tenancies
- Existing social housing tenants
- Succession of tenancies
- Affordable rents

Why is it important to make best use of existing social housing stock?

Access to the private rented sector has become more restrictive for people on low incomes and benefits since changes to the Local Housing Allowance and wider welfare and policy reform. This has led to higher demand for social rented properties and in turn leads to the supply of affordable housing being limited. For this reason, it is important that the stock that is available is being used to its full potential in order to assist those people who are not able to afford to rent or buy in the private sector.

Local Context

In order to understand how to implement the Localism Act 2011 within West Lindsey, local context needs determining to ensure maximum impact can be achieved from the changes.

The below table highlights the low percentage of social housing available in West Lindsey and assists in highlighting the importance of making the best use of the limited social housing stock available.

West Lindsey Tenure	Dwellings	Percentage
Owner Occupier	29,235	69%
Private Rented	8,050	19%
Total Private Sector Stock	37,285	88%
Housing Association (RP)	5,084	12%
Total	42,369	100%

Overcrowding and Under-occupancy:

The Central Lincolnshire Housing Needs Assessment 2020 suggests only 2% of people across the Housing Market Area live in an overcrowded household. In contrast, 43% of people live in a home, which has an excess of two or more bedrooms.

	Occupancy Rating			
	+2 or more	+1	0	-1 or less
All households	43%	37%	19%	2%
One-person household	43%	39%	18%	0%
Couples without dependent children	69%	28%	4%	0%
Families with dependent children	21%	41%	33%	5%
Families with other adults	23%	48%	26%	3%
Other households	18%	37%	37%	8%

Source: Census 2011

Even though this data is not broken down by tenure, due to the Welfare Reform Act 2012, families will no longer be supported with the rent on accommodation bigger than they require through housing benefit. However, as this does not apply to people of a pensionable age, it is assumed under occupancy in affordable housing is within the older age bracket. Ensuring that people are suitably housed can free up larger family properties within the area and go some way to meeting the housing need.

Affordable housing need:

The Housing Needs Assessment identified there is a requirement for an additional 156 new affordable homes every year across West Lindsey.

Step	Source	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Central Lincs
Shortfall in affordable housing to meet current backlog over remainder of plan period	3.3	334	17	224	575
Newly arising future need (annual and total over remainder of plan period)	6.3	214	206	145	565
	6.3 x 21 years	4,489	4,326	3,050	11,864
Net affordable housing need over plan period	3.3 + (6.3 x 21)	4,823	4,343	3,274	12,439
Net annual affordable housing need	7.3 / 21	230	207	156	592

The breakdown of numbers of bedrooms required for the need is as follows:

	1 bed	2 beds	3 beds	4+ beds	Total
Shortfall in affordable housing to meet current backlog over remainder of plan period	691 120%	29 5%	-188 -33%	43 7%	575 100%
Newly arising future need (annual and total over remainder of plan period)	103	219	212	31	565
	2,167 18%	4,602 39%	4,443 37%	652 5%	11,864 100%
Net affordable housing need over plan period	2,858	4,631	4,256	695	12,439
Net annual affordable housing need	136 23%	221 37%	203 34%	33 6%	592 100%

This shows a high need for smaller properties. This is due to the amount of larger affordable housing properties within the Housing Market Area alongside an aging population, which requires smaller accommodation.

Review of Central Lincolnshire Tenancy Strategy 2012-18

A full review of the previous strategy has been completed and can be found at appendix 1. Alongside this, a review of the tenancy policies for the majority of Registered Providers that have a presence in West Lindsey can be found at appendix 2.

Flexible tenancies were addressed in detail in the previous strategy. Although West Lindsey will continue to support the use of Flexible tenancies within this strategy, as set out in the Localism Act, it is clear through the review of Registered Provider policies that they have determined the use of flexible tenancies is not a priority going forward. Registered Providers have commented that flexible tenancies did not have the desired effect of making best use of the housing stock.

Feedback received from Registered Providers suggested that tenancy reviews that are triggered by the use of flexible tenancies were cumbersome, time consuming, and made little to no difference to turnover of stock or housing being under occupied or over crowded. This is mainly due to newer tenants being suitably housed for a period of 4-5 years and acknowledged that under occupancy in particular is occurring within older household on secured or assured tenancies.

Other elements have been removed from the strategy due to either no longer being relevant or already being addressed through different strategies and policies. The review at appendix 1 gives the reasoning behind elements of the strategy being included or removed.

