

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

## AGENDA

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

**Prosperous Communities Committee**  
**Tuesday, 18th March, 2025 at 6.00 pm**  
**Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA**

**Members:**

- Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings (Chairman)
- Councillor Emma Bailey (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Trevor Young (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Owen Bierley
- Councillor Frazer Brown
- Councillor Stephen Bunney
- Councillor Karen Carless
- Councillor Christopher Darcel
- Councillor Jacob Flear
- Councillor Paul Lee
- Councillor Jeanette McGhee
- Councillor Peter Morris
- Councillor Lynda Mullally
- Councillor Roger Patterson

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Public Participation**

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

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

(PAGES 3 - 7)

To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on Tuesday, 28 January 2025

**4. Members' Declarations of Interest**

Members may make any declarations at this point but may also make them at any time during the course of the meeting.

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

Large Clear Print: Braille: Audio: Native Language

5. **Matters Arising Schedule** (PAGES 8 - 9)  
Setting out current position of previously agreed actions as at 10 March 2025

6. **Public Reports**

i) Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth Capital Spend (PAGES 10 - 39)

ii) STEP: Progress Update and Future Activity (PAGES 40 - 60)

iii) Humber 2100+ Step 1 Endorsement (PAGES 61 - 76)

iv) Workplan (PAGE 77)

7. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

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

8. **Exempt Reports**

i) Exempt Appendix: Humber 2100+ Partnership & Strategy (PAGES 78 - 115)

Ian Knowles  
Head of Paid Service  
The Guildhall  
Gainsborough

Monday, 10 March 2025

Prosperous Communities Committee – 28 January 2025  
Subject to Call-in. Call-in will expire at 5pm on 7 March 2025

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA on 28 January 2025 commencing at 6.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings (Chairman)  
Councillor Emma Bailey (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Trevor Young (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Frazer Brown  
Councillor Stephen Bunney  
Councillor Karen Carless  
Councillor Jacob Flear  
Councillor Paul Lee  
Councillor Peter Morris  
Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor Trevor Bridgwood  
Councillor Lynda Mullally

**In Attendance:**  
Sally Grindrod-Smith Director Planning, Regeneration & Communities  
Laura Hill Senior Homelessness Prevention Officer  
Sue Leversedge Business Support Team Leader  
Ele Snow Senior Democratic and Civic Officer

**Apologies:** Councillor Jeanette McGhee

**Membership:** Councillor Trevor Bridgwood was appointed substitute for Councillor Jeanette McGhee

### 49 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 50 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 3 December 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **51 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor T. Bridgwood made a personal, non-pecuniary declaration in relation to agenda item 6a (Housing Register and Nomination Policy) in that he was an Armed Forces veteran and had been in contact with Officers regarding generic arrangements for veterans.

## **52 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE**

It was confirmed that there had been contact between Members and Officers in relation to the Sports and Physical Activity Working Group.

With no further comments, questions or requirement for a vote, the Matters Arising Schedule, setting out the current position of previously agreed actions as at 20 January 2025, was **DULY NOTED**.

## **53 WEST LINDSEY HOUSING REGISTER & NOMINATION POLICY**

Members heard from the Director of Planning, Regeneration & Communities regarding the West Lindsey Housing Register & Nomination Policy. It was explained that the policy covered the allocation scheme (as required by the Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Homelessness Act 2012 and Localism Act 2011) for West Lindsey District Council. It set out the framework within which West Lindsey operated in the assessment of housing need on the common housing register and the nomination from that register to social rented properties. The policy detailed how eligibility for accessing the housing register was determined, and set out clear parameters for how housing register applications were banded and awarded priority. The policy also explained how the council nominated to registered providers, and the process for those nominations.

Members heard that the main objectives of the Policy were to:

- Provide a fair, open and accountable framework in which everyone had equality of access when seeking an affordable home
- Prevent homelessness and reduce the use of temporary accommodation
- Assist applicants in the greatest housing needs, whilst ensuring the best use of limited housing resources, and that balanced and stable communities were maintained
- Ensure quality and accessible advice and assistance about the scheme was freely available, to ensure applicants understood and could participate
- Take account of the relevant legislation and statutory guidance
- Have due regard to the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Members of the Committee were requested to approve adoption of the policy, note the introduction of a Home Choices Customer Charter, and for authority for minor amendments to be delegated to the Director for Planning, Regeneration and Communities.

Members of the Committee expressed their thanks for the work which went into the report and associated work within the team. It was requested that it be a matter of record that the team was considered to be amazing, being open and supportive, and providing excellent

advice. There was also praise for the Registered Providers, for properties being maintained to a high standard and working closely with the Council. It was recognised that, for many reasons, such as the cost of living crisis, the difficult housing market, and the economic uncertainty, homes and housing was a challenging area, added to which being a rural district brought its own considerations when seeking to provide housing.

Thanks were expressed for the briefing session which had been undertaken by Officers and was open to all Councillors. It was noted that feedback had been offered and incorporated. It was also requested that there be widespread communication regarding the policy, for example through Parish Newsletters.

In response to a question relating to the percentage of nominations open to West Lindsey District Council, it was explained that percentage agreements would depend on how individual schemes were funded at the time of approval, however there was not a 100% blanket share of nominations. It was also clarified that the Housing Register and Nomination Policy did not deal with specialist accommodation, however concerns raised regarding placements by other organisations were noted.

A Member of the Committee enquired as to whether there could be an amendment regarding access for veterans, for the details contained within section seven of the policy to be carried into reference 2.3 of the banding criteria found in appendix A of the policy. It was explained the amendment could be undertaken under the delegation, if authorised by the Committee.

Having been proposed, seconded, and voted upon, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the Housing Register and Nomination Policy be adopted; and
- b) approval for minor amendments to the policy to be delegated to the Director for Planning, Regeneration and Communities; and
- c) the introduction of a Home Choices Customer Charter, to set expectations for customers when accessing West Lindsey's housing register, be noted.

**54 PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE DRAFT BUDGET 2025/2026 AND ESTIMATES TO 2029/2030.**

The Committee heard from the Business Support Team Leader regarding the Prosperous Communities Committee Draft Budget 2025/2026 and estimates to 2029/2030. It was explained that the net base budget had increased from 2024/25 by £0.781m, with significant movements listed in the table provided at Appendix 4 of the report.

It was highlighted that £0.222m of the movement was an increase in approved use of earmarked reserves – which included the Community Grant programme previously funded from UKSPF, an adjustment to the budget for SLM leisure to reflect the current contract value and fixed term resources.

The remaining £0.559m was mainly due to an increase in salary budgets which had been affected by several factors, including:

- An assumed pay award of 3% for 25/26
- The continuation of the 24 hour CCTV service, previously funded through a combination of General Fund Balances and UKSPF grant, and
- Changes to employers' national insurance. Officers were waiting for confirmation of the NI Compensation Grant from Government, which was due in February 2025, however, estimates were at 55% of the budgeted figure for national insurance.

There had also been an increase in The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan contribution of £39,000, as approved by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

The Wellbeing Contract was a reduction in income of £19,000 from 2024/25, however the new contract was a gain for the MTFP of £77,000 in 2025/26 as the service had not been budgeted for beyond 2024/25.

Increased expenditure had been partly offset by the fees and charges review which had increased income by £146,000. Whilst Officers awaited the final settlement due in February, they were able to report that the proposed budgets for this committee contributed towards a balanced budget for 2025/26.

It was highlighted that Members were asked to recommend the budget to the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee for inclusion in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Members of the Committee expressed their thanks for the clear summary of the report, however, enquired as to whether there could be further work undertaken in relation to the provision costs of the CCTV service. It was noted that the increased monitoring had been approved previously, making use of UKSPF monies, however with funding coming to an end, it was requested that a review be undertaken. Specific areas of interest included whether the 24/7 service was still required, or whether there could be contributions sought from other organisations who gained benefits of the 24/7 CCTV provision. It was noted that it had been agreed for the Savings Board to receive such a review into the services, and this would be further shared with Committee Members in a timely manner. It was also confirmed that the figures included within the budgets were the uplift costs when the service was increased to 24/7 monitoring.

In response to a question regarding consultation responses, it was suggested that a more focussed approach with Town and Parish Councils might generate a greater response rate from parishes.

With no further comments or questions, and having been moved, seconded, and voted upon, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that Members recommend the Prosperous Communities Budget 2025/2026 and revenue estimates to 2029/2030 to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for the purpose of budget setting 2025/2026 and for inclusion in the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/2026 to 2029/2030 (as amended by any decisions taken on this agenda).

**55 WORKPLAN**

With no questions or comments, the work plan was **DULY NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 7.06 pm.

Chairman

## Prosperous Communities Matters Arising Schedule

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

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

### Matters Arising Schedule

Status	Title	Action Required	Comments	Due Date	Allocated To
Black	<b>Wellbeing Lincs - All Member Information Session</b>	All Member information session to be arranged regarding the updated Wellbeing Lincs service. Annual report to be circulated in advance.	<p><b>PC cttee 03.12.24: "It was noted that it would be useful for Members to be provided with the most recent annual review of the service, and for there to be an information session for all Councillors in order to explain the amended delivery of the service and highlight the purpose of it, especially for those who may not be aware of the full scope. It was agreed for these actions to be noted and arranged."</b></p> <p><b>Update 28.02.25: information circulated to all Members via email and Member Bulletin (28.02.25). Information session booked 31.03.25 – to be rescheduled</b></p>	30/04/25	Sarah Elvin
Black	<b>Membership of the Sport &amp; Physical Activity Task and Finish Group</b>	Contact to be made with Group Leaders seeking representatives for the task & finish group.	<p><b>29.10.24 PC Cttee: RESOLVED that Membership of the Sport and Physical Activity Task and Finish Group, to comprise of six cross-party and cross-district Member representatives, be delegated to the Director of Planning, Regenerations and Communities, in consultation with the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee, and to be confirmed within 14 days.</b></p> <p><b>Update: awaiting named nominations to be received</b></p> <p><b>Update: membership filled, first meeting to be arranged</b></p>	18/03/25	Grant White
Green	<b>Success Rate of Fixed Penalty Notices in Neighbouring Areas</b>	To inform Members of the Prosperous Communities Committee of the success rate of FPNs in other areas of the County	<p><b>29.10.24 PC Cttee: Members enquired as to the success rate of FPNs in other areas. It was explained that this data was not routinely gathered or shared however Officers could make enquiries and feedback responses to the Committee.</b></p>	31/03/25	Andy Gray
Green	<b>Breakdown of Environment &amp; Sustainability Actions by Ward</b>	A breakdown of Environment & Sustainability actions by Ward to be included in the State of the District report.	<p><b>12.11.24 Prosperous Communities Cttee: [it was requested] ... "that Members be provided with a breakdown of initiatives in their ward areas. It was confirmed that the State of the District report was being digitised and could include this breakdown of actions per area."</b></p>	31/03/25	Rachael Hughes



Green	<b>Parking Strategy - Future Considerations</b>  <b>AND</b>	Following discussions at PC Cttee meeting 19 July 2022, considerations for the refresh of the Parking Strategy should include details on opportunities to "green" the strategy as well as reconsidering options for motorhome and caravan parking, in relation to the visitor economy. Further details in minutes of meeting.		01/07/25 Sally Grindrod-Smith
	<b>Value for Money Review of Car Park Enforcement</b>	PC Cttee 26/10/23: resolved that Officers carry out a value for money review of the existing car park enforcement contract and report the findings to the Prosperous Communities Committee by 31 May 2024. Review to be undertaken & item to be added to the forward plan please.	<b>Update: date extended pending further discussions regarding the review of the car parking strategy as a whole</b>  <b>Item has been discussed at Leaders' Panel with subsequent actions through Committee to be confirmed.</b>	

# Agenda Item 6a



**Prosperous Communities**

**Tuesday, 18 March 2025**

**Subject: Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth Capital Spend**

Report by:

Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities

Contact Officer:

Grant White  
Communities Manager

[grant.white@west-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:grant.white@west-lindsey.gov.uk)

Purpose / Summary:

To approve spend from the Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth capital budget.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That Committee approve the spend of **£95,042** from the existing Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth capital budget to support works listed in Option 1 (Section 6.3) of this report.

## IMPLICATIONS

### **Legal:**

Grant funding agreements used meet legal requirements and have been approved for use by Legal Services. All grants awarded will comply with necessary legal regulations.

### **Financial: FIN/156/25/PC/SL**

The Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth capital scheme has a budget of £104,670 (funded from the Communities at Risk reserve), which was approved as a carry forward into 2025/2026 by Corporate Policy and Resources on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.

Option 1 within the report (preferred option) requests approval for spend of £95,042 against the existing capital scheme, leaving a balance of £9,628.

Spend is anticipated to take place in 2025/2026.

### **Staffing :**

The management of funding awards will be completed using existing staff resources within the Council's Communities Team.

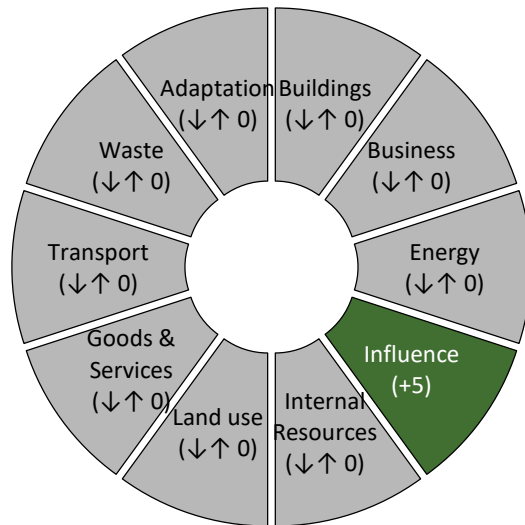
### **Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

The work of Hemswell Cliff Parish Council will bring the community together by establishing improved facilities that are more accessible. This will further the community as a place of choice to live, work, invest and visit.

### **Data Protection Implications :**

Not applicable.

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :**



Supporting the delivery of works by Hemswell Cliff Parish Council will improve the accessibility of the village green and establish the heart of the village. Improved provision of sport, leisure and recreational facilities within the village will support increased local usage and reduce the need for residents to travel to access such facilities elsewhere.

The Parish Council will seek to minimise environmental and carbon impact in the delivery of improvement works. This includes sourcing local contractors (where possible) and having due consideration for the environment in design and materials used.

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :**

Hemswell Cliff has experienced higher than average levels of anti-social behaviour and other crime types in the past. The improvement of community facilities, in particular provision for young people and enhanced lighting of the ballpark, will play an important role in helping create a safe environment with lower instances and risk of crime.

