

Guildhall Gainsborough  
Lincolnshire DN21 2NA  
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## AGENDA

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

### **Corporate Policy and Resources Committee**

**Thursday, 29th September, 2022 at 6.30 pm**

**Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA**

**Members:**

- Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn (Chairman)
- Councillor Jeff Summers (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Owen Bierley
- Councillor Matthew Boles
- Councillor Stephen Bunney
- Councillor Liz Clews
- Councillor Michael Devine
- Councillor Ian Fleetwood
- Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
- Councillor John McNeill
- Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee
- Councillor Robert Waller
- Councillor Trevor Young

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Public Participation Period**

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

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting/s**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting.

i) For Approval - Corporate Policy & Resources

To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 28 July 2022 (TO FOLLOW)

ii) For Approval - Concurrent Meeting

To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committees held on 7 July 2022 (PAGES 3 - 17)

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

Large Clear Print: Braille: Audio: Native Language

4. **Declarations of Interest**

Members may make declarations of Interest at this point or may make them at any point in the meeting.

5. **Matters Arising Schedule**

(PAGE 18)

Setting out current position of previously agreed actions as at 21 September 2022

6. **Public Reports for Approval:**

- i) Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (3b) - Funding Bid for Guildhall Improvements (PAGES 19 - 27)
- ii) Levelling Up Parks Fund (PAGES 28 - 36)
- iii) Committee Work Plan (PAGES 37 - 38)

Ian Knowles  
Head of Paid Service  
The Guildhall  
Gainsborough

Wednesday, 21 September 2022

# Agenda Item 3b

Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committees- 7 July 2022

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

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committees held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 7 July 2022 commencing at 6.30 pm.

### Present:

#### Prosperous Communities

Councillor Owen Bierley (Vice-Chairman) – Concurrent Committee

Councillor Stephen Bunney  
Councillor Michael Devine  
Councillor Ian Fleetwood  
Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne  
Councillor Jaime Oliver  
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings  
Councillor Trevor Young  
Councillor Jeff Summers  
Councillor Anne Welburn

#### Corporate Policy and Resources:

Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn (Chairman) – Concurrent Committee

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Matthew Boles  
Councillor Liz Clews  
Councillor Mick Devine  
Councillor Ian Fleetwood  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Jeff Summers  
Councillor Trevor Young

### In Attendance:

Ian Knowles  
Sally Grindrod-Smith  
Emma Foy  
Ady Selby  
Katie Storr  
Ele Snow

Chief Executive  
Director Planning, Regeneration & Communities  
Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer  
Director of Commercial & Operational Services  
Democratic Services & Elections Team Manager  
Senior Democratic and Civic Officer

### Apologies:

Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson  
Councillor Jane Ellis  
Councillor Steve England  
Councillor John McNeill  
Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor Jim Snee

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Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee

Councillor Robert Waller

**Membership:**

**Prosperous Communities Committee**

Councillor Ian Fleetwood substituting for Councillor Jane Ellis

Councillor Jeff Summers substituting for Councillor John McNeill

Councillor Anne Welburn substituting for Councillor Roger Patterson

**Corporate Policy and Resources**

Councillor Jessie Milne substituting for Councillor Bob Waller

**1 MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No Declarations of Interest were made at this stage of the meeting.

**2 PROCEDURE**

The adopted Procedure by which the Concurrent Meeting would be held was **NOTED**.

**3 WEST LINDSEY UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND INVESTMENT PLAN**

Members considered a report which set out the draft West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan and sought Member's approval, that the Plan be submitted to the Government.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provided three year's funding for local investment, with all areas of the UK having received an allocation; West Lindsey District Council's being £2.7 million.

In order to "unlock" the allocation, local places were required to develop an investment plan, setting out priorities for investment, and what a place could achieve through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, for its places, residents, communities and businesses.

Whilst the opportunities presented by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund were recognised, it was also acknowledged, the Fund alone, could not address all of the identified local challenges.

The West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan set out a shared endeavour and was based upon a robust evidence base, established and adopted strategic priorities and wide-ranging stakeholder engagement. The Plan proposed how the Fund could be invested across the three Government priorities of: -

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- Communities and Place
- Supporting Local Businesses; and
- People and Skills.

Within each priority, the report proposed a set of high-level interventions, which, once further developed into business cases, would deliver the desired outputs and outcomes, as set out in the guidance.

The submission to Government required local authorities to set out strategic priorities. A two-stage approach, that would satisfy the Government requirements, for submission, whilst allowing work to continue in the development of business cases, for each of the investment priorities, had been adopted.

Each business case would be the subject of a future decision by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee. Once the Investment Plan was submitted, it was understood there would be a process of engagement and discussion with Government, ultimately ending in a funding contract.

In support of the published report, Members received a detailed presentation from the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities.

During the presentation, Members received information relating to: -

- The creation and intention of the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund;
- The two phased Approach (Phase 1. Submission to UK Government, Phase 2. Business Case Development for Internal Sign-Off) which had been developed;
- The stakeholder engagement which had been undertaken;
- The key challenges summarised in the Themes;
- The key opportunities in West Lindsey;
- How the Plan had been shaped, the Investment Plan Framework; the Over-arching Vision and Golden Thread;
- The key structural challenges in West Lindsey;
- Interventions being developed and the approach;
- An overview of the proposed projects;
- The Investment Plan – Financial Strategy and the funding split by investment area; and
- The Governance and Next Steps.

The UKSPF was a £2.6bn programme for local investment distributed, via a funding formula. The fund was part of a suite of investment made available under the Levelling Up agenda and succeeded EU Structural Funds. The fund could support interventions that ran from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to March 2025.

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Guidance published by the Government set three investment priorities – under which local places could build their own package of investment proposals. The three priorities were:

- Communities and Place
- Supporting Local Businesses
- People and Skills

The Investment Plan set out proposals under each of the objectives and the £2.7 million allocation made to West Lindsey would be equally split over the three financial years. Plans had to include a minimum capital spend of 10%.

The Council had ambitious plans to support the inclusive growth and regeneration of its communities, with much of the two policy committees' focus, over the last year and more, having being on creating the policy context and funding environment, which supported its growth agenda.

In establishing the project, as well as the two phased approach adopted, four key pillars had been developed: -

1. A strong evidence base – reviewing and reconfirming understanding of key challenges across the district, checking these with partners and ensuring evidence drives action.
2. Collaboration – it was very important that our Members, our staff and our partners were engaged through this process and their knowledge and understanding of local issues was fed into the plans
3. System leadership – seeing the Council's role as one of bringing together our partners and understanding opportunities to work towards a common goal
4. District wide focus – ensuring that the needs of all of our places are understood and that the benefits of regeneration are felt across our diverse mix of communities

Importantly, the timing of the UKSPF had also presented an opportunity to align the work to that of the planned refresh of the Corporate Plan.

Phase 2 of the approach would happen post submission and would see a business case for each of the three investment priorities developed for sign off by Committee.

In order to maximise the impact of the UKSPF on communities, places and businesses, it was intended to develop a best in class approach to mobilisation, delivery and oversight of the interventions, using the adopted five-point business case model to ensure thorough, robust and assured processes.

The four key pillars that would guide the investment plan implementation were outlined as follows: -.

1. Future proofing of the Council operating model
2. Partnership delivery
3. Long term sustainability

4. Monitoring and evaluation

The collaboration undertaken to date was outlined, and all those stakeholders involved thus far were thanked. This had included; workshops with Members, Officers and Partners; Engagement with existing structures such as the Employment and Skills and the Place Boards; Discussions with neighbouring councils, the LEP and providers to understand current delivery and options for the future.

This engagement had helped shape the Plan to-date, with more engagement to come in Phase 2, with stakeholders being a key element of further developing the detailed interventions and their delivery models.

The Investment Plan provided a detailed analysis of the needs and opportunities across West Lindsey which were set out in Chapter 3; these had been considered across the three investment priorities.

This analysis and review had provided the basis for the development of the Theory of Change (page 7 of the draft Plan), which set out: -

- what problems are the Council trying to solve?
- what can the Council do to address the problems?
- what outcomes would be delivered? and
- what is the long-term change that the Council will contribute towards?

The rationale for using the “The Theory of Change” approach to investment planning was outlined. This was deemed best practice and recognised by the Government when reviewing such Plans.

