

AGENDA

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

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday, 14th April, 2026 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber - The Guildhall**

Members: Councillor Jeanette McGhee (Chairman)
Councillor Roger Patterson (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Jacob Flear
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Peter Morris
Councillor Lynda Mullally
Councillor Maureen Palmer
Councillor Roger Pilgrim
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** (PAGES 3 - 6)
Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 24 February 2026.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest**
Members may make any declarations of interest at this point and may also make them at any point during the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising Schedule**
There are no outstanding matters arising.
5. **Presentation Item**
Presentation by Everyone Active regarding leisure provision within the district.

6. **Public Reports**

- i) DRAFT Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26 (TO FOLLOW)
and Review of Operating Methodology

7. **General Work Items**

- i) Forward Plan (PAGES 7 - 10)

- ii) Committee Workplan

There are no further scheduled Committee dates, as this is the final meeting of the Civic Year and the Committee cycle for the forthcoming year has not yet been confirmed.

Paul Burkinshaw
Head of Paid Service
The Guildhall
Gainsborough

Monday, 6 April 2026

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 24 February 2026 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present:

- Councillor Jeanette McGhee (Chairman)
- Councillor Stephen Bunney
- Councillor David Dobbie
- Councillor Jacob Flear
- Councillor Peter Morris
- Councillor Lynda Mullally
- Councillor Maureen Palmer
- Councillor Roger Pilgrim
- Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee

In Attendance:

- Nova Roberts Director of Change Management, ICT & Regulatory Services
- Molly Spencer Democratic & Civic Officer
- Sarah Elvin Homes, Health & Wellbeing Team Manager
- Cara Markham Commercial, Cultural and Leisure Development Manager
- Adam Newman-Pring (External) Boston Borough Council

40 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

With no comments or questions, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Thursday, 29 January 2026 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

41 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

42 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

The Democratic and Civic Officer informed the Committee that, at the previous meeting, an item had been scheduled for confirmation regarding the attendance of the Acting Chief Superintendent. It was noted that the Acting Chief Superintendent had not been present; however, all Members had received the circulated correspondence between himself and West Lindsey District Council, which brought the matter to a close.

In relation to the Matters Arising Schedule, the Democratic and Civic Officer reported that the item concerning the Progress and Delivery Working Group had been marked as complete, and there were no further updates.

With no further comments or questions the Matters Arising Schedule was **DULY NOTED**.

43 GOOD HOMES ALLIANCE

The Homes and Health Team Manager introduced the report and advised that the paper had been presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to enable an in-depth review of the work undertaken by the Good Home Alliance since its commencement almost two years previously. It was explained that the report provided detailed information on the activity delivered to-date and the evaluation being completed in partnership with London School of Economics.

The Committee had received an update from Mr Adam Newman-Pring, the Healthy and Accessible Homes Lead for Lincolnshire and the Lead for the Good Home Alliance Project, regarding the Good Home Alliance project and the evaluation undertaken by the London School of Economics. It was noted that funding had been in place until June 2026, with the final evaluation due shortly after the pilot concluded. The project had been designed to support owner-occupiers experiencing housing issues that did not meet the threshold for statutory services. Increased living costs had resulted in higher demand, and referrals had exceeded 400, with significant peaks during the winter months.

The service had provided both open-access online advice and intensive casework. The Lincolnshire Connect to Support platform had hosted extensive guidance, and a Healthy Homes Assessment tool had been developed to assist residents in identifying issues within their homes. The team had offered practical support where individuals had been unable to act independently, including assistance in sourcing contractors, clearing homes, and accessing specialist funding.

It was reported that strong multi-agency partnerships had been established across health, fire and rescue, children's services, and trading standards. These included referral pathways for asthma practitioners, fire safety advocates, and family hubs. The service had been regarded as uniquely positioned across the housing, health, and social care sectors, with an emphasis on "homes" rather than tenure-based housing functions.

Funding for the continuation of the project to March 2028 had been expected to total £33,000, reflecting a reduced requirement.

Members of the committee discussed the continuation and future development of the Good Home Alliance project. Questions were raised regarding the commitment of all Lincolnshire districts, the implications should any authority withdraw, and the impact this would have on the viability of the casework team. It had been explained that officer support remained strong across the districts, although formal decisions had not yet been taken. The need for early clarity to retain experienced staff had been emphasised.

Committee Members considered the accessibility of the service, particularly in rural areas and among digitally excluded households. Concerns were expressed that awareness remained limited and that vulnerable residents might not yet be benefiting from the scheme. Officers acknowledged these challenges and highlighted ongoing efforts to expand communications, outreach, and engagement through community events, printed materials, professional networks, and existing referral partners.

Discussion took place regarding the needs of private owner-occupiers and the extent to which the project could support households experiencing damp, mould, structural deterioration, or multiple vulnerabilities. It had been confirmed that while the project did not administer grants, it assisted residents to understand available schemes, apply for funding, and receive casework support where necessary. The importance of the caseworkers in enabling residents to act on advice had been strongly recognised by Members.

Members of the committee also noted that financial barriers remained the principal obstacle to essential home improvements, and reference was made to potential alternative funding mechanisms that could be explored nationally. Broader issues within the private rented sector and the possible role of selective licensing were mentioned.

Further discussion had taken place regarding the limitations of the existing grant-based system. It had been recognised that many residents were unable to undertake essential works even where grant support had been available, however did not cover the entire cost of the required works. Members had explored alternative funding models that could assist homeowners more effectively. This included reference to approaches used elsewhere, where property-linked finance rather than personal borrowing had been utilised to support home improvements.

The Committee had acknowledged the value of the project, the strong partnership working across agencies, and the significance of the independent evaluation in shaping future improvements.