**Health Implications:**

The environment in which communities live is well documents to be a key determinant of the quality of life and health experiences by residents. District Councils have a role to play in creating an environment for people of all ages and abilities to have equitable access to safe, clean place in which to live, socialise and work.

The works delivery by Hemswell Cliff Parish Council will result in improved access to green spaces, with associated placed to meet, socialise and play.

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

None

**Risk Assessment :**

None

**Call in and Urgency:**

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

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

**Yes**

**No**

**x**

**Key Decision:**

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

**Yes**

**No**

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 In 2016, Hemswell Cliff was identified as a vulnerable rural community. Caused by a disastrous MOD withdrawal from the site, the community was left unstable, under resourced and at risk of further decline. Now in 2025, the situation is substantially improved reflecting the dedication to regeneration by West Lindsey District Council, Hemswell Cliff Parish Council, local partner organisations and residents in this area.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on the progress that has been made and requests approval of spend from the Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth capital budget. It will be used to support the delivery of works identified in Hemswell Cliff Parish Council's Community Investment Proposal – 'Make Hemswell Cliff Glitter'.
- 1.3 This report provides details of investment to date which includes previous Council funding and external funding secured. The allocation of funds from the capital budget will focus on work areas where there are no or limited opportunities for the Parish Council to apply for other funding sources.
- 1.4 Whilst this report focusses on the residential community, there is a continued focus by Council officers to support wider regeneration and support Hemswell Cliff to reach its potential in being an area of growth and play a significant role in the Lincolnshire agri-food sector.
- 1.5 This report presents options for approving a funding allocation from the Hemswell Cliff earmarked reserve. **Option 1** is the recommended option by officers and the Council's Management Team.

## 2 Context

- 2.1 In March 2016, Prosperous Communities Committee noted the Hemswell Cliff Masterplan and its recommendations to commence two programmes of work to address the issues at this former MOD site and release its potential:

- Hemswell Cliff Local Food Enterprise Zone work programme
- Hemswell Cliff Non-FEZ regeneration and growth programme

Committee allocated £150k capital and £100k revenue to the Hemswell Cliff Non-FEZ regeneration and growth programme.

- 2.2 In February 2022, Corporate Policy & Resources Committee approve the creation of a Communities at Risk fund to support all existing and potential future vulnerable communities. The fund aligns to the Council's Communities at Risk Policy Document.
- 2.3 The Communities at Risk fund was established from several existing budgets including the remaining revenue (as of February 2022) from the Hemswell Cliff Non-FEZ regeneration and growth programme.

- 2.4 Committee approved to retain a £150k capital budget and £10k revenue budget for Hemswell Cliff to continue the normalisation and regeneration of this former MOD site.
- 2.5 This report recommends approval of spend from the Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth **capital** budget.

### **3 Key Development and Progress**

- 3.1 Since 2016, significant progress has been made to support the normalisation, regeneration and growth in Hemswell Cliff.

- 3.2 **WLDC Hemswell Cliff Managed Estates – in place since July 2018**

A managed estates non-commercial contract with Hemswell Resident Company (HRC) in place to support what was the most run-down part of the village and the centre of the serious levels of crime in 2015/16. This covers the large private estate north of the A631 adjacent to the primary school.

The contract covers its costs and has enabled estate service charges to be released for reinvestment. The service charge is maintained at a manageable cost for homeowners. Since 2018, £125k has gone back into the estate and made visible improvements on areas such as roads, grass verges, streetlighting and parking areas.

- 3.3 **Ex-Sergeants Mess purchased by BECG in November 2021**

The [Broadcast Engineering Conservation Group](#) (BECG) purchased this 30,000 square foot building situated at the village green in November 2021. They have undertaken sympathetic refurbishment and restoration. Works have included fixing broken and boarded windows and removing excessive green growth on the building. BECG are proactively engaging with the Parish Council and local community.

Prior to BECG purchasing the building it had been abandoned for 12 years and was a major site for anti-social behaviour.

- 3.4 **Hemswell Cliff Play Parks adopted by the Parish Council in 2023**

Two play parks in the village were previously owned and managed by the Hemswell Resident Company (HRC). Due to their private company status, they were unable to apply for any funding opportunities to support maintenance, refurbishment or improvement costs.

Work was undertaken to support the play parks adoption by the Parish Council.

The play parks need refurbishment, and the Parish Council has begun the process of applying for external funding. They have achieved a £20k grant award from the National Lottery Community Fund and are applying to other funders.

### 3.5 **Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan adopted in 2023**

Begun in 2017, this successful neighbourhood plan is now in place. It endorses the content of the 2016 Masterplan with a desire for growth to enable the village to thrive and has ambitions for a village centre to bring the community together.

### 3.6 **New Community Room due to open in March 2025**

As part of the Broadcasting Engineering Conservation Group (BECG) museum building, a Community Room is being created. Funding was secured from FCC (£100k) with match funding support from WLDC (£23.6k) to create this new space with a kitchen facility.

BECG have worked with the Parish Council on an agreed process to manage the space and establish a 24/7 accessible community that can be used by all. Due to open in March 2025, this will be the first time there is an accessible community space in Hemswell Cliff since the RAF were present.

## 4 **Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth – Capital Budget Overview**

4.1 The effective use of Council funding has enabled positive progress in supporting a vulnerable community. Local resources have been unlocked and funding from the Council has supported securing other external funding.

4.2 The balance carried forward into 2024/2025 was £128,300. It was maintained as a collective figure with the aim to use it to best effect to unlock long standing issues.

4.3 The lack of a place for the community to meet has been a longstanding problem. The solution of a shared space within the BECG building and the successful achievement of FCC funding to refurbish it has resulted in a smaller contribution of £23,630 during 2024/2025 to achieve this aim.

4.4 There is now a remaining level of capital budget that can be used to positive effect to address community facilities, lighting and access works identified in Hemswell Cliff Parish Council's Community Investment Proposal – 'Make Hemswell Cliff Glitter'.

4.5 The current remaining balance of the capital budget is **£104,670**, which was approved as a carry forward into 2025/2026 by Corporate Policy and Resources on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.



## 5 Community Investment Proposal – ‘Make Hemswell Cliff Glitter’

5.1 Hemswell Cliff Parish Council have developed a Community Investment Proposal to develop their large village green. This is a plan achieved by a parish in a greatly improved position compared to past years and based on a clear vision and aligned to their adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

### APPENDIX 1 – Hemswell Cliff Community Investment Proposal – ‘Make Hemswell Cliff Glitter’.

5.2 Access to community spaces and facilities is a challenge in Hemswell Cliff:

- There are no dropped kerbs so access for the disabled, wheelchairs, pushchairs to the village green and the community room is challenging.
- The village green is a large, grassed area that is a hard walk across and costly to maintain. It’s a hard landscape that needs softening and encouraging more use of it to bring the community together.
- The existing ballpark has no outside lights which limits activities on dark nights. There are no lights to the new community room across the green.
- Existing play parks contain old equipment or areas where the old equipment has been removed.
- There was until recently nowhere to sit on the village green.

5.3 The Parish Council have consulted with their residents and taken their views into account within this plan. The school children have named the slogan ‘Make Hemswell Cliff Glitter’. The villagers are already seeing signs of change. Local businesses have got behind the plans and have invested in some benches.

5.4 This plan aims to support investment into a large area and establish an attractive environment to be enjoyed by all residents, visitors and business employees.

5.5 The Community Improvement Proposal is split into phases of work. Works already completed or in delivery are listed in the following table:

Phase	Summary	Cost
Phase 1	<b>Destination Space 1 and 2 – ALL COMPLETED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bench seating areas</li> <li>• Wheelchair accessible bench</li> <li>• Planter</li> <li>• Tree planting</li> <li>• Goal posts</li> </ul>	£6,765
Phase 5	<b>Destination Space 2 – Part 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concrete Pads – COMPLETED</li> </ul>	£1,350

Phase 8	<b>Play Parks - FUNDRAISING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£20k awarded from National Lottery Community Fund towards this phase</li> <li>£100k funding bid submitted to FCC awaiting outcome</li> </ul>	£120,000
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5.6 Work under other phases that requires funding to proceed are listed in the following table. These are areas of work this report includes within options to fund.

Phase	Summary	Cost
Phase 2	<b>Ball Park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ballpark lights (£30,000)</li> <li>Path to connect middle path to ballpark (£8,257)</li> <li>Outdoor Gym (£10,000)</li> </ul>	£48,257
Phase 3	<b>Destination Space 1 – Part 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path to connect ballpark to the benches on Phase 1 then running down the side of Bettesworth Avenue to the middle path</li> </ul>	£20,000
Phase 4	<b>Anyone for Soccer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path from wheelchair access picnic towards Bettesworth Avenue running alongside to join middle path</li> </ul>	£20,000
Phase 5	<b>Destination Space 2 – Part 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path to connect Phase 4 path and goal post spectator benches to middle path</li> </ul>	£4,000
Phase 6	<b>Drop Kerbs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 drop kerbs are key locations around the village to improve accessibility</li> </ul>	£16,785
Phase 7	<b>BEM Disabled Toilet &amp; Baby Change</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disabled access toilet and baby change table for the Community Room within the Broadcast Engineering Museum</li> </ul>	£3,800
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£112,842</b>

## **6 Funding Allocation Options**

6.1 The Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth capital budget has a balance of **£104,670**.

6.2 The following funding allocation options have been considered by the Council's Management Team. The options focus on areas of work where it is known that there are no or limited opportunities for the Parish Council to apply for other funding sources.

### **6.3 Option 1 – Focus on sport, leisure, path works and accessibility (Recommended Option)**

Allocation of **£95,042** to fund the following phases:

- Phase 2 - £38,257 (ballpark lights & path only)
- Phase 3 - £20,000
- Phase 4 - £20,000
- Phase 6 - £16,785

This option would £9,628 in the Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth capital budget.

This option is recommended for the following reasons:

- Value of capital budget spend provides significant level of delivery.
- Will fund priority areas of spend focussed on sport, leisure and path works with improved accessibility as an outcome.
- These areas of works have no or limited other funding options for the parish council to apply to.
- These areas of work will contribute to priorities within the Council's own Corporate Plan and related strategies (e.g. Health & Wellbeing Strategy).
- This option does leave some remaining capital budget for allocation and use on other work in the future.

### **6.4 Option 2 – Delivery of all phases**

Allocation of **£102,842** to fund the following phases:

- Phase 2 - £38,257 (ballpark lights & path only)
- Phase 3 - £20,000
- Phase 4 - £20,000
- Phase 5 - £4,000
- Phase 6 - £16,785
- Phase 7 - £3,800

This option would leave £1,828 in the Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth capital budget

## 6.5 **Option 3 – Focus on sport, leisure and path works**

Allocation of **£82,257** to fund the following phases:

- Phase 2 - £38,257 (ballpark lights & path only)
- Phase 3 - £20,000
- Phase 4 - £20,000
- Phase 5 - £4,000

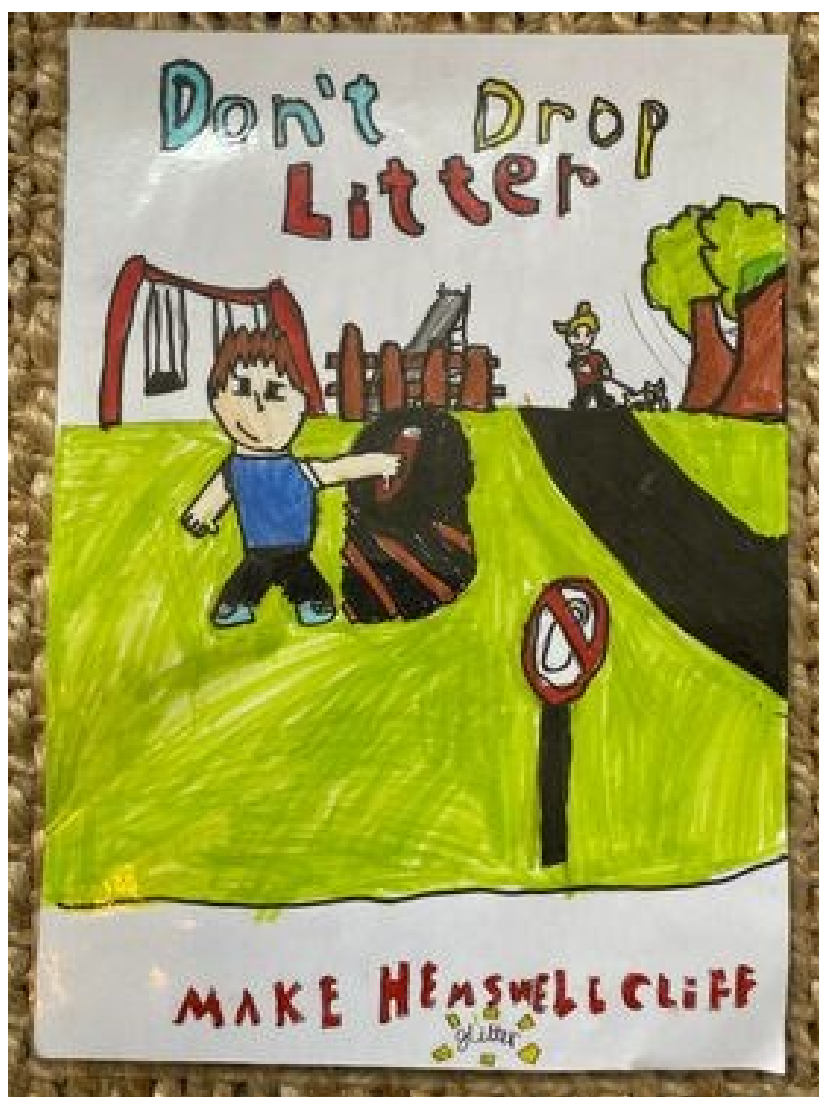
This option would leave £22,413 in the Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth capital budget.

## 7 **Recommendations**

- 7.1 That Committee approve the spend of **£95,042** from the existing Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth capital budget to support works listed in Option 1 (Section 6.3) of this report.



## Community Improvement Proposal



# #makehemswellcliffglitter

# Foreword

Hemswell Cliff is a decommissioned former RAF Base which was sold off by the MOD in the 90's. It has not been without it's challenges but the village has a vision to be a **"Normal"** village. Over the years the Parish Council has worked tirelessly to try and achieve this with unfaltering support from [West Lindsey District Council](#).