: -

Key challenges that had arisen as core issues for the UKSPF to consider were-

- Social isolation, limited and difficult to access services including leisure and culture
- Pockets of severe deprivations and areas at risk
- Lack of accessible and quality green spaces
- Limited investment in research and design
- Narrow traditional economic base
- Low educational attainment and low levels of provision
- High levels of health inequality in places; and
- Young vulnerable people lacking in support

Opportunities identified included:

- Building on successful events and spreading the benefits across the district

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- Collaborating with partners to deliver shared outcomes
- Existing strong sectors such as agriculture, tourism and manufacturing provide huge potential
- Our micro businesses are flexible, fleet of foot and keen to grow and develop
- Our employment and skills partnership is supportive of developing the skills and employment opportunities across the district

Officers highlighted how feedback from stakeholders had been incorporated into the Draft Plan presented to Members. A key message from the engagement had been that communities should be the focus and ensuring that the benefit of investment was felt in places that need it the most. This ethos had informed the place-based approach to delivery (set out on page 35 of the Plan) and the development of three delivery models:

- District wide interventions
- Community led grant funding
- Targeted interventions

Elected Members, in particular, had wanted to see the issues of crime, fuel poverty, community infrastructure for the young and elderly, access to broadband and education and training featuring more heavily in the Plans.

Officers demonstrated how from the Government's intervention framework the Council had shaped its Plans using the design principles, particularly noting how the work of the Committees, through approved plans and policies, had fed into the emerging overarching objectives of the West Lindsey UKSPF Investment Plan.

The Vision for achievement by the Investment Plan, had been driven by the Council's ambition to make West Lindsey "a place where residents can live the best lives they can. Where businesses and economies can thrive and the environment is managed in a sustainable way, ensuring that this District builds on its local identity, recognising its heritage and natural assets."

This Plan showed how the Council, working with partners and local communities, could ensure that West Lindsey was "a place that stands out as an area where residents can have a good quality life and where businesses and communities continue to thrive."

In the context of communities and places, this meant resilient communities and well-connected places, where people felt safe and were happy to live.

Recognising that the key to this was prosperous towns and villages across the area, to support this, the District's businesses needed to be resilient and productive, operating in a context where the historic and natural environment were maximised. In context of "People", barriers to work needed to be removed and it needed to be ensured there was the opportunity to engage in training which was accessible, with end results meeting the needs of local businesses.



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Whilst the vision and interventions had been developed based on the 3 investment priorities, three cross cutting themes, that underpinned all the investment priorities, had been identified; namely: -

- Sustainable development
- Health inequalities
- Empowering Communities

Details of how each project could align and support the golden thread themes were highlighted to Members and were set out at pages 31-33 of the Plan.

The needs and opportunities expressed in the Plan, had been aligned with the priority areas and intervention framework developed by UK Government. It was recognised that there were other key structural challenges within West Lindsey that residents faced, whilst these were largely beyond the reach of the UKSPF, it was vital that these were addressed to improve life chances.

These challenges, included: -

- Education and Skills;
- Accessibility and Connectivity;
- Health.

All required co-ordination with, and significant input from, Central Government and other public sector partners, and could not be the sole responsibility of West Lindsey District Council to address. In line with the system leadership principle, efforts would be focused on understanding opportunities for working with partners to design a holistic, system-wide approach to mitigate barriers.

It was imperative, the UKSPF investment was considered in the wider context of existing and future funding streams. The Corporate Plan – the Council’s overarching strategic document – was being developed in parallel to the Investment Plan, ensuring there was a comprehensive vision for the District and plans for interventions that fell beyond the scope of the Shared Prosperity Plan.

Emerging interventions had been considered for their alignment with UKSPF investment priorities, alignment with the interventions, outputs and outcomes set out in the guidance and alignment with funding timescales and allocations, resulting in a “short list” of proposed interventions for the UKSPF as well as a list of matters for wider consideration as part of the Corporate Plan refresh.

12 proposed interventions, considered to deliver the best outcomes for West Lindsey’s Places, Communities and Businesses having taken the needs analysis, opportunities information, engagement feedback and guidance into consideration, had resulted.

Noting that these remained high level, and again referencing the two-phased approach, the interventions were outlined as follows: -

**For Communities and Place: -**

## **Flagship Community Grants Programme**

The Plan proposed to build on the Council's community grants work by developing a community grants programme. This would be a "main stay" of the UKSPF work, providing community organisations with funding and support for them to grow and develop, whilst also allowing access to funds for project delivery.

## **Supporting our Town, Village and Neighbourhood Centres**

The success of the Council's welcome back fund programme in Market Rasen, Caistor and Gainsborough had demonstrated that by working with town and parish council's, important improvements could be made to improve town, village and neighbourhood centres across the District. The Plan proposed the project be rolled out to other places across the District.

## **Safer Streets West Lindsey**

This project particularly responded to Members' concerns regarding crime and perception of safety. The intervention could include improvements to CCTV provision and coverage, expanding the Council's "Safer Streets" work across the District and tackling important issues such as re-lighting.

## **Multi Year Signature Events Programme**

The Investment Plan would allow funding and support to sustain and enhance the Council's events programme. With the Trinity Arts centre delivering more outreach programmed, the aspiration was to build on the legacy of Mayflower to ensure events attracted people and businesses to retail areas.

## **West Lindsey Walking Cycling and Wayfinding improvements and Green Space Management and Community Project Development**

Sustainability and access were at the core of the two interventions and the Council would seek to offer more opportunities to connect its places through walking and cycling, whilst offering improved green spaces and the capacity for community management of these.

## **For Supporting Local Businesses: -**

### **Flagship West Lindsey Business Support**

Throughout the Pandemic the Council had shown it could engage with its business community, understand their needs and deliver flexible programmes of support and funding.

This intervention aimed to build on that experience, the flag ship business support programme would ensure that Lincolnshire growth hub was sustainable, delivered a capital / revenue business grant scheme and provided for locally tailored and responsive business support.

### **Maximising the Visitor Offer**

The visitor economy provided huge potential. The recently adopted VE strategy had

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demonstrated that there was scope to maximise this offer by making best use of assets, developing, networks, partnerships and packages.

### **Growing Innovation**

The intervention was targeted at improving the levels of research and development across the District, to drive up innovation and place West Lindsey at the heart of plans to develop the 'what's next' for the UK Food Valley.

### **Supporting West Lindsey Markets and Retail Centres**

This intervention built on the work of the Policy Committee's over the last year or more, reviewing support for markets across West Lindsey, which had highlighted the importance of the District's street markets and the potential to offer additional support to traders and the places that host the District's markets.

It was being proposed that UKSPF funds could be used to develop this type of support further and also used to ensure that enlivening activities made the markets feel like real events celebrating the best of the District's places and its businesses.

### **For People and Skills: -**

#### **Local Skills Programme and Skills for the Future**

This area had posed a challenge in developing the Investment Plan, as the Government guidance had been clear that funding was only available in the final year of the programme, unless supporting critical delivery, currently funded by EU monies.

The approach, set out in the Plan had been tested with partners through the Employment and Skills Board and would see the UKSPF allocation used to influence and scope provision to meet local needs, whilst recognising this could only ever be a contribution to an overall programme.

The fund would allow for the development of a future plan and thinking around a Lincolnshire wide collaboration to be developed. The approach aligned with the approach being taken by the County Council to develop the Multiply Programme and West Lindsey would continue to work with the County in delivery.

Areas which would feed into the Corporate Plan, were also highlighted to Committee.

Section 4 of the Committee report set out the financial strategy that underpinned the Investment Plan. Members were advised the Council were required by Government to profile expenditure over the three years of the programme by Investment Priority. The proportion of funding, proposed for each of the investment priorities was demonstrated to Members.

The allocation had been based on a detailed intervention scoping exercise, which had ensured the proposed expenditure profiles were accurate and deliverable. The allocations also responded to specific local challenges and priorities that had been identified.

It had been made clear, through engagement with Members, that investment in the District's

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communities was the priority, and to ensure that West Lindsey was a safe, happy place to live for its residents.

As such, 49% of the total funding available (nearly £1.3m) had been allocated to the Communities and Place Investment Priority.

Whilst match funding was not a requirement of the Plan, it did set out where Officers believed private sector match funding would be enabled. More work was required to set the match funding requirements for the business grant programme, but it was clear that businesses would be required to match fund any grants. The financial strategy also proposed to utilise WLDC funds to match elements of the programme.

Members were advised a total of 4% of the overall allocation could be utilised to support the resourcing of the programme. The Council would need to bring in additional resource and a recruitment process would need to begin over the summer, subject to agreement of the Investment Plan with Government.

Restricted Appendix 1 (restricted to safeguard the Council's position due to work needing to be delivered through contracts not yet tendered for) included more detail about each of the proposed interventions, possible delivery model, targeted outputs, funding proposals and profiles.

Members also noted that significant work was still required to turn the interventions from the high level detailed into detailed plans for delivery (Phase 2)

The proposed funding split by investment area and allocation were also outlined to Members, with efforts focused in the development of the grants programmes which it was anticipated would deliver clear and tangible outcomes and benefits to communities, places and businesses.

