

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

This meeting will be webcast and published on the Council's website

## AGENDA

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

**Notice** is hereby given that a meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall, , on **Monday, 23rd January, 2023 at 7.00 pm**, and your attendance at such meeting is hereby requested to transact the following business.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
  
2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING  
To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5 September 2022.  
  
**(PAGES 4 - 20)**
  
3. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
Members may make any declarations of interest at this point and may also make them at any point during the meeting.
  
4. MATTERS ARISING  
Setting out current position of previously agreed actions as at 13 January 2023.

**(PAGES 21 - 37)**

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - i) Chairman of Council
  - ii) Leader of the Council
  - iii) Head of Paid Service

**(VERBAL REPORT)**

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME  
Questions, if received, under this Scheme will be published by way of supplement following closure of the deadline.

**(TO FOLLOW)**

7. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9  
Questions submitted by Members under Procedure Rule No.9 will be published by way of supplement following closure of the deadline.

**(TO FOLLOW)**

8. MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10  
No motions have been submitted for this meeting.

9. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

- a. Recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel - Members Allowance Scheme 23/24

**(PAGES 38 - 46)**

- b. Collection Fund - Council Tax Surplus 2022/23 & Council Tax Base 2023-24.

**(PAGES 47 - 54)**

- c. Recommendation from Corporate Policy and Resources Committee - Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24

**(PAGES 55 - 67)**

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

Large Clear Print: Braille: Audio: Native Language

- d. Recommendation from Corporate Policy and Resources Committee - Mid-Year Treasury Management Report 2022-23  
**(PAGES 68 - 85)**
  
- e. Appointment of Interim Monitoring Officer  
**(PAGES 86 - 90)**

Ian Knowles  
Head of Paid Service  
The Guildhall  
Gainsborough

Friday, 13 January 2023

# Agenda Item 2 Public Document Pack

West Lindsey District Council - 5 September 2022

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 5 September 2022 at 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence (Chairman)  
Councillor Roger Patterson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway	Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Liz Clews	Councillor David Cotton
Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson	Councillor Christopher Darcel
Councillor Timothy Davies	Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor David Dobbie	Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Mrs Caralyne Grimble	Councillor Cherie Hill
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan	Councillor Mrs Cordelia McCartney
Councillor John McNeill	Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne
Councillor Peter Morris	Councillor Keith Panter
Councillor Mrs Judy Rainsforth	Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers	Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee	Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Robert Waller	Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn
Councillor Mrs Angela White	Councillor Trevor Young

### **In Attendance:**

Ian Knowles	Chief Executive
Emma Foy	Director of Corporate Services and Section 151
Emma Redwood	Assistant Director People and Democratic Services
Katie Storr	Democratic Services & Elections Team Manager

### **Apologies**

Councillor Jane Ellis  
Councillor Steve England  
Councillor Jaime Oliver  
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings

## **106 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

## 107 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on 4 July 2022

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on 4 July 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## 108 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point in the meeting.

## 109 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman introduced the report advising Members that the report would be taken "as read" unless Members had any questions that they wished to raise.

With no questions raised and no requirement for a vote, the Matters Arising were **DULY NOTED**.

## 110 ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Chairman

The Chairman addressed Council and advised of her pleasure at having been invited to attend the presentation of a young man, at Gainsborough's Nobel Foods, who despite challenges, had been awarded the Young Processer of the Year Award. It had been most pleasant to join him and to share his successes and achievements.

On 31 July the District Council had held, what the Chairman considered to have been a wonderful service, for the Celebration of Life for three former Councillors, Malcolm Parish Lewis Strange and Reg Shore, having been unable to celebrate during the Covid period. It had provided opportunity to honour those Councillors and the work they had done during their time in Office. It had been a lovely service and the families had been very appreciative of it.

Last Friday, 2 September, the Chairman had had the honour of hosting the Annual Flag Raising for Merchant Navy Day. It had been a lovely day and well attended. Members were reminded that again, this Friday, 9 September, she would be hosting the Annual Flag Raising event for the Emergency Services Day, to which all Members were invited to attend.

And finally, earlier in the day, the Chairman had attended the historical Closing Down Ceremony at RAF Scampton. As anticipated, there had been a large turnout of both Military and Dignitary guests, a flypast by the Red Arrows and the Lancaster, and a Service in the Church to dedicate a new stained-glass window to RAF Scampton, marking 100 years of having been stationed there. It had been an honour and a privilege to represent West Lindsey at this historic event.

## **Leader**

The Leader made the following address to Council: -

“Good evening colleagues, I hope that everyone had the opportunity to spend some time away from their desks and digital devices during August and can return refreshed and ready for what will undoubtedly be an especially busy period for us individually and collectively.

Since we last came together as a Council we have experienced not only record high temperatures in July, but also exceptional rainfall in August that lead to serious flooding in Market Rasen and caused problems elsewhere in the District too. I'd like to place on record my deep appreciation and thanks to everyone who contributed to the immediate and ongoing response and also to encourage any community that does not have an Emergency Plan in place to consider preparing one. There is much support available for this task through the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum.

The Council's budget consultation for the 2023-24 financial year will remain open until at 9 am on Monday, 3rd October 2022 and all residents and businesses are invited to have their say in helping us shape our future priorities. It is easy to participate either on on-line, by a paper copy, or at one of the series of widely publicised engagement events, the most recent of which was a highly successful session on Caistor Market last Saturday. Thank you to all respondents so far; your ideas and input are most valuable to us.

Finally, I'm very pleased to advise that our key priorities and projects throughout West Lindsey, whether in preparation or delivery, are all progressing according to schedule. We have a highly ambitious and stretching programme in place to secure the future prosperity and success of our District and I firmly believe we have all the necessary Member and Officer expertise and insight available to enable us to achieve this.”

## **Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive addressed Council and whilst acknowledging it had been “holiday season” for many, he paid tribute to the many teams across the Council that had continued to deliver over the summer period; handling the Council Tax Energy Rebates, and the Housing Support Fund distribution, (of which a third allocation was anticipated). Teams across West Lindsey continued to deliver, under the additional pressures that continued to be placed upon District Councils, and again the Chief Executive praised and thanked everyone in the Organisation for their energy and commitment to supporting the District and its' residents.

The Chief Executive highlighted some of the other issues that had been dealt with and developments since the last Council meeting, including: -

- **Concurrent Meeting – 7 July**

A concurrent meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee and the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, had been held to agree the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan. The Chief Executive was pleased to advise that the Plan had been submitted on the 19 July, a fortnight ahead of the deadline set Government and the Plan had been well received by the Government's teams. Thanks were expressed to Sally Grindrod-Smith, Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities, and her Team for their work in this area.

- **Recent Funding Announcements**

Two further funding announcements had been made since Council last met. West Lindsey had been awarded an allocation of £85k for what was being termed, the "Levelling Up Parks Fund". This was restricted to just three Lower Super Output Areas, all three of which were in Gainsborough. The Fund was for enhancing green space in such areas. Proposals would be brought forward for Elected Member consideration in the coming months.

West Lindsey had also received an allocation from the Rural England Prosperity Fund of £795k. This was an extension of the Shared Prosperity Fund, specifically for rural parts of the country. Investments Plans would need to be formulated and proposals would be brought forward for Elected Member consideration.

- **Cost of Living Crisis**

Referring to the Motion passed at the last Council meeting, the Chief Executive updated Members on the work that had been undertaken since, and of further planned work.

A Cost of Living Working Group, of Officers within the Council, had been established. The Group had been working on proposals, which could be brought for Member consideration in the future. Whilst these proposal would look at ways of supporting residents, proposals were also being considered regarding employees, as they too would be equally impacted by the cost of living issues.

Officers were also working on what had been phrased "a Cost of Living Summit". The District Council were inviting local organisations, who dealt with some of the Districts most vulnerable and in need, to come together in order that Organisations could share ideas to develop proposals, as to how, and what, might be appropriate ways of utilising some Council reserves, as requested in that Motion.

The work was well in progress and outcomes were expected to be reported back to Committees in October/November 2022.

- **Update on Gypsy/ Traveller Encampment – Bridge Street Gainsborough**

Members were aware that over the Summer, Officers had dealt with a short stay Traveller encampment on the Bridge Street Car Park, in Gainsborough. Officers were again thanked for their response to that incident, arriving on scene the very next morning. Appropriate policies were followed, appropriate notices given and having established a good relationship, the encampment moved on, in accordance with the plans they had indicated to Officers at the outset. The approach taken by Officers, who were again thanked, ensured that the stay, had gone ahead without any issues.

The Chief Executive placed on record his thanks to local businesses who had kindly agreed to open for longer than normal to help and support those people, which again had enabled

the stay to pass off without incident.

- **Flooding at Market Rasen**

August 16 had seen flooding experienced in parts of Market Rasen. The Chief Executive placed on record his personal thank you to Councillor Bunney for his work supporting people in the area.

The incident had not been declared an emergency by the LRF (Lincolnshire Resilience Forum) and this had seen communication issues arise with colleagues in other organisations.

West Lindsey Teams, including Sarah Elvin, Home Options Team Manger and her colleagues were thanked for their actions and their support at very short notice. Officers continued to show commitment to help people across the district, whatever the hour, whatever the situation.

The communication issues experienced had been discussed with the LRF. Whilst acknowledging it had not been designated a Lincolnshire Emergency, it was still paramount that communications were maintained and remained in a co-ordinated manner, which the District Council did not consider had been the case with this incident.

Announcements concluded.

## **111 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

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

The Chairman advised the meeting that one question pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No.9 had been submitted to the meeting. This had been circulated to all Members, separately to the agenda, and published on the website.

The Chairman invited, Councillor John McNeill, Ward Member for Market Rasen, to put his question to the Leader as follows:-

"Leader, you are no doubt aware of the 16 caravans and motor homes and other associated vehicles which occupied a Council car park from the evening of 14th July 2022 overnight and thereafter. Please can you confirm the details of the incident and any other similar activity this summer of which the Council is aware? I understand that a similar incident occurred on the Village Green in Welton and I personally saw caravans parked along the A631 at Glentham and Bishop Bridge a few days later.

Does the Leader agree, that Council Officers handled the situation professionally and brought about a swift resolution to the matter? What assessment, if any, has been made of the impact of the incident on Gainsborough?



Can the Leader provide any additional assurance for our local communities arising from any lessons learnt during the recent incident? Is the Leader able to comment on whether any fines were issued, and if so, have any of the fines been paid?

Thank you”

The Leader of the Council responded as follows : -

“It is believed that Officers acted swiftly, professionally and in a co-ordinated manner regarding both of the encampments that occurred in Gainsborough. The Council provided a proportionate response within the agreed Protocol, resulting in a swift resolution. Our communications team were fully briefed and managed any media enquiries.

Whilst it is recognised that incidents such as this cause concern for the local community, there will always be a likelihood of them occurring, hence why there are specific laws and guidance in place to enable the Council to deal with them and to provide those occupying land with the relevant protections and rights.

In these circumstances, we have an agreed Countywide Protocol with the Police to follow, which starts by understanding what the intentions of the occupants are, in regards to the length of their stay. If it is a short period, then their presence in most cases will be tolerated until they move on. If we get the sense that it will be a longer stay or that the stay may cause significant community harm then we start legal proceedings to cease the occupation of the land liaise with the Police to determine the best way to go about this. Our approach in most cases is always to get the ball rolling on legal action should their suggested intentions change.

After a major encampment occurs, officers complete a review of the incident as part of the Gypsy and Traveller Joint Protocol. This enables the Council to ensure it is meeting its obligations in regards to the Joint Protocol for Gypsy and Traveller Encampments and will consider the Gainsborough incidents that occurred between 14/7/22 - 18/7/22 and 20/07/22 - 23/07/2022.

The Protocol seeks to ensure that agencies work together and seek to find a peaceful resolution with the occupants of unauthorised encampments. It is always preferable to seek a short, peaceful and tolerated stay as opposed to creating conflict and heightening local tensions. There are no immediate powers to remove occupants from land in these situations, unless there is a serious risk to public safety.

In this instance there was no significant risk to public safety and the car park on Bridge Street is monitored by CCTV and is very prominent, and this enabled agencies to ensure that minimal disruption was caused. Whilst there has been media attention in regards to the new ‘Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Act 2022’, the powers cited within here have incorrectly been headlined as a means to instantly remove any travellers from land, which isn’t the case. They are police only powers and there has to be, or likely to be “significant damage, disruption or

distress”- which there clearly wasn’t on either occasion in relation to the Bridge Street encampments.

During both of the Gainsborough incidents the relevant Members, Management Team and Communications Teams were kept fully updated via email with the situation and any changes. In both instances, the required assessment of the site and those occupying it was carried out at the earliest opportunity and the formal notices were served within 24 hours of the land being occupied and provisions were in place to commence formal legal proceedings in the working week following on from the initial occupation. Arrangements were also made for waste collection and to advise local licensed and retail premises of the presence of the encampment. A Police incident was also opened and kept active were there to be any further concerns or complaints from the public. There were very minimal complaints from the public during the period of both occupations.

In terms of fines, there is no provision to issue a fine to occupants for simply occupying land. The provisions of the Act enable a prosecution should the occupants return within 12 months, subject to their being sufficient evidence. There clearly was scope for issuing fines for car parking offences, however this was not deemed to be something that would have best served the aim of a quick departure and would have only served to increase the tensions between agencies. Alongside this, there would have been very little scope for recovering any fines issued based on the information that was obtained on the vehicles present.

In specific relation to Welton, there was one caravan that parked up for one evening/overnight period, which left the next morning, so it is not comparable to the Gainsborough incidents and we have received no other reports or had any dealings with any reports or attendance at other illegal encampments in the WLDC area at this point.

In summary, the Protocol in place helped to bring about a swift resolution to the encampments and Officers acted swiftly, using the tools and powers that were available. The review of the incidents is currently being finalised and will be shared in full with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the Prosperous Communities Committee as well as the elected Members for Gainsborough.”

The original questioner confirmed he had no supplementary question, however another Member of Council sought to ask a question, and the Chairman, using her discretion permitted him to do so.

The question was welcomed, particularly the aspect relating to assessments. Acknowledging the incident had passed trouble free, and that that, in part, was down to businesses doing their utmost, as had been referenced by the Chief Executive, local business had reported being 80 percent down on trade that weekend. Businesses, that had just come through the pressure of Covid, and the Councillor felt this needed to be recognised. The Town Centre was already struggling and incidents of this nature, so close to the Centre, financially impacted business, he asked “Can these businesses afford that impact?” Suggesting no, and as such, sought information as to what the Council would be doing to mitigate against such an incident happening again, given it had affected two

consecutive weekends.

People were quick to change shopping habits, and the fear was they would avoid the area if they continued to find the site occupied by travellers. Once shoppers were lost, they were hard to tempt back and the Town Centre needed the Council's full support if it was to thrive.

The Chairman thanked the Councillor for his comments, whilst reminding the Chamber, as had been earlier explained, Officers and those involved acted swiftly and according to the protocols. All accepted it was difficult to predict what may or may not happen, and as such the Chairman acknowledged it had been unfortunate for the shopkeepers and other businesses, but re-empathised it had been dealt with as swiftly as it possibly could be. There was no easy solution.