Consultation

As part of the formulation of this strategy, consultation has taken place with all Registered Providers who hold housing stock within West Lindsey.

A copy of the strategy and a pro forma was circulated to all Registered Provider's, only three responses were received and these are collated at appendix 3.

Consultation responses have been considered and where this strategy differs from that of the Registered Provider tenancy policies, rationale is given at appendix 2 for that decision.

The Strategy

Flexible Tenancies:

A flexible tenancy is a tenancy that has a fixed term. These will be longer than the standard 6-month private rented tenancies offered to tenants who rent in the private sector but are different from lifetime tenancies, which have previously been the standard for tenants of social housing. Tenants with a flexible tenancy will maintain the same rights as secure tenants including right to buy (following qualifying period, as with secure tenants) but gives opportunity to review tenancies to ensure the property is still meeting the tenants needs.

West Lindsey support the use of fixed term tenancies to ensure social housing stock is available for those who need it most. Registered Providers have fed back they do not intend to use fixed term tenancies, however, should that decision change, it is important that how West Lindsey view fixed term tenancies is set out within this strategy.

Where Registered Providers decide to use fixed term tenancies the following should be taken into account.

- Fixed Term Tenancies should be for a minimum of 5 years, with consideration given for longer periods of time in specific circumstances. In particular, longer Fixed Term Tenancies should be considered for families with young children, older households and for vulnerable tenants who would benefit from the increased stability offered.
- Shorter Term Tenancies (2 years) should only be used in exceptional circumstances, for example; where the accommodation is only intended to be short term or where there have been significant previous tenancy breaches
- All prospective tenants should be given clear information on the type of tenancy that is being offered, the reasons for offering that type of tenancy and how the process for reviewing fixed term tenancies.

Reviewing Fixed Term Tenancies:

If Registered providers are offering fixed term tenancies, their tenancy policies should include the process for reviewing a fixed term tenancy, detailing how frequently a fixed term tenancy will be reviewed and what factors will be considered as part of that review.

It is expected that the process for undertaking fixed term tenancies reviews begin at least 9 months prior to the end of the tenancy.

Reviews should include information on the tenants:

- Financial situation
- Conduct
- Employment
- Need for adaptations
- Type and suitability of property
- Over or under occupation.

Extensions to tenancies should be for at least 5 years.

Where a review has taken place and the decision is taken for the tenancy to be terminated, the Registered Provider must:

- Give the tenants a minimum of 6 months' notice.
- Inform the tenants of the reasons why a new tenancy is not being granted.
- Inform the tenant of their right to a review of the decision.

Registered Providers are also expected to:

- Inform their housing team of the termination and work with them to put a move-on plan in place.
- Assist the household to find suitable alternative accommodation.
- If alternative accommodation cannot be sought, the RP must inform West Lindsey Home Choices of the termination and this must be no less than 56 days before the termination.

Circumstances that would trigger a Tenancy Review

These circumstances would trigger an early review of a tenancy:

- A change in the household that results in a person who is named on the tenancy no longer residing in the property. The review will need to assess the suitability of the property;
- If a request for an adaptation to the property is received. The review will highlight if the property is no longer suitable for the household and if finding alternative accommodation would be a better solution.
- A breach in the tenancy conditions by the tenant

Starter Tenancies are supported where the tenant has not held a tenancy with the Registered Provider before or it is deemed appropriate due to other reasons e.g. previous anti-social behaviour problems or rent arrears. They should not ordinarily be used where a tenant is transferring within RP stock or from RP to RP housing.

Starter tenancies should be in place for at least a 12-month period and should revert to an assured tenancy if there have been no problems in that 12 month period. 12 months still offers greater security of tenure than an assured shorthold tenancy, which are offered for 6 months as standard.

Assured tenancies should be offered when the need of the tenant is seen as lifelong and no change would come from reviewing the tenancy at any point. It would be expected assured tenancies to be considered particularly for elderly and disabled people.

If other tenancy types other than the above are to be offered, they must be explicitly listed within the Registered Provider tenancy policies and they should adhere to those policies at all times.

Existing Social Housing Tenants

One of the main objectives of this strategy is to address under-occupancy in social housing by encouraging existing tenants to transfer and exchange, as appropriate. West Lindsey already has in place various measures to encourage people to move, such as giving applicants who are under-occupying additional priority for rehousing. Mobility amongst tenants is also promoted where they need to move to give or receive support or to obtain employment.