In concluding the presentation, the Director spoke of Officers' and Members' ambition for West Lindsey, not just as a place but for its people. The UKSPF provided the Council with an opportunity to focus on the social fabric, weaving together local communities in order to foster the shared sense of pride in where we worked and where we lived. The Council would work in Partnership with its communities to deliver the UKSPF and would develop a governance structure that put people at its core and allowed a culture of inclusive and pragmatic governance that valued outcomes not outputs and sought to build long-term prosperity and resilience to grow.

It was considered there was real opportunity to grow capacity within communities and deliver long-term benefits, and the UKSPF could be used as a testing bed for new ways of working and supporting organisations.

The Government have chosen to deliver UKSPF through District Councils and West Lindsey's approach demonstrated the Council's capability to develop a robust plan that was based on evidence and engagement.

The next steps, if the Plan was approved, were briefly summarised, Members were reminded that if any detailed discussion regarding the content of Appendix 1 were required, these would need to be held in closed session, before lengthy debate ensued.

Members complimented the quality of the submission and recognised how the Investment Plan built on and complemented current and previous work. The level of engagement undertaken in creating the final draft was both applauded and welcomed, both internally and with external partners. Members recognised the opportunities the UKSPF brought and considered it would prove a useful tool in the fairer funding for rural areas movement, and supporting the case for devolution.

Members did question whether Secondary schools or schools in general should have been included as a Stakeholder, noting they were the residents of the future, and also whether micro businesses should have been better represented. Members also considered it of paramount importance that the Investment generated real tangible, noticeable lasting change, citing previous large scale EU funding and the like, where outcomes had arguably not been as great or lasting had been hoped.

It was suggested the intervention relating to “Supporting West Lindsey Markets and Retail Centres” needed to be clear and specific from the outset, with sharp outcomes, recognizing it should be more focused on looking at how to promote the events and the specialist markets.

The work related to social deprivation and community building was very much welcomed and indication was sought as to how the District Council were or would be linking in with other partner’s ongoing projects, citing two being hosted by the County, to ensure that the most benefit was delivered by the Fund.

There were some reservations, as to whether the Plan was too ambitious given the District Council’s size and the number of large-scale projects already in delivery phase.

In responding to the comments and questions posed Officers indicated they were in agreement that the inclusion of young people in these programmes was important and central. Members were advised that once the detail of the projects had been further developed there was considerable scope to involve that Stakeholder Group, examples being, where small town centre improvements were needed. Ways in which even the youngest of children could actively engage in such activities were outlined and planned.

Regarding micro-businesses again the comments made were concurred with. The Council had realised some real successes with its own independent business adviser and as such it was being proposed that that model and not just have the growth hub model be supported and extended. Given feedback received this type of service, it was considered better reflected the need; light touch, easy access was the ethos in which this had and would be developed.

Regarding monitoring, evaluation, achieving tangible outcome, Members were advised the exempt appendix demonstrated the types of outputs that Government were mandating around the Programme. However, to date the monitoring and evaluation framework had not been released. Experience had been used to form proposals thus far and consideration had been given as to how it was envisaged monitoring and evaluation could take place. There was a risk that the framework once released would not be as expected, the position continued to be monitored, and would be re-assessed post the document’s release.

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Officers confirmed and outlined the numerous ways the Authority were working with Partners and neighbouring authorities, including an Officer working group of the 10 authorities across Greater Lincolnshire within Planning, collaborating on some of the work.

There was a strong central Lincolnshire contingent, working to align, particularly approaches to town centre regeneration and business support. Additional conversations had been held with the LEP and the County Council and it was anticipated these would increase and formalise as the delivery phase was entered, particularly where commissioning was required. The benefits of joint or single commissioning to streamline resources was recognised.

Recognising the length of the Investment Plan and that the language used served the Government's requirement but not necessarily everyone's, Officers undertook to look at producing an easy to read version. Finally addressing, the points regarding the level of ambition, Officers agreed it was an ambitious programme but it would be managed in a similar approach to the Levelling Up programme. There were detailed next stage plans converting aspirations in the Investment Plan into delivery mode, but a really important factor on success was securing additional resources. If approved recruitment would commence (confirmed employment subject to the funding position). This approach had proven dividends in the Levelling Up Agenda, allowing it to progress a pace.

It was questioned by a Member whether the current working arrangements, with home-working "the norm" was a risk to delivery, with a suggestion, in his view it was. It was suggested less regular contact with staff, made project management more difficult than it maybe had been previously.

The Director indicated work style was something which continued to be debated at a Management Team level, however in her view, the bigger risk was to force people into roles and that didn't maximise productivity. The Pandemic had seen a lot of learning about the organisation and its staff were trusted to work where the work was required, with examples quoted. By not offering flexibility in employment opportunities, the Council risked not attracting quality candidates. The current recruitment climate was not an easy one and flexibility was an attractive selling point. Members were advised to approach Directors if they had individual concerns regarding staff availability.

Members considered there were pockets of excellence across the District which the Council needed to harness, citing examples, its enabling role was crucial if success was to be delivered with Members acknowledging the District Council could not resolve all matters on its own. Members wanted assurance that engagement with young people was not tokenistic

In responding to further points regarding how the economic climate may impact, the risk of "going over old ground", and re-using interventions that hadn't worked to-date, the Market being the cited example, and how the cycling and walking interventions may materialise, Officers advised that the Prosperity Fund allowed flexibility to enable feasibility studies to be conducted. Areas which supported wider programmes or where further funding may be available would be targeted. Walking and cycling was an area where WLDC would not seek to "do everything" but seek to engage with its Partners, with the County Council.

The Investment Plan set out the envisaged "spectrum role" of the Council, direct delivery, all the way through to enabling communities to do that delivery, citing pages 41-42 as detailing

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The sense of uncertainty regarding the economic future was acknowledged in intervention 2.3. The Shared Prosperity Fund was not considered to hold all of the answers to the economic success of the District but could act as a tool to help unlock future potential. Intervention 2.3 would allow there to be a real focus on the future for the UK food Valley, working with the University of Lincoln, the County Council and the LEP to consider sustainable technology-based developments in the agri-food sector.

Officers highlighted the buoyancy of the market in this sector, with demand for business space outstripping supply. Sector leaders had advised of the kind of technological advances, within the sector, which was driving the market.

The Shared Prosperity Plan, in terms of the economy, was considered forward looking. It sat hand in hand with the WLDC Economic Recovery Plan and the wider plans of the LEP. It was anticipated, that traditional manufacturing, due to the economy, was an area which would need some support through the business support intervention. One aspiration for the grant program, being proposed, would be to help those types of business focus on their sustainability, providing specialist support to such businesses in planning for a move to more renewable fuels sources.

In response to suggestions that there should be a greater focus on economic development, job creation given the market, physical assets and something more permanent. Officers advised that unemployment was at its lowest rate in recent history. Feedback from businesses suggested it was difficult to recruit, with vacancies at an all time high and unemployment at a low. Regarding economic prosperity, over the last 12 months alone in Gainsborough, the large-scale development by Sterling, (Foxby Lane) of light industrial, hybrid office, warehouse space was now in Phase 3, with Phases 1 and 2 fully let, 16,000sqft and 25,000sqft, demonstrating significant inward investment.

Mehdi Trade UK, a medical equipment manufacturer, had recently secured full planning permission for the site off Somerby Park 25,500 meter sq for their storage and distribution, further demonstrating big investment in the town, real buoyancy was being seen.

Regarding “permanency” of the Prosperity Fund, Officers advised the Government had set a really defined suite of outputs, for each intervention (which were also Government defined). Examples offered being: -

- number of facilities supported and created
- number of organisations receiving grants
- number of neighborhood improvements’ undertaken.

The Authority would be required to monitor against those as detailed Appendix 1, which had been selected by the Authority from multiple options. It was envisaged the way the funding worked would mean there would be considerable negotiation between the Authority and Government before the Plan was signed off. However once signed, it would be clear what the Government would be essentially buying into. Whilst some of this investment would be capital assets, some investment would be in services.

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An aspiration being developed through the Community theme of the Plan, would be to leave a legacy, not necessarily of physical assets but a group of community organisations that were more sustainable and able to engage in activities like Neighbourhood Planning and the Community infrastructure Levy in the future, building capacity in community organisations.

Members spoke of the importance of ensuring the Market Place remained central in Gainsborough and of the need to encourage footfall back to the Markets, with Officers highlighting the funding which had been made available through Levelling Up to support the market, also.

In responding to Members' comments and concerns regarding education in the District, Gainsborough in particular given recent announcements, and the real skills shortage and low pay, Officers again considered the Councils role was to bring stakeholders together to investigate delivery methods. It was acknowledged it was a key challenge for the District , and hence education and skills, from Early Years through to University and workplace skills, appeared as a key structural challenge. How the funding mechanisms were set up through the programme for employment and skills, meant the Council could only play a contribution, using that contribution to shape local provision, it could not be a leading programme. Members were again reminded of the forth coming Information session which would allow Members to engage directly with the College, and of plans to create a Stakeholder Group, subject to Prosperous Communities committee approval

Following lengthy and detailed discussion, having been moved and seconded the Prosperous Communities Committee's recommendations were put to the vote.