In 2015 we replaced the old ramshackle Ball Park left by the MOD with a new £100K facility which is still going strong.

In 2022 we opened allotments for the village which are proving popular

In 2023 the Parish Council adopted the Play Parks from HRC ([Hemswell Residents Company](#)) and is now working hard to secure funding to update them.

In November 2023 Hemswell Cliff's Neighbourhood plan was officially adopted, giving a clear vision for the village.

The Village is really now starting to pull together and with the new owners of the old Sergeants Mess ([The Broadcast Engineering Conservation Group](#)) being super keen to be part of the village they are well on the way to opening a new Village Community Room in the [BEM](#). Funded by [FCC](#) and [WLDC](#).

Never before has the Village worked together so hard to realise it's dreams. We look forward to working together with WLDC, HRC, the BECG and local businesses and funders to keep improving the village for the better.

The following proposal is our next step to bring the village together, improve facilities and realise the visions of the Neighbourhood Plan.



# PHASE 1

## Destination Space 1

- 3 x Backed Recycled Plastic Benches
- 50p shaped concrete slab
- Beech hedge surrounding slab
- Miscellaneous



This space was inspired by the feedback received at our teen/young adult engagement session, the community engagement online survey and the neighbourhood plan. This recreational area will benefit residents and those who visit or work in the Parish. Bringing to life our vision of making Hemswell Cliff a cohesive Parish.

***This phase will be complete in January 2025***

The benches were funded by local businesses and Hemswell Residents Company, and the Parish Council funded the Concrete Base and Trees.

## Destination Space 2

Benches to be added for spectators of friends and family playing football in the newly installed goal posts on the green. Creating a usable space to appeal to all age groups on and off the Estate.

- 2 x Goal Posts
- 2 x Recycled Plastic Benches (see Phase 5)

Breakdown on next page



# Destination Space 1 & 2

## Breakdown of Costs

### Parish Council and Local Businesses

£1,800 Concrete Pad (Parish Council)

£1,089 3 x Backed benches (Local Businesses & HRC)

£574 2 x Backless benches (Local Businesses)

£125 Trees (Parish Council)

£40 Plants

Grass seed to be confirmed

£397 1 x wheelchair access bench (Local Business)

£287 1 x Planter (Local Business)

£574 1 x Buddy Bench (Parish Council)

£19 1 x Buddy Bench sign (Parish Council)

£100 5 x Litter Pick signs (Parish Council)

£100 Teen Engagement Night (Donations)

£1.660 Goal posts (Parish Council)

This does not include VAT fixings or delivery on benches

TOTAL ABOVE £6,765

**All to be Complete in January 2025**



# PHASE 2

## Ball Park

- Ball Park Lights
- £30,000 (approx.)
- Path to connect middle path to ballpark (see map)
- £8,257.71 concrete
- Outdoor Gym
- £10,000
- Ramps for bikes
- Excess soil repurposed from path installation
- 1 X Backless Recycled Plastic Bench (local Businesses)

# PHASE 3

## Destination Space 1 (Part 2)

- Path to connect ballpark to the benches on Phase 1 then running down the side of Bettesworth Avenue to the middle path
- Drop kerb to access field (Phase 6)
- £20,000 concrete
- Already spent in the area see Phase 1 costings

# PHASE 4

## “Anyone For Soccer”

- Goal posts (from Phase 1)
- £1,660 (Complete December 2024)
- Path from wheelchair access picnic towards Bettsworth Avenue running alongside to join middle path
- £ 20,000 concrete

# PHASE 5

## Destination Space 2 (Part 2)

- 3 X Backed Recycled Benches ( Local Businesses )
- Concrete Pads x3 £1350 (Parish Council)
- Path to connect phase 4 path and goal post spectator benches then to middle path hedge side
- £4000 concrete

# PHASE 6

## Drop Kerbs

Section 20 Equality Act 2010; Places a duty to make reasonable Adjustments for those with disabilities on all those to whom the Act applies. This duty is triggered in circumstances where a disabled person is placed at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to persons who are not disabled.

To allow excess for ALL onto the Estate from the A631 crossing by the bus stop near Gibson Road turning.

To make it safe for anyone walking with a pram/wheelchair /scooter/ young child or any one with mobility issues to get better access to and from the shop/park/ BEM and the school without the need to endanger themselves or others by being on the road.

Equality Act 2010 Section 21

***Failing to make reasonable adjustments is unlawful and amounts to disability discrimination***

We do have a lot of old and disabled people in the Parish who are isolated because they cannot get around due to the lack of dropped kerbs, we do have proof of this, and we have dropped a that 3 words pin to show all intended drop kerbs

**15 no. Drop kerbs for £16,785.00 + vat**

[HRC](#) Directors have given us their full backing.

Again, this is another example of how we would like to bring the community together.

They will not be able to access the [BEM community space](#) unless they get taken in a car or scoot in the road

They cannot go to meet their Children/Grandchildren from school. The list goes on.

# Phase 7

## BEM Disabled Toilet & Baby Change Facilities.

With the BEM (Broadcast Engineering Museum) being well on the way with the new Community Room Funded by FCC & WLDC there is still a need for a new Disabled access toilet & baby change facilities.

This will not only compliment the new community room but will make it more accessible to all, be it disabled members of the community or parents with young children.

To refit out the toilet to disabled access requirements and fit a drop down baby change table would be around £3800

 West Lindsey District Council  
27 August · 🌐

A new community hub set to revitalise village life.  
The Broadcast Engineering Conservation Group (BECG) is planning to turn Studio 2, located within the Broadcast Engineering Museum on Capper Avenue, into a focal point for village life. ... See more



WEST-LINDSEY.GOV.UK

**A new community hub set to revitalise village life.**  
West Lindsey District Council visited Studio 2, the soon-to-be-transformed community space i...

[Read more here](#)

# Phase Costings

## Already Funded

Phase 1 £6765 Parish Council & local Business donations

Phase 5 Concrete Pads - £1350 Parish Council (Feb 25)

Phase 8 Play Parks £20k National lottery Community fund (Feb 25)



## Seeking from WLDC

Phase 2 - Ball Park Lighting £30,000 (estimate)

Path & Ramps £8257.71

Outdoor Gym £10,000

Backless Recycled Bench (Donations)

Phase 3 - Path £20,000

Phase 4 - Path £20,000

Phase 5 - 3 Backed Recycled Benches (Donations)

Path £4000

Phase 6 - Drop kerbs x 15 £16785

Phase 7 - BEM Disabled Toilet & Baby Change £3800

**Total Required £112,842 (Estimate)**

## Other Applications Made

Phase 8 - Play Parks £100,000 FCC

**PLEASE SEE PHASE 8 FOR INTERACTIVE MAP**

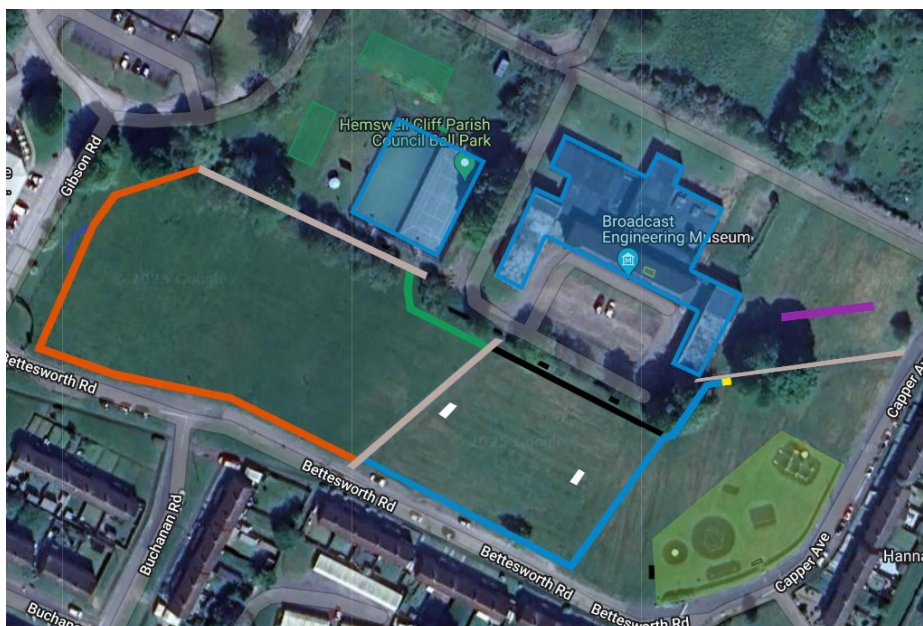
# Phase 8

## Play Park Regeneration

£120,000 (approximately) to replace missing and outdated equipment at both Capper Ave and Minden Place play parks.

- Approach larger local businesses to secure match funding
- National Lottery application now awarded £20k (Feb 25)
- Apply to FCC when all the above is in place
- Tender complete - contractor chosen
- Remove old tired equipment
- Replace with New
- Resurface and use empty areas in both parks to site new equipment.

## Proposal Map



[Click on the map to see an interactive map with more details](#)

# Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan

A few points from the Hemswell Cliff Neighborhood plan adopted Nov 2023 this plan would achieve.

Key issues:

## **Social**

Need to develop footpaths accessible to all residents for leisure or fitness walking and for social contact with others. Benches and attractive landscaping along the paths will invite people to sit, enjoy the beauty and meet one another.

improve the small play park in the north side residential neighborhood because children feel safer in this enclosed space. Add benches to the play park.

## **Environment**

Beautify the communal green areas of the residential neighborhoods on the north side of the A631 by planting and maintaining attractive landscaping with shrubs and flowers.

Create and maintain wildlife spaces consisting of plantings within or along borders of open green spaces, so that insects and birds can flourish.

## **Vision Statement**

Hemswell Cliff will include all members of the Parish as a united community, without the divisions that currently exist. Community engagement will be encouraged, utilizing existing and future facilities.

Sensible development on appropriate sites will support the expanding economy, encourage enterprise, create new jobs and enable provision of community services such as a facility for a GP/health center. Better connectivity will enable those residents without cars to access regular and reliable public transport, to increase people’s opportunities and decrease isolation. The village will be a safe and resilient place to live in, presenting adaptive solutions in the face of climate change and related events.



Figure 7: Hemswell Cliff's Touchstone

**Objectives:**

To create cohesion within the village to bring people together.

To develop social space and regular social events that include everyone who wants to take part.

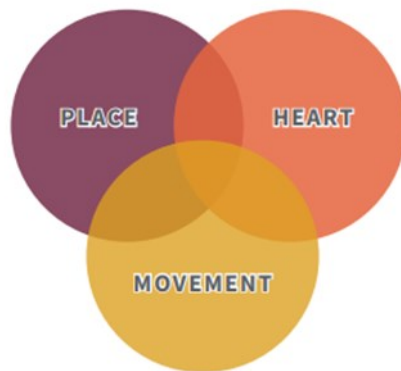
To maintain current facilities and create new areas in the village for community use.



# Hemswell Cliff Neighborhood Plan

## Design Code

Design Code follows from earlier work with Hemswell Cliff Parish Council, West Lindsey District Council set out in the Hemswell Cliff Masterplan, together with the accompanying Character Study. The Design Code sets out to articulate how the Masterplan might be developed and provides guidance for future development to ensure that it may be realised



**STRUCTURE OF THE DESIGN CODE** The Design Code is set out in THREE sections, responding to the themes that form the basis for how Hemswell Cliff should develop to achieve the goals set out in the Masterplan.

These are:

**Making the PLACE** Looking at the broad strategic elements to ensure that Hemswell Cliff works as a place.

**Responding to movement** Looking at how people can move around Hemswell Cliff and making clear, safe and attractive connections to make sure that the community, neighbourhoods and the range of uses all co-exist satisfactorily.

# Hemswell Cliff Neighborhood Plan

## Design Code

**Creating a Heart** Addressing how new development should be arranged to introduce a new Local Centre for Hemswell Cliff; setting out how it might be organised, what it should be comprised of and how it should look and feel.

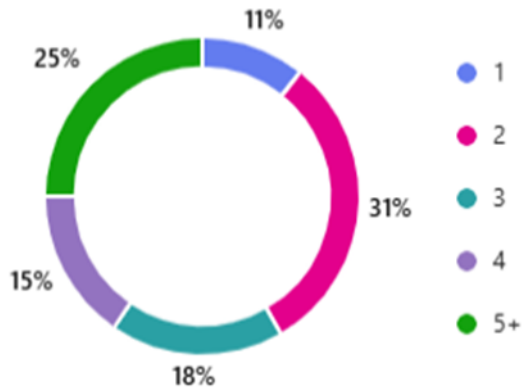
Hemswell Cliff is a village in need of a Centre. With a large residential population, which is set to increase, together with a primary school, the Antiques Centre and other surrounding businesses, there is an urgent and compelling need to provide a local centre that can provide a range of services and facilities to serve this community and become its heart.

**PROVIDING A NEW HEART** The Emerging Masterplan identified a strategic location for a new Local Centre, positioned to the south of the Parade Ground. The large open space within Hemswell Cliff, wrapped around the former Sergeants Mess, is already an underused focal point within the community and this should be brought within the boundary of a redefined Local Centre organised around this space. The new Local Centre should be a destination in its own right and a focal point for Hemswell Cliff. The Local Centre needs to achieve the following: • Have a strong arrangement and layout; • Be an attractive destination that functions well and serves the community.

# Community Engagement Feedback

84 responses received

Number of people in household



How often do you use the community green spaces



What facilities would benefit your household?



## Anonymous comments:

1	Age-appropriate sections of park - park is aimed at a small age range.
2	Big signs reminding people to pick up their poo and put rubbish in bins. Respect the community areas for all to enjoy. The parks to be fenced again to protect children from those un responsible dog owns who do not
3	Hedges, greenery, flowers, nature areas
4	More parking spaces. Less rubbish outside people house, back of garages and in the alley ways. A bus service that takes you to Gainsborough.