The Councillor acknowledged that Teams had responded well, noting a fantastic job, by Waste Services in terms of clean up, however it was again raised what would the Council do to mitigate this happening again; with another Councillor suggesting it would be resolved by providing appropriate site allocations.

Rule 9 Questions were brought to an end, by the Chairman's ruling.

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

The Chairman advised the meeting that two motions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No.10 had been submitted to the meeting, these were as set out in the agenda.

Councillor Anne Welburn, was invited to put her motion to the meeting, as follows:

#### **"DEBATE NOT HATE**

Members will be aware of the Local Government Association's 'Debate Not Hate' campaign, based on the premise that, whilst debating and disagreeing with one another is a healthy part of democracy, abuse and intimidation crosses the line into dangerous territory.

Anyone, regardless of their background or political affiliation, should feel safe to become a Councillor and be proud to represent their community. But an increasing level of abuse and intimidation aimed at local politicians is preventing elected members from representing those they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election and undermining local democracy.

The 'Debate Not Hate' campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in their communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the responses and support for local politicians facing abuse and intimidation. We need to be united in calling for change.

Although individual Councillors can support the campaign simply by signing the public statement on the LGA's website (something I would urge all colleagues to do) I hereby call upon the Leader of the Council to add West Lindsey District Council to the list of supporting organisations.

I so move.

Councillor Anne Welburn”

With the motion duly seconded, debate ensued during which Members shared their experiences, particularly those of recent years, when such behaviour had escalated, even extending to family members, with a Councillor seeking the support of local Police.

The age of social of media had only added to and increased the problem, with people appearing to be quite comfortable abusing people from behind a computer keyboard.

It was suggested that many Members accepted a level of abuse, almost deeming this to come with the job, whether correct or not, but all were in agreement, that when abuse was then directed at family members, personal phones and e-mails, that that was totally unacceptable. However, such behaviours had been experienced.

All were in agreement, the fear of abuse, without doubt, deterred potential candidates and “volunteers”, with many Parish Councillors, receiving no remuneration for the work they undertook.

The level of abuse from Members of the public had increased, and yet Councillors were of the view, that in the event they challenged back, they found themselves reported to the Monitoring Officer and subject to a potential Code of Conduct case. Members at a District level were not granted anything similar to Parliamentary Privilege, extended to MPs.

Members spoke of the lack of support, not a criticism of Officers, but of the system, general framework, and lack of legal powers. Sanctions (for complaints against Councillors) had been abolished with the Localism Act. Officers and the Council’s Standard’s Sub-Committee, Governance and Audit Committee, and Full Council itself, having written on a number of occasions lobbying for change.

Whilst change in this area would help resolve Councillor to Councillor issues, this would not deal with abuse from Members of the public.

Members were of the view that there needed to be a much bigger debate about what Councils could do to support Councillors in these situations, as it was considered that they had a duty of care to Councillors as they did their employees.

There was a suggestion that the Member Development Group or appropriate Board / Group within the Council could maybe consider how the Council may increase support to elected Members and Candidates prior to elections in May 2023.

On being put to the vote, the **MOTION AS SUBMITTED** was declared **CARRIED** and as a result it was

**RESOLVED unanimously** that the Leader of the Council be required to add West Lindsey District Council to the list of supporting organisations for the Debate not Hate Campaign.

The Chairman invited Councillor Devine, to put his motion to Council as follows: -

**“SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY WEALTH FUND PROPOSAL** - An organisation called the Local Trust (established in 2012 to deliver Big Local, a National Lottery Community Fund funded programme) is promoting a proposal to use dormant stocks and shares (which have an estimated value of £900 million) to fund a new Community Wealth Trust.

The proposal is to use the funds so released to directly support the 225 most ‘left behind areas’ throughout the country, including our own Gainsborough East Ward.

This proposal is at a preliminary stage, however similar initiatives such as the Dormant Assets Scheme have already successfully delivered significant social and environmental investment.

Local Trust has now invited local authorities to ‘sign up’ to affirm their ‘in principle’ support for their initiative and accordingly I propose that we recognise the opportunity and take up the offer to potentially benefit not only Gainsborough itself but, by extension, the whole of West Lindsey.

Further information on the Trust is attached to the agenda and the Local Trusts’ website is

<https://localtrust.org.uk/policy/left-behind-neighbourhoods/>

I ask the Leader and Chief Executive to write to Local Trust offering our support for their initiative.

I so move.

Councillor Mick Devine”

With the motion duly seconded, debate ensued.

Several Members indicated their support for the motion, others sought indication how the Scheme worked, with the Chief Executive outlining this, confirming the stocks and shares were dormant and not recognised as owned. Current estimates were also considered prudent.

On being put to the vote, the **MOTION AS SUBMITTED** was declared **CARRIED** and as a result it was

**RESOLVED unanimously** that the Leader and Chief Executive be required to write to Local Trust offering our support for their initiative.

#### **114 REVIEW OF THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS ON COMMITTEES/SUB -COMMITTEES**

The Chairman presented the report, which set out details of the political groups on the

Council, the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each Committee, and the allocation of seats on each of the Committees based on political groupings.

The report set out the reasoning for the balance having been re-calculated, and the new allocations were detailed in Appendix B of the report.

This matter had been determined by the Head of Paid Service under his delegated authority, in consultation with the main Group Leaders, who had indicated their agreement. As such, there was no requirement for a vote.

With no questions posed, the following was **DULY NOTED**: -

- (a) the details of the political groups, as set out in Appendix A of the report,
- (b) the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each committee and sub-committee; and
- (c) the allocation to different political groups of seats on committees/sub-committees, as set out in Appendix B of the report.

## **115 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2022/23 CIVIC YEAR**

The Chairman of the Council presented the report which set out the wishes expressed by the political groups in respect of the appointment of Members to serve on each of the Council's formal Committees for the remainder of the 2022/23 Civic Year.

Members had earlier in the day received an updated report incorporating all nominations received and this had been made available on the Website.

Confirmation was sought and received from the Leader of the Opposition, that his position remained unchanged, and the Liberal Democrat Group would not be making nominations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman referred Members to section 2.8 of the report, and advised, given the position expressed by the Opposition Leader, the additional Members appointed in July 2022, to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, would be eligible to serve, should they wish, those being Councillors Jackie Brockway, Chris Darcel, Paul Howitt-Cowan and John McNeill .

Consent was sought and received from those Members effected and, on that basis, it was

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with the provisions of section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the wishes expressed by political groups, Members be appointed to serve to the Council's Committees for the remainder of the 2022/23 civic year as follows: -

**Chief Officer Employment Committee (7 Members)**

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Jackie Brockway  
Councillor Stephen Bunney  
Councillor Mick Devine  
Councillor Lesley Rollings  
Councillor Anne Welburn  
Councillor Trevor Young

**Corporate Policy and Resources Committee (13 Members)**

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Matt Boles  
Councillor Stephen Bunney  
Councillor Liz Clews  
Councillor Mick Devine  
Councillor Ian Fleetwood  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor John McNeill  
Councillor Mandy Snee  
Councillor Jeff Summers  
Councillor Bob Waller  
Councillor Anne Welburn  
Councillor Trevor Young

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

Councillor Jackie Brockway  
Councillor Stephen Bunney  
Councillor Tracey Coulson  
Councillor Chris Darcel  
Councillor Caralyne Grimble  
Councillor John McNeill  
Councillor Angela White

**Licensing Committee (14 Members)**

Councillor Liz Clews  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Tim Davies  
Councillor Caralyne Grimble  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Angela Lawrence  
Councillor Cordelia McCartney  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Peter Morris

Councillor Keith Panter  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Diana Rodgers  
Councillor Jim Snee  
Councillor Jeff Summers

**Regulatory Committee (14 Members)**

Councillor Liz Clews  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Tim Davies  
Councillor Caralyne Grimble  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Angela Lawrence  
Councillor Cordelia McCartney  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Peter Morris  
Councillor Keith Panter  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Diana Rodgers  
Councillor Jim Snee  
Councillor Jeff Summers

**Planning Committee (14 Members)**

Councillor Matt Boles  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Mick Devine  
Councillor Steve England  
Councillor Ian Fleetwood  
Councillor Cherie Hill  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Peter Morris  
Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Jeff Summers  
Councillor Bob Waller  
Councillor Angela White

**Prosperous Communities Committee (15 Members)**

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Stephen Bunney  
Councillor Liz Clews  
Councillor Tracey Coulson  
Councillor Chris Darcel



Councillor Mick Devine  
 Councillor Jane Ellis  
 Councillor Cordelia McCartney  
 Councillor John McNeill  
 Councillor Jessie Milne  
 Councillor Jaime Oliver  
 Councillor Roger Patterson  
 Councillor Lesley Rollings  
 Councillor Jim Snee  
 Councillor Trevor Young

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

Councillor Jackie Brockway  
 Councillor Tracey Coulson

Councillor Chris Darcel  
 Councillor Tim Davies  
 Councillor Caralyne Grimble.  
 Councillor Cherie Hill  
 Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
 Councillor Cordelia McCartney  
 Councillor John McNeill  
 Councillor Peter Morris  
 Councillor Roger Patterson  
 Councillor Diana Rodgers  
 Councillor Bob Waller  
 Vacancy

**116 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN /VICE-CHAIRMEN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 22/23 CIVIC YEAR**

Having re-appointed the Committees, the report under consideration sought to appoint Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to each of the Committees.

Nominations were sought, with the Leader of the Council, making the following nominations, which were duly seconded: -

Committee	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Chief Officer Employment Committee	Councillor Jackie Brockway	Councillor Mick Devine
Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	Councillor Anne Welburn	Councillor Jeff Summers
Planning Committee	Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Bob Waller

Governance and Audit Committee	Councillor John McNeill	Councillor Jackie Brockway
*Licensing Committee	Councillor Jessie Milne	Councillor Angela Lawrence
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Mrs Di Rodgers	Councillor Roger Patterson
*Regulatory Committee	Councillor Jessie Milne	Councillor Angela Lawrence
Prosperous Communities Committee	Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor John McNeill (1) Councillor Tracey Coulson (2)

No further nominations, were made and the Chairman therefore sought the meeting's consent that the appointments to vacant positions be dealt with en-bloc. Consent was duly indicated for an en-bloc vote.

A Member requested the en-bloc appointments themselves be subject to a recorded vote, with the request duly seconded.

On being put to the vote, votes were cast in the following manner: -

**For:-** Councillors Bierley, Brockway, Coulson, Darcel, Davies, Devine, Fleetwood, Grimble, Hill, Howitt-Cowan, Lawrence, McCartney, J McNeill, Milne, Morris, Patterson, Regis, Rodgers, Summers, Waller and Welburn (21)

**Against:-** None (0)

**Abstain: -** Councillors Boles, Bunney, Clews, Cotton, Dobbie, Panter, Rainsforth, J Snee, M Snee, White and Young (11)

With a total of 21 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 11 abstentions, the motion was carried and it was therefore: -

**RESOLVED** that the persons detailed below be appointed to the positions stated for the remainder of the 2022/23 Civic Year.

Committee	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Chief Officer	Councillor Jackie Brockway	Councillor Mick Devine
Employment Committee	Councillor Anne Welburn	Councillor Jeff Summers
Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Bob Waller
Planning Committee	Councillor John	Councillor Jackie

Audit Committee	McNeill	Brockway
*Licensing Committee	Councillor Jessie Milne	Councillor Angela Lawrence
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Mrs Di Rodgers	Councillor Roger Patterson
*Regulatory Committee	Councillor Jessie Milne	Councillor Angela Lawrence
Prosperous Communities Committee	Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor John McNeill (1) Councillor Tracey Coulson (2)

## 117 APPOINTMENT TO VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND OTHER BODIES (INCLUDING OUTSIDE BODIES) FOLLOWING RESIGNATION

The final report of the evening sought to appoint to vacancies on boards and other bodies (including outside bodies) as a result of Councillor England having resigned from the positions.

Nominations were sought, with the Leader of the Council making the following nominations, which were duly seconded.

### Outside Bodies

Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board	Councillor Peter Morris
Upper Witham IDB	Councillor Peter Morris
Witham Third IDB	Councillor Peter Morris

### Internal Working Groups / Boards

Lincolnshire Show Task and Finish Group	Councillor Jessie Milne
Environment & Sustainability Member Working Grp	Councillor Jessie Milne
Member Development Grp (Reserve)	Councillor Bob Waller

Further nominations were sought but none received.

In response to a query, Officers confirmed Councillor England had formally resigned from the Outside Bodies, Internal Working Groups and Boards.

**RESOLVED** that the following appointment be made for the remainder of the Civic Year: -

### Outside Bodies

Lincoln Transport Strategy Delivery Board -	Councillor Peter Morris
Upper Witham IDB -	Councillor Peter Morris
Witham Third IDB -	Councillor Peter Morris

### Internal Working Groups / Boards

Lincolnshire Show Task and Finish Group -	Councillor Jessie Milne
Environment & Sustainability Member Working Grp -	Councillor Jessie Milne

West Lindsey District Council - 5 September 2022

Member Development Grp (Reserve) - Councillor Bob Waller

The meeting concluded at 7.59 pm.