In accordance with the concurrent procedure, following an alphabetical roll call, with a total of 10 votes cast in favour, and with no votes against or abstentions it was

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) the Investment Proposals, set out in Section 4 of the Investment Plan, be approved; and
- (b) the submission of the West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, to the Department of Levelling Up Homes and Communities, be **RECOMMENDED** to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

Corporate Policy and Resources Committee confirmed they were content to move straight to the vote on their respective recommendations, with them having been moved and seconded.

Again, in accordance with the concurrent procedure, following an alphabetical roll call, with a total of 11 votes cast in favour, and with no votes against or abstentions it was

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the **recommendation** from Prosperous Communities Committee be **accepted** and the submission of the West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity



Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committees- 7 July 2022

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

Fund Investment Plan be approved;

- (b) post committee housekeeping, assurance changes and amendments required, if further guidance on monitoring and evaluation is released, be delegated to the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee;
- (c) the draft Funding Strategy, as set out in Section 4 of the report, be approved; and
- (d) a final Business Case for each of the three Investment Objectives, namely;
  - > Communities and Place
  - > Supporting Local Businesses; and
  - > People and Skills

be submitted to appropriate meetings of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

The meeting concluded at 7.59 pm.

Chairman

## Corporate Policy & Resources Committee Matters Arising Schedule

**Purpose:** To consider progress on the matters arising from previous Corporate Policy & Resources Committee meetings.

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

Status	Title	Action Required	Comments	Due Date	Allocated To
Black	<b>Uniform Approach to Review of Policies</b>	To incorporate a uniform approach to review of existing policies and how to best present such reviews for approval,	<b>To be included in the review of report writing as allocated under the Governance and Audit Committee</b>	31/10/22	Emma Redwood
Black	<b>Clarity to amendment of roles within Homelessness Prevention</b>	Clarity requested regarding amendment to roles within the Homelessness Prevention Team	<p><b>Details shared with requesting Member:</b></p> <p><b>We have replaced a Homelessness Prevention Assistant, whose role is to process the Housing Register applications and administer Choice Based Lettings, with a Support Officer for the whole team who can then support the team and improve the way in which customers are dealt with at the first point of contact.</b></p> <p><b>It's a small amendment which doesn't lose any capacity within the team for homelessness prevention, if anything, as this role will support the whole team, it is hoped it will have a positive impact by speeding up housing register applications and improving customer service.</b></p>	22/09/22	Sarah Elvin
Green	<b>Use of Earmarked Reserves</b>	To consider the use of general reserves to earmarked reserves for social support		30/11/22	Emma Foy
Green	<b>Use of CCTV for Fly-tipping</b>	To consider whether there are options for increased use of CCTV to prevent fly-tipping/identify offenders	<b>To also discuss with Enforcement Manager</b>	30/11/22	Grant White
Green	<b>WEST LINDSEY UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND INVESTMENT PLAN - Business Cases</b>	<p>Extract from mins of Mtg 7/7/21 - CONCURRENT CTTEE a final Business Case for each of the three Investment Objectives, namely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Communities and Place</li> <li>&gt; Supporting Local Businesses; and</li> <li>&gt; People and Skills</li> </ul> <p>be submitted to appropriate meetings of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.</p>	<b>Please ensure these are added to the CPR work plan in due course - logged here for work planning purposes - please amend due date as appropriate</b>	31/12/22	Sally Grindrod-Smith



**Corporate Policy and  
Resources Committee**

**Thursday, 29 Sept 2022**

**Subject: Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (3b): Funding bid**

Report by:

Steve Leary

Contact Officer:

Steve Leary  
Policy & Strategy Officer – Environment &  
Sustainability

steve.leary@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

This report examines the suitability of Guildhall, Gainsborough Leisure Centre and Trinity Arts Centre for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS3b) funding and informs Members of a high-level bid that is being submitted to an urgent deadline.

The report condenses the facts of the current PSDS bid application process, outlines some of the reasons to pursue this work and details next steps.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- Members note the content of this report and support the submission of a high-level bid for PSDS3b funding for decarbonisation of the Guildhall heating system.
- Members approve the reprofiling of the Capital Programme to bring forward the replacement boiler funding from 2024/25 to 2022/23 to provide the match funding required if the bid is successful.
- Members support officers continuing to work with Midland Net Zero hub to develop a detailed business case. This will be brought to CP&R for consideration and final decision, if the grant application is successful - with notification expected by the end of January 2023.
- Members acknowledge that officers will continue to explore other funding sources to invest in measures to improve the energy efficiency measures for Gainsborough Leisure Centre & Trinity Arts Centre.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal:** In May 2019, the UK Government declared a non-legally binding Climate Change Emergency declaration and the Committee on Climate Change recommended a new emissions target for the UK: net-zero greenhouse gases by 2050. This was made a statutory target in June through the Climate Change Act (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.

Though this is high level funding bid application, the scheme requires evidence of a commitment to match funding from the council. It does not require WLDC to enter into an agreement to accept grant funding, even if the bid is successful.

The Council will be required to enter into an agreement with Salix if a grant offer letter materializes at the end of 2022 to secure allocated funding. Due diligence should be undertaken to ensure that the terms are acceptable to the Council and that the project officers understand and operate within the conditions of the funding so as not to trigger any clawback clauses.

### **Financial: FIN REF FIN/88/23/CPR/JA**

A replacement boiler for the Guildhall is listed for 24/25 in the current MTFP. This is listed as £60k but will likely need to be revised upwards to at least £90K in future years following recent estimates. There is an option to bring forward this £60k earmarked spend now to support WLDC's match funding requirement for the bid. A report will go to CP&R asking for permission to draw down upon the reserve if the funding bid is successful and WLDC chose to accept the PSDS grant offer and associated conditions

Any heat decarbonisation projects brought forward will be subject to fully costed and developed business cases with appropriate project governance and risk management regimes.

£500k is earmarked to support delivery of the Carbon Management Plan, (with a recognition that other funding solutions are needed to support this) The capital programme 2021-22 to 2025-26 also included for £260K of carbon reduction initiatives. This is available to support the bid if WLDC's match funding requirement is over £60K

**Staffing:** Staffing and skills requirements to deliver this work will be continually reviewed and monitored as the project progresses from high level assessment to investment grade proposal. A project management and governance approach will be required

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:** The Council's ambition is to ensure that neither the effects of climate change, nor the costs of reducing emissions, disproportionately affect any residents of the District.

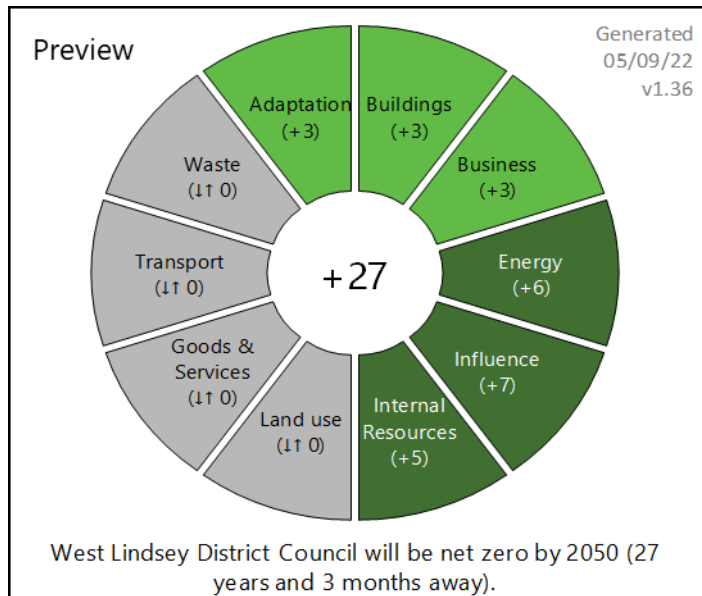
Decarbonisation has many co-benefits that have the potential to increase equality and community cohesion. These include improving health and wellbeing through more active travel, improving air quality with reduced vehicle use, increasing social inclusion through community activities and reducing fuel poverty by insulating homes and installing on-site renewable energy.

In practice the projects are too high-level and not developed enough yet to undertake a meaningful equality assessment. Equality assessments are undertaken as actions are developed as required by PSDS governance.

**Data Protection Implications: None**

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:** The Carbon Management Plan, Climate Strategy and Action Plan contain proposals aimed at reducing the Council's carbon emission to a net-zero position by 2050 and achieve the same across the District of West Lindsey within the same timescale.

A climate, environment and sustainability (CESIA impact) assessment is shown below.