However, we do not want to deter people from obtaining a more suitable property due to the threat of a less secure tenancy.

Existing housing tenants should not be deterred from transferring to accommodation that is more suitable so existing tenants should be given the same security of tenure when transferring between properties.

Succession

The Localism Act gave Registered Providers increased discretion regarding the succession of tenancies. Previously, any family member living at the property for more than 12 months could succeed to the tenancy. However, tenancies created after the Localism Act came into force in 2012 will have no family member right of succession unless expressly stated in the tenancy agreement. The only succession will be for a spouse, civil partner or a person living with the tenant as their spouse or civil partner.

Should an RP wish to offer succession to others outside of the requirements set out in the act, this must be within their policies. Alongside that, it would also be recommended to RP's that exceptional circumstances can be accounted for to give flexibility if it is required and where there is a risk of homelessness should a succession not be granted.

Affordable Rent

The concept of affordable rent was introduced as an alternative to social rent to help fund development of new affordable housing. Social rented housing has a rent level determined through the National Rent Regime. Affordable rented housing is not subject to the new National Rent Regime and rents can be set at a level of up to 80% of the market rent.

All Registered Providers who have entered into a contract with the Homes England will be able to charge affordable rents.

Due to the lower market rent levels in West Lindsey and Local Housing Allowance rates covering affordable rents, West Lindsey through the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan support the delivery of affordable rented properties on all new build affordable housing.

Alongside this, as Registered Providers can raise additional capital to invest in new affordable housing on units that are affordable rent, conversion of properties from social rent to affordable rent is also supported, as long as this does not breach existing S106 agreements already in place for specific developments.

Monitoring and Review

In contrast to the previous strategy, this strategy has not been implemented for a specific period of time as this could restrict the review of this strategy should it be required, as well as unnecessarily prompting an unrequired review. To ensure the correct governance is in place, the strategy will be reviewed every three years with a new version adopted at review.

West Lindsey will continue to work in partnership with Registered Providers to ensure best use is made of housing stock, new affordable housing is developed and there are consistently affordable housing options available for residents of West Lindsey.

Registered Providers Policies

The Act states this strategy must provide details of where Registered Providers tenancy policies can be found. Below are details of all the main Registered Providers that operate within West Lindsey and their websites.

- Acis Group - www.acisgroup.co.uk
- Longhurst Group - www.longhurst-group.org.uk
- Lace Housing - www.lacehousing.org.uk
- Ongo - www.ongo.co.uk
- Platform Housing Group - www.platformhg.com
- Anchor Hanover - www.anchorhanover.org.uk
- Heylo Housing - www.heylohousing.com
- Lincs Rural Housing Association - www.lrha.co.uk
- Derwent Living - www.derwentliving.com
- Sanctuary Housing - www.sanctuary-housing.co.uk



Risks

This section highlights possible risks that will arise from the implementation of this strategy and how we intend to manage those risks.

Risk	Mitigation
When a fixed term tenancy is being terminated and the tenants are given a 9-month notice, there is a risk within the 9 months that a suitable property is not found.	We have suggested a minimum 9 month period as this is seen as a long enough period to assist with finding a new home. We would hope to manage this in a way in which it would be a priority to find the household a suitable property so the above situation never arises.
There is a risk that levels of homelessness would increase if reviews of tenancies are not done correctly.	To ensure Registered Providers carry out reviews comprehensively and have procedures in place to maintain a constant approach to reviews. Copies of all Registered Providers review procedures should be obtained by each local authority. Good relationships with the West Lindsey Home Choices team and communication throughout a review process is also essential.

Glossary

Term	Explanation
Affordable Housing	Housing options available to residents who cannot afford to rent or buy a home in the open market. Includes social rented housing, affordable rent housing and intermediate housing solutions, such as shared ownership.
Affordable Rent	Rents offered by Registered Providers of social housing at up to 80% of the rent that would be charged if the property were let in the open market.
Fixed-Term Tenancy	A tenancy with a fixed start and finish date.
Homes England	The national housing and regeneration agency for England, responsible for allocating funding for new affordable housing. Homes England is also the regulator of social housing providers.
Local Housing Allowance	The current form of housing benefit paid to people with low income who are renting in the private sector.
Market Rent	The rental income that a property would command on the open market.
Registered Providers	Organisations that provide affordable (of social housing) housing to those in need. Often these providers are housing associations.