Chairman

**Council Matters Arising Schedule**

**Purpose:**

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

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

**Matters arising Schedule**

Meeting	Full Council				
Status	Title	Action Required	Comments	Due Date	Allocated To
<b>Black</b>	<b>New Code - Adoption by Parish Councils</b>	<p>Extract from mins of mtg 6/11/21</p> <p>all Parish Council's across the District be encouraged to adopt West Lindsey's new Code of Conduct by May 2022</p> <p>(c) the implementation of the roll-out process detailed in Section 3 of the report and set out below be approved ;</p> <p>Communications to Parish and Town Councils November 2021</p> <p>Series of Workshops / Training to be held with Parish Councils to raise awareness and encourage adoption. These may be cluster events or attendance at individual Parishes Virtual arrangements will be used wherever possible Jan – March 2022</p>	<p><b>Communications issued to all Parish Council by end of February and matter promoted in parish news</b></p> <p><b>workshops to be held in March/April .</b></p> <p><b>Deadline was extended to June at end of May 50% had notified us of adoption. Reminder issued .</b></p> <p><b>in August individual correspondence was sent to those councils who had yet to contact the DC - with an extension until November . The DC can not mandate PC s to adopt their code. There is now less than 10 who have adopted the WLDC version of the Code - work will continue where councils have not yet responded</b></p>	01/06/22	Emma Redwood

Black	<p><b>motion to council - street lights</b></p>	<p>extract from mins of meeting 28/6/21</p> <p>(a) The Leader of the Council to commence robust discussions with Leading Members of the County Council with a view to seeking the re-introduction of street lighting in parts of West Lindsey, particularly into those communities we ourselves have deemed to be vulnerable; and</p> <p>(b) the Leader feed back to this Council, by way of reporting to Prosperous Communities, the outcome of these discussions, potential options which could be investigated and their associated costs.</p>	<p><b>A written approach has been made to the Leader and relevant portfolio holder of LCC requesting a meeting to further discuss this matter initially – a response is awaited”</b></p> <p><b>Further information will be presented to The Prosperous Comms Cttee in accordance with the motion as this matter progresses”</b></p> <p><b>arising report will need programming into Prosp Comms workplan .</b></p> <p><b>This matter was again raised at the meeting on 6 September : -</b></p> <p><b>The Leader of the Opposition expressed his disappointment and the lack of willingness from the Administration to provide an update regarding street lighting motion, passed by the Council, and which was important to many residents. He commented on the noticeable absence of any media coverage regarding the motion, surmised at the reasons for this, and spoke of opportunities missed by the Leader.</b></p> <p><b>The Chairman interjected and advised that he would request the Leader to respond in writing, but that Leader’s announcements were concluded and not for debate.</b></p> <p><b>22/10 - Up to the time of writing Lincolnshire County Council has not responded to my (the Leaders) letter; however I have been informally advised that requests for specific lighting to be turned on overnight,</b></p>	25/10/21	Cllr. O Bierley
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			<p>made through the normal channels, will be considered. This clearly remains work in progress.</p> <p>- it is hoped a report can be made to the Prosperous Communities Committee before the end of the civic year</p> <p>16/8/22 - Further communications were issued in July and again in August – to the Leader of LCC requesting engagement or at least a response in writing. This will be the last correspondence issued before a report is submitted to PC Cttee during the Autumn of 22</p> <p>25/8 - A response has now been received from Cllr Richard Davies which will enable a report to go to PC Cttee in November, fulfilling the second part of this motion. The response detailed the savings achieved, advised that LCC had no plan to change its current approach, and spoke of findings of a Scrutiny Review into the matter. Also attached was the criteria and costs should street lighting be converted to all-night operation in communities and the process by which requests should be made .</p> <p>The report was considered at PC Cttee in Dec and is available on the website- as a result the cttee have requested the LCC Member portfolio holder be invited to Overview and Scrutiny Cttee</p>		
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Black	<b>Question to Council re Pay Award and ways of supporting staff</b>	extract from mins of mtg 7/3/21 response from HPS - We do not offer pay advances, however through Joint Staff Consultative Committee I would ask that the subject of financial wellbeing be discussed to determine if there are further opportunities to support our staff.		30/04/22	Emma Redwood
Black	<b>Motion to Council - Preserving / Safeguarding Food Production Land</b>	Extract from mins of mtg 4/7/2022 RESOLVED that: -  (a) the Council's representatives on the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (CLJSPC) be required to ensure West Lindsey views on this matter (subject of motion on 4 July 2022) are reported to future meetings of the CLJSPC and;  (b) the Council lobby relevant Government Ministers in a similar manner regarding this matter (subject of motion on 4 July 2022).	<b>In response to the Motion a lobbying letters was issued to Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth - Rt Hon Graham Stuart, MP. This included a letter of support for Visitor Economy Businesses received from Destination Lincolnshire</b>  <b>Members were previously provided with a copy via email. a further copy is attached to this report. (Appendix A)</b>  <b>This correspondence was also brought to the attention of the Local MP requesting that he brought it to the attention of the Rt Hon. Jacob Rees-Mogg, in his role as Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.</b>  <b>The contents of the motion was also shared and discussed amongst Planning Leads supporting the work of the CLJSPC</b>  <b>The response received is attached</b>	31/10/22	Sally Grindrod-Smith



Black	<p><b>MOTION TO COUNCIL - additional financial support for the Socially Vulnerable Households</b></p>	<p>Extract from Mins fo Mtg 4/7/22 With the motion duly seconded and with no debate, on being put to the vote, the MOTION AS SUBMITTED was declared CARRIED and as a result it was:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that a Scheme to offer additional financial support for the Socially Vulnerable Households, as described in the motion submitted to Council on 4 July 2022, be developed and brought to the next appropriate meeting of the Council or relevant Committee for consideration.</p>	<p>Please see full minutes for detail of the Motion - please undertake necessary work and ensure this is added to the workplan for the CPR Cttee at the appropriate point - please update this action to advise Council when this report can be expected.</p> <p>5/9/22 - the HPS via his announcements provided further update , including</p> <p>A Cost of Living Working Group, of Officers within the Council, had been established. these proposal would look at ways of supporting residents, proposals were also being considered regarding employees, as they too would be equally impacted by the cost of living issues.</p> <p>“a Cost of Living Summit”. sharing of ideas to develop proposals, as to how, and what, might be appropriate ways of utilising some Council reserves, as requested in that Motion.</p> <p>The work was well in progress and outcomes were expected to be reported back to Committees in October/November 2022.</p> <p>Full update as per Announcements in Mins of Mtg 5 September .</p> <p>Reports have been considered at both November and December CPR Cttees - available on the website with it having been resolved in December that</p>	01/10/22	Emma Foy
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			<p>To approve the initial proposals to provide support, information and funding via partnership working and central government schemes for Cost of Living crisis support, models and key actions.</p> <p>2. To support further development of the WLDC website to provide increased focus on specific local cost of living initiatives, support, guidance and advice.</p> <p>3. and To approve the further development of costings be incorporated in the February budget setting report to committee after the Local Government settlement on 21st December 2022.</p>		
<b>Black</b>	<b>Motion to Council - Debate not hate</b>	<p>Extract from mins of meeting 5/9/22</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously that the Leader of the Council be required to add West Lindsey District Council to the list of supporting organisations for the Debate not Hate Campaign.</p>	<b>E-mail was sent by Leader of the Council on 5 September to LGA .</b>	15/10/22	Katie Storr
<b>Black</b>	<b>traveller incidents</b>	<p>Extract from mins of mtg 5/9/22</p> <p>The review of the incidents is currently being finalised and will be shared in full with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the Prosperous Communities Committee as well as the elected Members for Gainsborough.”</p>	<p><b>This statement was made in response to a Q to Council under rule 9 - please ensure the review of incidents is shared as was indicated in the response given</b></p> <p><b>AG 14/9/22 - e mail sent to Councillors, with review attached as a PDF.</b></p>	15/10/22	Andy Gray

Black	<b>Motion to Council - SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY WEALTH FUND PROPOSAL</b>	<p>Extract from Mins of Meeting 5/9/2022</p> <p>the MOTION AS SUBMITTED was declared CARRIED and as a result it was</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously that the Leader and Chief Executive be required to write to Local Trust offering our support for their initiative.</p>	<b>Appropriate Communications have been issued .</b>	01/10/22	Ian Knowles
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Rt Hon Graham Stuart, MP  
Minister of State for Business,  
Energy and Clean Growth  
Department of Business Energy and  
Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria St,  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Your contact for this matter is: Leader of the Council  
E-mail: Cllr.O.Bierley@west-lindsey.gov.uk  
DD:  
Date: 21 September 2022

E-mail : - grahamstuartmp@parliament.uk

Dear Minister

### **Solar NSIPs in West Lindsey**

One of the lessons taught by the global pandemic within the last two years is that, as a Country, we need to be more self-sufficient. The impacts of Climate Change and the war in Ukraine bring this into sharper focus and have created a sense of even greater urgency. This is understood and supported by the members of West Lindsey District Council.

West Lindsey District Council recognises and actively promotes the key role rural districts like ours can play in the Country achieving self-sufficiency through sustainable food production as well as positively contributing to the realising net zero by 2050.

Members of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, which has Member representation from West Lindsey, North Kesteven District Council, City of Lincoln Council and Lincolnshire County Council have been very proactive in relation to Climate Change by developing planning policy, which supports a Net Zero Local Plan.

The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, in conformity with National Policy, seeks to balance a number of challenges; notably the need to improve social and economic conditions through growth, whilst at the same time ensuring that the environment is improved, that efforts are made to make the region net zero carbon and to ensure that growth does not erode the area's environmental and heritage assets, of which open countryside and agriculture is key, nor exacerbate pressure on natural resources.

In submitting the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate, Members are satisfied that the plan does just that and moreover contributes positively to broader national objectives around sustainability, net zero and self-sufficiency.

As such it is considered by Members of West Lindsey District Council that the number of Solar NSIP applications and sheer scale of the proposals within West Lindsey and

neighbouring local authorities is at odds with both Local and National Policy and does not effectively balance the need for local social and economic prosperity, self-sufficiency in terms of food production and the protection of open countryside against the need to generate green energy nationally.

For context, of the 17.1Giga Watt (GW) of ground mounted solar PV planned across the whole of Great Britain, 5.3GW is planned in the East Midlands, which equates to 30% of the supply. Moving to the specific NSIP proposals, within a very small area of the authority boundary of West Lindsey, there are 4, known, solar NSIP projects. The total amount of energy these proposals will generate is 2.08GW. This is almost 40% of total energy generation of the projects proposed across the East Midland and over 12% of the energy generation of all the project's proposed across the whole of Great Britain.

Members of West Lindsey District Council are extremely concerned that the amount of solar PV planned within a small area of the District and the potential effects of this, if it were allowed, will fundamentally undermine the Countries ability to balance other competing priorities, specifically the sustainable production of food to feed the Countries population, as well as impacting on the Districts Visitor Economy. When considering the net worth of the visitor economy in West Lindsey currently, the latest STEAM figures indicate visitors to the areas generated a total economic impact of £43.67mil for local business, generating the equivalent of 1,343 full time jobs.

West Lindsey's unique selling point is access to the great outdoors, big skies and open countryside, development on an industrial scale is not conducive to protecting or enhancing this critical income stream for a rural area's like West Lindsey.

It is Members firm belief that readily available connections to the National Grid cannot be the only factors considered when appraising these schemes. The potential impact on the local communities who will effectively be surrounded by solar PV and the cumulative impact on the landscape character are but two other fundamental considerations, which shouldn't be discounted on the basis of economic expediency.

As a rural authority Members are well aware of established agricultural practices and the linkages between the production of food for human consumption, growing crops for animal feed and the increasing need for glass-housing to produce soft fruits and vegetables here within the UK promoting a sustainable food supply. It is important to note that glass-housing, an emerging diversification opportunity for many younger farmers, does not require land to be 1 to 3a, indeed the land classification is immaterial, the topography of the land, however, needing to be flat, is fundamental, of which the land across much of West Lindsey and Lincolnshire is.

It is important to understand that the food needs of the UK population is not entirely met through land graded as 1 to 3a in agricultural land classification terms. Whilst best and most versatile land provides a benchmark in planning terms; when considering

development of such scale, the value of all land, in the context of agriculture, cannot and should not be undervalued.

Members are also aware of the challenges currently faced by farmers due to uncertainty around future subsidies and accepted farming practices, and consider that in many cases, the financial incentives and security these large scale NSIPs provide are inducing farmers to part with land that they would otherwise continue to farm, if the direction of future national policy were clearer.

The Members of West Lindsey District Council are assured that if these NSIP proposals and others like them are allowed to go forward, driven by market forces and economic expediency alone that the impact on the countryside and rural communities would be catastrophic. Allowing the market to drive these schemes removes the ability for the Country as a whole to appropriately plan future land use requirements and ultimately will affect the Countries ability to deliver sustainable food supply for future generations.

I have also enclosed a "Letter of Support for Visitor Economy Businesses" – communications received in response to ongoing public consultations across the District in respect of large-scale solar farm developments. I hope this further demonstrates the concerns across the local area and potentially serious adverse impacts such developments would have on the District and the wider Lincolnshire area.

Yours Sincerely



Councillor Owen Bierley  
Leader of West Lindsey District Council

Enc: - Letter from Destination Lincolnshire entitled "Re: Letter of Support for Visitor Economy Businesses"

Destination Lincolnshire  
Office BT1  
The Terrace  
Grantham Street  
LN2 1BD

26 July 2022

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Letter of Support for Visitor Economy Businesses**

Destination Lincolnshire is the official Destination Management Organisation (DMO) for the Lincolnshire and Lincoln. DMOs have been recognised by national Government (DCMS) and Visit England as having a crucial role to play in:

- Identifying the needs of destinations which have a dependency on the visitor economy;
- Developing and promoting experiences which attract visitors which in turn supports local jobs;
- Marketing and developing destinations;
- Adding to the Place Agenda, which is currently being championed in the Levelling Up Agenda;
- Fostering supportive relationships with businesses to aid covid recovery and growth;
- Working with local authorities to deliver joint strategic tourism agendas;
- Enabling communication horizontally within the destination and vertically with national bodies like Visit England and national government departments like BEIS, DCMS and MHCLG.

Destination Lincolnshire works with hundreds of tourism, leisure, hospitality and retail businesses and we are firmly committed to supporting the development and growth of the visitor economy in Lincoln and Lincolnshire.

As a DMO we actively lobby for - and represent businesses - that make up the visitor economy in Lincolnshire. We use our data set and intel from national bodies such as DCMS and Visit England to ensure organisations have the right information to hand when they are asked to make decision that will have long term implications and impact on the viability of the visitor economy sector.

Having reviewed the information about the Solar Farm Development, we fully support the calls of West Lindsey District Council, our visitor economy business partners, and other operators working in tourism, leisure, retail and hospitality to reject this project from happening in this area of Lincolnshire.

The project will have a direct, long term negative impact on the visitor economy. We will outline the reasons why the visitor economy is so important in Lincolnshire below:



## Headline data which outlines the importance of the visitor economy in Lincolnshire (pre covid):

- Lincolnshire's visitor economy is worth £2.4bn (STEAM data Lincolnshire County Council)
- The sector supports 30,000 jobs, and a far-reaching supply chain across Lincolnshire.
- Food and drink spending generates £44m into Lincoln's economy.
- Recreation spending generates £18m into Lincoln's economy.
- Shopping is by far the highest at £59m a year into Lincoln's economy.
- The Visitor Economy is a significant sector for people's livelihoods.

## Headline data showing the impact of Covid and lockdowns to Lincolnshire's Visitor Economy, and the depth of the recovery businesses face:

- 52% reduction in all tourism spending in Lincolnshire (STEAM Data 2020).
- Full time jobs in tourism reduced by half, from 2,500 jobs to just over 1,200.
- 52% reduction in visitor numbers.
- 50% reduction in the number of visitor days.
- Food and drink spend fell from £44m to £21m (a reduction of £13m)
- Shopping spend fell from £59m to £29m (a reduction of £20m)
- Recreation spend fell from £18m to £8m (a reduction of £10m)
- Overall Lincoln SMEs working in retail, tourism, hospitality and leisure have had to survive against a backdrop that saw over £100m wiped off their revenue.

The data above shows how deep covid has hit this sector in Lincolnshire. Economists have predicted that it will take up to 2025/26 for businesses in this sector to recover to pre-covid level. All activity that risks this recovery needs to be mitigated.

## The negative impact the proposed Solar Farm Development will have on Lincolnshire and the damage this will do to Lincolnshire's image & experience as a visitor destination:

- Visit England champions the role of destinations in attracting visitors to England. Lincolnshire is currently underperforming in the Visitor Economy compared to other destinations in England. There are deep seated challenges with productivity and seasonality – and we think this project would exacerbate them.
- Continuing with this project, knowing the long-term impact that it will have on Lincolnshire as a destination, is totally counterintuitive to the Government's 'Levelling Up' agenda, as it hinders a key sector and businesses working in it.

