

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Joint Staff Consultative Committee held in the HYBRID - Eau Meeting Room - The Guildhall & MS Teams on 22 January 2026 commencing at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Paul Key (Chairman)
Councillor John Barrett
Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Moira Westley

In Attendance:
Lisa Langdon Assistant Director People and Democratic (Monitoring Officer)
Molly Spencer Democratic & Civic Officer
Katy Allen Corporate Governance Officer

Apologies: James Deacon (Vice Chairman)
Brad Bishell
Peter Davy

33 MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

34 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

With no comments, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Joint Staff Consultative Committee held on Thursday, 27 November 2025, be confirmed as an accurate record.

35 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

There were no matters arising to note.

36 REVIEW OF THE ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCIAL CRIME POLICY

It was reported that the policy had been revised following an audit, which had identified a requirement for review. The purpose of the policy was stated as providing a framework for responding to allegations of money laundering and financial crime.

It was noted that West Lindsey District Council sought to protect public funds, ensure compliance with the law, and encourage staff to report any suspicious activity relating to fraud, bribery, or financial crime. The policy was described as setting out how such matters would be reported, investigated, and addressed.

It was explained that an additional sentence had been included in Section 1, following comments from the Chairman's briefing, to acknowledge that some services were more exposed to potential financial crime due to the nature of their work. It was emphasised that, despite differing levels of exposure, the policy applied to all services and Officers were required to maintain awareness of it.

The policy content was generally accepted as standard and comprehensive. However, concern was raised that the nature and extent of the review were unclear, as no comparison with a previous version had been provided. Members requested that future policy reviews include both the former and revised documents, with changes clearly identified.

Officers explained that staff turnover had occurred during development and that the previous policy could not be located. As a result, a new policy had been drafted. Reference was made to benchmarking against other Councils to ensure appropriate coverage.

Questions were raised regarding Section 1.1, which referred to an external review of a long-standing policy, given that no earlier version could be produced. Officers advised that the audit had taken place some time ago and that supporting documentation may have been lost. Further investigation was agreed, including contacting the Officer involved in the original review.

Members requested sight of the relevant audit findings linked to the policy, rather than the full report, to provide assurance on the basis for the recommendations. Officers proposed extracting and presenting the relevant audit section at the next committee, which was supported.

It was suggested that the policy should clearly state that the issue had been identified through audit and that a new policy had been produced due to missing documentation. Further concern was raised regarding Section 8, which stated that awareness and training had been provided. Members noted that this could not be substantiated and that references to staff repercussions were inappropriate without clear training and guidance. The wording was considered insufficient and lacking detail, with potential risk to staff identified.

With no further comments, and having been proposed and seconded, it was

RESOLVED that the Review of the Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime Policy be deferred to enable the report to be updated and related documents to be circulated and wording in Section 8 be changed

37 WORK PLAN

With no comments the workplan was **DULY NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 4.47 pm.

Chairman