5	Somewhere for the kids to go when it is raining etc.
6	The ability for disabled parents/grandparents in wheelchairs or mobility scooters to get to the park area and go between areas
7	Clear paths and space for wheelchairs and mobility scooters shaded if possible
8	BBQ area, wildlife/pond area, communal garden, sensory garden, gates to stop parking for market on Sundays, mobility scooter and wheelchair access to all and from all paths, better grass cutting on main field, community hub, history board, more community functions.
9	Personally, I would like a cricket pitch. I am far too old to play (I can hardly walk), but a tree-shaded cricket pitch would be a sheer delight. Oh, and we must avoid being lumbered with any wind farms within sight.
10	Community orchard for everyone to help themselves to free fruit
11	A nursery school! None for non-drivers in Hemswell Cliff
12	Community Centre for the older children. Pool table and darts board etc. They have the ballpark which my son goes to regularly. But in the winter months would be good to have somewhere for them to meet their friends. I think an adult should be present when accessing the Community Centre which I am happy to help with when not at work.
13	Gym equipment for the older children
14	Decent grass cutter service who has pride in their work and are not miserable and disrespectful to our grass areas.
15	Accessible foot path to the Post Office especially for a person on mobility scooter, nearly fell of its very uneven

# Teen/young adult engagement session 01/08/24 feedback



## Equipment:

Ball court equipment, nets, rackets, Goal posts etc

Different seating areas for different ages (play dales Encounter 8 highlighted)

Rugby Posts

Outdoor Gym (corner behind ball court to allow to use without being watched)

Path/Circuit

Own space to 'hang out' bench away from younger children

Zip-wire

Taller play equipment

Climbing Net

Trim Trail

Training buddy

### **Activities:**

Teen/Young adult council

Movie night at BEM

Book club

Craft evenings

Youth club

### **Bench Locations:**

Bus stops

A631 between Dog Kennel Lane and Post Office

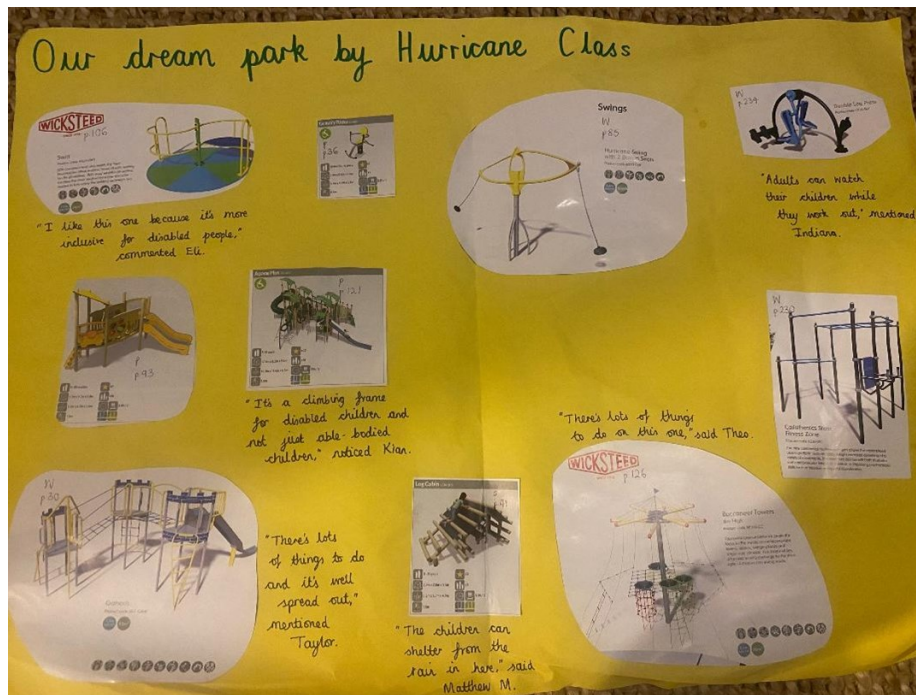
### **Other:**

Different social media platforms used to reach youth e.g. Instagram, TikTok

Actions being taken via cameras, some on the estate are acting up to the cameras as they believe they do not work/action will not be taken.

# The children at Hemswell Cliff Primary School

designed their dream park



## Competition winners:

From Hemswell Cliff Primary School who took part in the Parish Councils litter poster competition. The winning poster by Theo Donaldson the creator of the tagline

[#makehemswellcliffglitter](https://twitter.com/makehemswellcliffglitter)



# Agenda Item 6b



**Prosperous Communities  
Committee**

**Tuesday, 18 March 2025**

**Subject: STEP: Progress Update and Future Activity**

Report by:	Director of Planning, Regeneration & Communities
Contact Officer:	James Makinson-Sanders Economic Growth Team Manager  James.ms@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To update committee on the progress of the STEP Fusion programme and confirm the 2025/26 programme of enabling activity.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- (1) To accept the programme update and agree to receive a written committee update on the STEP programme in Q1 2026, covering the period FY 2025/26.**
- (2) To agree that officers will continue to evolve the concept of the STEP Investment Plan (and linked workstreams) and identify co-funding opportunities to deliver enabling activities.**



## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal:** There are no legal considerations with regards to this report/funding enabling activities.

**Financial :** FIN/147/25/MT/SST

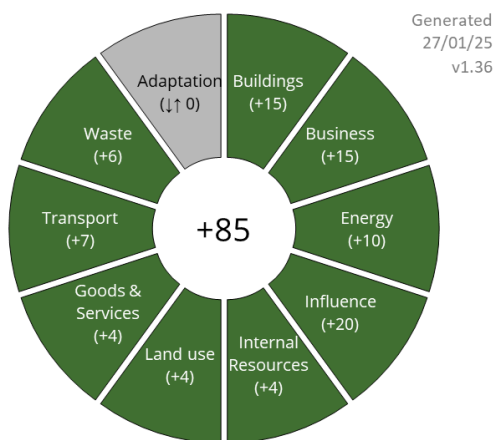
There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**Staffing :** There are no Human Resource implications with regards to this report/funding enabling activities. A small cohort of WLDC officers will continue to support partnership initiatives as part of their 'day-job' – within existing capacity.

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :** There are no Equality and Diversity (including Human Rights) considerations with regards to this report/funding enabling activities.

**Data Protection Implications :** There are no Data Protection implications with regards to this report/funding enabling activities. Given the nature of the SIP, it is highly unlikely that any personal data would be requested/used – should this position change, any requests would be considered in compliance with best practice and our duties under the Data Protection Act 2018.

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:** There are no known (measurable) Climate Risks associated with this report/funding enabling activities which is predominantly focussed around desk based activity. More broadly, WLDC support for the various preparatory stages of the STEP project will help to ensure the timely realisation of commercial fusion energy generation which has the potential to create limitless clean energy - radically decreasing carbon emissions locally and internationally through the adoption of the STEP technology. Consequently, the CESIA tool returns and overwhelmingly positive impact analysis:



West Lindsey District Council will be net zero by 2050 (24 years and 11 months away).

The development at West Burton also has the potential to deliver highly skilled local jobs (and training/skills development) in the green industries and advanced manufacturing sectors.

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:**

There are no S17 Crime and Disorder considerations with regards to this report/funding enabling activities.

**Health Implications:**

There are no Health or EQIA implications with regards to this report/funding enabling activities.

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

N/A

**Risk Assessment :** There are no direct risks to WLDC associated with regards to this report/funding enabling activities. Where procurement activity takes place, WLDC will observe procurement compliance, utilising specialists to support the procurement of commissioned services. Payment of commissioned works is likely to take place of completion of agreed milestones in order to mitigate any risk associated with the non-delivery of commissioned consultancy.

**Call in and Urgency:**

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

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

Yes

No

x

**Key Decision:**

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

Yes

x

No

## Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Committee regarding the Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) fusion programme and the work that WLDC and wider stakeholder cohort have/are undertaking to support the programme. The report then considers the programme's next steps and the ongoing enabling activity required to ensure that the forecast economic benefits from the programme can be realised in West Lindsey and Lincolnshire more broadly.

Significant programme progress has been made since WLDC's formal involvement in the programme commenced in 2023. This has been made possible through a range of different activities, delivered (or in-delivery) through the continued direction of the STEP Strategic Collaboration Group (SCG) which was established in mid-2023, including:

- (1) a STEP Economic Impact Assessment;
- (2) the Trent Valley Clean Energy Super Cluster Vision (TVSCV);
- (3) a Transport Study (STEP Base Year Traffic Model);
- (4) Skills collaboration; and;
- (5) Community/Business Events and Communications

The programme will continue to evolve during 2025 at both strategic and operational levels, including elements of enabling work specific to West Lindsey.

Discussions between Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire local government representatives have already taken place (January 2025) to explore how the next phase of enabling works should be organised to ensure ongoing geographic collaboration and benefit realisation. More programme management and commissioning discussions will take place in 2025.

Importantly, the EIA and visioning work is feeding into the development of the Strategic Growth Priorities for the emerging GLMCCA. Discussions have been initiated as to how the required package of enabling works will be funded moving forward, to ensure that Lincolnshire is able to contribute to supporting the delivery of STEP and maximising the benefits.

Additionally, in order for West Lindsey to realise the longer term opportunities/benefits identified through delivery of the programme(s), WLDC need to prepare a STEP vision for Gainsborough. The 'STEP Investment Plan' (SIP) will position Gainsborough as a thriving hub of innovation, clean energy and advanced manufacturing - leveraging the proximity of West Burton (STEP) and the surrounding supercluster to drive economic/housing growth, attract investment and create high-quality jobs for decades to come.

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Committee regarding the Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) fusion programme and the work that WLDC and wider stakeholder cohort have/are undertaking to support the STEP programme to maximise the socio-economic benefits.
- 1.2 The report then considers next steps with the programme and the ongoing programme of enabling activity required to ensure that benefits from the programme can be realised in West Lindsey and Lincolnshire.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) was announced as part of the Government's 'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution' in 2020 which sought to design and construct a prototype fusion power plant by the 2040s. This internationally significant, first of its kind programme will result in the UK being one of the first countries in the World to commercialise fusion energy generation, placing it at the forefront of the clean energy revolution.
- 2.2 Led by the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), a nationwide process to identify potential sites for STEP was initiated (2020). A cross-sector consortium was formed, representing commercial, public and academic interests from across the Midlands, to work with land-owners and nominate the former West Burton Power Station (WB) site.
- 2.3 As part of the site assessment process UKAEA identified that nominating consortium must outline how the STEP programme would be part of increased collaboration between local, regional and devolved institutions around the requisite enabling works as well as science, research and innovation. This requirement embedded collaborative working as a guiding principle for the consortium under the banner of 'Midlands Fossil2Fusion', resulting in WB being selected for regeneration via the development of a fusion energy cluster, delivering long-term transformational benefits including the creation of thousands of high-value employment opportunities and linked fusion and STEM skills development.
- 2.4 The collaborative approach was further reinforced through the formal establishment (2023) of both strategic and operational engagement/collaboration groups in partnership with UKAEA, representing the interests of 30+ organisations/businesses in the Midlands. These groups operate with the shared purpose of enabling the progression of STEP development to maximise the direct/indirect socio-

economic benefits from the programme, with STEP acting as a catalyst for wider regional benefits.

2.5 To date the consortium has collaborated to (list not exhaustive):

- Procure, co-fund or steer key enabling studies including transport modelling, a long range economic impact assessment and a vision for the 'Mega-Watt Valley';
- Initiate supply-chain mapping to animate academic and commercial opportunities;
- Provide strategic and technical input into the site characterisation process, informing the development of a masterplan for the site;
- Develop the 'Fusion Skills Café' training facility;
- Form a skills consortium to bid for and deliver the UKAEA's skills provision (via a cohort of local providers);
- Deliver community events to develop the STEP vision and animate the programme to school children;
- Identify broader energy opportunities linked to Small Modular Reactors and waste handling;
- Identify opportunities for STEP to contribute to biodiversity net gain;
- Evolve STEP branding and communications;
- Understand the development dynamics at large construction sites e.g. Hinkley Point C; and;
- Respond to consultations e.g. the emerging National Policy Statement for Fusion Energy.

2.6 The STEP programme has been led by the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) from its inception, however on the on 6 February 2023 the Science and Innovation Minister, George Freeman announced the creation of UK Industrial Fusion Solutions Ltd (UKIFS). The new body was established as a programme delivery organisation, driving performance and pace and engaging industry in this endeavour. The delivery of STEP will be led by UKIFS, as a wholly owned subsidiary of the UKAEA. The formal 'public facing' transition of the STEP programme from the UKAEA to UKIFS took place on the 1 November 2024.

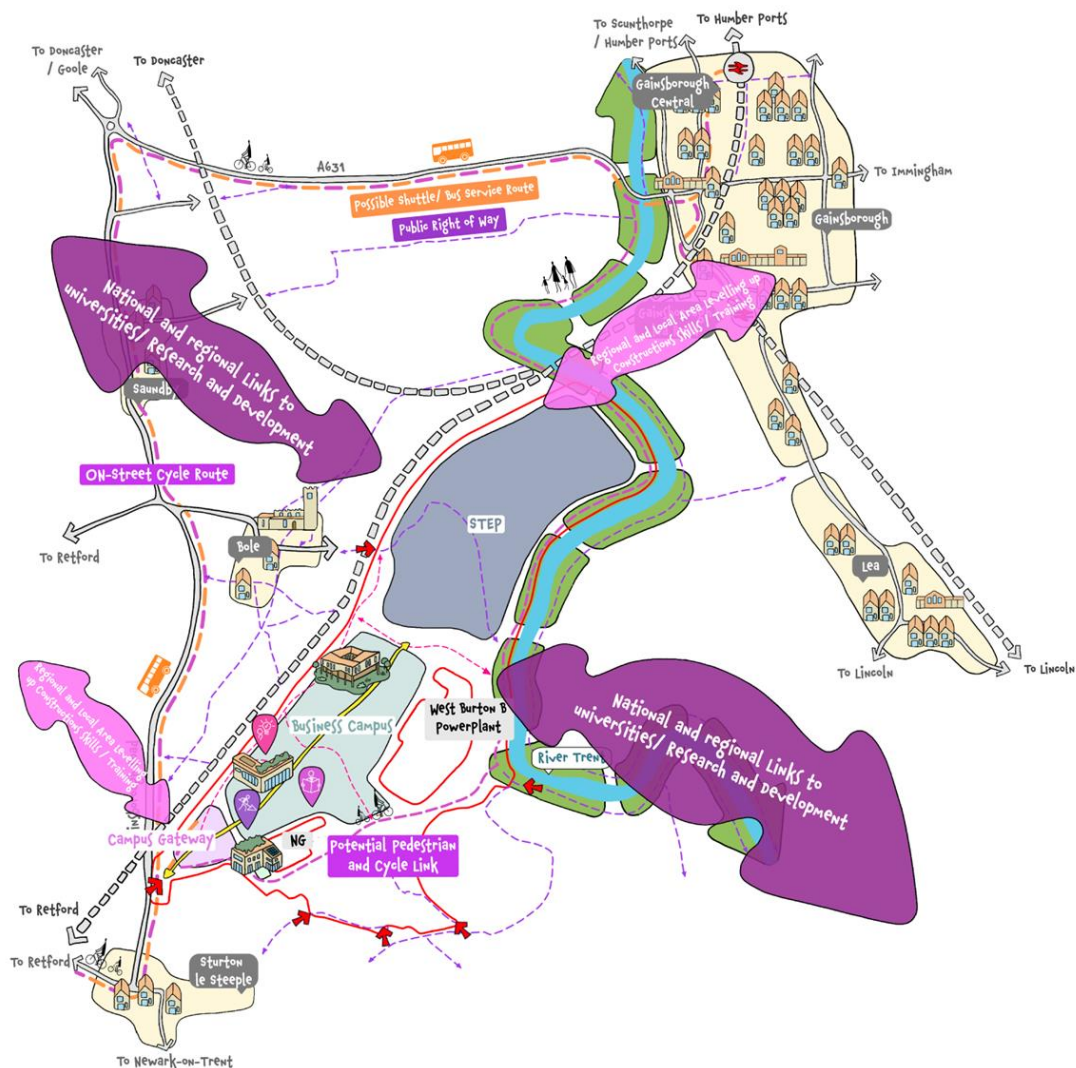
2.7 The UKAEA will continue to be STEP's Fusion Partner, working alongside two industry partners – one in engineering and one in construction – to spearhead the development of a UK-led fusion industry. A major procurement exercise is currently underway to select STEP's strategic, long-term industry partners, with the shortlist announced in January 2025: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plan-for-change-to-deliver-jobs-and-growth-in-uk-leading-fusion-industry>.