## Strategic Fit

As the DMO we work with local, regional and national stakeholders on policy reviews and implementation. I believe the objections to the Solar Farm Development have a strategic fit with several local and national tourism policies which have been developed to support covid recovery and growth. I've outlined my reasons below:



## Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)

I believe that our objections to the location of the Solar Farm Development is aligned to the latest post coronavirus direction from national Government. On our recent calls with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) it was very clear that the Government is encouraging positive visitor experiences within the sector utilising themes (rural destinations) which have domestic and international appeal. The rural landscape in West Lindsey gives Lincolnshire the opportunity to deliver this ambition, and work is already in progress with Cycling product development and campaigns. This could be jeopardised.

As the sector recovers from the worst of the pandemic there has been an overwhelming demand for more tourism experiences from a domestic market which enhance the *Place DNA* and appeal of UK destinations – and Lincolnshire’s countryside offers just this.

Government has gone to extraordinary lengths this year to financially support the sector over the last 18 months with emergency covid grants (£53 billion in total across the UK). As covid financial support has now ended, this project has the potential to undermine all this work, as the business model of visitor economy operators will be disrupted by the Solar Farm Development.

## National Tourism Recovery Plan (DCMS and Visit England)

In June 2021 DCMS announced its National Tourism Recovery Plan which sets out the plans for long term covid recovery across the sector. It focusses on:

- Extend the tourism season
- Enhance productivity of the sector
- A commitment to develop and adopt a sustainable development plan to reduce environmental impacts

As tourism sits within a wider eco-system of the visitor economy (retail, leisure, hospitality and tourism) it is imperative that local providers work together to create the right environment for recovery. Also for Lincolnshire to benefit from some of the upcoming Government interventions outlined in the Tourism Recovery Plan we have to demonstrate our commitment to the sector with a ‘visitor first’ vision across all interventions. The Solar Farm development does not support the ambition of the Tourism Recovery plan.

## Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP)

The National Tourism Recovery Plan also compliments the Local Industrial Strategy from the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership. The LEP has identified 5 areas to focus on Greater Lincolnshire’s strongest specialisms and opportunities, including a high-quality inclusive visitor economy.

The GLLEP’s ambition is to support a high-profile, high-quality tourism industry, enabling innovation across tourism services and facilities to transform it into a modern, culturally and creatively vibrant visitor economy. We are currently working with the GLLEP’s Visitor Economy Board to champion retail in their work.

In conclusion, I hope this letter of support outlines the wider landscape of tourism nationally and in Lincolnshire, plus the current, and future, demand in continuing to protect / invest in quality visitor experiences and lobbying for local businesses.

I urge you to consider the long-term implications and negative consequences of having a solar farm of this scale in this location of Lincolnshire. I believe it will impact not only on immediate businesses but to the whole ecosystem of Lincoln and Lincolnshire as a visitor destination.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Charlotte Goy, Chief Executive, Destination Lincolnshire.

*“Members - Do you not think that the first priority of any government or governing body should be to ensure the ability to protect food sources and not become reliant on imports which adds to their carbon footprint?”*

*Using farmland for housing and solar farms means an ever-downward shift to an unacceptable inability to be self-sufficient in food production and recent events on the world stage shows how short-sighted that could be in an emergency.*

*Food and water is the first basic need for life surely we should be protecting these. We need to ensure that no more productive farmland is taken and if farmers are unable to be sustainable then we need to lobby the government for a fairer package or new cooperatives to make farming work and feed our nation.*

*I would like Council to support this motion by requiring our representatives on the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (CLJSPC) to ensure West Lindsey views on this matter be reported to future meetings of the (CLJSPC) and that this Council lobby relevant Government Ministers in a similar manner.”*

## Response to the Motion – Cllr. Welburn 04.07.22

The following is in response to Cllr. Welburn’s motion to Council on 04<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in respect to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee’s (CLJSPC) position on the protection of farmland within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Partnership Committee (CLJSPC) is a joint planning committee formed by Statutory Instrument for the purpose of producing a shared Local Plan across City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey District Council. The CLJSPC includes members from all four partner authorities, including 3 members and a substitute from West Lindsey District Council. As such the CLJSPC takes into account the views of all members and respective councils and are aware and understand the current challenges faced around land use planning in relation to promoting improved self-sufficiency across the UK; specifically balancing the needs of food production with the need for the generation of sustainable energy.

The CLJSPC recognise that within the last 9 months there has been a number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects proposed across Central Lincolnshire, specifically relating to large scale solar farms.

The Planning Act 2008 introduced the Development Consent Order process to streamline decision making process for NSIPs with the aim of making the process fair and faster for communities and applicants alike.

Instead of making an application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority, the applicant instead applies for a Development Consent Order (DCO) directly to the Government. The application will be considered by the Government’s Planning Inspectorate, who will make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State who then makes the final decision. For a renewable energy scheme of over 50MW, this would be determined by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

All NSIP schemes are considered against National Policy Statements as opposed to Local Plans. The government are in the process of updating these policy statements and recently published a consultation to which West Lindsey District Council responded, highlighting amongst other things the lack of national land use strategy for the provision of NSIP solar projects, understanding the

assessment of best and most versatile land and the cumulative impact on an area of multiple schemes on an area, in terms of both visual impact but also economic, ecological and social. The full consultation response is appended to this statement.

The role of West Lindsey District Council in the DCO process is one of host Authority. The scope of this role is set out by the Planning Act 2008, but it is similar to that of a consultee on Town and Country Planning Act applications, therefore participation is not obligatory but recommended.

At its meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee in November 2021 the Council agreed the decision and delegation protocols, in line with national guidance that would be utilised at each stage of the process. It was agreed that West Lindsey District Council will actively participate in the process and provide an important local perspective at the preapplication stage, in addition to the views expressed directly to the developer by local residents, groups and businesses. West Lindsey will also take part in, and make representations at the Inquiry. Where appropriate the CLJSPC and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team will provide support in this process.

In terms of development proposals which are subject to and determined under the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, the CLJSPC would like to reassure Council that appropriate Local Plan policies are in place to protect farmland, specifically best and most versatile land which is defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification.

In the adopted 2017 Local Plan, Policy LP19, Renewable Energy Proposals has a specific presumption against solar farm proposals on best and most versatile land and part G of Policy LP55 dealing with Development in the Countryside requires that proposals should protect the best and most versatile agricultural land so as to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy.

In 2019, in response to a changing national picture for planning, the CLJSPC embarked on a review of the Local Plan. After three years of work, including 3 formal stages of consultation, this plan, which is positively prepared and in accordance with national policy, was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2022.

Being a predominately rural area, the submitted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan seeks to balance the issues of land use in the open countryside and provides a positive and evidence-based policy framework in which all Planning Applications submitted across Central Lincolnshire will be considered and determined against.

Policy S67 deals with Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land in the Submission Draft Local Plan and provides clear guidance on how development should be assessed, explicitly requiring that proposals should protect best and most versatile agricultural land to ensure opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy. Strict criteria is given on where there may be exceptions.

In relation to the allocation of land for housing the Local Plan uses an established settlement hierarchy when considering suitable locations for housing. All land that is put forward for allocation is comprehensively assessed for suitability, which includes an assessment of the agricultural land classification and use of land, seeking to avoid the use of best and most versatile land. This is all weighed up in the planning balance between the requirement for homes to be built and the importance of protecting the important assets of Central Lincolnshire, including but not limited to, agricultural land.

In relation to any solar energy proposals that will be below the threshold for an NSIP and therefore will be considered against the policies in the Local Plan, Policy S14 sets out criteria that must be considered in any proposals for solar farms. This includes not being supported where it is located on best and most versatile agricultural land.

To summarise, CLJSPC supports West Lindsey District Council's position to protect best and most versatile land and this is reflected in the current Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and in the recently submitted Local Plan which recognises the important role agriculture plays in Central Lincolnshire providing robust policy which supports the promotion of food security and self-sufficiency.

However, it is important to note CLJSPC and associated Local Plan Policy does not have influence over the determination of NSIP proposals and as such a broader strategy for lobbying Government, which considers policy beyond Local Plan policy, led by West Lindsey District Council members would be more appropriate.

# Agenda Item 9a



Council

23 January 2023

## MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR CIVIC YEAR 2023/2024

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

Emma Redwood  
Monitoring Officer  
01427 676591  
Emma.redwood@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To review and consider the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel with regard to Members' allowances for 2023/2024 civic year.

### RECOMMENDATION(S):

- (1) That Members approve the new rates as shown within this Report (Appendix 1), with regard to Members' allowances for the Civic Year 2023/2024:
  - (a) A proposed increase of 3% to the individual Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's).
  - (b) An increase to the mileage passenger supplement to 0.05p per mile for each passenger.
  - (c) Carer's Allowance to be tied to the National Living Wage (NLW) (currently £10.42) plus £1.00.
- (2) Officers investigate further the potential for a Bicycle Purchase Scheme for Elected Members for more consideration by the Remuneration Panel in 23/24.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal: None**

### **Financial : FIN/122/23**

Pending approval from Full Council in January 2023, the proposed changes will result in

	<b>Proposed Allowance (£)</b>	<b>2023/2024 MTFP (£)</b>	<b>2023/2024 (£)</b>
Basic Allowances	231,400	231,600	-200
Special Responsibility Allowances	65,600	65,100	500
CIVIC allowances	2,100	2,300	-200
Mileage Passenger Supplement	17,400	17,400	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>314,400</b>	<b>314,100</b>	<b>100</b>

Budget is proposed to remain the same for mileage as current forecast for 22/23 is £12,000, so the increase in the passenger supplement from 0.021p & 0.031p to 0.05 will have minimal impact.

**Staffing : None**

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None**

**Risk Assessment : None**

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :** If Members resolve to approve the Recommendation of the passenger supplement increase to 0.05p/mile/passenger, this would have a positive effect on the carbon footprint by incentivising Members to take more passengers whenever possible; and reducing mileage claims.

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

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

**Key Decision:**

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

**Yes**

**No**



## 1. Background

- 1.1 West Lindsey District Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), has carried out its annual review of the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances.
- 1.2 To inform the review, the Panel has considered a number of factors. These include the financial and budgeting situation the Council faces, including a pay award increase of £1925 across the board for staff; a comparison of allowance rates payable at comparable Councils; and the role allowances play in attracting prospective Councillors and upholding democratic processes.
- 1.3 The Panel consulted with all Members, providing the opportunity to make comments via email and also offered the opportunity for meeting individually with the Panel remotely via MS Teams. On 18 August 2022, four Members met independently with the Panel to give their views. No written views were received from Members.
- 1.4 The comments received by the Panel from Members have been taken into account when arriving at the final Recommendations within this report.
- 1.5 The Panel would like to record its thanks to those Members and Officers who made themselves available to speak with them.

## 2. Members' Allowances

- 2.1 Taking all factors into account, the Panel have recommended an increase across the board of 3% to Members' basic allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's). **Members should note that they may elect to forego their allowance, if they so wished.**
- 2.2 This increases the Members' basic allowance from £6,242 to £6,429 for the year 2023/2024, and equates to an extra amount of £3.60 per week per Member.
- 2.3 The Panel acknowledged that they recognised that non-decision making meetings involving Members were now held virtually via MS Teams, and that this was a positive step towards reducing both costs and the carbon footprint.

## 3. Mileage and Subsistence Allowances

- 3.1 The Panel noted and commented that mileage allowances were currently in line with the tax efficient rate authorised by the HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). However, in light of the increased cost of fuel in the present economic climate, the Panel recommend increasing the passenger supplement to 0.05p for each passenger (from currently 0.031p for the first passenger and 0.021p for additional passengers). This would be a good fit with the green agenda, reducing the carbon footprint and also cost effective for the authority.
- 3.2 No change to subsistence allowances as set out below. Receipts must be provided for subsistence claimed and attached to the claim form.

- a. Absence of more than four hours but no more than eight hours – only the cost of one meal can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £15.
- b. Absence of more than eight hours but no more than 12 hours – only the cost of two meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £25.
- c. Absence of more than 12 hours but no more than 16 hours – only the cost of three meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £33.
- d. Absence of more than 16 hours but not including an overnight stay – only the cost of four meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £40.
- e. Overnight – No Change - £83
- f. Overnight (London or LGA) – No Change - £208

#### **4. Carer's Allowance**

- 4.1 The Carer's Allowance was currently paid at £10 per hour. The Panel propose to recommend that the Allowance is tied to the National Living Wage (currently £10.42) plus £1. This means that it should always keep pace ahead of the NLW.

#### **5 Bicycle Purchase Scheme**

- 5.1 There is currently no scheme in existence at WLDC for Members to purchase a bicycle for use when travelling around their Wards. This is something Members have expressed an interest in and again would be in-keeping with the Council's carbon reduction targets. As such, Officers will investigate further the potential for a Bicycle Purchase Scheme for Elected Members for more consideration by the Remuneration Panel in 23/24.

#### **6. Financial Impact**

- 6.1 The financial impact depending on whether Members are minded to accept the recommendations for the 3% increase to basic allowance/SRA's/passenger supplement/Carers Allowance, amounts to £100 pressure relative to the 2023/2024 MTFP budget.
- 6.2 The revised schedule of proposed allowances is set out in Appendix One.

