

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA on 29 June 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Matthew Boles (Chairman)
Councillor John Barrett (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Stephen Bunney	Councillor Emma Bailey
Councillor Eve Bennett	Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Trevor Bridgwood	Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway
Councillor Frazer Brown	Councillor Karen Carless
Councillor Christopher Darcel	Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Jacob Flear	Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Sabastian Hague	Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Paul Key	Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence
Councillor Paul Lee	Councillor Jeanette McGhee
Councillor Peter Morris	Councillor Maureen Palmer
Councillor Roger Patterson	Councillor Roger Pilgrim
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings	Councillor Tom Smith
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee	Councillor Moira Westley
Councillor Trevor Young	

In Attendance:

Paul Burkinshaw	Chief Executive
Peter Davy	Director Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer)
Lisa Langdon	Assistant Chief Executive - Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Ellen King	Head of Policy
Katie Storr	Head of Democratic Services and Elections (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Also in Attendance: 3 representatives from Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Planning Group

Also Present: 4 Members of the Public
1 Member of the Press

Apologies

Councillor Liz Clews
Councillor Adam Duguid
Councillor Lynda Mullally
Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers
Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Paul Swift
Councillor Baptiste Velan

17 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND MOMENT OF REFLECTION - MR JIM HARRISON AND MR MICHAEL WRAGG

Having just remembered former District Council Director Jim Harrison, and Mr Michael Wragg, of the Royal British Legion-Local Branch, in prayers prior to the meeting, in formally opening the meeting, the Chairman asked Members to remain standing for a moment's reflection as a mark of respect to both gentlemen.

On resuming seats, before moving to the agenda, the Chairman and other Members paid moving tributes to both gentleman speaking of their dedication to the District, the former's commitment to Council Services and its staff, the latter for his unwavering commitment to the local community, especially veterans, and his heavy involvement in creating two well established events in Gainsborough, the Annual Remembrance Service and the Christmas Day lunch.

The Chamber offered their sincerest condolences to the families of both, with official condolences to be sent from the civic office.

Bringing tributes to an end the Chairman formally welcomed all those attending with a special welcome to representatives from the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Planning Group, who would later in the meeting formally present their Reviewed Plan to Council.

18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Having been proposed and seconded, on being put to the vote it was:-

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Full Council held on 11 May 2026 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

19 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this point in the meeting.

20 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman introduced the report advising Members that it would be taken "as read" unless Members had any questions that they wished to raise.

With no comments or questions and with no requirement to vote, the matters arising were **DULY NOTED**.

21 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman

The Chairman addressed the meeting highlighting some of the great events, he had had the pleasure to attend and support, many hosted by West Lindsey, including the “Go Fest” spread over two days and over two sites, Market Rasen and Gainsborough.

The Chairman spoke of how positively the activities had been received in Market Rasen and of his pleasure at seeing many young families from all sections of the community enjoying the activities. Both events had been well attended and the Chairman placed on record his thanks to those Teams involved in producing and staffing the events over weekends.

The Chairman had had the pleasure of attending the Lincolnshire Show on both days and again the level of engagement from local communities and visitors to the area, alike was something to be congratulated. West Lindsey’s marquee was busy throughout both days , with the Step Fusion Robo Dogs proving a real hit once again.

It had been an honour and a privilege for the Chairman to raise the Armed Forces flag outside the Guildhall, the previous Friday. Again engagement had been high and he thanked those Members who had supported him at the event and spoke of the thanks he had received from the veteran community for recognising the day with a formal raising of the flag.

Whilst the Chairman had been unable to attend the Armed Forces Day organised by the town Council the previous week, he took the opportunity to congratulate organisers on what he understood had been a very successful day. West Lindsey’s Armed Forces Member Champion, Councillor Carless was requested to pass on formal congratulations and thanks to the organisers.

The final event which Chairman referenced was the Curley’s Viking Running Event which had taken place on a baking hot day at the Roses Sports Field. The Chairman congratulated those who had got involved despite the extreme heat and he spoke of his hopes that the event would become an annual fixture and go from strength-to-strength.

Leader

The Leader of the Council addressed Council and made the following announcements: -

Scampton

The Leader was pleased to confirm that following the last meeting of Full Council, the Council’s bid, alongside Scampton Holdings, for the purchase of RAF Scampton had been submitted. Thanks and praise were extended to Officers in acknowledgement of the considerable effort. Members would be kept updated as soon as there was any further progress to share. An outcome was expected by the summer Parliamentary recess, with the Home Office targeting completion of the disposal before the end of the calendar year.

Local Government Re-organisation

The Government was still expected to make its announcement regarding Local Government

Reorganisation in Lincolnshire during week commencing 13 July.

Local Council's Network

Both the Leader and Deputy alongside Senior Officers had attended the regional meeting of the Local Councils Network, where information about LGR processes was shared by organisations who had already undergone the process. The Leader had taken confidence that West Lindsey was well placed to deal with the upcoming demands.

Great Town Award

The Judging Panel of the Academy of Urbanism, had visited Gainsborough, which was shortlisted for the "Great Town" Award and the Leader had the pleasure of speaking with the Panel. Again, the work of Officers, in showing the incredible work being done by this council to enhance residents', experience was praised. The outcome was expected later in the year.