2.8 In line with the STEP programme timetable, work is underway on the evidence gathering phase. This is focused on better understanding the

wider West Burton site and undertaking detailed site-specific assessments that will enable decisions on the location of the prototype fusion plant and associated supporting infrastructure in 2025. A site masterplan is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

2.9 More information relating to the characterisation of the West Burton site can be found at:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2f7cd4b0ce984a5595e7d26e8a1dca47>



2.10 Between 2025 and 2032, the design of the STEP facility will be further developed through detailed engineering design and, at the same time, planning permission to build the power plant will be sought via the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project process. The aim is to have a fully evolved design and approval to build by 2032, enabling construction to begin.

2.11 The proposed phased development of the site will initially see the provision of the 'Campus Gateway' and a Business and Supply Chain

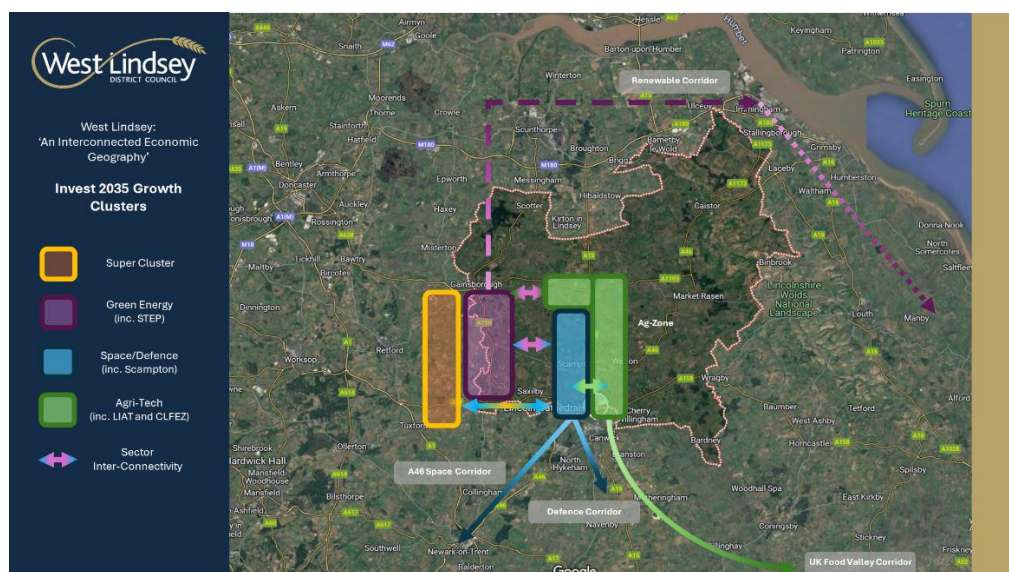
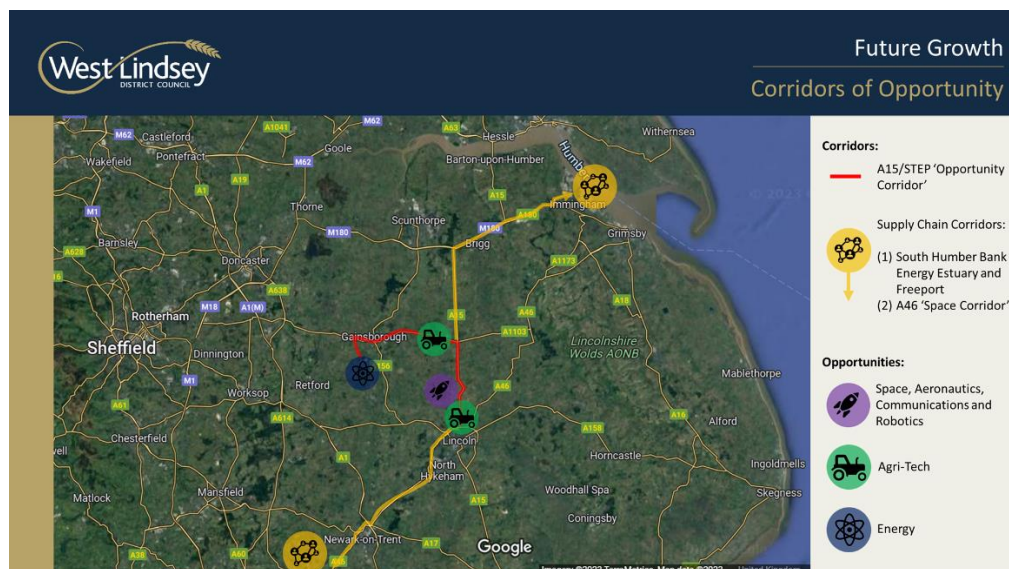
Zone (which will incorporate the on-site **Fusion Skills Centre**), followed by a STEP Support Zone and STEP Secure Zone (the power station).

- 2.12 By 2040 STEP will bring the world's first prototype fusion energy plant into commission and demonstrate a path to commercialisation of fusion energy.
- 2.13 STEP is undoubtedly a highly complex programme and the genuinely collaborative approach to programme management to deliver preparatory works has fostered a greater sense of trust amongst cross-sector partners (with a dichotomy of political mandates and operational cultures) through a shared STEP vision and a clear set of time-bound programme goals. The inclusivity of the collaboration groups has leveraged multiple benefits - facilitating pooled resource, improving communications, ensuring accountability and evolving a focussed, adaptive and agile programme management approach - all of which is beginning to realise sustainable long-term economic benefit for the region.

### **3 West Lindsey District Council and Stakeholders**

- 3.1 Significant programme progress has been made since WLDC's formal involvement in the programme commenced in 2023. This has been made possible through a range of different activities, delivered through the continued direction of the STEP Strategic Collaboration Group (SCG) which was established in mid-2023.
- 3.2 At a strategic level, the SCG provides an important strategic platform to guide the direction of travel for the work undertaken. Chaired by Sir John Peace (Midlands Engine) with representatives from UKIFS, UKAEA, relevant District and County Councils, Universities, MPs, Midlands Connect and government departments and agencies. At the first meeting of the SCG it was recognised that stakeholders from Lincolnshire were required and therefore WLDC (alongside LCC) were asked to join the SCG in late 2023. The representatives from WLDC are the Deputy Leader and the Director for Planning, Regeneration and Communities.
- 3.3 Operationally, the STEP Collaboration Programme Team meets monthly and enables officers from the different organisations to collaborate and to coordinate programme activity. WLDC is represented on this group by the Director for Planning, Regeneration and Communities and Economic Growth Manager. The collaboration programme is also supported by WLDC Communications (who meet for monthly communications meetings), Strategy and Policy, Communities and Economic Growth.

- 3.4 WLDC’s Deputy Leader hosted a ‘Trent Valley Super Cluster Vision’ event on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at the Guildhall. Guests included Sir Edward Leigh (Member of Parliament for Gainsborough) and Cllr Rob Waltham (Leader of North Lincolnshire Council) and presentations were delivered by Dr James Cowan (STEP Programme Director, UKAEA) – the STEP development, Adam Shepherd (Vision and Planning Director, ARELI Developments Ltd) – the Trent Valley Super Cluster and Sally Grindrod-Smith (Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities, WLDC) – the enabling programme moving forwards.
- 3.5 STEP is identified as a keystone opportunity in the emerging WLDC growth strategy 2025/30 and a critical element of the ‘corridors of opportunity’, which positions West Lindsey as the ‘engine room’ for the development of clean energy, defence and agri-technology sectors in the Greater Lincolnshire economy:





The following section provides a headline summary of the key work packages evolved or delivered during 2023/25.

At its' first meeting on 20th September 2023, the Strategic Collaboration Group considered what was required to understand STEP's potential economic benefits to the region and concluded that three interrelated pieces of work should be commissioned: (1) an Economic Impact Assessment; (2) a Strategic Vision (Super Cluster); and; (3) a Transport Infrastructure Study; and. Being mindful of the interrelated elements of the three the stakeholders sought to initially move forward with the Economic Impact Assessment.

#### **4.1 STEP Economic Impact Assessment (EIA)**

4.1.1 The EIA is a key element of the detailed STEP business case prepared by the UKAEA for submission to government. Therefore, the UKAEA and local authority partners sought to procure consultancy services to prepare an EIA which identified both a detailed economic baseline for the programme as well as the long-term economic benefits that will be derived from the STEP programme.

4.1.2 In December 2023 Management Team approved the allocation of £12,500 from the 'Investment for Growth Reserve', covering 12.5% of the commission budget.

4.1.3 This commitment reflected the strong linkages between the STEP programme and WLDC's Corporate Plan strategic ambitions including: (1) raising the profile of West Lindsey as an investment location/proposition (to support growth opportunities, improve skills and increase the number of higher value, sustainable employment opportunities for residents); and; (2) reducing carbon emissions and realising net-zero ambitions by 2050. Given the nature of the programme and West Lindsey's adjacency to the West Burton site, STEP has the potential to generate socio-economic benefit for generations of local residents as well satisfy net-zero ambitions via the generation of low carbon, clean energy (as well as green-construction, transport infrastructure and investment in nature and nature displacement).

4.1.4 Following a procurement exercise, which WLDC inputted into, Amion Consulting (AMION) were appointed to undertake the EIA, working with representatives from the STEP Collaboration Programme Team (and wider stakeholders) throughout 2024 to undertake the commission.

4.1.5 The completed EIA provides a highly detailed and technical assessment of the wider economic impact of STEP which, moving forwards, will

inform business cases for the programme, as well as policies to ensure that the local and wider benefits from STEP are maximised.

4.1.6 The EIA provides robust analysis on the transformative economic potential of STEP for the region, with projections of thousands of jobs and billions of pounds in Gross Value Added (GVA) to the UK economy.

4.1.7 Headline metrics include:

Once fully operational, STEP is forecast to account for 8% of current residence-based job<sup>7</sup> in Bassetlaw and 6% in West Lindsey.

Forecast Annual average GVA and jobs impacts (2019-65)								
Area	Annual Average GVA (£m)			Annual Average Jobs			Operations Peak	Operations peak jobs as % of current residence-based jobs
	Construction	Operations	Total	Construction	Operations	Total		
<b>Local Authorities</b>								
Bassetlaw	40.1	110.9	150.9	506	1,460	1,966	4,502	7.67%
W. Lindsey	47.9	55.0	102.9	605	724	1,329	2,100	5.51%
<b>County Councils</b>								
Nott CC	85.7	209.6	295.3	1,083	2,760	3,843	6,519	1.62%
Lincs CC	76.3	121.4	197.8	965	1,598	2,563	3,775	1.08%
<b>Combined Authorities</b>								
GLCA	84.6	141.6	226.3	1,069	1,865	2,934	4,332	0.83%
EMCCA	117.1	285.4	402.5	1,479	3,758	5,237	8,392	1.06%
SYCA	58	89.5	147.5	734	1,177	1,911	2,497	0.38%
<b>Regions</b>								
EM	235.6	489.2	724.7	2,976	6,440	9,416	13,938	0.59%
Midlands	311.9	596.9	908.8	3,941	7,858	11,799	16,661	0.17%
<b>UK</b>								
UK	512.7	986.9	1,499.6	6,478	12,993	19,471	27,660	0.08%

4.1.8 The EIA also confirms that public sector partner support for the programme will help to maximise the local impacts of the STEP programme through:

- construction and operations phase training – equipping local people and others with the necessary skills to compete for the job opportunities;
- local recruitment – promoting opportunities to local people;
- supply chain development and opportunities – promoting and providing support for local enterprises to access supply chain opportunities;
- sector/cluster development – supporting the development of the UK fusion sector and facilitating the creation of a local cluster of clean energy related businesses;
- inward investment – attracting investment in particular from overseas; and;
- local homes, sites/premises and services – ensuring the local supply of suitable accommodation and services. It is likely that just under

3,000 new homes will be required in the immediate geography to support site construction and operation.

4.1.9 The EIA report and summary are available to access at: [x](#)

## **4.2 Trent Valley Clean Energy Super Cluster Vision (TVSCV)**

4.2.1 The TVSCV is a significant element of the broader STEP visioning work and centred around identifying how a coordinated approach to redeveloping West Burton, Cottam and High Marnham (former coal-fired Power Station sites with National Grid connections) could contribute towards the UK's global leadership in addressing Climate Change through decarbonisation of the economy - while simultaneously revitalising the region.

