



**Prosperous Communities  
Committee**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Subject: Economic Recovery Plan for West Lindsey**

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

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

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

## IMPLICATIONS

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

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

### **Financial : FIN/123/22/JA/PC**

No financial implications arising as a result of this report.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/2875\\_GL\\_LEP\\_Revival\\_Plan\\_ART - No logos page.pdf](https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/2875_GL_LEP_Revival_Plan_ART_-_No_logos_page.pdf)

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

**Call in and Urgency:**

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

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

Yes

No

**Key Decision:**

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

Yes

No

## **1 Introduction**

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

## **2 The Economic Recovery Plan**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **3 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

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

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

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

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