With no further comments or questions, it was

RESOLVED that

- a) Members had considered the content of the report on the Good Home Alliance (GHA) pilot activities, performance and outcomes to-date, which had informed the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee's consideration of continued funding for the GHA Advice and Casework service for a further 21 months from 1 July 2026 to 31 March 2028.
- b) Members had supported further work by West Lindsey District Council officers and the Good Home Alliance (GHA) on opportunities to lobby for change and seek additional funding to support the climate agenda through retrofitting

energy-efficiency measures in households, beyond those available through the Warm Homes Local Grants.

- c) Members had championed an increase in communications to highlight the positive work of the Good Home Alliance (GHA) and the unique opportunity the service had provided within Lincolnshire.

44 FORWARD PLAN

With no comments or questions the Forward Plan was **DULY NOTED**.

45 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

With no comments or questions the Committee Workplan was **DULY NOTED**.

46 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Note: The meeting entered closed session at 7.29pm.

47 CLOSED SESSION: PREPARATION FOR EVERYONE ACTIVE PRESENTATION

Members of the committee discussed a range of matters in preparation for the forthcoming presentation from Everyone Active and identified a list of questions to raise with them at the 14 April 2026 committee meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.08 pm.

Chairman

Full Forward Plan for All Committees (as at 2 April 2026)

Purpose:

This report provides a summary of items 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
CORPORATE POLICY & RESOURCES				
16 APRIL 2026				
12 Feb 2026	Review of the Anti Money Laundering and Financial Crime Policy	Peter Davy, Director of Finance and Assets (Section 151 Officer)	To review the updated policy which outlines the Council's approach to preventing and identifying all forms of Money Laundering and Financial Crime	09 January 2026
16 Apr 2026	SURESTAFF/WLDC STAFFING SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN 2026/2027	Sue Leversedge, Financial Services Manager (Deputy Section 151)	To present the Surestaff Business Plan 2025/26 and approve changes to WLDC Staff roles	16 February 2026
16 Apr 2026	Thurrock/APSE Litigation Update	Lisa Langdon, Assistant Director People and Democratic (Monitoring Officer)	To provide an update on the Thurrock/APSE litigation.	16 February 2026
16 Apr 2026	Community Asset Transfer Policy	Peter Davy, Director of Finance and Assets (Section 151 Officer)	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee review and approve the new Community Asset Transfer Policy	03 March 2026
16 Apr 2026	Good Homes Alliance	Sarah Elvin, Homes, Health & Wellbeing Team Manager	Report looking at the successes of the Good Homes Alliance and the opportunity to continue to fund until March 2028	03 March 2026
16 Apr 2026	Building Safety Levy (BSL)	Rachael Hughes, Head of Policy and Strategy	Preparation for the implementation of BSL in October 2026	

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COUNCIL

13 APRIL 2026

10 Mar 2026	Revised Member Officer Protocol	Lisa Langdon, Assistant Director People and Democratic (Monitoring Officer)	To present a new Member Officer Protocol in line with LGA guidance for adoption	09 January 2026
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11 MAY 2026 - ANNUAL COUNCIL

16 Apr 2026	Annual Treasury Management Report 2025/26	Caroline Capon, Corporate Finance Team Leader	To report on Annual Treasury Management activities and prudential indicators for 2025/26 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003	09 January 2026
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11 May 2026	Annual Review of the Constitution	Lisa Langdon, Assistant Director People and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), Katie Storr, Democratic Services & Elections Team Manager	to present the annual review of the constitution	09 January 2026
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11 May 2026	Monitoring Officer Annual Report	Katie Storr, Democratic Services & Elections Team Manager	To present the MOs Annual Report	09 January 2026
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11 May 2026	Review of Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules	Peter Davy, Director of Finance and Assets (Section 151 Officer)	A review of the Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules (CPPR's) has been undertaken as part of a wider constitutional review.	
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11 May 2026	Review of Financial Procedure Rules	Peter Davy, Director of Finance and Assets (Section 151 Officer)	This is the review of financial procedure rules (FPR's) which forms part of the wider constitutional review. This review encompasses recommendations from internal audit, changes in statutory officers and minor housekeeping changes.	
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11 May 2026	DRAFT Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report	Ele Snow, Senior	FOR O&S:	
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2025/26 and Review of Operating Methodology

Democratic and Civic Officer

To present the draft annual report for Members' comment and agreement prior to submission to Annual Council

FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL:
To present the Annual Report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT

21 APRIL 2026

21 Apr 2026	Accounts Closedown 2025/26 Accounting Matters	Sarah Elvin, Homes, Health & Wellbeing Team Manager	To review and approve the accounting policies, actuary assumptions and materiality levels that will be used for the preparation of the 2025/26 accounts	09 January 2026
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1 Apr 2026	Internal Audit Follow Up Report April 2026	Katy Allen, Corporate Governance Officer	Report on actions due from audit reports. Progress on any actions which are due prior to 1st April 2026 since the previous report.	21 January 2026
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JOINT STAFF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

14 APRIL 2026

PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

28 APRIL 2026

28 Apr 2026	Car Parking Strategy 2026-2031	Luke Matthews, Senior Building and Projects Officer	To present the draft Parking Strategy and Action Plan for approval.	10 November 2025
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28 Apr 2026	Renters Rights Act - Policy Update	Andy Gray, Housing & Environmental Enforcement Manager	To seek approval from Councillors on the policy updates as a result of the Renters Rights Act coming into force in	09 January 2026
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May 2026.

28 Apr 2026	Waste & Recycling Operational Policy Review	Robert Gilliot, Operational Services Manager	Slight amendments to the policies after the 2 year review period	03 March 2026
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REGULATORY