Section 106 Agreement	Legal agreements made under Section 106 (S106) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These agreements are used to enhance the quality of development, enabling proposals to go ahead where they might otherwise have been refused. They can include an obligation for a developer to deliver affordable housing.
Social Rent	Housing for which guideline target rents are determined through the National Rent Regime, aimed at helping people in housing need. Rents are usually significantly lower than market levels.
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	An assessment of how housing markets operate in defined areas, used to identify housing needs within that area.
Tenancy Policy	A Registered Provider's policy that defines how the provider will make decisions about the types of tenancy they will provide to tenants.

Appendix 1

Central Lincolnshire Tenancy Strategy 2012-18 review:

Strategy Area	Included in RP Policies	Included in New Strategy	Rationale for Inclusion/Removal
Flexible tenancies, use of tenancies, tenancy length, tenancy reviews, circumstances that trigger a review	Majority No	Yes	It is clear from the RP policies that the use of flexible tenancies is not part of their plans. Tenancy reviews are time consuming and RP's are advising that starter tenancies are a better solution for new tenants. WLDC supported the use of these tenancies in the original strategy and this support is still in place should an RP consider the use of flexible tenancies appropriate to use in specific circumstances, WLDC will however allow RP's to determine the most appropriate mechanism for the control of flexible tenancies and reviews of those tenancies.
Starter Tenancies	Yes	Yes	Starter tenancies are include in the majority of the RP policies and WLDC wants to support the continued use of these tenancies through this strategy.

Assured Tenancies	Yes	Yes	Assured tenancies are included in the majority of the RP policies and WLDC supports the continued use of these tenancies through this strategy.
Existing Social Housing Tenants	Yes	Yes	Existing tenants have rights through the law if they remain in their properties. However, this strategy acknowledges the importance of allowing tenants to move to more suitable accommodation while maintaining their security of tenure.
Succession	Yes	Yes	All RP's include succession in their tenancy policies, succession is included within the Localism act and WLDC want to support the line taken in the Localism Act and not support any deviation apart from in exceptional circumstances.
Affordable Rents	Yes	Yes	Affordable rent is the most appropriate type of new affordable housing and the majority of RP's in West Lindsey use this type of rent on all new build developments. WLDC are supportive of this rent type due to an understanding of the value it can bring in terms of raising capital for future developments.
Intermediate Rents	No - Not Used by RP's	No	Intermediate rent is not acknowledged as a rent anymore within the new NPPF.
Adapted Properties	No	No	RP's do not hold a register and even though it would be preferred, it is understood this would be a huge task that may not hold as much value.
Disposals	No	No	Not under the jurisdiction of WLDC to determine through this strategy and not required under the Localism Act.
Discharging the Homeless Duty	No	No	Legislation gives powers for this, no need to stipulate in this strategy.
Access to the Housing Register	No	No	Covered in the WLDC Lettings Policy

Appendix 2

RP Tenancy policies review:

RP	Fixed Term (Flexible) Tenancies	Starter Tenancies	Affordable Rent	Other Tenancy Types
Acis	No Longer Offered	Offered on all new tenancies for 12-month period. Will revert to assured tenancy or assured affordable rent tenancy.	All new build properties that are rented will be at an affordable rent. Specific criteria set out for converting social rented to affordable rented tenancies.	Not specified
Lace Housing	Not Offered	Not Offered	Offered on all new properties on Assured Shorthold tenancies.	Assured Shorthold Tenancies offered to all new tenants.
Long-hurst Group	Not Offered	Offered on all new tenancies, after 12 months, reverts to assured tenancy if no action has had to be taken.	Understood to be offered on all new build properties where it isn't specified as different in a S106. Strategy for conversion from social rent to affordable rent not specified.	Equitable AST's for tenants under 18. AST's are used where Longhurst manage the properties on behalf of someone else.
Platform	Not Offered	Offered on all new tenancies, after 12 months, reverts to assured tenancy if no action has had to be taken.	Offered on all new build properties. Strategy for conversion from social rent to affordable rent not specified.	AST's are used where Platform do not own the property or the future of the property is uncertain.
Ongo	Included in the policy but not used as standard, will only use in conjunction with LA area and their relevant tenancy strategy.	Offered on all new tenancies, after 12 months, reverts to assured tenancy if no action taken.	Most properties let are a social rent due to LSVT from NLC but all new properties are affordable rented where applicable.	Family intervention tenancies to help tackle anti-social behaviour. AST fixed term tenancies.