#### **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 The Panel recommends:
  - (a) an increase of 3% to the basic allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's) for 2023/2024
  - (b) an increase in the passenger mileage supplement from 0.031p and 0.021p to 0.05p for each passenger
  - (c) tying the Dependent Carer Allowance to the National Living Wage (currently £10.42) plus £1

The Panel further recommends that Officers investigate further the potential for a Bicycle Purchase Scheme for Elected Members for more consideration by the Remuneration Panel in 23/24

## Appendix One: Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA): Recommended Rates

<b>Allowance</b>	<b>Current Rate 2022/2023</b>	<b>Proposed Rate 2023/2024</b>
Basic Allowance	£6,242	£6,429
SRA – Leader of Council	£12,611	£12,989
SRA – Deputy Leader/s (in the event of two or more being nominated, the payment to be shared)	£4,573	£4,710
SRA – Chair of Council	£4,040	£4,161
SRA – Vice-Chair of Council	£1,391	£1,433
Civic allowance for the Chairman of Council	£1,634	£1,683
Civic allowance for the Vice Chairman Of Council	£447	£460
SRA – Committee Chairs (excluding Licensing Cttee and Regulatory Cttee)	£3,152	£3,247
SRA – Regulatory Chair	£1,578	£1,625
SRA – Licensing Chair	£1,578	£1,625
SRA – Committee Vice-Chairs (excluding Licensing Cttee and Regulatory Cttee)	£1,492	£1,537
SRA – Regulatory Vice-Chair	£746	£768
SRA – Licensing Vice-Chair	£746	£768
SRA – Leader of the Opposition (in the event of the Council being a ‘hung’)	£4,573	£4,710

Council, the Leaders of the two largest groups be paid the same special responsibility allowance as for the Leader of the Opposition)

SRA – Deputy Leader of the Opposition	£832	£857
SRA – Minority Group Leaders (per group member, and including the Group Leader)	£102	£105
Independent Members: Governance & Audit and Standards Committees – A payment of £60.00 for the first four hours of attendance at a meeting/event and a second payment for attendance in excess of four hours. The first four hours would commence from the start time of the meeting (To be paid when not chairing a meeting).	£60	No change
<b>Dependent Carer’s Allowance</b>	<b>£10</b>	<b>NLW (£10.42) + £1</b>
Car Allowance (per mile) (the mileage rate to be increased or decreased in accordance with any changes to the tax efficient rate authorised by the HMRC).	0.45p	No change
<b>Passenger supplement – first passenger supplement of 0.031p and additional passenger of 0.021p</b>	<b>£0.031</b> <b>£0.021</b>	<b>£0.05</b> <b>£0.05</b>
Motorcycle allowance per mile	£0.25	No change
Bicycle allowance per mile	£0.21	No change
<b>Subsistence</b>		
Absence of more than four hours but no more than eight hours – only the cost of one meal can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £15		
Absence of more than eight hours but no more than 12 hours – only the cost of two meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £25		
Absence of more than 12 hours but no more than 16 hours- only the cost of three meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £33		

Absence of more than 16 hours but not including an overnight stay – only the cost of four meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £40

Overnight	£83	No change
Overnight (London or LGA)	£208	No change



Full Council

23 January 2023

**Subject: Collection Fund - Council Tax Surplus 2022-23 & Council Tax Base 2023-24.**

Report by:

Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer)

Contact Officer:

Caroline Bird  
Principal Corporate Accountant

Caroline.Bird@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

The report sets out the declaration of the estimated surplus on the Council's Collection Fund relating to Council Tax at the end of March 2023 and how it is shared amongst the constituent precepting bodies.

It also sets out the Council tax base calculation for 2023/24. The tax base is a key component in calculating both the budget requirement and the council tax charge

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 1) That Members accept that the estimated surplus of £289,700 be declared as accruing in the Council's Collection Fund at 31 March 2023 relating to an estimated Council Tax surplus.**
- 2) That the Council uses its element of the Collection Fund surplus/deficit in calculating the level of Council Tax in 2023/24.**
- 3) Approves, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulation 1992, as amended, the amount calculated by the Council as its Council Tax Base for the whole of the District area for 2023/24 shall be 31,696.76 as detailed in this report and appendices.**

**Legal:** It is a requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council calculates the tax base for council tax purposes. This must be done before 15 January prior to the financial year to which the tax base relates. It is also a requirement that the resolution determining the calculation be notified to the County Council between 1 December 2022 and 31 January 2023.

It is a requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that any estimated surplus on the previous year's Collection Fund shall be shared amongst the major precepting bodies.

**Financial : FIN/125/23/CB**

The estimated surplus in Council tax totals £1,923,600 to be shared as follows:-

Lincolnshire County Council £1,369,700

Police and Crime Commissioner, Lincolnshire £264,200

West Lindsey District Council £289,700

West Lindsey District Council will include its surplus share within its budget 2023/24 and take it into account for Council Tax setting. The surplus share of £289,700 represents an increase of £64,200 against the 2022/23 budgeted surplus of £225,500.

**Staffing :** None directly arising as a result of this report

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :** None directly arising as a result of this report

**Data Protection Implications :** None directly arising as a result of this report

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:** None directly arising as a result of this report



**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:** None directly arising as a result of this report

**Health Implications:** None directly arising as a result of this report

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

**Risk Assessment :**

The Council is bound by legislation to undertake the necessary work to determine the Council Tax Base and to distribute the estimated surplus on the Collection Fund. Failure to do so would mean that the Council would be acting illegally and would be subject to the appropriate sanctions

**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. Collection Fund Surplus for 2022/23**

- 1.1 The Council is required to declare an estimate of the surplus or deficit that will occur on the Collection Fund at the end of each year. The Collection Fund records the amount of income collected from Council Tax, together with precept payments to principal authorities. These elements will generate a surplus or a deficit which should be taken into account when determining the Council Tax for the following year.
- 1.2 Any surplus or deficit generated through the Collection fund in relation to Council Tax is shared between the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Lincolnshire and this Council in the same proportion as the amount of their precepts for 2022/23
- 1.3 A surplus or deficit may occur in the Collection Fund if the Council tax base is larger or smaller than originally anticipated or collection rates are higher or lower than expected.

## **2 Estimated Council Tax Surplus for 2022/23**

- 2.1 The amount calculated as available from the Collection Fund arising up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and for distribution during 2023/24 has been calculated as £1,923,600
- 2.2 This amount will be shared amongst the precepting authorities as follows:

	£
Lincolnshire County Council	1,369,700
Police and Crime Commissioner	264,200
West Lindsey District Council	289,700
	-----
	£1,923,600
	-----

- 2.3 This Council must take its share of the surplus, being £289,700, into account when it sets its element of the Council Tax for 2023/24.

## **3 The Council's Tax base for 2023/24**

- 3.1 The tax base is an important factor in determining the level of Council Tax for the next year. It is expressed as the equivalent of the number of dwellings in Band D.
- 3.2 The calculation takes into account the following factors:-
- 3.2.1 The number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band in each Parish on 30 November 2022.
- 3.2.2 The number of discounts available to single and other eligible persons and for vacant dwellings.
- 3.2.3 The number of premises liable at the relevant date.

- 3.2.4 The number of valuation band reductions for dwellings adapted for the disabled.
  - 3.2.5 The number of dwellings exempt from liability.
  - 3.2.6 The total amount estimated to be applied for the Council Tax Support Scheme.
  - 3.2.7 The estimated amount of Council Tax collection in the financial year.
  - 3.2.8 The proportion which dwellings in each band bear to Band D, on a full year basis.
- 3.3 The Council Tax Support scheme was introduced in April 2013 enabling actual information to be used as a basis for the estimation in calculating the impact of the reductions on the tax base. These are detailed within the calculation of the tax base at Appendix 1.
  - 3.4 The number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band has been taken from the valuation list supplied by the Valuation Office on 31 October 2022 and updated by the Council Tax department on 30 November 2022. A summary of the calculation and adjustments taken into account is shown at Appendix 1. The overall tax base for 2023/24 is estimated to be 31,696.76 (31,038.46 2022/23) Band D equivalent properties (increase of 2.1%)
  - 3.5 The number of properties exempt from Council Tax, including Ministry of Defence buildings, has been deducted from the initial tax base. Direct payments in lieu are received from the Ministry of Defence and these are included later in the tax base calculation.
  - 3.6 A loss on collection results in a collection rate from Council Tax of 98.3% (2022/23 98.3%) (The National Average collection rate for 2021-22 was 95.9%, increase from 2020-21 which was 95.7%) which has been taken into account, reflecting current levels of collection.
  - 3.7 The Council levies additional amounts for the precepts of Local Councils, and separate tax bases are required for those areas. These are shown at Appendix 2.

## Appendix 1

### COUNCIL TAX BASE 2023-24

Band	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
Number of dwellings	0.00	16,894.00	8,435.00	7,973.00	6,105.00	3,821.00	1,619.00	536.00	66.00	45,449.00
Exempt properties	0.00	(398.00)	(150.00)	(148.00)	(56.00)	(30.00)	(19.00)	(2.00)	(2.00)	(805.00)
<b>No of Chargeable dwellings</b>	0.00	16,496.00	8,285.00	7,825.00	6,049.00	3,791.00	1,600.00	534.00	64.00	44,644.00
Disablement relief	37.00	(9.00)	37.00	(3.00)	(25.00)	(27.00)	(2.00)	(1.00)	(7.00)	0.00
<b>Adjusted Chargeable dwellings</b>	37.00	16,487.00	8,322.00	7,822.00	6,024.00	3,764.00	1,598.00	533.00	57.00	44,644.00
Discounts on relevant day	(2.00)	(2,052.00)	(751.60)	(571.20)	(323.80)	(162.40)	(59.75)	(27.40)	(6.10)	(3,956.25)
Premiums	0.00	109.00	21.00	18.00	12.00	5.00	1.00	4.00	4.00	174.00
<b>Total Discounts</b>	(2.00)	(1,943.00)	(730.60)	(553.20)	(311.80)	(157.40)	(58.75)	(23.40)	(2.10)	(3,782.25)
<b>Adjusted Total Dwellings</b>	35.00	14,544.00	7,591.40	7,268.80	5,712.20	3,606.60	1,539.25	509.60	54.90	40,861.75
<b>Reduction in tax base due to CTS</b>	11.30	3,502.44	599.11	291.26	111.89	40.89	10.23	4.27	0.00	<b>4,571.39</b>
<b>Equivalent after reduction due to CTS</b>	<b>23.70</b>	<b>11,041.56</b>	<b>6,992.29</b>	<b>6,977.54</b>	<b>5,600.31</b>	<b>3,565.71</b>	<b>1,529.02</b>	<b>505.33</b>	<b>54.90</b>	<b>36,290.36</b>
Ratio to band D	5/9 5.00	6/9 6.00	7/9 7.00	8/9 8.00	9/9 9.00	11/9 11.00	13/9 13.00	15/9 15.00	18/9 18.00	
<b>Total No of Band D equivalents</b>	<b>13.24</b>	<b>7,361.12</b>	<b>5,438.50</b>	<b>6,202.32</b>	<b>5,600.29</b>	<b>4,358.09</b>	<b>2,208.53</b>	<b>842.25</b>	<b>109.80</b>	<b>32,134.14</b>
<b>Band D contributions in lieu (MOD)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>30.73</b>	<b>26.23</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>108.9</b>
	<b>13.24</b>	<b>7,404.12</b>	<b>5,469.2</b>	<b>6,228.55</b>	<b>5,605.82</b>	<b>4,358.09</b>	<b>2,209.97</b>	<b>842.25</b>	<b>111.80</b>	<b>32,243.04</b>
<b>Adjusted for Collection rate 98.3%**</b>	<b>13.01</b>	<b>7,278.98</b>	<b>5,376.78</b>	<b>6,123.11</b>	<b>5,510.60</b>	<b>4,284.00</b>	<b>2,172.42</b>	<b>827.93</b>	<b>109.93</b>	<b>31,696.76</b>

\* The total number of Band D equivalents has been calculated at a parish level.

\*\* Total No Band D Equivalent x Collection Rate + Band D contributions in Lieu.

## Appendix 2 Parish Tax Base

Parish	2023/24 Tax Base
Aisthorpe	39.97
Bardney - Apley - Stainfield	732.91
Bigby	172.38
Bishop Norton	137.46
Blyborough	34.00
Blyton	388.24
Brampton	32.96
Brattleby	51.85
Broadholme	37.42
Brocklesby	35.32
Brookenby	167.60
Broxholme	30.01
Bullington	11.46
Burton	418.06
Buslingthorpe	22.72
Cabourne	27.13
Caenby	27.38
Caistor	1012.54
Cammeringham	50.39
Cherry Willingham	1390.59
Claxby	67.76
Corringham	173.81
Dunholme	806.48
East Ferry	42.19
East Stockwith	70.01
Faldingworth	183.72
Fenton	162.84
Fillingham	91.36
Fiskerton	375.89
Friesthorpe	9.50
Fulnetby	4.51
Gainsborough	4942.53
Glenthams	173.63
Glentworth	122.39
Golto	32.72
Grange de Lings	12.85
Grasby	190.04
Grayingham	60.91
Great Limber	80.85
Greetwell	377.29
Hackthorn - Cold Hanworth	84.92
Hardwick	17.49
Harpswell	23.37
Heapham	41.40
Hemswell	129.95

Parish	2023/24 Tax Base
Hemswell Cliff	179.28
Holton Beckering	46.52
Holton le Moor	64.01
Ingham	353.6
Keelby	691.65
Kettlethorpe	167.43
Kexby	117.51
Kirmond le Mire	15.93
Knaith	129.39
Langworth - Barlings - Newball	244.64
Laughton	151.7
Lea	389.56
Legsby	79.00
Linwood	38.62
Lissington	53.76
Market Rasen	1266.93
Marton - Gate Burton	245.05
Middle Rasen	739.69
Morton	432.02
Nettleham	1611.2
Nettleton	241.37
Newton-On-Trent	138.71
Normanby-By-Spital	142.06
Normanby le Wold	18.78
North Carlton	93.40
North Kelsey	363.71
North Willingham	51.20
Northorpe	50.86
Osgodby	222.73
Owersby	104.58
Owmbly-By-Spital	118.18
Pilham	26.52
Rand	19.14
Reepham	341.56
Riby	44.94
Riseholme	122.90
Rothwell	68.26
Saxby	18.31
Saxilby - Ingleby	1619.20
Scampton	375.20
Scothern	389.57
Scotter	1170.89
Scotton	220.48
Searby cum Owmbly	80.73
Sixhills	15.47

<b>Parish</b>	<b>2023/24 Tax Base</b>
Snarford	13.71
Snelland	30.36
Snitterby	88.77
Somerby	26.48
South Carlton	37.65
South Kelsey	217.87
Spridlington	93.88
Springthorpe	60.15
Stainton le Vale	32.47
Stow	135.66
Sturton-By-Stow	526.08
Sudbrooke	755.36
Swallow	92.16
Swinhope	55.61
Tealby	277.57
Thonock	9.79
Thoresway	41.96
Thorganby	12.10
Thorpe le Fallows	6.05
Toft Newton	130.90
Torksey	283.91
Upton	168.89
Waddingham	211.62
Walesby	107.31
Walkerith	26.46
Welton	1607.49
West Firsby	11.89
West Rasen	32.01
Wickenby	83.05
Wildsworth	29.48
Willingham	201.66
Willoughton	113.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,696.76</b>



Full Council

Monday 23 January 2023

**Subject: Recommendation from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee - Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme 2023/24**

Report by:

Director of Change Management, ICT & Regulatory Services

Contact Officer:

Alison McCulloch  
Revenues Manager

[alison.mcculloch@west-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:alison.mcculloch@west-lindsey.gov.uk)

Purpose / Summary:

To adopt a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 as recommended by Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**That Council ACCEPTS the recommendation from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and adopts Option 1 of the report for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for West Lindsey District Council for 2023/24.**

**To summarise Option 1 provides:**

**To apply any new legislative requirements and the uprating of the non-dependent charges, applicable amounts, and household allowances and deductions, used in the calculation of the reduction in accordance with the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) annual 'Upratings'.**

## IMPLICATIONS

### Legal:

The Council has to determine a local scheme for council tax reduction by 31 January 2023

### Financial: FIN/109/23/CPR/SSc

The cost of the Local Council Tax Support scheme (LCTS) is shared between Lincolnshire County Council (75%), West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) (12.5%) and Lincolnshire Police (12.5%).