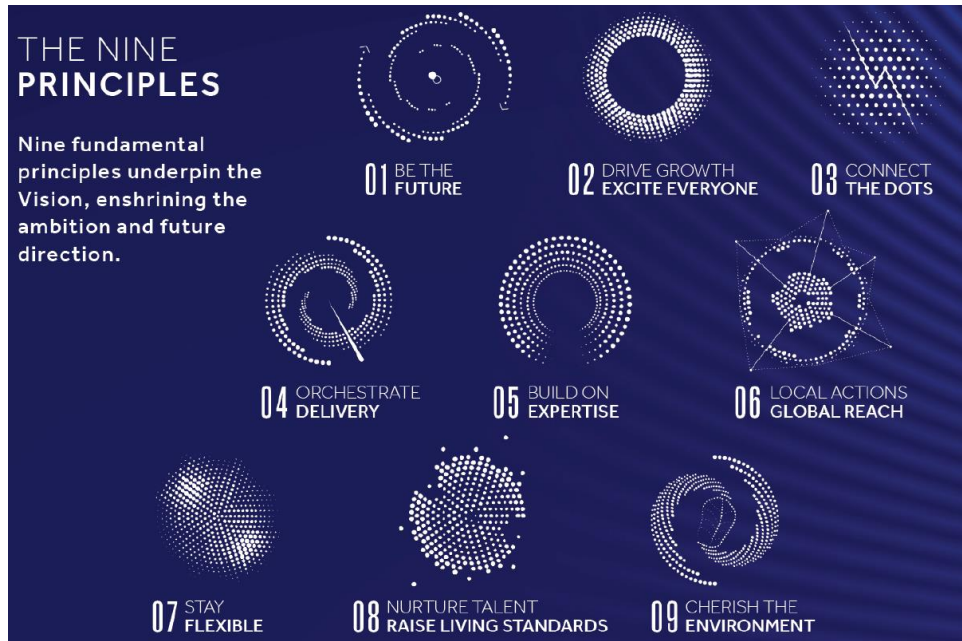
4.2.2 A consortium led by Areli Developments were commissioned by East Midlands Development Company on behalf of the emerging east Midlands Combined Authority, in to work with partners via a series of stakeholder interviews (during Summer 2024) to collectively outline how people think across the East Midlands, define the local social & economic heritage and how local authorities and institutions, private sector and education providers operate to stimulate and support growth – as well as highlighting opportunities and potential solutions to difficult challenges. The process included two interviews with the Leader and Deputy Leader, as well as officer engagement.

4.2.3 These deep insights were integrated with in-depth research and creative propositions developed by the consultant team with expertise in thinking around the future of Energy, Food, Economics, Placemaking, Transport and Services Infrastructure – these insights gave birth to The TVSCV, a path towards a remarkable future for the region as 'a place global challenges find solutions'.

4.2.4 The TVSCV identifies a compelling story with a level of ambition at a global scale (with a view to attracting and leveraging investment from across the World) which:

- Drives growth;
- Ensures joined up thinking;
- Considers relationships with surrounding areas;
- Maximises and leverages spin-off opportunities;
- Communicates the scale of investment opportunity;
- Presents a case that could bring together landowners; and;
- Demonstrates how the sites would link into the region and deliver benefits to residents.

4.2.5 Nine fundamental principles underpin the TVSCV, enshrining the ambition and future direction:



4.2.6 The TVSCV has identified the following ‘futures’ for the three sites: (1) West Burton – Fusion, Innovation and Development; (2) Cottam – Big Data and Digital Enterprises; and; (3) High Marnham – Hydrogen, Food and Agri-Tech:



4.2.7 The TVSCV has identified that the following local benefits could be delivered via the supercluster geography:

- (1) 15,500 FTE employment opportunities, many of which will be highly skilled (Level 4+);
- (2) 1000s of apprenticeships;
- (3) c.6,800 new homes and c.£75m additional annual household expenditure;
- (4) c.£930m GVA p.a.;
- (5) Significant transport and utility infrastructure investment and upgrades; and;
- (6) Significant local contributions to decarbonisation and net-zero.

### **4.3 Transport Study (STEP Base Year Traffic Model)**

4.3.1 The UKAEA commissioned WSP UK in Spring 2023 to establish a baseline understanding of the existing road usage patterns and to undertake preliminary data collection and modelling work for the West Burton site. Nottinghamshire County Council was identified as the stakeholder lead for the commission.

4.3.2 Through a series of transport stakeholder workshops and consultations with National Highways as well as five local transport authorities including Lincolnshire County Council (and local planning authorities, including WLDC), a highly technical Base Year assignment model (combined with a gravity model which will predict the origins of workforce trips) has been developed. The model utilises both new data and existing strategic transport modelling.

4.3.3 The model will allow detailed analysis of routing of traffic and provide a robust basis for impact assessment, informing junction modelling and environmental assessments including: noise; vibration; and; air quality.

4.3.4 The model will also provide a tool that can be used iteratively with the development of a STEP transport strategy to inform the required mitigation and transport infrastructure investment and upgrading, including road, rail (passenger and freight), active travel and the potential use of the River Trent.

4.3.5 WSP will now work with stakeholders to calibrate/validate the model before it is signed off later in 2025.

### **4.4 Skills**

4.4.1 To ensure a local and joined up approach to the delivery of the wider nuclear skills agenda within the region, Bassetlaw DC with WLDC led a collaborative process during 2024 to become UKAEA's preferred skills

provider. Following a two-stage competitive process, UKAEA identified EMCCA (as the suitable contracting authority representing the wider collaborative of local authorities and educational establishments) as the preferred partner to lead the training provision for the STEP skills centre.

4.4.2 The collaboration will be formalised during 2025 and training provision will start to be shaped with providers:

- **Model for training** – In designing the model for the STEP on-site Skill Centre and training provision, a collaborative framework for training will be utilised whereby skills and training provision is delivered by a range of regional training providers, coordinated by EMCCA. This is to ensure that the provision is net additive to the local skills landscape and supports the growth of training providers and businesses, rather than introduce competition.
- **Investing early** – The skills facility will be the first major construction on the STEP site, which is a conscious decision to invest early in skills development. This was a lesson learnt from several other UK megaprojects, including Hinckley Point – this will establish a strong regional supply of skills as STEP grows.
- **Outreach** – The fusion industry is on a significant growth trajectory, as such outreach is a crucial factor in the STEP skills strategy. STEP is already engaging widely with regional schools at primary and secondary level and the team have also increasingly targeted outreach to teachers, including a programme of teachers workshops so the fusion opportunity can be embedded in classrooms.
- **Wider fusion skills** – Not all skills needed for fusion are specialist and many are in high demand (e.g. welders, project managers. etc.). By investing in flexible local training provision, national shortages in these areas are partially mitigated. The STEP skills centre will also be able to make positive contributions for other local business by supporting additional training in these vital areas. This may provide an opportunity to re-ignite the local Engineering Apprenticeship Scheme.
- **Wider national strategy** – All provision will sit within a broader national fusion skills strategy which seeks to train an additional 2,200 individuals for fusion in the next five years. This encompasses skills from entry level through to PhD and post-doctoral level and is being delivered by UKAEA on behalf of the wider fusion sector.

4.4.3 Skills collaboration partners (in addition to local authorities) currently include:



4.4.4 West Lindsey (Gainsborough) schools have benefitted from the ‘STEP into Schools’ programme which animates fusion technology and future career pathways to both primary and secondary school children. With the exception of local special schools, all Gainsborough (and environs) schools will have taken part in the programme by July 2025 (eight schools engaged in 2024 and eight will in 2025).



4.4.5 On the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Mercer's Wood Academy (Gainsborough) hosted a Department of Education and Careers and Enterprise

Company visit (linked to the ‘Start Small; Dream Big’ Programme: [www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/whats-new/new-primary-school-programme-to-help-children-dream-big/](http://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/whats-new/new-primary-school-programme-to-help-children-dream-big/)) which incorporated a fusion workshop – reenforcing the huge potential the STEP programme has for future generations of Gainsborough residents.

4.4.6 Bassetlaw District Council has worked in partnership with the UKAEA to develop a Fusion Energy Café at the Bridge Skills Hub in Worksop. WLDC members and officers attended the official opening of the world’s first fusion energy themed café on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The café is intended to inspire local communities and businesses to learn about and engage with fusion energy and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) related activities. The café offers an immersive skills outreach environment inspired by the design of a tokamak – a machine used in the creation of fusion plasmas. It will also support hospitality and catering work placements, offering inclusive work placement opportunities for individuals with a learning disability, who are not in education, employment, or training, or are long-term unemployed. There is the potential for a second café to be developed in Gainsborough once a business case can be established by UKIFS.

4.4.7 The skills initiatives which the broader STEP programme are delivering/will deliver are closely aligned to our corporate commitment to develop employment opportunities and improve skills levels across the district. We will continue to work with STEP related employers and local training providers to ensure the residents of West Lindsey have access to expert fusion careers advice, job search support and assistance to gain the required skills and experience to develop a career in this emerging sector.

## **5 Community/Business Events and Communications**

5.1.1 UKAEA have led on the delivery of numerous STEP community consultation events over the past 18 months in Gainsborough, Retford, Sturton-le-Steeple and Lincoln. This programme will continue in 2025 and include an increasing number of supply-chain events for local businesses.

5.1.2 The STEP brand was launched in July 2024 at an event at Trinity Arts Centre, Gainsborough which brought together both the local community and key figures including Claire Ward, Mayor of East Midlands, Sir John Peace, Chair of Midlands Engine, Professor David Gann, Chair, and Paul Methven, CEO, of UK Industrial Fusion Solutions, the company that will be responsible for the delivery of STEP.



5.1.3 WLDC led on a STEP submission to the Institute of Economic Development annual awards Submitted by WLDC which was shortlisted for the IED's 'Collaborative Initiative of the Year'.

5.1.4 WLDC's Growth Team prepare a quarterly STEP newsletter which provides members with summary information around STEP project development. The newsletter is circulated by the members newsletter.

## **6 2025 – Future Actions**

The programme will continue to evolve during 2025 at both strategic and operational levels, including elements of enabling work specific to West Lindsey.

### **6.1 EMCCA Investment Fund Capital Allocations 24/25, Sprint Bid and Lincolnshire Response**

6.1.1 As part of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) Investment Fund 2024-25, a capital allocation of up to £3m has been identified to support the 'Trent Clean Energy Supercluster – Advancing to Delivery' programme.

6.1.2 The programme will (subject to full business case development and cost identification) progress the 'feasibility assessment of further potential early capital investments'. Proposed elements include:

- Growth Pole sizing and basis for infrastructure planning;
- Communities and regeneration needs assessment;
- Refined planning scenarios and basis for infrastructure;
- Strategic Energy Assessment inc. existing/planned infrastructure, energy use and consumption;
- Energy system analysis and sizing;
- Digital infrastructure requirements;
- Water cycle high level assessment;
- Governance and commercial delivery options for delivery of regional infrastructure; and;
- Supercluster Discovery Centre - The Vision identifies an early opportunity to deliver an inspiring environment where great thinking happens, with laboratories, incubators, co-working, training & conferencing and a supercluster discovery centre.

6.1.3 In addition to the Investment Programme allocation, the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) launched the East Midlands Investment Zone (EMIZ) Sprint Initiative" in September 2024 with a deadline of 15 October 2024 for submission of bids. To further build on

the EIA and Vision, a EMIZ Sprint submission titled “Trent Clean Energy Supercluster – Advancing to Delivery” was submitted to EMCCA by Nottinghamshire County Council.

6.1.4 The visioning and EIA identified work that is required to deliver on the Vision and maximise the benefits arising from STEP. The bid was informed by this expert advice and seeks funding to continue and build on the work that has been done to date, with a focus on enablers and early wins that would help move the visioning proposals from concept to delivery. This includes:

- Commissioning work to identify potential improvements that could be undertaken to improve transport infrastructure and digital connectivity across the area covered by the Trent Clean Energy Supercluster area. For example, infrastructure planning and business cases, road and rail improvement feasibility studies.
- Commissioning work to better understand the skills landscape at a district level, better understand the requirements of the UKAEA and identify the key actions that would be needed in the short, medium and long term to support development.
- Raising awareness regionally and internationally - work to promote the inward investment opportunity STEP offers, raising the profile of the area and attracting international, national and local companies to build a fusion ecosystem which would benefit green industries and advanced manufacturing as a whole across the area.

6.1.5 **Discussions between Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire local government representatives have already taken place (January 2025) to explore how the next phase of enabling works should be organised to ensure ongoing geographic collaboration and benefit realisation. More programme management and commissioning discussions will take place in 2025.**

6.1.6 **Importantly, the EIA and visioning work is feeding into the development of the Strategic Growth Priorities for the emerging GLMCCA. Discussions have been initiated as to how the required package of enabling works will be funded moving forward, to ensure that Lincolnshire is able to contribute to supporting the delivery of STEP and maximising the benefits.**

## 6.2 STEP Investment Plan

6.2.1 The final outputs from both the EIA and Visioning work provide:

- Robust evidence to demonstrate the transformational economic potential of STEP, with projections of thousands of jobs and billions of pounds in Gross Value Added (GVA) to the local economy.

- An ambitious and galvanising vision for how transformative economic growth could be realised, arising from the redevelopment of the West Burton, Cottam and High Marnham power station sites, connecting in with and complementing wider regional initiatives, and underpinned by a compelling evidence base.
- Valuable insights into how to now advance a local programme of delivery, including suggested actions to maximise local impact and advice on the structure and phasing of priorities.
- Together, the EIA and Vision demonstrate the significant regional scale economic growth and renewal the STEP programme and the wider vision offer, as well as diverse, high quality employment opportunities across multiple sectors.

**6.2.2 In order for West Lindsey to realise the longer term opportunities/benefits identified through delivery of the programme(s), WLDC need to prepare a STEP vision for Gainsborough. The ‘STEP Investment Plan’ (SIP) will position Gainsborough as a thriving hub of innovation, clean energy and advanced manufacturing - leveraging the proximity of West Burton (STEP) and the surrounding supercluster to drive economic/housing growth, attract investment, and create high-quality jobs.**

6.2.3 The key objectives of the SIP will include:

1. Attracting High-Tech, High Value Industries: Positioning Gainsborough as an ideal (and commercially viable) location for firms in advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and R&D tied to fusion technology and supercluster sectors.
2. Developing a Skilled Workforce: Equipping the local population with the skills required for jobs in fusion-related industries and other high-growth sectors.
3. Enhancing Growth Infrastructure: Upgrading transport, utility, housing, digital and commercial infrastructure to support business growth and improve connectivity with the supercluster.
4. Fostering Collaboration: Creating partnerships with research institutions, businesses and policymakers to drive innovation and investment.

6.2.4 The SIP will develop a measured narrative around Gainsborough’s emerging strategic opportunities, including:

1. Proximity to West Burton

Leverage Fusion Expertise: Establishment of Gainsborough as a key supplier and service hub for the STEP fusion project, targeting firms involved in: (1) Advanced materials; (2) Precision engineering; (3) Robotics and AI for energy systems; and (4) Specialized construction services for high-tech facilities.