Appendix 3

West Lindsey Tenancy Strategy – Registered Provider Consultation. RP's consultations sent to:

- Acis Group Ltd
- Anchor Housing
- Lincs Rural HA
- Heylo
- Derwent Living
- Platform
- Longhurst Group
- Sanctuary Housing
- Lace Housing
- Ongo

3 responses received from Acis Group Ltd, Sanctuary Housing and Lace Housing. Lace housing response detailed they had no comments to make.

Strategy Area	West Lindsey Position	Acis Group Ltd	Sanctuary Housing
Fixed Term Tenancies	West Lindsey support the use of fixed term tenancies to ensure social housing stock is available for those who need it most.	AGL no longer offer fixed term tenancies. A number of fixed term tenancies remain in place, upon expiry new tenancies will be offered in line with our Tenancy Management Policy.	Fixed term tenancies no longer offered.
Starter Tenancies	Supports the use of starter tenancies where it is a new social housing tenant. Must be put in place for a minimum of 12 months.	AGL offer starter tenancies where the existing customer does not have a current tenancy with us. These tenancies are for an initial 12 month period, with the option to extend for a further 6 months where appropriate.	Starter Tenancies offered on all new tenancies for 12 months, reverts to assured tenancy if no action has had to be taken.
Assured Tenancies	Support the use where the tenants needs are seen as long term and a review of the tenancy would not be required.	AGL offers Assured tenancies on new tenancies where the customer is an existing AGL tenant with an Assured tenancy. Any starter tenancy which is successfully completed will be converted to an Assured tenancy.	Assured tenancies offered to all tenants aged 65 and over.

Existing Social Housing Tenants	Offer same security of tenure to existing social housing tenants wishing to move to accommodation that is more suitable so as not to deter them from moving.	AGL offer the same tenure security to existing customers moving to another property. Starter tenancies are offered where the customer is not an existing AGL customer.	Existing tenants are offered the same security of tenure should they move to alternative accommodation.
Succession	RP's to have succession rights in their policies and to offer flexibility where appropriate.	AGL covers succession with individual tenancies, our Tenancy Management Policy and succession procedure. In all cases, successions are managed in line with section 17 of the Housing Act 1988. Where appropriate, AGL offer flexibility to standard succession policy.	The right to succession is in our policy & procedure.
Affordable Rent	West Lindsey supports the use of affordable rents in all new build properties and the conversion to affordable rent where it does not breach any S106 requirements.	AGL endorse the approach for both new developments and conversions where allowable.	Affordable rents are offered on all our new build properties but we are not converting social rented to affordable rented in West Lindsey.



Prosperous Communities

Tuesday, 7 December 2021

Subject: Voluntary and Community Sector Grants 2022/2023

Report by:

Assistant Director Homes and Communities

Contact Officer:

Grant White
Communities Manager

grant.white@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To approve a one year extension of grant funding and begin a broader review of future VCS grants.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. Committee approve Voluntary and Community Sector Grants for 2022/23.**
- 2. Committee approve a broader review of all Voluntary and Community Sector Grants and present findings and recommendations back to Committee before the end of 2022.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Grant funding agreements used meet legal requirements and have been approved for use by Legal Services. All grants awarded will comply with necessary legal regulations and same requirements will be placed on projects and organisations funded.

Any consultation activity conducted as part of the VCS Grants review will adhere to any legal requirements and principles such as the Gunning Principles.

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

Financial : FIN/137/22/SL/PC

There is ongoing budget of £122.2k within the MTFP for VCS grants.

In 2021/22 an underspend of £9k is reported, £1k Arts Act Now Project not drawn down, and £8k Churches Festival grant which did not go ahead during the year due to Covid19 restrictions. It is proposed to carry forwards £4k into 2022/23. This will increase the budget allocation in 2022/23 to £126.2k.

As detailed at 4.4 the proposed grant allocations for 2022/23 total £121.2k, plus a requested £5k for commissioning work to support the VCS grants review work in 2022.

Revised Budget 2022/23	126,200
Total Grants Payable 2022/23	121,200
Commissioning Work	5,000
Total Spend 2022/23	126,200

The ongoing budget of £122.2k will remain unchanged within the MTFP from 2023/24, pending the review of VCS grants in 2022.

Staffing :

The management of VCS Grants will be delivered using existing staff resources within the Council's Communities Team. The same staffing resources will be used to undertake VCS Grant review work.

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

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Grant funding activity will be delivered in accordance with Council's equality and diversity policies. Organisations receiving funding will be required to meet the same standards and protections are included within grant funding agreements.

