

Overview and Scrutiny Matters Arising Schedule - as at 06/10/2025

Purpose:

To consider progress on the matters arising from previous Overview and Scrutiny 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 | Battery Storage Legislation | Item to be included on Overview & Scrutiny Workplan | <p>O&S 30.07.24: requested for a presentation item to the Committee regarding legislation and policy around battery storage sites, with potential lobbying of Government arising from that.</p> <p>Update 26.11.2024: Due date removed for item to remain open. Excerpt from minutes 'Members of the Committee were content that the actions undertaken following the meeting of Full Council had resolved the matter originally raised through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, however it was requested that the matter remain with the Committee, to receive a future update as upcoming legislation passed through Parliament.'</p> <p>Update: 250624 - ... it was confirmed by the Senior Democratic and Civic Officer that the Committee was awaiting the release of the relevant legislation from Central Government. It was advised that, once the legislation had been confirmed and formally shared with local authorities, a presentation would be arranged to outline the updated provisions and their implications for local authorities in the context of processing related applications.</p> <p>Update 01.10.2025 - Sally Grindrod-Smith confirmed a paper would be brought to committee on the 18 November 2025, Sally to add to the forward plan.</p> | 18/11/25 | Molly Spencer |
| Black | Update on Parish Council Reserves | Section 151 Officer provide an update to the Committee outlining the current position on Parish Council reserves and potential actions | <p>Quote from minutes of 29 July 2025 ... Concerns were raised about significant financial reserves held by some Parish Councils, with suggestions that these funds should be used to support local resilience and emergency planning. It was agreed that the Section 151 Officer would be asked to update the committee outlining the current position and potential actions.</p> | (blank) | Peter Davy |

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| | | | <p>(Matter to be reported to cttee as black status - 14.10.25)</p> <p>Email was sent to Pete Davy on 02/10/2025 asking for a briefing note or an email to be able to update Members of the Committee.</p> <p>Response from Pete Davy which was circulated to Members of the Cttee on 06.10.25 - Parish Councils are bodies governed by law with elected/co-opted members. West Lindsey District Council does not control the activities of parish councils, as these are separate entities which are controlled by the parish councillors. Each year the parish councils prepare their budgets for the following year and submit a precept form to West Lindsey in order than we can then add the relevant amounts to residents council tax bills. When we ask for the Parish Council's precept we do offer some guidance which does include 'In view of the continuing financial pressures on public expenditure, it is hoped that any increases in parish precepts are kept to a minimum'. West Lindsey therefore cannot dictate the amount parish Council's hold in reserves, the decision on the use and value of reserves is taken by the parish council's members at their regular meetings.</p> | | |
| Green | <p>Emergency Plans: How are WLDC supporting Parish Council's</p> | <p>Contact Andy Gray & Grant White with questions from Cttee - "Members raised concerns about the inconsistent progress of emergency planning across Parish Councils. Difficulties in completing framework plans were noted, particularly in identifying volunteers for key roles. It was clarified by the Chairman that the frameworks were adaptable and could be tailored to local needs. The importance of ensuring preparedness and building confidence at both community and authority levels was emphasised. It was agreed that, if the LRF could not attend earlier, alternative arrangements would be explored."</p> | <p>Molly Emailed Andy Gray & Grant White [09.09.2025] - Following a recent Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting, a matter arising was recorded regarding the support provided by WLDC to Parish Councils in developing their Emergency Plans. Members raised concerns about inconsistent progress and challenges in completing the framework plans, particularly around identifying volunteers for key roles.</p> <p>To support the Committee's understanding and next steps, I'd be grateful if you could provide a brief update or response to the following:</p> <p>What support is currently available from WLDC to assist Parish Councils with their Emergency Plans? How are the emergency planning frameworks being adapted to suit the specific needs of individual parishes? Are there any initiatives or resources in place to help Parish Councils recruit volunteers for key emergency roles? Is there a process for monitoring the progress of emergency</p> | (blank) | Molly Spencer |

planning across Parish Councils?

If the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum is unable to attend an earlier meeting, are there alternative arrangements being considered to support Parish Councils in the meantime?

Is WLDC encouraging Parish Councils to utilise their financial reserves to support local resilience and emergency planning efforts?

Any information or updates on the above you can provide will be greatly appreciated and will help inform the Committee's ongoing work in this area.

If you wish to read the minutes from the meeting, it's in the Committee Work Plan item - Minutes Template