The CESIA shows positive climate and environmental benefit from the project in a number of areas. Retrofitting the Guildhall with low carbon heating, microgeneration technologies and energy saving and climate control measures can help futureproof the building. Proceeding with the work scores highly because it represents a commitment to continued energy audit, analysis and improvement action and sends a positive message to internal and external stakeholders. It would show momentum in our actions to address climate change as well as partnership working and influencing benefits. Bringing in external funding would preserve scarce WLDC funds for other projects and initiatives in this area. Over 800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions would be saved by fitting the recommended technologies at the Guildhall over the project lifespan.

Climate related risks are inherent. The risk of not delivering the Carbon Management Plan and its aims and objectives could lead to the Council contributing to irreversible temperature rises and subsequent damage to the climate and natural environments. Additionally, sudden and unexpected changes in global temperatures which result in the forecasts of the IPCC, upon which our work is predicated, being no longer valid, would require an even more urgent response to climate challenges.

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: N/A**

**Health Implications:** Health and wellbeing are strongly linked and interwoven into the aims of the climate, environment and sustainability strategy as co-benefits of taking positive action to address climate change

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

[The Council's Carbon Management Plan and draft Sustainability, Climate and Environment Strategy and action plan](#)

## Risk Assessment :

WLDC recognised the UK Govt's climate emergency and Members unanimously passed a strategy, action plan and carbon management plan in June 2021, following consultations with various stakeholders. The risks associated with this proposed programme of decarbonisation projects are threefold.

1. Risk of exacerbating the problems associated with increased levels of CO2
2. Risk of a damage to reputation. Having declared WLDC support for urgent action – there is a risk of inaction generating subsequent reputational harm, which could create a relationship breakdown (trust, credibility and confidence) between the authority and citizens.
3. Risk of not completing the programme within the allotted time laid out by Salix which would have further financial implications. This risk must be stated but the performance through PSDS1 and the timeframes given does give a high confidence factor that officers have sufficient time to deliver.

## Call in and Urgency:

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

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

Yes

No

x

### Key Decision:

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

Yes

No

x

## Executive Summary

### 1. Summary of Report

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme round 3b (PSDS3b) will open shortly for funding application bids to support further decarbonisation of public buildings. The precise date is not known. It is expected to be at the start of October, with an announcement delayed following the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. It is imperative though, to submit a technically compliant, high level assessment (HLA) bid on the opening day if WLDC wish to be considered, as funds are allocated quickly on a first come first served basis. To this end, Officers have been working with Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH) in an iterative process to examine the suitability of The Guildhall, Gainsborough Leisure Centre and Trinity Arts Centre for PSDS3b funding and ensure readiness for any subsequent bid.

This PSDS round is different to previous rounds in that there is a requirement for the council to match fund for certain components. This report condenses the facts of the current PSDS3b bid application and outlines some of the reasons to pursue this work.

High level appraisals of all sites have been completed, with the Guildhall seen as the outstanding technical candidate for PSDS3b. It offers fewest constraints and an opportunity to replace fossil fuel heating plant and associated equipment that may be coming towards the end of its viable life with a modern, low carbon alternative. This is not to underestimate the technical challenges to this work, but a successful HLA bid allows work to continue to a more detailed investment grade proposal (IGP) stage, that will look at detailed design and tease out any problems or technical issues before a final and formal grant offer may be accepted by WLDC at the start of 2023. This should give assurance, and there are various break points for WLDC even if funding is accepted.

Work continues in gathering quotes and refining the project. A vital point to note in section 5.3 is that all PSDS3b applicants are required to contribute the like-for-like costs of a fossil fuel replacement boiler in addition to any PSDS grant funding provided. At the Guildhall, current estimates put this figure at anywhere between £60k - £90k for a modern replacement. A genuine like-for-like replacement (not in line with WLDC's decarbonization ambitions) has been quoted at circa £60k. Refining this figure and ensuring that it includes all ancillary works to meet the bid criteria is important as it will form WLDC's match funding requirement for PSDS.

With escalating fuel costs as well as our commitment to respond to the UK Govt's climate emergency as well as our own net zero carbon commitment, refitting these sites now, with low-carbon heating alternatives may be seen as the right thing to do, and it delivers against the action in the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Action Plan to upgrade heating systems across council buildings. After adjustment for contingency, the cost of doing this at the Guildhall with air source heat pumps and more solar PV, can be estimated at circa £332k total project costs. More definitive manufacturer quotes will come within the next week, but a £60k WLDC contribution, as per the MTFP budget reserve would potentially allow for PSDS funded works of up to £500K if required, opening the possibility of further energy saving technology such as battery storage.

Revenue savings for the various options need further work – with calculations heavily skewed by the assumptions made for rising energy prices, and the amount of solar PV used for self-generation. These will be refined in conjunction with MNZH and WLDC Finance Officers and presented to CP&R prior to any decision to accept grant funding. An average annual CO2 saving of 42.54 tCO2e is modelled for the currently favoured GH investment option - more than 850 tCO2e saving over the twenty year projected lifecycle. Regarding both revenue costs and carbon emissions, it is likely the proposed investment will, in reality, continue to deliver savings beyond that twenty-year threshold.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Council has committed to be carbon neutral by 2050 at the latest. To contribute to achieving this target, the Council must undertake decarbonisation works to its own buildings.
- 2.2 WLDC has begun the process of decarbonisation works already and there is a track record in this area of delivering commitments against a Carbon Management Plan. The Council achieved a 35% reduction in Carbon Dioxide emissions from baseline year 2008/9 by 2021. However there is a general feeling that many of the 'easy win' projects – those that pay back in financial terms as well as CO2 reductions such as energy efficiency improvements – have already been undertaken. And in 21/22 the councils CO2 emissions have risen to 1585 tonnes Co2e. This is up from 1355 Co2e the previous year, partly as a result of new WLDC buildings entering the emissions ledger together with the easing of Covid restrictions.
- 2.3 WLDC has previously applied for funding from the Governments Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) with success. In March 2021 the Council was awarded £68k of PSDS money in Round 1(PSDS1), following a bid the previous year. This helped fund solar PV and battery storage at the Caenby Corner depot. The works have now been built out and are delivering energy savings and financial savings for the council that would not otherwise have been achieved.
- 2.4 The PSDS fund is about to open again and aims to halve carbon emissions from the Public Estate by 2032, through the deployment of energy efficiency and low carbon heating measures. Eligible bodies must either own the building that the funding is being used to upgrade or have a long- term lease arrangement where the tenancy agreement places the responsibility for operation and maintenance of the building services on the eligible body.

## **3. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Round 3b**

The Government announced PSDS as part of a tranche of funding in a fiscal stimulus programme that began in autumn 2020. Funds have tended to open with short notice and

narrow application windows. This additional round of PSDS funding, round 3b (PSDS3b), formally announced on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022. The application portal is now expected to open at the start of October (delayed following the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II.) The major change from PSDS1, which were 100% grants, is that PSDS3b is being released with requirement for match capital funding.

The grant again looks to provide funding to either remove completely or significantly reduce dependency on gas fired (fossil fuel) heating systems in our buildings. The grant also provides additional matched capital funding for the installation of other measures including solar PV, insulation, led lighting, double/triple glazing and smart heating controls.

3.1 The match funding requirement is based on two criteria;

1. That costs which can be attributed to work which is beyond a given threshold of £325/tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> – are covered by the Local Authority.
2. Additionally, any like-for-like replacement costs for plant nearing the end of its useful life must also be met by the Local Authority.

It is competitive funding and the expectation is that funding will be fully allocated to compliant schemes extremely quickly when the application portal opens in October. Therefore, any WLDC application will need to be prepared and approved in advance of this date so that it is ready to go. This necessitates this urgent report to CP&R committee to approve the process and recommendations including the submission of a High-Level Assessment (HLA) Bid. Members should be assured though that they can subsequently choose whether or not to accept any grant and associated conditions - such as those for required match funding - when the more detailed, investment grade bid has been prepared.

#### 4 Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH) Support

To assist and enable WLDC to be in a position to bid for PSDS3b, WLDC made a successful application to receive the Public Sector Decarbonisation Support being developed by the Midlands Net Zero Hub.

The [Midlands Net Zero Hub](#) is funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) as part of the government's clean growth strategy and is hosted by Nottingham City Council. MNZH, like other net zero hubs across the country, aims to facilitate investment into energy projects, increasing the number, quality and scale of those being delivered across the regions. MNZH have been working with WLDC to support feasibility studies into possible new technologies and efficiency savings at the highest energy consuming sites in WLDC's portfolio, with the aim of helping WLDC prepare an investment ready and credibly deliverable scheme in time for PSDS3b applications.

Work has been taking place to understand the key buildings in WLDC's portfolio that would benefit most from decarbonisation measures, to assist with determining which support offering is most appropriate.