Year	Total	WLDC 12.5%	LCC 75%	PCC 12.5%
2022/23	£6,531,706	£816,463	£4,898,780	£816,463
2023/24 Option 1	£6,159,130	£769,891	£4,619,348	£769,891
2023/24 Option 2	£6,053,074	£756,634	£4,539,806	£756,634

- If Option 1 is approved, no additional costs are forecast for the LCTS scheme for 2023/24. This doesn't include any adjustments such as new legislation affecting the default/pension age scheme or uprated non-dependent deductions, applicable amounts and allowances as per the Department for Works and Pensions annual 'Up-ratings'.
- To comply with the Council budget guiding principles, the scheme should fit within the level of available government grant. Due to the way that the funding is now provided to the Council, it is no longer possible to identify the funding which directly relates to this area. It is therefore desirable that the financial impact is cost neutral or can demonstrate financial savings.

The scheme that is chosen by the Council will need to be monitored to ensure the level of council tax collection remains comparable with previous years.

When this figure was calculated it did not include an estimated % increase in the council tax due it was just based on the actual estimated spend for 2022/23 with the DWP increase and did not account for the annual council tax increase.

### Staffing:

The changes are minimal and therefore should not impact on staff.

### Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

Please see appendix A – Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 Equality Impact Assessment.



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**Data Protection Implications:**

None arising from this report.

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:**

None arising from this report.

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:**

None arising from this report.

**Health Implications:**

None arising from this report.

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

Local Government Finance Act 2012 -

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/17/contents/enacted>

Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/25/enacted>

**Risk Assessment:**

- a. If Council Tax Support caseloads rise or fall then WLDC and the other major precepting authorities will have to absorb those expenditure variations through the Collection Fund. It is therefore vital that the financial implications of the scheme decisions made are realistic in terms of bridging the funding gap.
- b. If there is a downturn in the local economy or where there have been major redundancies if a major company ceases trading, Council Tax Support caseloads could rise significantly.
- c. Each Council must approve their local Council Tax Support scheme by 31<sup>st</sup> January otherwise a default scheme, similar to the current Council Tax Support default scheme applied to customers of pension age, will have to be implemented. Applying a similar scheme to all working age customers would increase the annual expenditure on Council Tax Support.
- d. The amount of council tax support awarded last year was just over £6.6 million however; at the 24 October 2022 this had decreased slightly to £6.5 million.

**Call in and Urgency: CALL IN DOES NOT APPLY TO FULL COUNCIL REPORTS**

**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  N/A

No  N/A

**Key Decision:**

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

Yes  X

No

## **Executive Summary**

Council Tax Benefit was a national scheme providing means-tested financial help for low-income households to pay their Council Tax liability. This was abolished on 31 March 2013 by the Local Government Finance Act 2012 which placed a legal requirement on every billing authority to adopt a Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme.

Since the inception of the LCTS scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 relatively minor changes have been made which has enabled claimants to receive a similar level of support each year and enabled the council to maintain an annual council tax collection rate of around 98%.

In 2020 and 2021, following the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government awarded a grant to all local authorities for a payment to be paid to all working aged council tax support claimants. This was paid direct to council tax accounts. It also permitted the use of any surplus to support economically vulnerable people and households.

Following the allocation of these awards, it was also possible to introduce discretionary hardship funds for all council taxpayers to apply for if they continued to experience financial difficulties caused by the pandemic. These funds are now exhausted but supported 374 families.

A further discretionary hardship fund was agreed by Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for 2022/23 in the sum of £31,717.85 which was the result of a refund of overpaid Magistrates court fees. To date 27 families have been assisted from this fund.

A significant change to the LCTS scheme for 2023/24 is likely to have a negative impact on the collection rate and reduce the yield over the year.

Full Council must approve and adopt the finalised LCTS scheme by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at the very latest.

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Local Government Finance Act 2012 replaced Council Tax Benefit with a Council Tax support scheme. Unlike Council Tax Benefit (CTB) which is set by Central Government, the new Council Tax support scheme must be defined by individual Local Authorities (albeit with much central prescription).
- 1.2 Pensioners are protected by legislation which means 'local schemes must give the same pre-2013 level of assistance to pensioners. West Lindsey District Council also made the decision in 2013/14 to protect those in receipt of a War Pension and those claimants receiving a Disability Benefit.

## **2 Current Situation**

We currently have 6,081 council tax support claimants and of these 2,455 are pensioners and 3,626 are working age claimants. This equates to 60% of our total caseload who would be impacted by any changes to the scheme.

Our council tax collection rate for 2021/22 was 98% which was in the top quartile performance being 66<sup>th</sup> position out of 308 local authority reported outturns. The national average was only 95.8% so this is considerably higher. Some of this success can be attributed to the Government's hardship award and to the council tax discretionary hardship relief scheme which has enabled our most financially vulnerable residents to receive some financial support from the Council.

The Council recognise that many of our residents are feeling the effects of the increased cost of energy, petrol, and food prices. We are working with our partners across the public and voluntary sectors to support our residents, and particularly those who are vulnerable and hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis. The current West Lindsey scheme is one of the most generous in Lincolnshire and if we were to look at changing the scheme we may be impacting on those most affected by the cost of living increases and adding to their financial burden.

## **3. Consultation**

- 3.1 Consultation was undertaken between 26<sup>th</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Invites to the consultation were sent electronically to the Citizen Panel members who received electronic surveys, a total of 1,002 members. This was also published on the West Lindsey District Council website and advertised through Facebook. In total, there were 50 responses received.

### 3.2 The questions and responses asked are detailed below:

1. Do you agree that the only change that should be made to the scheme is the up-rating of all allowances and premiums in line with Department for Work and Pensions allowances?

Yes	46	(92%)
No	1	(2%)
Don't know	3	(6%)

2. Are you currently in receipt of Council Tax Support?

Yes	7	(14%)
No	43	(86%)
Don't know	0	(0%)

### 3.3 The results

These results show that the majority of respondents were not in receipt of council tax support but would agree to increasing the uprating of all allowances and premiums in line with Department for Work and Pensions allowances.

## 4. Consultation with major preceptors

Before a Council can determine to revise or replace its LCTS scheme it must consult with any major precepting authority which have the powers to issue a precept to it.

Consultation has taken place with both the Lincolnshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire and both have submitted responses agreeing to make no change to the scheme for 2023/24 but both would agree to increasing the uprating of all allowances and premiums in line with Department for Work and Pensions allowances (option 1 of this report).

## 5. Costings

The current estimates for the 2022/23 scheme are £6,531,707 being split as below:

Total	LCC – 75%	PCC – 12.5%	WLDC – 12.5%
£6,531,707	£4,898,780	£816,463	£816,463

## 6. Options

Two options have been considered for the 2023/24 scheme being to maintain or slightly reduce the level of financial support as detailed below:

### 6.1 Option 1

To apply any new legislative requirements and the uprating of the non-dependent charges, applicable amounts, and household allowances and deductions, used in the calculation of the reduction in accordance with the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) annual 'Up-ratings'.

To apply any additional changes to government welfare benefit regulations during the year which are intended to increase the income of benefit recipients to avoid unintended consequences to customers.

#### Costs/Savings

Initial estimates for 2023/24 show that there would be no direct saving to the council under this option as it would just maintain the current scheme. Any reductions in the cost of the scheme would be due to a reduction in council tax support claimants.

Based on a 3% increase in up-ratings this equates to an approximately cost of:

<b>Total</b>	<b>LCC – 75%</b>	<b>PCC – 12.5%</b>	<b>WLDC – 12.5%</b>
£6,159,130	£4,619,348	£769,891	£769,891

<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
The financial modelling shows that West Lindsey District Council can still bridge the funding by continuing with the current scheme for a further year.	
The existing scheme works well and offers a high level of support for low income families who may otherwise find themselves in debt.	
There has been a slight decrease this year in the number of households claiming LCTS which suggests that the situation is improving gradually as more claimants return to work or are	

receiving private pensions that reduces their CTR entitlement. .	
Collection rates are being maintained under the current scheme.	
This option ensures the LCTS rules stay consistent with the DWP rules which avoids confusion for claimants.	
Retaining existing policy principles of keeping LCTS in line with other key welfare benefits promotes equality.	

## 6.2 Option 2

To make no changes to the current scheme for 2023/24 ie: do not apply the up-rate household allowances and deductions

### Costs/Savings

Initial estimates for 2023/24 show that there would be a slight saving to the council under this option however, it would effectively create a reduction in income for those affected.

If we do not apply the applicable amount up-ratings to working age claimants their Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) income will exceed their applicable amount and they will be entitled to less council tax support. This in turns means their council tax bills will increase which will require more council tax to be collected.

Based on no increase in up-ratings this equates to an approximately cost of:

Total	LCC – 75%	PCC – 12.5%	WLDC – 12.5%
£6,053,074	£4,539,806	£756,634	£756,634

Advantages	Disadvantages
Slight reduction in costs to the council	The Council would have three sets of rules to apply for families applying for financial help. This will cause confusion for the claimants, will lead to increased modification to IT, additional training for the Benefits Team

	and an additional set of regulations to be prepared and implemented.
	Loss of reputation to the council in that it would show a lack of support to those in most financial hardship.

## 7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Members consider the two options and agree to Option 1 being to adopt the scheme for 2023/24 based on the 2022/23 scheme adjusted for the uprating of incomes and allowances for 2023-24.

## 8. Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25

It is recognised that whatever decision is reached this would only be a scheme for 2023/24. A review of the scheme is undertaken annually when more knowledge of the impact of that year's scheme and collection rates are available. Monitoring will also take place to analyse the impact and any unintended consequences it has had on council taxpayers and benefit recipients.



**Appendix A – Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<p><b>Name, brief description and objectives of policy, procedure, function?</b></p>	<p>For Council to agree the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for West Lindsey DC for 2023/24.</p> <p>To ensure that all council tax payers are treated fairly under the local scheme.</p> <p>To ensure that council tax support is payable to the most vulnerable residents of the district.</p>
<p><b>Have you consulted on the policy, procedure, function and if so, what were the outcomes?</b></p>	<p>Consultation has taken place with Lincolnshire County Council and the Crime and Police Commissioner for Lincolnshire who have both agreed to the recommendation.</p> <p>Consultation has taken place digitally with the residents of West Lindsey and the majority of people who completed the consultation agreed with the process of applying the 2023-24 upratings of income and allowances.</p>
<p><b>What barriers may these individuals or groups face, and how can you promote equality (where possible)</b></p>	
<p><b>Gender</b></p>	<p>There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.</p>
<p><b>Age</b></p>	<p>Working age claimants of Council Tax Support may receive a reduced level of assistance as compared with the former Council Tax Benefit Scheme. This scheme aims to redistribute support and be more generous to those applicants on the lowest incomes.</p> <p>The government has stated that council tax support for older people will not be reduced as a result of the introduction of the council tax reduction scheme reform. This is because the government wants to ensure that low income pensioners, who would struggle to pay council tax without additional support, and whom the government does not expect to work to increase their income, will continue to receive support for their council tax.</p> <p>Pensioner protection will be achieved by keeping in place national rules which broadly replicate the former council tax benefit scheme.</p>

<b>Disability</b>	There is no evidence that this scheme would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic except in the case of War Pension and those claimants receiving a Disability Benefit who are protected by the Government.
<b>Race</b>	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
<b>Pregnancy, maternity or paternity</b>	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
<b>Rural Isolation</b>	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
<b>Socio-economic factors</b>	There is no evidence that this scheme would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic. However, any person unable to complete the application form will be offered assistance from the Benefits Teams in completing the application form and also be signposted to outside agencies such as Citizens Advice and Money Advice Service
<b>Other (eg: those with dependants/caring responsibilities, asylum seeker and refugee communities, children in the care system etc)</b>	There is no evidence that this scheme would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic. However, any person unable to complete the local council tax support application form will be offered assistance from the Benefits Team in completing the form and also be signposted to outside agencies such as Citizens Advice and Money Advice Service
<b>Is there any evidence or research that demonstrates why some individuals or groups are, or are not, affected?</b>	There is no evidence or research available. This policy is based on nationally applicable legislation and it covers all applicants who must all meet a set of standards and criteria intended to ensure that evidence of hardship justifies a reduction in council tax liability.

<p><b>If there is a potential adverse impact, please state why and whether this is justifiable.</b></p>	<p>There is no potential adverse impact from this policy.</p>
<p><b>Outcome of EIA</b></p>	<p> <b>No major change needed</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      <b>Adverse impact but continue</b> <input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Adjust the policy /proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>      <b>Stop and remove the policy/proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/> </p>
<p><b>How will you monitor your policy, procedure, function to ensure there is no adverse effect on the protected characteristics (eg: gender, age, etc) in the future?</b></p>	<p>Due to the nature of the reductions in the level of support, all working age claimants have the potential to have reductions in their support, however, they can be considered for further assistance under the exceptional hardship policy.</p>

# Agenda Item 9d



**Full Council**

**Monday 23 January 2023**

**Subject: Recommendation from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee - Mid-Year Treasury Management Report 2022-23**

Report by:

Director of Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Peter Davy  
Financial Services Manager

[peter.davy@west-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:peter.davy@west-lindsey.gov.uk)

Purpose / Summary:

This report provides the Mid-Year update for Treasury Management Indicators in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**That Council ACCEPTS the recommendation from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and, in noting the report and treasury activity, APPROVES the changes to the prudential indicators – Section 4.3**

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal:**

This report complies with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2003

**Financial : FIN/104/23/PD**

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report

**Staffing :** None arising as a result of this report

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

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

None arising as a result of this report

**Data Protection Implications :** None arising as a result of this report

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:** This is a monitoring report only

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:** This is a monitoring report only

**Health Implications:** This is a monitoring report only

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

CIPFA Code of Treasury Management Practice 2017

CIPFA The Prudential Code

Local Government Act 2003

Located in the Finance Department

**Risk Assessment :**

The Mid Year Treasury Management Report reviews our assessment of Treasury Risks

**Call in and Urgency:**

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

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

**Yes**

**No**

**Key Decision:**

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

**Yes**

**No**

## **Executive Summary**

### **1. Executive Summary**

This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and covers the following:

- An economic update for the first part of the 2022/23 financial year;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2022/23;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2022/23;
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2022/23.

- 1.1 The Bank of England Base rate has increased during 2022/23, with further rises expected. The current rate is 2.25%.
- 1.2 There have been no changes to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy.
- 1.3 The forecast out-turn for Capital Expenditure is £10.493m against the approved budget of £16.772m. The budget will be revised to £10.5m at Corporate Policy and Resources committee with a request of £6.815m to be re-phased over future financial years. The remaining £0.543m is the net increase in budgets where funding has been identified.
- 1.4 The Council is projected to have circa £12m invested at the year end and have generated £0.384m in investment Interest. The return on investments is increasing with the increase in interest rates compared to when rates were historically low on which the original budget was predicated.
- 1.5 It is anticipated that total external borrowing may need to increase in the short term to cover cashflow fluctuations, this currently stands at £21.5m.

## **2. Background**

### **2.1 Capital Strategy**

In December 2017, CIPFA issued revised Prudential and Treasury Management Codes. These require all local authorities to prepare a Capital Strategy which is to provide the following:

- a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services;
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed;
- the implications for future financial sustainability.

## **2.2 Treasury Management**

The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment returns.