Data Protection Implications :

Grant funding activity will comply with all necessary data protection requirements. Data collected for grant awards will be stored securely including financial information for grant payments.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

The delivery of VCS Grants will utilise a digital first approach with use of electronic forms, documents and e-mail to avoid the need for printing.

The organisations receiving VCS Grants may have a direct impact on carbon reduction and environment through the work they deliver. For 2022/23 additional monitoring requirements will be introduced to capture this information for reporting and evaluation purposes.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

There are no considerations for this report however some organisations funded may have a direct or in-direct impact on helping to reduce the risk of crime and disorder. Where possible this will be captured in any monitoring and evaluation reporting.

Health Implications:

VCS Grants support targeted services across West Lindsey which all have a direct impact on health and wellbeing of service users. The impacts can be wide ranging and some cases are in-direct benefits as a result of a service being delivered.

For 2022/23 additional monitoring requirements will be introduced to capture information about the health & wellbeing impact of their work. This will include both quantitative and qualitative data (i.e. statistics and case studies).

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

Grant funding agreements have a range of mechanisms in place for raising any concerns or issues during the delivery of a service/project. Specific risk assessment activity would be undertaken by Officers in the event of a concern or issues being identified to fully understand the situation and mitigate likelihood and impact.

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

X

No

☐

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council provides a range of Voluntary and Community Sector Grants to support the delivery of projects and services for the benefit of our communities and residents. The delivery of these services helps contribute towards the Council's Corporate Plan priorities.
- 1.2 Current VCS grant agreements end on 31st March 2022. The current VCS Grants were approved by Prosperous Communities Committee on 23rd October 2018. This report recommends a one year extension to VCS grants.
- 1.3 An additional recommendation approved at the 23rd October 2018 Committee was to undertake a more detailed Community & Voluntary Sector Funding review during the next 3 years. This review would have taken place during the final year of the three year grant period but has not been able to proceed.

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the re-deployment and priority tasking of Community Officers. The organisations being funded were also operating in response mode helping to support pandemic response and recovery work.

This report recommends commencing a broader review of VCS grants to be completed and presented back to Committee by the end of 2022. Conducting the review during 2022 will enable Officers to take into consideration new strategies that have recently been adopted (i.e. Carbon Reduction) and ones currently in development (i.e. Health & Wellbeing Strategy).

- 1.4 This proposed approach is in-line with other Local Authorities that also provide this type of VCS grant funding. For example Lincolnshire County Council and Nottingham City Council are proposing a 1 year extension to current grants with a more detailed review to take place during 2022.

2 Impact of VCS Grants

2.1 Citizens Advice (Lindsey & Lincoln)

Citizens Advice Lindsey covers all the district. Some areas such as outlying Lincoln villages are served by a telephone advice service. Actual appointments for clients in the Lincoln surrounding areas are then provided by the Lincoln service. Citizens Advice provide free, confidential and impartial advice to residents.

2.2 Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association (GAPA)

GAPA provides a range of services that benefit children and families in the Gainsborough and surrounding area. Service users also attend with other challenges that GAPA staff and volunteers support. The organisation has a well-built reputation amongst children and families in the Gainsborough East Ward. The wider impact they have helps to tackle

social issues such as isolation, mental health issues and crime & disorder.

2.3 Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride (LADAR)

LADAR provide services within a 6 miles radius from Lincoln. This includes a number of populated areas in West Lindsey including Saxilby, Welton, Nettleham, Cherry Willingham. The district has a higher population of older people so transport services such as this are essential for access to other services such as the hospital whilst enabling people to remain more independent for longer. LADAR are also supported by Lincolnshire County Council, City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven District Council.

2.4 Voluntary Centre Services

Voluntary Centre Services offer a very wide range of services that benefit residents, volunteers and community groups in the district. Provide a range of training which helps to enhance the wider community sector and thus help many other organisations to grow and develop. Services provided help to attract and encourage people to volunteer for roles and organisations across the district. This then represents added value in volunteer time, local communities getting involved and people doing things for their own physical and mental wellbeing. In addition to these services Voluntary Centre Services also deliver a range of specific interventions linked to public health such as Social Pre-scribing across West Lindsey.

2.5 West Lindsey Churches Festival

The West Lindsey Churches Festival offers excellent value for money in delivering a well-known event spanning 4 days each year. The festival provides a key opportunity for churches to raise vital funds. This is important to enable churches to be maintained for the benefit of both worship and wider community use. Funding from WLDC is used to cover costs such as publicity and brochure printing which are critical to the success of the festival. The organisers have a long track record of delivery and the local support is demonstrated with nearly 100 churches now taking part in the festival each year.