The buildings that have been assessed are

- Guildhall
- Trinity Arts Centre
- Gainsborough Leisure Centre

Using energy consumption data and site information supplied by WLDC Officers in Property Services, a series of desktop feasibility assessments have been undertaken to understand the potential of deploying a range of onsite renewable energy generation and storage technologies by producing "high quality assessments" to support a business case. Potential energy cost and carbon savings appraisals have been undertaken for each of the sites and summary and full reports produced for all three. Full reports contain the site profile, calculations breakdown, and assumptions, while summaries cover the relevant metrics and constraints only.



A senior bid writer from NMZH has been assigned to the work to help support full business case development as well as ensuring the initial HLA bid is developed and prepared to all meet all PSDS3b criteria, to optimise the chances of a successful bid.

## 5 The Assessments

The rationale for which buildings we submitted to MNZH for assessment for possible inclusion in a PSDS3b bid started with a baseline assessment of our portfolio, taking account of the work that was already underway in relation to the strategic asset review and those buildings that were very likely to remain as a part of the portfolio in the medium term. Once this long list had been assessed a shorter list was taken forward for further review and more technical assessment to judge value in relation to submission as part of our bid and the required carbon reduction compliance criteria for the fund. The MNZH assessments focused on the types of measures that could be potentially installed at each building and the feasibility of installing the measures. Full detail is in the MNZH reports and only brief commentary is provided here.

### 5.1 Gainsborough Leisure Centre

By far the largest consumer in terms of the electricity and gas use, and seemingly a favourable assessment in terms of carbon saving and financial payback. However, the CHP boiler was installed in 2018 and this rules the building out of the current round of PSDH funding which is targeted at replacing end of life units on technical grounds. Full results of a stock condition survey are also being awaited at this time which might affect the longevity of the facility and hence the lifespan and payback opportunity of any new technology installed. Work continues with MNZH Property Services and the contract operators in relation to opportunities around the Leisure Centre. The current funding structure of NMZH aims to support public sector organisations to build business cases ready to be financed and / or to access the UK government funding streams and so it is suggested that WLDC continue to work with them. The intention is to take up their offer of free in-person assessments of the energy used by our buildings and processes to identify other cost-effective energy saving measures. Further detailed EPC surveys are recommended in preparation for possible future project opportunities in the WLDC Climate, Environment and Sustainability Action Plan and it is thought that this will meet our immediate needs.

### 5.2 Trinity Arts Centre

The building has the smallest energy use and CO2 emissions of those considered. Taking this into account, the works identified would come in over the qualification threshold of £325/tonne of CO2 for all technologies looked at in the first pass assessment. There are also some questions around how the space will be utilized in the future with redesign work being considered. For these reasons it is suggested that further assessment work continues in a similar fashion to the leisure centre above and a PSDS3b bid isn't now being pursued at this juncture.

### 5.3 Guildhall

MNZH modelling suggests that a 128KWh air source heat pump (ASHP) combined with further 16KWhp solar PV installation represents the optimum solution of those modelled. This would provide an average CO2e saving of circa 42 tonnes per annum.

West Lindsey							Scenario 1					
Technology	Unit size (kW;kWp)	Technology Lifetime	CaPex	PBP (years)	tCO2e/year	CCT (GBP/tCO2eLT)	CaPex-Direct carbon measures	EMM* from DEC/EPC reports/- Techs with indirect carbon savings	EMM cost	Cap by Salix (58%) for EMM	Project Cost	
ASHP	128 Kw	20	£98,133	20+	41	105.31	ASHP	£98,133	EMM	0	£411,707.48	£332,059
ASHP + PV	128 kW; 15.1 kWp	20	£115,096	20+	42.46	119.27	Pipework and heat emitters upgrade	£150,000	Solar PV-Additional array (152 m2)	£16,963		
							DNO connection	£50,000	Solar PV- Upgrade of current PV array	£16,963		

The report from Midlands Net Zero Hub, examined various scenarios for decarbonization of the Guildhall, and the table above shows a selected snapshot of the modelling being undertaken.

Whilst work is proceeding at pace, the areas highlighted in yellow represent high level estimates which will be refined in the coming weeks as Officers work on site with a mechanical and electrical engineering consultant. Current figures are supplied with a generous contingency to ensure they are within budgets. Under the terms of PSDS3b heat decarbonization technologies such as the ASHP must make up at least 42% of the total project costs. Energy Efficiency Measures (EMM) or enabling measures refers to any other measure that does not decarbonise directly such as, solar pv, battery storage, insulation, glazing, battery storage, modifications to radiators etc.

The match funding element is WLDC's minimum contribution to the total project, calculated at 12%. However, this is assuming that the like-for-like heating system replacement (new boilers) are lower than the 12% of the total cost. Current estimates in the Property Services Strategic Asset Management Plan put the cost for this replacement at circa £60k which is much higher than the calculated 12%. PSDS3b guidance says this:

"As a minimum, all Applicants are required to contribute the like-for-like costs of the project themselves **in addition** to any PSDS grant funding provided. The like-for-like cost is defined as all the costs incurred should the existing heating system be replaced with a typical fossil fuel heating system of the required type and size."

**Therefore, the match funding for this round would be the actual cost of like-for-like replacement and associated works - £60K unless a cheaper quotation can be found.**

WLDC's M&E consultant has advised that a number of upgrades to the heating infrastructure of the GH would be needed to move to ASHP. His view is that this won't be simple and will require significant works.

MNZH have responded to these concerns. Cost estimates are "*provided by a mix of installers, manufacturers, sales companies and researchers, updated on a 6-monthly basis following the market closely.*" To increase confidence in the cost estimate manufacturer quotes, are being obtained following an on the ground, internal assessment that has been undertaken. This will feed into the final HLA bid.

For now, highlighted in yellow in the table above, officers have raised the contingency levels for the decarbonisation tech and EMM with the currently favoured option of 128KWH air source heat pump and 16KWh solar PV. This would allow circa £332k total project costs and would not affect the WLDC match funding or the carbon saving threshold qualification. Indeed, an even higher figure can be allowed without affecting these parameters if cost estimates come back higher.

## 6 PSDS Application Process

Work continues in collaboration with Property Services, Finance and MNZH who feed into a WLDC project team that is now set up. Further reviews and more technical assessments will take place prior to the PSDS3b application portal opening. The work would not stop there however as more detailed analysis focusing on the types of balanced technology measures that could be potentially installed in the building and the feasibility of installing the measures will continue after the initial bid submission. A Salix project advisor would be appointed to work with the council and satisfy themselves of deliverability criteria and project governance if a bid was successful in principle.

The PSDS3b application process entails a good deal of preparation and form filling, but it can be summarised as below:

- Council sets time frames for completion (multi-year projects are possible in PSDS3b) and submits a compliant bid through the PSDS portal (from October,) prior to closing.
- Applications considered by Salix and funds provisionally allocated within financial years
- The Council is responsible for obtaining quotes and following own procurement regulations
- Salix works with councils to consider the schemes of work and quotes to ensure they are compliant and deliverable

- Salix confirm reserved funding with grant offer letter and conditions
- Council considers grant offer and decides whether to accept it.
- Projects commence

It is expected that the delivery of designs and subsequent installation of measures can be undertaken via the Councils existing procurement procedures, but an Officer has been incorporated into the project team to advise. These arrangements have predefined contractual obligations concerning provision of value for money and obtaining social value etc. They are also likely to be compliant in regards to necessary procurement and spend obligations and other contractual issues such as insurances /indemnities and warranties for work carried out. These arrangements must be firmed up and spelled out in any PSDS3b bid as they are a key part of the eligibility. Any project within the PSDS programme needs to have a defined project plan and governance arrangements, which must be submitted at the time of application. As with PSDS1, it is suggested that a stakeholder project steering group will oversee the entire scheme of works.

PSDS3b offers an opportunity to bid for funding that would produce a step change in the way we heat our buildings and demonstrate our commitment to WLDC's Carbon Management Plan and net zero carbon reduction targets. It also provides a potential opportunity to improve our buildings and will provide planned replacements of plant that would have required total funding via scarce Council resources in the future (boiler replacement is currently scheduled for 24/25).

It is unlikely that we will see a marked reduction in revenue costs to run the building, as whilst gas will no longer be required, an air source heat pump will require more electricity to run. New solar PV arrays can generate power and provide an off-set to the electricity, however it is anticipated at this stage that building running costs will remain.

## **7 Match Funding**

The match funding requirement is a change to the terms of the PSDS scheme set-up. It is unknown if future schemes will continue to require higher percentages of contributions from authorities. The current contribution calculated on the basis of a like for like equivalent to the costs of replacing WLDC's current gas fired boiler system with a conventional boiler at around £60K including auxiliary works. This leaves room for significant spend on the upgrades to radiators and cooling systems etc that may otherwise have had to be funded from maintenance budgets. It should be stated that this estimate may be refined following receipt of supplier quotes.