The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

Accordingly, treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

## **2.3 Key Changes to the Treasury and Capital Strategies**

There are no changes to report to this committee

## **3. Economics and Interest Rates**

### **3.1 Monetary Policy Committee meetings 04.8.22 and 22.09.22**

The committee raised interest rates to 1.75% in August and then to 2.25% in September with further rises expected. The Councils Treasury advisors have summarised the outcomes of these meetings as follows: -

- In August, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased Bank Rate to 1.75%, and on 22nd September moved rates up a further 50 basis points to 2.25%. The increase reflected a split vote – five members voting for a 50 basis points increase, three for 75 basis points and one for 25 basis points. The MPC continues to work to get inflation back on track over a three-year horizon.
- Moreover, the UK now has a new Prime Minister, a new Chancellor and new economic policies that seek to grow the UK economy faster than at any time since the 1980s. The central parts to the government's new policies are tax cuts and regulatory simplification. It is too early to say whether such policies will boost growth in the ways intended, but what is clear at this juncture is that the lack of scrutiny of the various projections, ideally by the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR), and an emphasis upon borrowing to fund the significant cost of the proposals has caused market instability.



- Subsequently, the Government has announced that the OBR will scrutinise their spending plans on 23rd November, after the MPC next meets on 3rd November. Naturally, the Bank Rate forecast set out below will be dependent on a more joined-up set of communications from the Bank of England and the government than that which we have seen or heard so far. In addition, the fiscal governance aspects referred to in the OBR’s upcoming review in November will need to be suitable to persuade the markets that sound fiscal policy is in place.
- Of course, what happens outside of the UK is also critical to movement in gilt yields. The US FOMC has led with increases of 300 basis points in the year to date and is expected to increase rates further before the end of the year. Similarly, the ECB has also started to tighten monetary policy, albeit from an ultra-low starting point, as have all the major central banks apart from Japan. Arguably, though, it is US monetary policies that are having the greatest impact on global bond markets.
- What happens in Ukraine will also impact the global economy, but particularly in Europe. The search for alternative providers of energy, other than Russia, will take both time and effort. The weather will also play a large part in how high energy prices stay and for how long.

### 3.2 Interest Rate Forecasts

The Council’s treasury advisor, Link Group, have provided the following forecasts on 27th September 2022. The latest forecast sets out a view that both short and long-dated interest rates will be elevated for some little while, as the Bank of England seeks to reduce inflation in the economy, whilst the government is providing a package of fiscal loosening to try and protect households and businesses from the impact of ultra-high wholesale gas and electricity prices. The increase in PWLB rates reflects a broad sell-off in sovereign bonds internationally but more so the confidence investors have with the position of the UK public finances after September’s “fiscal event”. To that end, the MPC has increased short-term interest rates with a view to trying to slow the economy sufficiently to keep the secondary effects of inflation – as measured by wage rises – under control.

The current and previous PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012.

Link Group Interest Rate View	27.09.22											
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25
<b>BANK RATE</b>	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.50
3 month ave earnings	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	2.80	2.80	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.70	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.60	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60
12 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.00	4.70	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70
5 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20
10 yr PWLB	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.30	4.10	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20
25 yr PWLB	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.50	4.30	4.10	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.40
50 yr PWLB	4.80	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.20	3.10

Additional notes by Link on this forecast table: -

- LIBOR and LIBID rates ceased at the end of 2021. In a continuation of the previous forecasts, our money market yield forecasts are based on expected average earnings by local authorities for 3 to 12 months.
- The forecasts for average earnings are averages i.e., rates offered by individual banks may differ significantly from these averages, reflecting their different needs for borrowing short-term cash at any one point in time.

### **3.3 Forecasts for Bank Rate (Provided by Link Asset Services)**

- The central forecast for interest rates was previously updated on 9th August and reflected a view that the MPC would be keen to further demonstrate its anti-inflation credentials by delivering a succession of rate increases. This has happened but the “fiscal event” has complicated the picture for the MPC, who will now need to further address inflationary pressures stemming from the government’s policies.
- Further down the road, it is anticipated the Bank of England will be keen to loosen monetary policy when the worst of the inflationary pressures are behind us – but that timing will be one of fine judgment: cut too soon, and inflationary pressures may well build up further; cut too late and any downturn or recession may be prolonged.
- The CPI measure of inflation will peak at close to 10.4% in November 2022. Despite the cost-of-living squeeze that is still taking shape, the Bank will want to see evidence that wages are not spiralling upwards in what is evidently a very tight labour market.
- Regarding the “provisional” plan to sell £10bn of gilts back into the market each quarter, this is still timetabled to take place but not until October at earliest.
- In the upcoming months, forecasts will be guided not only by economic data releases and clarifications from the MPC over its monetary policies and the government over its fiscal policies, but the on-going conflict between Russia and Ukraine. (More recently, the heightened tensions between China/Taiwan/US also have the potential to have a wider and negative economic impact.)
- On the positive side, consumers are still estimated to be sitting on over £160bn of excess savings left over from the pandemic so that will cushion some of the impact of the above challenges. However, most of those are held by more affluent households whereas lower income families already spend nearly all their income on essentials such as food, energy and rent/mortgage payments.

### **3.4 PWLB Rates**

- The yield curve has shifted upwards since the August update and PWLB 5 to 50 years Certainty Rates are, generally, in the range of 4.25% to 5.75%. The yield curve is currently inverted.

- The view is the markets have built in, already, nearly all the effects on gilt yields of the likely increases in Bank Rate and the poor inflation outlook but markets are volatile and further changes of gilt yields across the whole spectrum of the curve is possible.

### **3.5 The balance of risks to the UK economy: -**

- The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is to the downside.

#### **Downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates include: -**

- Labour and supply shortages prove more enduring and disruptive and depress economic activity (accepting that in the near-term this is also an upside risk to inflation and, thus, rising gilt yields).
- The Bank of England acts too quickly, or too far, over the next two years to raise Bank Rate and causes UK economic growth, and increases in inflation, to be weaker than we currently anticipate.
- UK / EU trade arrangements – if there was a major impact on trade flows and financial services due to complications or lack of co-operation in sorting out significant remaining issues.
- Geopolitical risks, for example in Ukraine/Russia, China/Taiwan/US, Iran, North Korea and Middle Eastern countries, which could lead to increasing safe-haven flows.

#### **Upside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates: -**

- The Bank of England is too slow in its pace and strength of increases in Bank Rate and, therefore, allows inflationary pressures to build up too strongly and for a longer period within the UK economy, which then necessitates an even more rapid series of increases in Bank Rate faster than we currently expect.
- The Government acts too quickly to cut taxes and/or increases expenditure in the light of the cost-of-living squeeze.
- The pound weakens because of the UK's growing borrowing requirement resulting in investors pricing in a risk premium for holding UK sovereign debt.
- Longer term US treasury yields continue to rise strongly and pull gilt yields up even higher than currently forecast.

### **3.6 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy update**

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2022/23, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 7 March 2022.

The underlying TMSS approved previously requires revision in the light of economic and operational movements during the year. The proposed changes and supporting detail for the changes are set out below:

<b>Prudential Indicator 2022/23</b>	<b>Original £'000</b>	<b>Revised Prudential Indicator £'000</b>
Authorised Limit	43,000	43,000
Operational Boundary	38,241	39,068
External Debt	26,500	26,500
Investments	(13,000)	(12,000)
<b>Net Borrowing</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>14,500</b>
Capital Financing Requirement	38,241	39,068

#### **4 The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)**

This part of the report is structured to update:

- The Council's capital expenditure plans;
- How these plans are being financed;
- The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow;
- Compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

##### **4.2 Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure**

This Table shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the capital programme was agreed at the budget. It draws together the main strategy elements of the capital expenditure plans, highlighting the original supported and unsupported elements of the capital programme, and the expected financing arrangements of this capital expenditure. The borrowing element of the table increases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by way of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), although this will be reduced in part by revenue charges for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision). This direct borrowing may also be supplemented by maturing debt and other treasury requirements.

<b>Capital Expenditure by Cluster £'000</b>	<b>2022/23 Original Estimate £'000</b>	<b>2022/23 Revised Estimate £'000</b>
Our People	1,911	3,863
Our Places	10,424	6,237
Our Council	637	400
<b>Total capital expenditure</b>	<b>12,972</b>	<b>10,500</b>
Financed by:		
Capital receipts	527	1,130
Capital grants	7,830	4,802
Earmarked Reserves	3,236	3,006
S106	1,236	1,462
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>12,829</b>	<b>10,400</b>
<b>Borrowing need</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **4.3 Changes to the Prudential Indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)**

The table below shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period, which is termed the Operational Boundary.

During the half year ended 30 September 2022, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. The Director of Corporate Services (S151) reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with prudential indicators.

	<b>2022/23 Original Estimate £'000</b>	<b>2022/23 Revised Estimate £'000</b>
<b>Prudential Indicators</b>		
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	12,972	10,500
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	<b>38,241</b>	<b>39,068</b>
Of Which Commercial Property	20,211	20,211
<b>Annual Change in CFR</b>	<b>(1,184)</b>	<b>(1,227)</b>
<b>In year Borrowing Requirement</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>26,500</b>
<b>Under/(Over) Borrowing</b>	<b>11,741</b>	<b>12,568</b>
<b>Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream</b>	<b>10.34%</b>	<b>11.73%</b>
<b>Incremental impact of capital investment decisions</b>		
<b>Increase/ Reduction(-) in Council Tax (band change per annum)</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£3.17</b>

Please note the above prudential indicators assume a revenue provision will be made for the repayment of debts in 2022/23 of £0.898m.

#### **4.4 Limits to Borrowing Activity**

The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose. Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2022/23 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need which will be adhered to if this proves prudent.

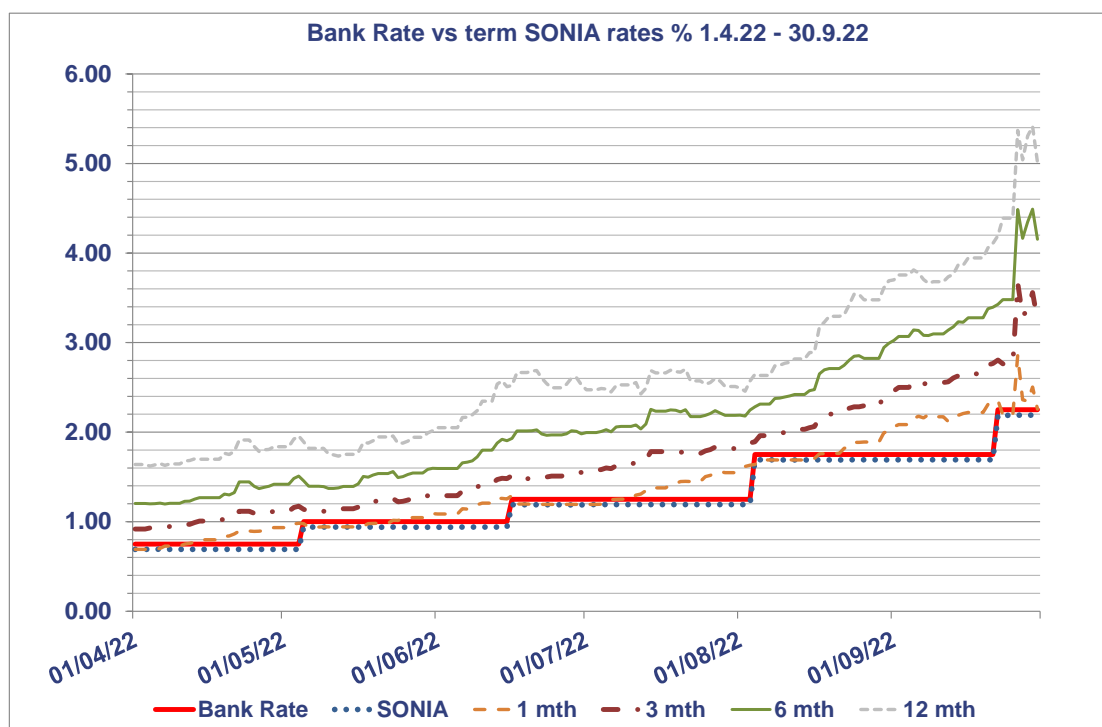
A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

## 5. Investment Portfolio 2022/23

In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs.

As shown by the interest rate forecasts in section 3.2, rates are starting to return to levels not seen since before the financial crash of 2008 and the austerity measures which followed. This means investment returns are on an upward trajectory and indeed this is shown in the quarter two forecasting which shows increased investment income in 2022/23. If rates continue to move as anticipated the Council's MTFS for 2023/24 onwards will benefit.

The Council held £20.666m of investments as at 30 September 2022 (£20.032m at 31 March 2022). The annualised investment rate for the first six months of the year is 1.694% against the Sterling Overnight Indexed Average (SONIA) average rate of 1.22%. The weighted average interest rate is 1.689%. The yield reflects the £3m investment in the Local Authority Property Fund. SONIA measures the rate paid by banks on overnight funds and replaces the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) which is being phased out.



The Council's budgeted investment return for 2022/23 is £0.149m, and performance for the year is forecast to be £0.235m above budget at £0.384m, this is mainly due to increasing interest rates.

The Director of Corporate Services (S151) confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the first six months of 2022/23.

## 5.1 Investment Counterparty criteria

The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function.

Treasury Officers continue to mitigate investment risk in accordance with Treasury Management Practices.

## 6. Borrowing

The Council's capital financing requirement (CFR) for 2022/23 was originally £38.241m which has now changed to £39.068m after the Council closed its accounts for 2021/22. The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions.

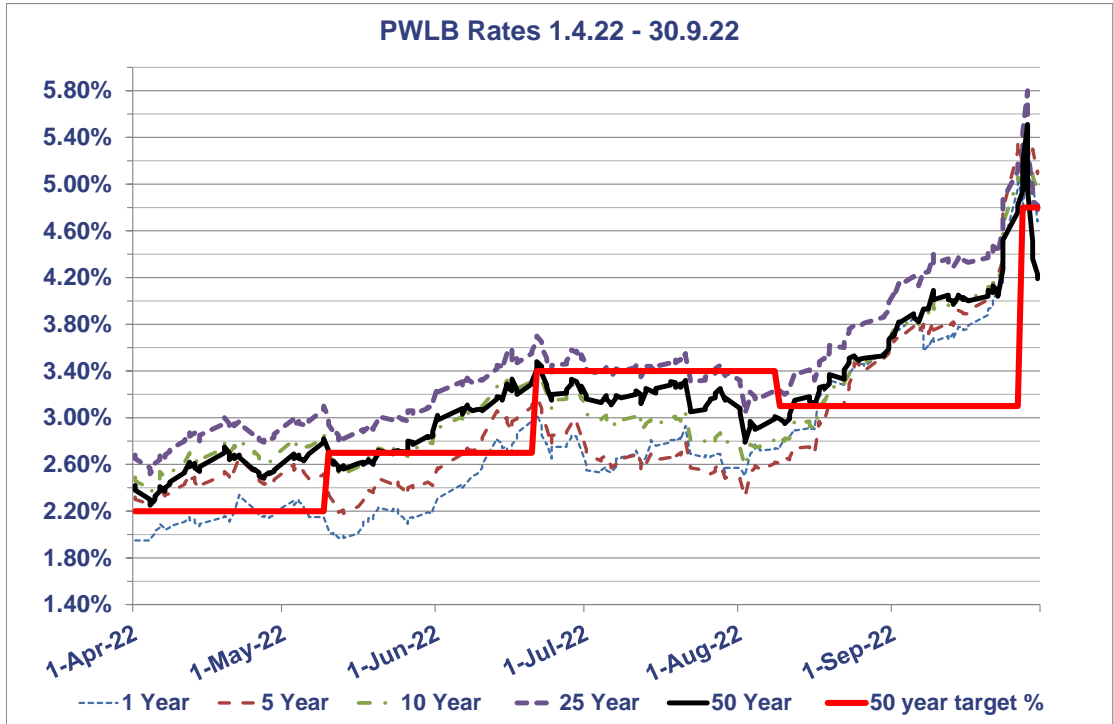
Due to the overall financial position and the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes (the capital financing requirement - CFR), no new external borrowing was undertaken in the first six months of the financial year. External borrowing remains at £21.5m. This is a prudent and cost effective approach in the current economic climate but will require ongoing monitoring in the event that upside risk to gilt yields prevails.