- 2.6 Due to the size of all the monitoring and impact information produced by the above organisations, these reports have not been included as Appendices with this report. Further impact information is available to view on request and published on the Council's website.

3 Corporate Plan

- 3.1 The current VCS grants focussed on supporting themes identified in the previous version of the Council's Corporate Plan. These were:

- Theme 1: Open for Business
- Theme 2: People First
- Theme 3: Asset Management

- Theme 5: Partnerships/Devolution
- Theme 6: Excellent Value for Money Services

3.2 Any future VCS grants will require a clear demonstration of how the services delivered will contribute towards the Council's current Corporate Plan priorities. The proposed 1 year grant extensions will fund service delivery that will directly support the following Corporate Plan priorities:

Our Council

- Partnerships

Our People

- Health & Wellbeing
- Leisure
- Skills
- Vulnerable Groups & Communities

Our Place

- Economic Growth
- External Investment
- Social Regeneration
- Enhanced Environment

3.3 New grant funding agreements put in place for VCS Grants will identify which of the above priorities that organisation will contribute towards and how it will be measured to demonstrate impact.

4 Financial

4.1 The table below show the allocated funding for the current VCS grants, over the 3 year period from 2019/20 to 2020/21:

Organisation	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
Act Now	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£3,000
Citizens Advice (Lindsey & Lincoln)	£60,200	£60,200	£60,200	£180,600
Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association (GAPA)	£15,000	£15,000	£15,000	£45,000
Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride	£11,000	£12,000	£13,000	£36,000
Voluntary Centre Services	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£75,000

West Lindsey Churches Festival	£8,000	£8,000	£8,000	£24,000
TOTAL	£120,200	£121,200	£122,200	£363,600

- 4.2 The grant amount allocated to Act Now has not been drawn down by the organisation in any year. It is not proposed to provide a 1 year extension of this grant, however the organisation will continue to be eligible to apply to other Council community grant schemes.
- 4.3 The West Lindsey Churches Festival did not take place in 2020/21 due to the COVID19 Pandemic. The £8,000 grant allocation for 2021/22 can be carried forward to support the event resuming in 2022.

4.4 Financial Profile of 1 Year Extension - 2022/23

Original Budget 2022/23	122,200
Carry forward from 2021/22	4,000
Revised Budget 2022/23	126,200
Citizens Advice (Lindsey & Lincoln)	60,200
Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association (GAPA)	15,000
Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride	13,000
Voluntary Centre Services	25,000
West Lindsey Churches Festival	8,000
Total Grants Payable 2022/23	121,200
Commissioning Work	5,000
Total Spend 2022/23	126,200

- 4.5 The budget within the MTFP from 2022/23 onwards is a total of £122.2k for VCS Grants.
- 4.6 It is proposed to carry forward £4k of the £9k VCS Grant underspend from 2021/22 into 2022/23, which will increase the budget to £126.2k.
- 4.7 The extension of the schemes detailed at 4.4 total grant payments in 2022/23 of £121.2k.
- 4.8 It is also proposed that an allocation of £5k be made from the existing budget provision to support costs associated with the VCS Grants review work. This would include any commissioning of agencies to conduct engagement and research activity on behalf of the Council. The use of an external professional organisation to support engagement activity will help provide additional assurance around independent findings.

- 4.9 Any unallocated budget is to be included, alongside any unclaimed grants, in future funding provision shaped by the proposed Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Review.
- 4.10 The ongoing budget of £122.2k within the MTFP from 2023/24 to remain unchanged pending the outcome of the review of VCS Grants in 2022.