Possible budgets for any additional matched funding deemed necessary following receipt of updated estimates, include £500k earmarked to support delivery of the Carbon Management Plan, (with a recognition that other funding solutions are needed to support this) The capital programme 2021-22 to 2025-26 also included for £260K of carbon reduction initiatives.

# Agenda Item 6b



**Corporate Policy &  
Resources Committee**

**Thursday, 29 September  
2022**

**Subject: Levelling Up Parks Fund**

Report by:

Director of Planning, Regeneration &  
Communities

Contact Officer:

Grant White  
Enterprising Communities Manager

grant.white@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To seek approval to make a submission to the  
Levelling Up Parks Fund to deliver new and  
improved green space in Gainsborough.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 1. That Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approve the submission of a project proposal to the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in line with the details set out in section 3.**
- 2. That Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approve the expenditure of the Levelling Up Parks Fund and associated project resources as set out in section 4.**

## IMPLICATIONS

### **Legal:**

The Council will be required to contract with a design team and construction contractor to deliver the works. Contractors will be procured in line with procurement regulations and contracts will be issued with appropriate legal support.

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

### **Financial :**

#### **FIN/87/23/CPR/JA**

Funding of £85,000 is available to be spent by 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

The funding breakdown consists of:

1. Up to £47,500 capital for the creation of improvement to an existing park
2. Up to £18,500 revenue for project preparation, creation and maintenance
3. Up to £19,000 'tree uplift' for tree planting and related costs.

In addition, £15,000 of resources are required to cover Project Management to ensure the project is delivered and all stakeholders are comprehensively engaged. This will be provided as WLDC match funding and funded from the Business Planning Budget

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

### **Staffing : HR181-9-22**

Having reviewed existing staff resource it is clear that there is no available resource to deliver this work in house. Land Property and Growth Board will oversee the project, with support from the Director Planning, Regeneration and Communities. The Change Management Team will provide light touch governance input.

The resource budget will be utilised to fund project management resource – estimated to be required at 1 day per week on average over a 30 week period (to allow for post project reporting). This additional resource will report to the Communities Manager.

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

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

An equality impact assessment will be completed on the final project proposal to ensure that the needs of all members of our community are considered.

**Data Protection Implications :**

WLDC are required to agree to the terms of the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities.

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:**

The creation and enhancement of improved quality green spaces in an urban area will directly contribute towards the Council’s Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy. The works will include planting of trees within an urban area.

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:**

Creating a safe green space is a key consideration and primary aim of this work. Opportunities for natural surveillance together with formal surveillance will be considered as part of the scheme design.

**Health Implications:**

This fund offers the opportunity to improve access to quality green space in an urban area of Gainsborough which has been identified as lacking green space. The benefits to both physical and mental well-being of access to the outdoors and green space are significant.

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

Levelling Up Parks Fund Prospectus - [Levelling Up Parks Fund: Prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

**Risk Assessment :**

Not applicable

**Call in and Urgency:**

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

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

Yes

No

X

**Key Decision:**

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

**Yes**

**No**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 the Government launched the Levelling Up Parks Fund as part of it's mission to level up people's pride in the places they love. The fund is designed to improve both the equality of access and quality of green space in over 100 neighbourhoods across the UK.
- 1.2 The fund has identified the 100+ places that are most in need of quality green space. This has been based upon an assessment of access to quality green space against the Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- 1.3 West Lindsey has been included on the list of eligible places. This fund is not competitive. Eligible places will receive a grant of £85,000 for the creation of a new or significantly refurbished urban green space.

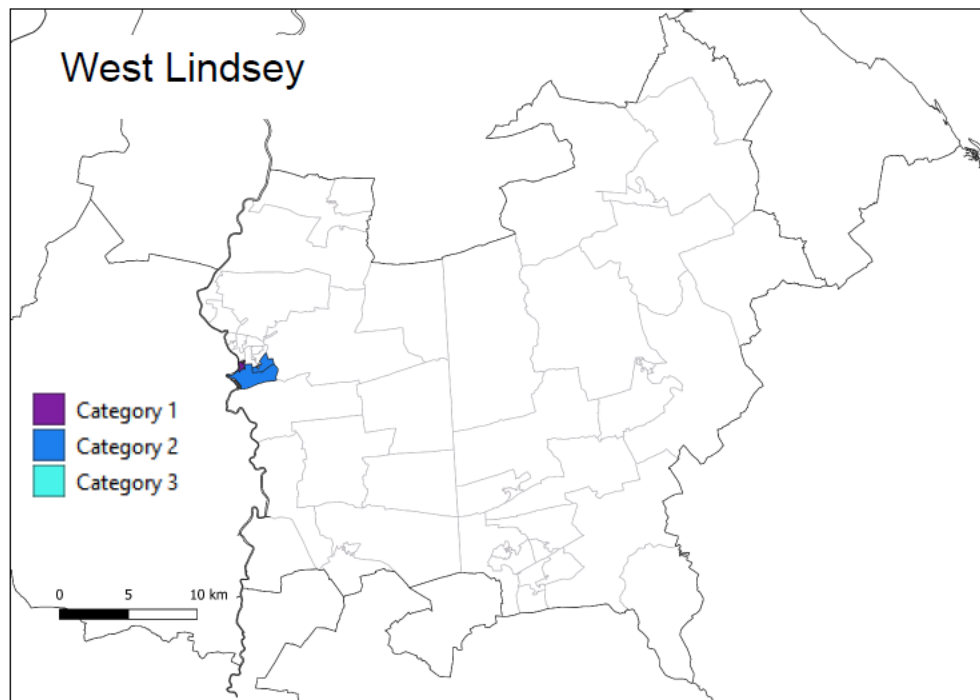
## 2. Eligible Places Criteria

- 2.1 The government have utilised a data set known as Lower Super Output areas (LSOAs) to determine eligibility. All places in the UK are split into LSOAs – which are small areas with a population of between 1000 and 1500 people.
- 2.2 To be eligible for this fund a local council area must contain LSOAs that are in the top 2 deciles of the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation and have less than 5% of their area near an accessible green space; and
  - i) are among the 300 most deprived neighbourhoods in England (Category 1)
  - ii) have less than 5% 'green cover' (Category 2)
  - iii) have more than 5% 'green cover' (Category 3)
- 2.3 The following three LSOA's in Gainsborough were identified by government as being in the priority category.

LSOA code	2011 Green cover percentage	Category	Description
E01026383	1.01	1	River Trent to Sandsfield Lane – inc Trent Street to Stanley Street
E01026382	0.02	2	River Trent – Carr Lane – Thorndike Way inc Sandfield Rd open space up Foxby Lane
E01026375	0.12	2	Middlefield Lane inc Park Springs to Somerby Way



2.4 The map below was provided by government and shows the LSOAs.



2.5 Whilst local councils do not have to use the fund to improve parks and green spaces in the LSOAs identified, it is strongly recommended that the identified neighbourhoods are prioritised.

### 3. Project Proposal

3.1 Given the clearly identified priority area within Gainsborough, a strategic review of existing evidence that incorporates open space, green space and play provision has been undertaken. This has included the Green Infrastructure Strategy, the Gainsborough Neighbourhood Plan and the adopted Local Plan. Across this evidence base, there are undoubtedly a number of sites that have been identified as in need of improvement.

3.2 At this present time the site that stands out as one which provides an opportunity for improvement within the time frames required and is located within the priority neighbourhoods themselves is Scouts Hill, Sandsfield Lane.

#### APPENDIX 1 – Scout’s Hill Site Plan

3.3 In summer 2022, Benjamin Adlard Primary School secured funds from The Mercers’ Company and invested in a series of community engagement sessions looking at improving their own green spaces. The study concluded that the opportunity for improving access to green space for pupils of the school and the wider community actually lays in considering the sites in and around the school land in a strategic and planned manner.

- 3.4 Land in the ownership of WLDC at Scouts Hill was previously a children's play area and football pitch. The site was subject to vandalism and in recent years all assets such as play equipment and changing rooms were removed from the site.
- 3.5 In utilising the opportunity of the Levelling Up Parks Fund there is potential to return some of this space into use as a valuable green space for the community.
- 3.6 Details of the types of works that can be achieved within the funding envelope are still being developed. It is likely this could include improved natural walking routes, creation of level grassed open space and enhanced lighting and CCTV. Tree planting is a key element of the funding and would need to be designed as part of this work.
- 3.7 Further work with all key stakeholders is needed to inform a final proposal. This would build on the work already completed by the school and broaden the reach to ensure that all Ward Members and other third sector and community stakeholders are engaged.
- 3.8 Where funding criteria allows, officers will also explore the opportunities to enhance and improve green pocket spaces located in the identified LSOAs. Examples of this would include smaller patches of green space located at the end of terrace streets. This type of green space improvement will have a direct impact on households that do not have access to gardens or nearby park spaces.
- 3.9 Officers are joining national workshop sessions being delivered by Groundwork and Fields in Trust who are providing advice, guidance and support to Local Authorities accessing this funding. The series of workshops begin in late September 2022 and are designed to support councils with their final proposals.