**INTERNAL BORROWING:** The Council forecasts that by the end of the financial year it will have cumulatively £12.568m of internal borrowing

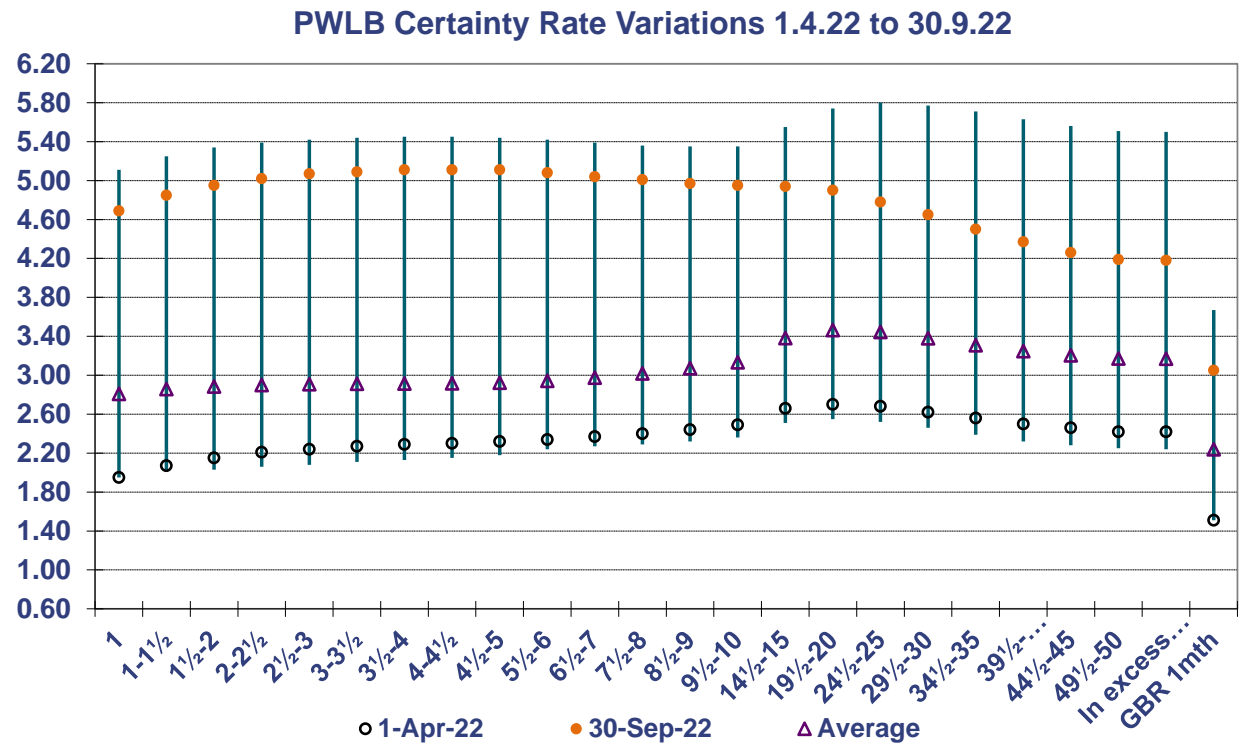
It is anticipated that further short term external borrowing may be undertaken early next year to smooth peaks and troughs in cashflow.

The graph and table below show the movement in PWLB certainty rates for the first six months of the year:





	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
<b>Low</b>	1.95%	2.18%	2.36%	2.52%	2.25%
<b>Date</b>	01/04/2022	13/05/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022
<b>High</b>	5.11%	5.44%	5.35%	5.80%	5.51%
<b>Date</b>	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022
<b>Average</b>	2.81%	2.92%	3.13%	3.44%	3.17%
<b>Spread</b>	3.16%	3.26%	2.99%	3.28%	3.26%



## Appendix A: Economics update (Supplied by Link Asset Services)

- The second quarter of 2022/23 saw:
  - GDP in Q1 2022/23 revised upwards to 0.2% q/q from -0.1%, which means the UK economy has avoided recession for the time being;
  - Signs of economic activity losing momentum as production fell due to rising energy prices;
  - CPI inflation ease to 9.9% y/y in August but domestic price pressures showing little sign of abating in the near-term;
  - The unemployment rate fell to a 48-year low of 3.6% due to a large shortfall in labour supply;
  - Bank Rate rise by 100bps over the quarter, taking Bank Rate to 2.25% with further rises to come;
  - Gilt yields surge and sterling fall following the “fiscal event” of the new Prime Minister and Chancellor on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
- The UK economy grew by 0.2% in July following an upward revision to Q1’s GDP data (+0.2% q/q), though revisions to historic data left it below pre-pandemic levels.
- There are signs of higher energy prices creating more persistent downward effects in economic activity. Both industrial production (-0.3% m/m) and construction output (-0.8% m/m) fell in July 2022 for a second month in a row. Although some of this was probably due to the heat wave at the time, manufacturing output fell in some of the most energy intensive sectors (e.g., chemicals), pointing to signs of higher energy prices weighing on production. With the effect on real activity from high inflation having grown in recent months, GDP is at risk of contracting through the autumn and winter months.
- The fall in the composite PMI from 49.6 in August to a 20-month low of 48.4 in September points to a fall in GDP of around 0.2% q/q in Q3 and consumer confidence is at a record low. Retail sales volumes fell by 1.6% m/m in August, which was the ninth fall in 10 months. That left sales volumes in August just 0.5% above their pre-Covid level and 3.3% below their level at the start of the year. There are also signs that households are spending their excess savings in response to high prices. Indeed, cash in households’ bank accounts rose by £3.2bn in August, which was below the £3.9bn rise in July and much smaller than the 2019 average monthly rise of £4.6bn.
- The labour market remained exceptionally tight. Data for July and August provided further evidence that the weaker economy is leading to a cooling in labour demand. Labour Force Survey (LFS) employment rose by 40,000 in the three months to July (the smallest rise since February). But a renewed rise in inactivity of 154,000 over the same period meant that the unemployment rate fell from 3.8% in June to a new 48-year low of 3.6%. The single-month data showed that inactivity rose by 354,000 in July itself and there are now 904,000 more inactive people aged 16+ compared to before the pandemic in February 2020. The number of vacancies has started to level off from recent record highs but there have been few signs of a slowing in the upward momentum on wage growth. Indeed, in July, the 3my/y rate of average earnings growth rose from 5.2% in June to 5.5%.

- CPI inflation eased from 10.1% in July to 9.9% in August, though inflation has not peaked yet. The easing in August was mainly due to a decline in fuel prices reducing fuel inflation from 43.7% to 32.1%. And with the oil price now just below \$90pb, we would expect to see fuel prices fall further in the coming months.
- However, utility price inflation is expected to add 0.7ppts to CPI inflation in October when the Ofgem unit price cap increases, typically, to £2,500 per household (prior to any benefit payments). But, as the government has frozen utility prices at that level for two years, energy price inflation will fall sharply after October and have a big downward influence on CPI inflation.
- Nonetheless, the rise in services CPI inflation from 5.7% y/y in July to a 30-year high of 5.9% y/y in August suggests that domestic price pressures are showing little sign of abating. A lot of that is being driven by the tight labour market and strong wage growth. CPI inflation is expected to peak close to 10.4% in November and, with the supply of workers set to remain unusually low, the tight labour market will keep underlying inflationary pressures strong until early next year.
- The new Prime Minister and Chancellor have appeared to make a step change in government policy. The government's huge fiscal loosening from its significant tax cuts will add to these domestic inflationary pressures and will leave a legacy of higher interest rates and public debt. Whilst the government's utility price freeze, which could cost up to £150bn (5.7% of GDP) over 2 years, will reduce peak inflation from 14.5% in January next year to 10.4% in November this year, the long list of tax measures announced at the "fiscal event" adds up to a loosening in fiscal policy relative to the previous government's plans of £44.8bn (1.8% of GDP) by 2026/27. These included the reversal of April's national insurance tax on 6<sup>th</sup> November, the cut in the basic rate of income tax from 20p to 19p in April 2023, the cancellation of next April's corporation tax rise, the cut to stamp duty and the removal of the 45p tax rate, although the 45p tax rate cut announcement has already been reversed.
- Fears that the government has changed direction at pace on the back of these announcements has meant that the pound has weakened, adding further upward pressure to interest rates. Whilst the pound fell to a record low of \$1.035 on the Monday following the government's "fiscal event", it has since recovered to around \$1.12. That is due to hopes that the Bank of England will deliver a very big rise in interest rates at the policy meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and the government will lay out a credible medium-term plan in the fiscal statement on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Nevertheless, with concerns over a global recession growing, there are downside risks to the pound.
- Since the fiscal event, we now expect the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to increase interest rates further and faster, from 2.25% currently to a peak of 5.00% in February 2023 (up from our previous forecast peak of 2.75%). The combination of the government's fiscal loosening, the tight labour market and inflation expectations means we expect the MPC to raise interest rates by 100bps at the policy meetings in November (to 3.25%) and 75 basis points in December (to 4%) followed by further 50 basis point hikes in February and March (to 5.00%). Market expectations for what the MPC will do are volatile. If Bank Rate climbs to these levels the housing market looks very vulnerable, which is one reason why the peak in our forecast is lower than the peak of 5.50% priced into the financial markets at present.
- Gilt yields rose sharply at the end of September as investors demanded a higher risk premium and expected faster and higher interest rate rises to offset the government's

extraordinary fiscal stimulus plans. The 30-year gilt yield rose from 3.60% to 5.10% following the “fiscal event”, which caused short term financial instability by forcing pension funds to sell assets into a falling market to meet cash collateral requirements. In response, the Bank did two things. First, it postponed its plans to start selling some of its quantitative easing (QE) gilt holdings until 31<sup>st</sup> October. Second, it committed to buy up to £65bn of long-term gilts to “restore orderly market conditions” until 14<sup>th</sup> October. In other words, the Bank is restarting QE, although for financial stability reasons rather than monetary policy reasons.

- Since the Bank’s announcement on 28<sup>th</sup> September, the 30-year gilt yield has fallen back from 5.10% to 3.83%. The 2-year gilt yield dropped from 4.70% to 4.30% and the 10-year yield fell back from 4.55% to 4.09%.
- There is a possibility that the Bank continues with QE at the long-end beyond 14<sup>th</sup> October or it decides to delay quantitative tightening beyond 31<sup>st</sup> October, even as it raises interest rates. So far at least, investors seem to have taken the Bank at its word that this is not a change in the direction of monetary policy nor a step towards monetary financing of the government’s deficit. But instead, that it is a temporary intervention with financial stability in mind.
- The S&P 500 and FTSE 100 climbed in the first half of Q2 2022/23 before falling to their lowest levels since November 2020 and July 2021 respectively. The S&P 500 is 7.2% below its level at the start of the quarter, whilst the FTSE 100 is 5.2% below it as the fall in the pound has boosted the value of overseas earnings in the index. The decline has, in part, been driven by the rise in global real yields and the resulting downward pressure on equity valuations as well as concerns over economic growth leading to a deterioration in investor risk appetite

## APPENDIX B: Approved countries for investments as at 30 September 2022

### *Based on lowest available rating*

#### AAA

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

#### AA+

- Canada
- Finland
- U.S.A.

#### AA

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- France

#### AA-

- Belgium
- Hong Kong
- Qatar
- **U.K.**

# Agenda Item 9e



Council

23 January 2023

**Subject: Appointment of Interim Monitoring Officer**

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Emma Foy  
Section 151 Officer

Purpose / Summary:

To make an appointment to the Statutory post of Monitoring Officer for West Lindsey District Council following the resignation of the current officer.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

It is recommended that

- (a) In accordance with the terms of Part I, 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended) and all subsequent related legislation, Mrs Jeanette McGarry be appointed as the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer, from the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 until a permanent Officer is recruited and approved by Council.
- (b) The Constitution be amended, as necessary, to reflect this revised appointment.

## IMPLICATIONS

### **Legal:**

The Council has a statutory duty to appoint to the position of Monitoring Officer and have a Monitoring Officer in place at all times.

### **Financial :**

The role of Monitoring Officer is encompassed within the Interim Fee

### **Staffing :**

### **Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

### **Data Protection Implications :**

### **Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :**

There are no climate related risks from this report.

### **Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :**

### **Health Implications:**

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

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

### **Risk Assessment :**

--

**Call in and Urgency:**

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

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

**Yes**

**No**

**Key Decision:**

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

**Yes**

**No**



## 1 Background

- 1.1 The role of Monitoring Officer is a Statutory Officer, which Council has a duty to appoint to.
- 1.2 The role of Monitoring Officer is currently assigned to Mrs Emma Redwood, Assistant Director of People and Democratic Services, and has been since 2021.
- 1.3 Mrs Redwood has resigned from her position and will leave the Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- 1.4 Due to the departure of the current post holder, it is essential that a monitoring officer is appointed on an interim basis whilst a permanent officer, to the Assistant Director role, is recruited to.
- 1.5 Mrs Jeanette McGarry will be joining West Lindsey District Council on an interim basis, in an Assistant Director role, whilst permanent recruitment is undertaken.

## 2. Regulations

### 2.1 Monitoring Officer

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

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

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

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

- 3) 1a) The officer designated under subsection (1) above by a relevant authority to which this subsection applies may not be the head of that authority’s paid service
- 1b) Subsection (1a) above applies to the following relevant authorities in England and Wales –

- (a) a county council;
- (b) a county borough council;
- (c) a district council;
- (d) a London borough council;
- (e) a Greater London Authority; and
- (f) the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a local authority, police authority or post health authority.

### **3. Proposed Recommendations**

It is recommended that

- (a) In accordance with the terms of Part I, 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended) and all subsequent related legislation, Mrs Jeanette McGarry be appointed as the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer from the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- (b) The Constitution be amended, as necessary, to reflect this revised appointment.