Generate Footfall: Multiply secondary benefits via the creation of volume footfall for Gainsborough's retail and service core.

Innovation Spillovers: Collaboration with the 'fusion research centre' to attract spin-off companies and start-ups focused on clean energy solutions.

## 2. Emerging Supercluster:

Cluster Integration: Position Gainsborough as a vital node within the supercluster by offering: (1) Commercial space for satellite facilities; (2) Co-working hubs for start-ups and researchers; and; (3) Conference and event facilities for industry networking.

Sustainability Hub: Promote Gainsborough as a site for sustainable technology firms that align with the clean energy focus of the supercluster.

6.2.5 The SIP will deliver an overarching spatial vision for Gainsborough (and into Lincolnshire), forming a key input into the next iteration of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, as well as the emerging requirements for a Spatial Development Plan.

6.2.6 Market testing suggests that it is likely the SIP will cost in excess of £250k to commission and officers will continue to investigate opportunities to co-fund delivery.



**Prosperous Communities  
Committee**

**Tuesday, 18 March 2025**

**Subject: Humber 2100+ Partnership & Strategy**

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officers:

Rachael Hughes  
Head of Corporate Policy & Strategy  
rachael.hughes@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To update members on the progress of the Humber 2100+ project and timeline, including the endorsement of Step 1, Understand the Risk.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**That Members note the contents of this report, specifically;**

- **The Humber 2100+ project update**
- **The indicative timeline and steps included**
- **The endorsement of the 'Understand the Risk' outputs of Step 1 to be used as the basis for Step 2 'Agree Approaches' which will test various scenarios to manage tidal flood risk in the Humber Strategy area**

## IMPLICATIONS

### **Legal:**

There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report, nor legal requirements for West Lindsey to be a part of the Humber 2100+ Partner Project. However, the policy context and responsibilities for water management is important context to note and understand.

Defra has overall national responsibility for policy on Flood, Coastal, Erosion Risk Management in England. Risk Management Authorities (RMA) are responsible for managing risks from all water sources, including rivers and streams, reservoirs, the sea, eroding coastlines, surface water, groundwater and sewers.

West Lindsey as a district council is a RMA and hence does have responsibility for managing risk, other RMAs include:

- the Environment Agency
- local flood authorities and regional flood and coastal committees
- district councils
- internal drainage boards
- highway authorities
- water and sewerage companies

### **Financial: FIN/148/25/MT/MK**

Work undertaken in relation to the Humber 2100+ Partnership Project & Strategy work is carried out using existing Council resources.

There are no direct financial implications in relation to the development or implementation of the Humber 2100+ Strategy.

### **Staffing:**

Work undertaken in relation to the Humber 2100+ Partnership Project & Strategy work is carried out using existing Council resources.

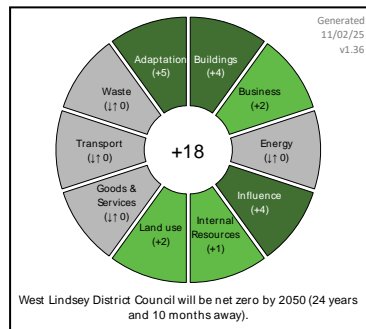
**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:**

Public bodies should minimise disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristics, take steps to meet the different needs of people from protected groups, and encourage participation amongst these groups where participation is disproportionately low. Equality Analysis considers the actual effects of policies or proposals on social groups with the following protected characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act 2010).

The purpose of the developing Humber 2100+ Partnership Project & Strategy is to mitigate and manage the impact of sea-level rise on communities, business and land as a result of climate change within the Humber Estuary catchment. The strategy objectives support the Council's own ambition to ensure that neither the effects of flood risk nor climate change, disproportionately affect any residents of the district. As the project progresses it will undertake a strategic equality analysis to consider the potential impacts of tidal flooding on the population within the Humber 2100+ strategy area, specifically in relation to their protected characteristics of those covered by the Equality Act.

**Data Protection Implications: None**

## Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:



The overarching principles of the Humber 2100+ Partnership & Projects are to mitigate the impacts of Climate Change whilst supporting long-term resilient communities and the delivery of multi-benefit schemes, whilst enhancing natural capital through improved water and land management.

An adaptive pathway approach enables the management of tidal flood risk for homes, livelihoods and businesses by responding to local needs as well as the long-term global trend of sea level rises.

As such the Council's continued involvement in the Project Partnership and Humber 2100+ Adaptive Strategy development will continue to have a positive impact on the Council's border Climate Change aspirations, as detailed within the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy adopted in Summer 2021.

## Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None

## Health Implications:

Health and wellbeing are strongly linked and interwoven into the aims of the Humber 2100+ Strategy as there are clear co-benefits of taking positive action to address flood risk and enhance the environment and promote community sustainability.

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

05<sup>th</sup> December 2023 \_ Prosperous Communities Committee endorsement of Present Day outputs as part of Step 1

## Risk Assessment :



The effects of flooding can be devastating and with sea levels rising and storms becoming more frequent due to climate change, the Humber is at an increased risk. Because the Humber estuary is tidal, the impact of storm surges and exceptional high tides can lead to flooding well away from the coast, as additional water is pushed into the estuary.

The risk of flooding due to tidal influences extends far inland along the tributaries of the Humber, and as the water tries to flow back towards the sea, large areas of low-lying land are at risk.

Higher sea-levels have the potential to further exacerbate this issue due to 'tide-locking' where higher or more frequent tides prevent gravity outfalls predominately used in land drainage discharging into the estuary or having a shorter timeframe meaning less water is able to drain from the land.

The Humber 2100+ Partnership objective is to develop a new adaptive strategy to manage tidal flood risk as a result of sea level rise and increase resilience over the period from now to 2100.

It is considered due to the clear and significant implications for not understanding and managing flood risk, that not engaging in this partnership work would have a number of implications including reputational issues, risk to life, business and the economy.

**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**

This report follows on from the report brought in December 2023, where members agreed to endorse the present-day outputs, as part of Step 1 of the Humber 2100+ project. Following endorsement from across the partnership of the Present Day outputs the partnership have moved on to complete Step 1 Understand the Risk.

The report provides a further update on the Humber 2100+ Partnership Project, including findings from Step 1, Understand the Risk outputs from the Environment Agency's bespoke modelling system, known as MDSF2.

As members will be aware, the purpose of the Humber 2100+ Partnership Project is to manage and mitigate the impacts of tidal flood risk from the Humber Estuary as a result of sea level rises over the next hundred years.

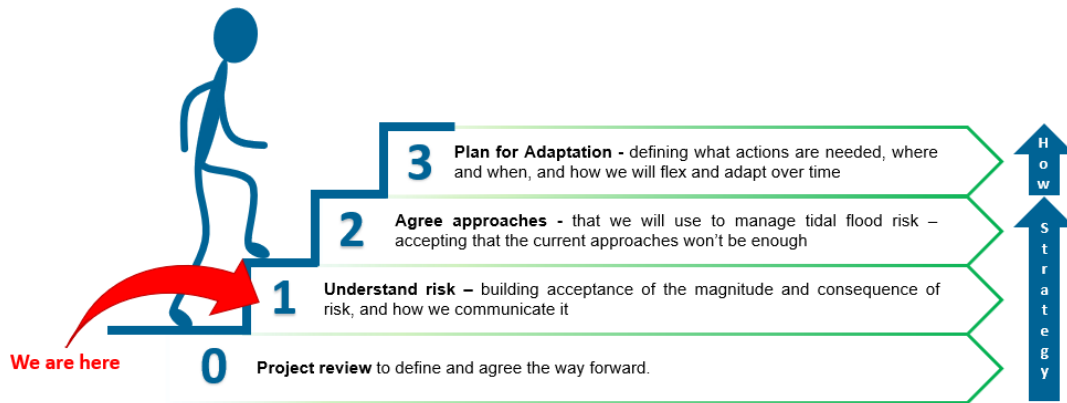
The Humber 2100+ project is a partnership between the Environment Agency and 11 Local Authorities, of which West Lindsey District Council is one, due to the tidal tributaries of the Humber Estuary, namely the River Trent and Ancholme, running through the district.

The partnership authorities each provide a strategic and operational officer to support the development of evidence and a lead member to support decision making and provide a political steer on the evidence and information being produced.

We have had lead member representation on the partnership since its creation back in 2021. Cllr. Rollings has been the lead member on behalf of West Lindsey District Council since mid-May 2023 and has played a key role in ensuring West Lindsey's interests are reflected in the development of the Step 1 evidence and messaging produced by the Humber 2100+ partnership team.

One of the key objectives of the Partnership is to develop an adaptive pathway strategy, known as the Humber 2100+ Strategy, to manage future flood risk from the Humber Estuary. An adaptive pathway is a technical way of describing a decision-making tree. The Humber Estuary is an incredibly complex waterway, made more complex by the tidal tributaries that flow from it as well as all the communities, business and land which surround it.

The development of the strategy is split up into four key steps. These steps are:



The partnership has agreed the priorities and strategic outcomes for the project and agreed the present-day outputs and have since spent the last 18 months developing five baselines using MSDF2 mapping to understand and demonstrate how that risk will change in the future with climate change, if different approaches are taken.

These baselines are:

- Do Nothing (if all flood risk management activity were to cease)
- Legal requirement (if we were only to carry out minimal maintenance and meet our legal obligations)
- Maintain defences (to understand how the standard of protection provided by existing defences will change over time)
- Status Quo (continuation of the existing 2008 Humber Strategy)
- Hold the line plus (raising the standard of protection to 1 in 200 throughout the strategy area)

Partnership representatives from each of the authorities have now been asked to endorse the full Understand the Risks outputs scenario, which essentially finishes Step 1.

The next stage of this process is to start Step 2 and to test and develop different approaches to managing that risk, and a plan for adaptation, through future stages of the project.

Alongside the development of the Understand Risk outputs, the Humber 2100+ partnership have worked to improve public understanding of the future challenge which climate change poses to the area.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 The Humber 2100+ Partnership Project is a project led by the Environment Agency. The purpose of the project is to develop a new adaptive strategy to manage tidal flood risk as a result of sea level rise and increase resilience over the period from now to 2100.

1.2 The Humber 2100+ project is a partnership between the Environment Agency and 11 Local Authorities, of which West Lindsey District Council

is one. This is due to the tidal tributaries of the Humber Estuary, namely the River Trent and Ancholme, running through the district.

1.3 The 11 Local Authorities are:

- Bassetlaw
- Doncaster
- East Lindsey
- East Riding
- Hull
- Lincolnshire County Council
- North East Lincolnshire
- North Lincolnshire
- North Yorkshire Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- West Lindsey

1.4 The current Humber Strategy 'Planning for the Rising Tides' was adopted by the Environment Agency in 2008. Since then, over £150 million has been invested in flood defence improvements. However, despite this investment, it is now clear that due to impacts of climate change and sea level rises and following the tidal surge of 2013, that the risk of flooding can never be removed entirely and a different approach is needed.

1.5 The Humber 2100+ Partnership Project was established to better understand the risk and develop a strategy which provided an adaptive pathway which not only manage tidal flood risk in the traditional manner, but would also consider other approaches to ensure long term resilience for the communities, business and landowners within the catchment area.

1.6 West Lindsey have been actively part of this Partnership Project since 2020, with Senior Management, Officer and Member representation.

\*Current representation is as follows: Member: Cllr. Rollings, Senior Management & Officer: Rachael Hughes.

## **2 Purpose of the Partnership Project and development of the Strategy**

2.1 The Humber Partnership Project has been established to develop a framework for implementation of the Humber 2100+ strategy. This will include understanding how to use the information gathered from the partnership and other stakeholders to help make decisions and ultimately, how the partnership will work together.

2.2 The partnership will also look at future challenges and develop solutions to mitigate against these issues. Alongside this, the Partnership will support the development of the Humber 2100+ Strategy. The strategic objectives of the project are:

- Support long-term resilient growth and maximise funding
- Deliver multi-benefit schemes & enhance natural capital
- Deliver an adaptable approach to better protect homes and livelihoods, businesses and potential development opportunities from flooding
- Respond to local needs, as well as the long-term global trend of sea level rise
- Share and use the best available data and most appropriate information on the existing defences, the current flood risk
- Ensure the Strategy is continually relevant, committing to necessary and timely reviews

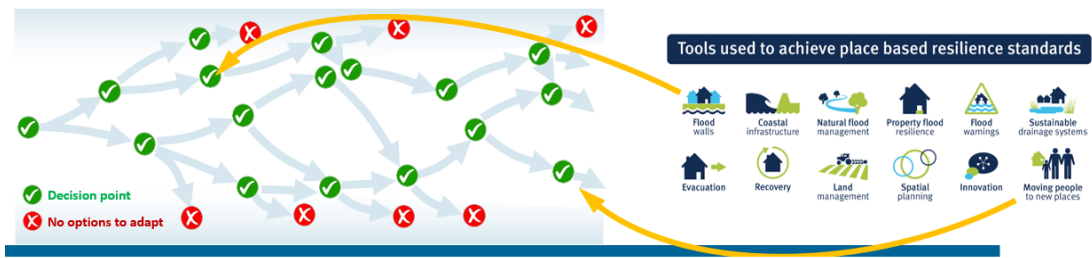
2.3 It is anticipated that through the development of an adaptive pathway and final adoption of the Humber 2100+ Strategy, currently programmed for the end of 2027, that the Humber 2100+ Partnership Project will achieve these objectives.

## **3 What is an Adaptive Pathway?**

3.1 An adaptive pathway is a technical way of describing a decision-making tree. The Humber Estuary is an incredibly complex waterway, made more complex by the tidal tributaries that flow from it, as well as all the communities, business and land which surrounds it.

3.2 It is impossible to predict all possible scenarios which may influence the behaviour of the Estuary over a long period of time. As such the adaptive pathway details the known options and tools available to manage the Estuary now, but also includes key decision-making points in the future which will allow a reassessment of options based on the current reality at that time. The adaptive pathway (or decision-making tree) will also allow for consideration of other factors such as potential technological advancements, new land management strategies and economic growth to name a few. Figure 1 below shows a visual representation of how the adaptive pathway may be used in a water management context.

Figure 1.