#### **4. Resources**

- 4.1 DLUHC will make £85,000 of funding available to WLDC through a Section 31 grant.

This funding is broken down as follows:

1. Up to £47,500 capital for the creation of improvement to an existing park
2. Up to £18,500 revenue for project preparation, creation and maintenance
3. Up to £19,000 'tree uplift' for tree planting and related costs.

- 4.2 In addition to the funding, Keep Britain Tidy are in place to undertake a site visit and assessment, which is designed to support Council's to

develop their final proposals. This will also be supplemented by workshops and capacity building to be run by DLHUC.

- 4.3 The project will be governed through the Council's Project Office, with Land Property and Growth Board having operational oversight feeding into Portfolio Board.
- 4.4 Additional Project Management capacity will be required to deliver this project in line with the governments time frames. An initial estimate of 30 days of time between October and May (to allow for project snagging and evaluation) has been made. It is estimated this may cost up to £500 per day so an allowance of £15,000 is suggested. This is to be funded from the Business Planning Budget

## **5. Timescales**

- 5.1 The Levelling Up Parks Fund has been designed to be a flexible fund that provides local authorities with autonomy over site selection and project proposals.
- 5.2 Council's were asked to 'Opt In' to receive the funds by 2<sup>nd</sup> September and West Lindsey's 'Opt In' submission was made by the deadline.
- 5.3 Council's are now required to submit a project proposal form to the Department for Levelling Up Homes and Communities by 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022. It is envisaged that this would swiftly be followed by the issue of a Memorandum of Understanding to be agreed asap with grant monies to be paid via Section 31 agreement.
- 5.4 All spend must be completed within this financial year – end date 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

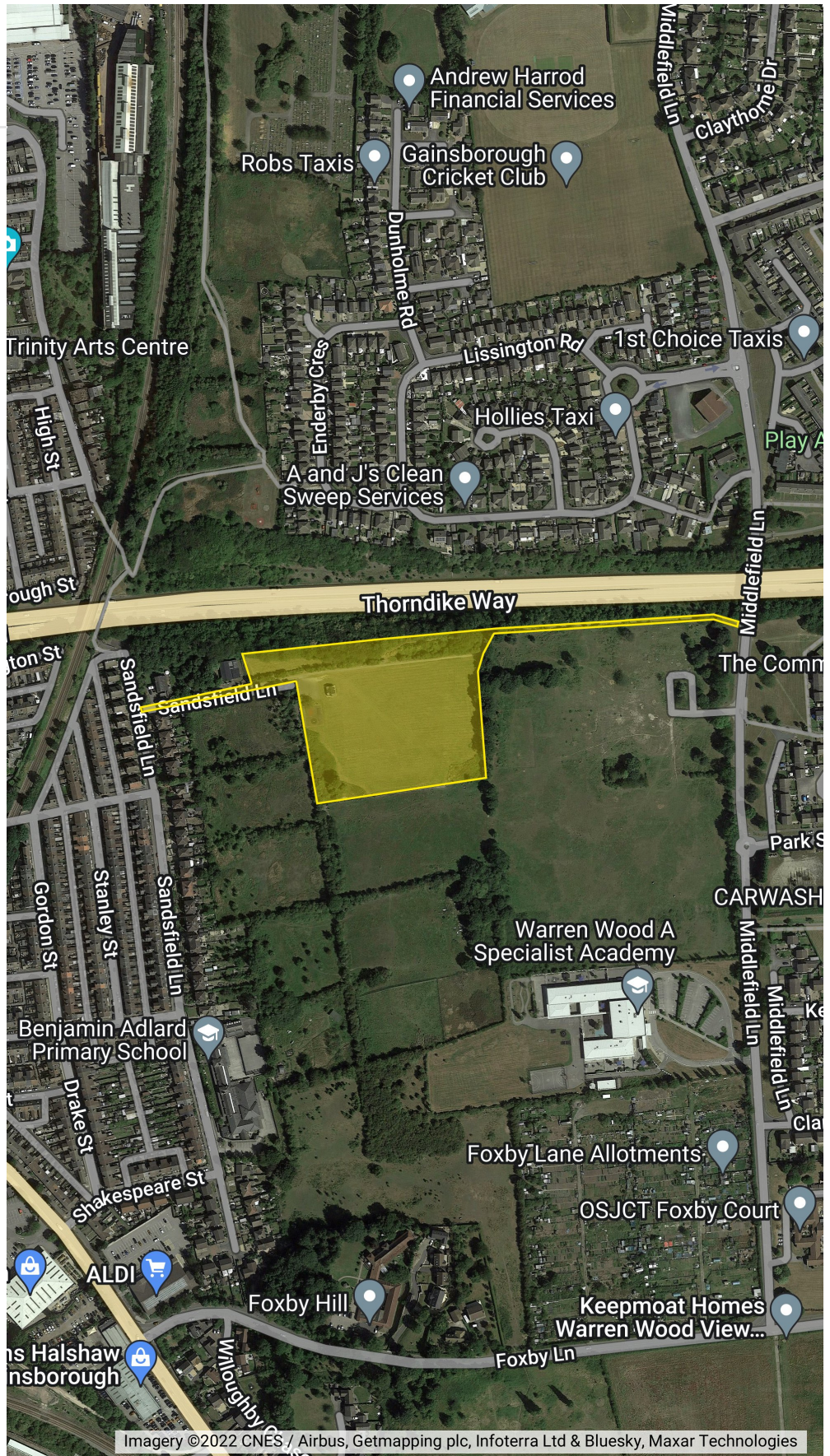
## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 That Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approve the submission of a project proposal to the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in line with the details set out in section 3.
- 6.2 That Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approve the expenditure of the Levelling Up Parks Fund and associated project resources as set out in section 4.

# LUF Parks Fund

Scout's Hill, Gainsborough

 Scout's Hill, Gainsborough



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## CP&R Work Plan (as at 21 September 2022)

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### Purpose:

This report provides a summary of items due at upcoming meetings.

### Recommendation:

1. That Members note the contents of the report.

Date	Title	Lead Officer	Purpose of the report	Date First Published
<b>10 NOVEMBER 2022</b>				
10 Nov 2022	Budget and Treasury Monitoring Quarter 2 2022/2023	Sue Leversedge, Business Support Team Leader	This report sets out the revenue, capital and treasury management activity from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2022.	20 July 2022
10 Nov 2022	Proposed Fees and Charges 2022/2023	Sue Leversedge, Business Support Team Leader	Propose Fees and Charges to take effect from 1 April 2023.	20 July 2022
10 Nov 2022	Commercial Waste Solutions Business Plan	Elaine Bilton, Senior Waste Administration Officer	Annual service business plan	
10 Nov 2022	Progress and Delivery Quarter Two (22/23) Performance Improvement Plan	Claire Bailey, Assistant Planning Services Team Manager	Quarter Two Performance Improvement Plan	
<b>15 DECEMBER 2022</b>				
23 Jan 2023	Future delivery of Building Control services	Ady Selby, Director of Commercial & Operational Services	To consider a three authority Business Case for the future delivery of Building Control services	
<b>12 JANUARY 2023</b>				
12 Jan 2023	Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Budget	Grant White, Enterprising Communities Manager	To present recommendations from Prosperous Communities Committee on future Voluntary & Community Sector grant budgets.	20 July 2022

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**9 FEBRUARY 2021**

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9 Feb 2023	Budget and Treasury Monitoring Quarter 3 2022/2023	Sue Leversedge, Business Support Team Leader	This report sets out the revenue, capital and treasury management activity from 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2022.	20 July 2022
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9 Feb 2023	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Draft Budget 2023/24 & estimates to 2027/28	Sue Leversedge, Business Support Team Leader	The report sets out details of the overall Draft Revenue Budget 2023/2024 including that of this Committee and those recommended by the Prosperous Communities Committee for the period 2023/2024, and estimates to 2027/2028 to be included in the Medium Term Financial Plan.	20 July 2022
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9 Feb 2023	Safeguarding Policy	Grant White, Enterprising Communities Manager	To approve updated council safeguarding policy.	
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**23 MARCH 2023**

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23 Mar 2023	Land and Investment Policy	Gary Reeve, Property & Assets Manager	Policy document that considers the strategic approach to acquisition, management, retention and disposal of investment property assets held for income generation (yield), local area regeneration and regional business support	20 July 2022
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23 Mar 2023	Levelling Up Fund Public Realm Options	Sally Grindrod-Smith, Director Planning, Regeneration & Communities, Amy Potts, Senior Project Support Officer, Matthew Snee, Community Engagement Officer	A report detailing the business case and options for Public Realm interventions (Market, Park and Pocket Park) for member approval following on from recommendation in report from 1st June 2022.	
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