5 Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Review

- 5.1 As the Council faces new challenges and changing needs it is important that any community grant funding activity is fully aligned to current needs and helping to deliver our Corporate Plan priorities and other strategic objectives.
- 5.2 By undertaking a full review of all VCS grants we can ensure funding is awarded to services with clearly identified need and ensure best value for money. The review will be able to take into consideration new and emerging strategies focussed on key areas such as health & wellbeing.
- 5.3 As such, the scope for the review will include the following:
- Voluntary and Community Sector Core Grants
 - Community Grants (e.g. Councillor Initiative Fund and Match Funding Grant)
 - Ad hoc agreements with organisations (e.g. Lincolnshire County Council Call Connect)
- 5.4 The review will engage all key stakeholders within West Lindsey. Internally, Officers will be working alongside the Community Grants Panel and with all members to understand the needs of our communities. Externally, the whole sector will be consulted to gauge the current levels of provision and needs across the district.
- 5.5 Trends in all surveys and consultations throughout the whole process will be highlighted, and recommendations will be made aligned to the Corporate Plan and key strategies.
- 5.6 Therefore, any funding awards will be closely linked to relevant priorities ensuring best value for money and outcomes aligned to community need.
- 5.7 The proposed milestones of the review are:
- Identify Council priorities for funding – April 2022
 - Corporate Plan and strategies
 - Member engagement
 - Officer engagement
 - Voluntary & Community Sector Engagement – August 2022
 - Consultation and surveys
 - Engagement events/activity

- Analyse findings and prepare recommendations – October 2022
- Committee and final approvals – December 2022

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Committee approve Voluntary and Community Sector Grants for 2022/23.
- 6.2 Committee approve a broader review of all Voluntary and Community Sector Grants and present findings and recommendations back to Committee before the end of 2022.

Prosperous Communities Committee Work Plan (as at 29 November 2021)

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
7 DECEMBER 2021		
Economic Recovery Plan	Sally Grindrod-Smith, Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration	Consideration of the Greater Lincolnshire Economic Recovery Plan and the West Lindsey response
West Lindsey Tenancy Strategy	Sarah Elvin, Housing Communities Project Officer	The report will seek approval for the amended Tenancy Strategy to be adopted
Voluntary and Community Sector Grants 2022/23	Grant White, Enterprising Communities Manager	To approve a one year extension of grant funding and begin a broader review of future VCS grants.
25 JANUARY 2022		
Future of West Lindsey Markets	Ady Selby, Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services	For decision following receipt of Phases 2 and 3 Quarterbridge reports
Prosperous Communities Committee Budget 2022/2023	Sue Leversedge, Business Support Team Leader	The report sets out details of the Committee's draft revenue budget for the period of 2022/2023, and estimates to 2026/2027.
Hemswell Cliff Managed Estate Contract	Shayleen Towns, Senior Community Action Officer	WLDC contract to manage a private estate at Hemswell Cliff is a 5 year contract 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2023. This report is ask members to consider a further 5 years from 1 April 2023.

The Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021	Rachel Parkin, Home Choices Team Manager	Outline of The Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Strategy and its implementation into West Lindsey District Council practices.
Proposals for Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	Katie Storr, Democratic Services & Elections Team Manager	To outline further proposals for Jubilee celebrations.

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 2022

Annual Update on Health related work	Diane Krochmal, Assistant Director Homes and Communities	to provide Members with an update on Health related work
--------------------------------------	--	--

15 MARCH 2022

Local Enforcement Plan (Planning Enforcement) and Customer Charter	Andy Gray, Housing and Enforcement Manager	To seek approval for the updated Local Enforcement Plan (Planning Enforcement) and Customer Charter
Corporate Enforcement Policy	Andy Gray, Housing and Enforcement Manager	To review and approve the Corporate Enforcement Policy
Strategic Visitor Economy Strategy	Wendy Osgodby, Senior Growth Strategy & Projects Officer	Support for the Visitor Economy is embedded within West Lindsey District Council's Corporate Plan, under the theme 'A prosperous and enterprising district' as follows: Vision: 'Creating local wealth through the visitor economy' Objectives: -Increasing number of visitors / length of stay -Increasing expenditure by visitors -Developing leisure, culture and recreational offer -Increasing the quality and number of businesses / jobs in the sector Therefore, it is clear that support for developing our Visitor Economy sits at the centre of our strategy for the

future of the district.

West Lindsey Housing Strategy refresh	Sarah Elvin, Housing Communities Project Officer	The report will be looking to approve the refresh of the housing strategy
Public Health Funerals Policy	Andy Gray, Housing and Enforcement Manager	To seek approval for the Policy relating to Public Health Funerals, for which the Council is responsible for under S46 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984.
Parking Strategy	David Kirkup	The parking management service is renewing its parking strategy. This report will submit the strategy to members for information and approval
Lindsey Centre update	Sally Grindrod-Smith, Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration, Elaine Poon, Local Development Order and Major Projects Officer	An update on the leisure scheme following the concurrent committee meeting on 11 June 2019
Selective Licensing - Future Proposals	Andy Gray, Housing and Enforcement Manager	To provide Councillors with final proposals for any future Selective Licensing Scheme