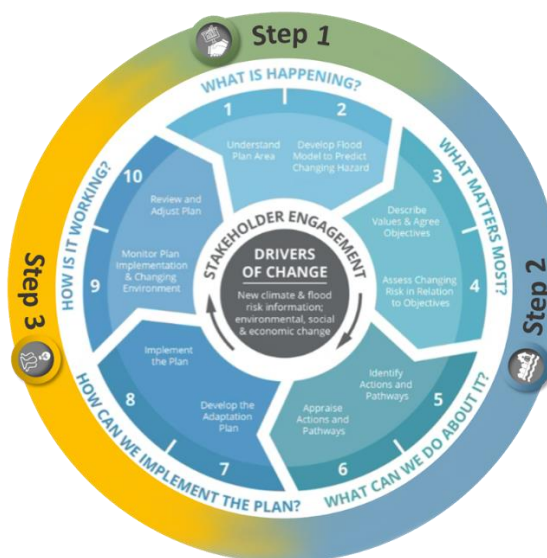


3.3 As with all decision-making trees, there will be key points within the adaptive pathway where key questions will need to be asked and answered before implementing an intervention and moving to the next decision point. An example of those key questions that will need to be asked include:

- What is happening?
- What matters most?
- What can we do about it?
- How can we implement the plan?
- How is it working?

3.4 Below, Figure 2 provides a further illustrative example of how those question would feed into the adaptive planning scenario at each decision-making point as part of the adaptive pathway.

Figure 2.



- 3.5 It is considered that this approach to decision making provides longevity for the strategy and also ensure it is flexible enough to deliver on the objectives of the partnership both considering current known risks and opportunities but also able to deal with those risks and opportunities not yet understood.

#### **4 Overview of project to date**

- 4.1 The development of the adaptive pathway is split up into four key steps. These steps are:
- STEP 0 - An initial project review to define and agree priorities and strategic outcomes of the strategy.
  - STEP 1 - Understand risk, specifically understand the present-day baseline for the Humber Estuary, including the scale of the challenge and consequences of risk.
  - STEP 2 - Agree the high-level principles to managing risk
  - STEP 3 - Plan for adaption, defining specifically what actions are needed, where and when and how these will flex as the partnership progress through the adaptive pathway
- 4.2 As detailed in paragraph 2.2, the partnership have previously agreed the priorities and strategic outcomes of the project and are now moving through each of the steps, collating evidence and data to inform conclusions and recommendations.
- 4.3 Over the last couple of years, the partnership has established a robust and collaborative approach to the collection and assessment of evidence from a range of sources, including key stakeholders to understand the risks.
- 4.4 The Humber 2100+ partnership have worked to improve public understanding of the future challenge which climate change poses to the area. This has included setting up a dedicated 'storymap' website about the project (<http://arcg.is/u1rPi> ), producing tailored communications materials and running an awareness campaign tied into the Environment Agency's 'Flood Action Campaign'.
- 4.5 The project has also piloted the use of a 'Community Panel' to seek public views to inform the development of the project. This ran during April 2024 and involved a group of 19 people who were recruited to form a demographic cross section of the area. The panel heard evidence from a range of witnesses and then worked to develop recommendations in response to the question 'What should we take into account in plans to manage tidal flood risk in your area?'
- 4.6 These recommendations will be used to inform the partnership's approach to developing different ways to manage tidal flood risk, both now and in the future. Wider learning from the panel process will also help to shape ongoing engagement with those living and working around the Humber as the project progresses.

- 4.7 Because each step in the strategy development has interdependency on the other it is important that the partners are clear and supportive of the methodology, evidence and findings. To ensure that this process has been both transparent and as robust as possible, Step 1 was split into two parts.
- 4.8 The first part of Step 1 was to establish and agree the present-day outputs which effectively focussed on capturing and understanding the current risks presented by the behaviour of Estuary today. This evidence pack was endorsed by Members at Prosperous Communities Committee in December 2023 and has provided the basis for the development and conclusion of Step 1 - Understanding Risk.
- 4.9 Due to the large complex spatial area of the estuary, Partners have worked closely with the EA to input into and develop a mapping tool that captures all relevant evidence relating to the Estuary, including for example social and economic impacts, details of existing flood defences etc. and provides a comprehensive picture of risk that can be changed to reflect future scenarios and presented in various formats for scrutiny. This tool is known as a Modelling and Decision Support Framework or MDSF2 for short.
- 4.10 The MDSF2 has continued to be utilised to develop further modelling outputs, including future baselines with supporting evidence which provide further visual representations of both present-day and future risks around the Humber Estuary.
- 4.11 The development of this evidence and all of the Step 1 outputs is incredibly technical and has taken a lot of time to finalise and agree. All the detailed outputs, evidence and supporting documentation is available to partners within the Evidence Pack and the mapped outputs viewed on the EA's Geographical Information System (GIS) platform.
- 4.12 During a meeting of the Humber Elected Members Forum in January of this year, which Cllr. Rollings attended, Members were taken through the Step 1 endorsement report and the process, including an overview of all of the supporting evidence.
- 4.13 In recognition of the technical nature of this work area, officers, with the support of Cllr. Rollings, requested that the EA provided an all-member briefing on the findings of Step 1, providing members with a good opportunity to scrutinise the detail and ask questions, prior to being asked to endorse the final report.
- 4.14 This briefing took place on the evening of 06<sup>th</sup> February. The EA team provided a comprehensive presentation of the findings of Step 1 and supported members with their understanding, through an informative question and answer session.
- 4.15 One of the key aspects discussed as part of the member briefing was the need to agree messaging for the public as a result of the conclusion



of Step 1. These messages will be developed with the partner authorities and members over the coming months and will focus on the need for new and innovative ways of managing flood risk. This will include work to defences in some areas, but also promoting resilience, community preparedness as well as relying on new water management opportunities around, innovative farming practices, habitat creation and flood storage.

- 4.16 As a result of Step 1 and moving to Step 2 it is crucial that all understand that management of the estuary will shift away from a more traditional flood risk management strategy into the future.

## 5 Out puts of Step 1

***See appendix 1, Endorsement Report for detail on Step 1 process and outputs***

- 5.1 The Step 1 outputs provide a strategic scale picture of what tidal flood risk, likelihood and cost looks like in the Humber estuary both now and in the future. The outputs include modelled 'baselines' as well as additional analysis and data to support the understanding of the impacts of tidal flood risk which will help shape the partnerships thinking when moving to Step 2 - *Agree the high-level principles to managing risk.*

- 5.2 The Present-day baseline modelling outputs, which were endorsed by the whole partnership at the end of 2023, show what flood risk and likelihood looks like now. The future baselines modelling outputs show a series of future scenarios which indicate how flood likelihood, risk and costs could change over time (25, 50 and 100 years into the future).

- 5.3 The development of future baselines has been designed to help understand;

- how future tidal flood risk changes compared to what tidal flood risk looks like now (Present-day)
- how tidal flood risk (as well as the financial and carbon costs) would change in various future scenarios, if we were to make hypothetical
- interventions, or continue with existing tidal flood risk management approaches into the future
- the pace of change in tidal flood risk

- 5.4 The five future baselines tested over the 4 time periods, present day, 2046, 2071 and 2121. The baselines tested were *Do Nothing, Legal Requirement, Maintain, Status Quo and Hold the Line+*.

- Do Nothing - if all tidal flood risk management activities cease
- Legal Requirement - carry out minimal flood defence maintenance s to meet specific legal obligations
- Maintain - if all tidal flood risk management activities continue as they are today

- Status Quo – if the existing Humber Strategy (2008) interventions were to continue
  - Hold the Line Plus (HtL+) – if the standard of protection of defences throughout the strategy area was raised to 0.5% (1 in 200 flood event)
- 5.5 To support this, additional analysis has also been carried out, including a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Addendum and environmental outputs which help understand how tidal flood risk could impact the Humber economy, environment and society. This describes the broader impacts of the baselines and allows the partnership to understand the implications, so these impacts can be taken into account in Steps 2 and 3.
- 5.6 The bullet points below provide a summary of Step 1 outputs.
- Likelihood Maps – likelihood of flooding shown at estuary scale
  - Risks Maps – Expected annual flood damages shown at estuary scale
  - Water Level Maps – water levels throughout the estuary
  - Flood Damage Assessment
  - Economic, Social & environmental impacts
  - Costs information – financial and carbon
  - Mapped spatial constraints
- 5.7 Detailed explanation of the approach to modelling and analysis, including water and land data, financial and carbon costs can be found within the Endorsement Report in appendix 1 of this report.
- 5.8 It is important to note that the Endorsement Report and Evidence Pack whilst a useful tool for the partnership will be adapted over the coming months for other audiences to provide engaging and meaningful interpretation to support future communications, messaging and awareness raising across all stakeholders in the strategy area.

## **6 Conclusion, next steps and recommendations**

- 6.1 At the start of the project, it was made clear by partners that the need for robust evidence that all agreed with, was an important starting point for the development of the stepped approach to achieving an adaptive pathway as part of the Humber 2100+ project.
- 6.2 The outputs of Step 1 will pave the way for conversations on how tidal flood risk can be managed in the future and ensure the adaptive pathway is fit for purpose.
- 6.3 By endorsing the Step 1 outputs, the following principles are accepted
- That climate change will lead to significant increase in tidal flood risk

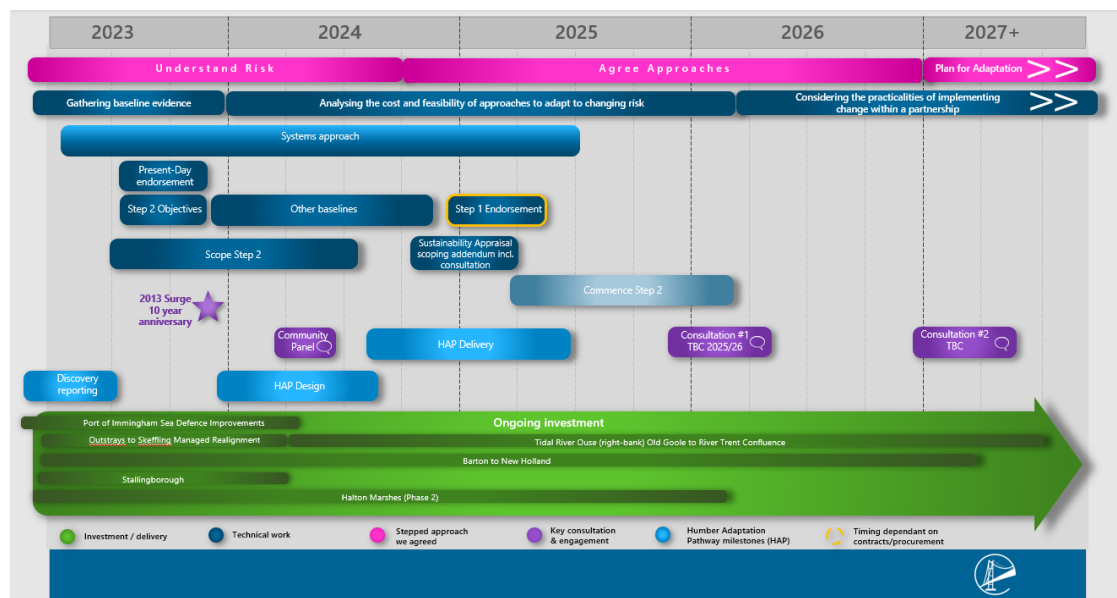
- The interconnectedness of the estuary system means that a coordinated, partnership approach to managing this future risk is essential
- Managing tidal flood risk can't continue to be done in the same way
- Adaptive management of the estuary is the only sustainable way to allow flexibility and responsiveness to change
- Each of the partners commit to support the future project within the constraints of available resources

6.4 In terms of next steps, following formal endorsement of Step 1 by all of the partners, the partnership will move to Step 2, *Agree the high-level principles to managing risk*. This will include continued engagement with communities, business and stakeholders across the estuary area and delivering against the broader project objectives.

6.5 As the project and partnership move into Step 2, there will be a need to review the governance of the partnership and, where necessary, lever in alternative skills and knowledge basis.

6.6 Below, figure 3, is an indicative timeline of the project up to 2027. However, the project will progress well beyond this point, in line with adaptive pathway principles.

Figure 3.



6.7 The Humber 2100+ Partnership Project continues to work collaboratively in the development of the Humber 2100+ strategy. It is acknowledged that the project is extensive in terms of both time and geography and is also extremely technical. However, being a part of the Project Team means that we are able to influence and shape the outcomes to support a prosperous and sustainable district.

- 6.8 Over the coming months the project team will start to scope the next step which will look at the principles of tidal flood risk management. It is generally accepted by all that, current approaches including building higher and bigger barriers alone, will no longer offer the protection required and as such Step 2 will look at other methods and opportunities.
- 6.9 Further project updates, including officer and member workshops with the Environment Agency will be arranged in due course aligned with the project timeline and further information will also be provided on public consultation in due course.
- 6.10 In the meantime, the Environment Agency continue to promote the project through their stakeholder newsletter, which can be subscribed to by emailing [HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk). There is also a separate farmer/landowner newsletter, which can also be subscribed to by using the above email.
- 6.11 It is therefore recommended that Members note and endorse the contents of this report and the findings of the Endorsement Report concluding Step 1 of the project as well as the more general project update and indicative timeline.

## Prosperous Communities Committee Work Plan (as at 10 March 2025)

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### Purpose:

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

### Recommendation:

1. That Members note the contents of this report.

Date	Title	Lead Officer	Purpose of the report	Date First Published
<b>18 MARCH 2025</b>				
18 Mar 2025	STEP: Progress Update and Future Activity	James Makinson-Sanders, Economic Growth Team Manager	An update on programme activity and future work focus.	25 November 2024
18 Mar 2025	Humber 2100+ Step 1 Endorsement	Rachael Hughes, Head of Policy and Strategy	To update members on the progress of the Humber 2100+ project and timeline, including the endorsement of Step 1, Understand the Risk	20 January 2025
18 Mar 2025	Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth Capital Spend	Grant White, Communities Manager	To approve spend from the Hemswell Cliff Investment for Growth capital budget.	
<b>29 APRIL 2025</b>				
<b>3 JUNE 2025</b>				
3 Jun 2025	Food, Health and Safety Work Plan 2025/2026	Andy Gray, Housing & Environmental Enforcement Manager	To seek approval for the 2025/2026 work plan	
<b>15 JULY 2025</b>				
15 Jul 2025	Economic Growth Strategy 2025 - 2030	Claire Hill, Economic Growth Officer, James Makinson-Sanders, Economic Growth Team Manager	Revised economic growth strategy to supersede that adopted in 2014 which was for a 20 yr period to 2034.	

# Agenda Item 8a

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

Document is Restricted