Other matters of mention included the Leader having attended meetings regarding the STEP Fusion project, a Government funded initiative intended to enable development of new sustainable power, with Members urged to familiarise themselves with the concept of fusion; attending meetings with Lincolnshire Police to work on the Safer Gainsborough Programme; and attending meetings of the District Joint Committee, and the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Council Authority meetings.

Finally the Leader applauded those who had organised the Council's marquee at the Lincolnshire Show, which had been very well attended and had been an inclusive, family and disability friendly experience, which was most welcome.

Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

The Chief Executive, addressed the Chamber and spoke in greater detail regarding the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) process. Members were reminded of previous decisions taken by Council at their Extraordinary meeting on 16th of March, which had included delegating authority to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to write to the Government with regards to LGR, expanding on a number of points, including to request the opportunity to meet with ministers to discuss the concerns prior to any decision being made.

Members were advised that a response had been received from Alison McGovern, the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution, advising that she had asked MHCLG civil servants to engage with the council.

Since the last Full Council meeting, the Chief Executive was pleased to advise that a meeting had been held with MHCLG on the 18 May to discuss the Council's views on LGR as set out in response to the consultation, this had been followed up with a visit by them, to the District on the 16 June. MHCLG had confirmed that the council's representations would be included in their advice to the Minister to inform any decision.

It was considered a positive step, that whilst the council did not submit or support a proposal for local reorganisation, it had secured the same opportunity for making representations as those councils who did submit proposals.

As referred to by the Leader a decision on all local government reorganisation tranche three areas, which included Greater Lincolnshire, was expected in July prior to the Parliamentary recess.

Also, since the last meeting of Full Council, a letter was received seeking views on the Structural Changes Order (SCO) which was a key statutory instrument that would give legal effect to local government reorganisation. It would dissolve existing councils, establish new unitary authorities and dictated the legal framework for the transition process and elections.

A copy of that letter had been shared with all Members along with confirmation that a response was submitted within the deadline set.

In concluding announcements, the Chief Executive concurred with the Leader's comments regarding the really positive work being undertaken by Officers of the council, making specific reference to the first public sector challenge in Lincolnshire having taken place on 13 June and which had entailed around 100 public sector workers in Greater Lincolnshire walking 27 miles across the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Finally the Chief Executive placed on record his thanks to all employees, particularly the frontline workers and not limited to the waste, recycling and street cleansing teams and those at the crematorium who did a fantastic job the previous week to deliver services across the district despite the extreme hot weather.

The sentiments were echoed by the Chairman.

22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman advised the meeting that no public questions had been received.

23 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

The Chairman advised the meeting that two questions had been received pursuant to Procedure Rule No.9. The questions had been circulated to all Members, separately to the agenda, and published on the website.

The Chairman invited Trevor Young to put his question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jackie Brockway, as follows:-

"The Savoy Cinema has now been open for approximately 11 months and, whilst the cinema itself has been a welcome addition to the town centre, it is disappointing that the retail units beneath the development remain vacant.

Can the Leader please inform Members:

- What interest has been shown in the large retail unit beneath the cinema since the development opened?

- What progress has been made towards securing a tenant and when does the Council anticipate the unit will be occupied?
- What specific actions is the Council taking to attract retailers and businesses to these vacant units and strengthen the town centre offer?
- Can the Leader provide assurance that Gainsborough will not experience a similar situation to that seen in Grantham, where retail units beneath the Savoy Cinema remained unoccupied for a considerable period of time?

Given the significant public investment in the development, I am sure residents will wish to understand what steps are being taken to ensure these commercial units contribute fully to the regeneration of the town centre.”

The Leader advised that Councillor Bierley, in his capacity as Chairman of the Thriving Council Committee, would respond on her behalf.

The Chairman of the Thriving Council Committee, responded as follows: -

“Thank you for the questions.

From its opening in July 2025 to early June 2026, the Savoy Cinema has welcomed over 85,000 visitors. The cinema is clearly establishing itself as a vibrant and positive addition to Gainsborough town centre, increasing footfall and supporting wider regeneration objectives.

In terms of interest in the commercial units, there has been a good level of engagement from the market since the marketing went live last summer. This continues, and over the past 120 days, the units have generated more than 2,000 listing views, and our appointed agents have directly contacted 112 food and beverage operators across the local, regional and national markets. This has resulted in a number of site visits, including from well-known national brands such as Nando’s and Edinburgh Woollen Mill, demonstrating that the opportunity has been actively considered by a range of occupiers.

Significant progress has been made in securing tenants. I am pleased to confirm that two of the three commercial units are now let. These lettings both support the growth of an existing local business and introduce a further national operator into the town centre. Blush Florist is due to open by the end of July, relocating from Marshall’s Yard and expanding its offer to include a flower school and enhanced wedding services. In addition, Subway is expected to open by the end of the summer, further strengthening the town centre’s food and beverage provision.

With regard to the remaining unit, despite extensive marketing and interest, this reflects a challenging market context for the retail and leisure sector at local, regional and national levels. Feedback from some operators has referenced factors such as catchment size, footfall and investment return. However, discussions are ongoing with a prospective local operator, and we are continuing to explore a range of alternative options in line with our regeneration ambitions. Due to the commercial sensitivity of these negotiations, it is not possible to share further detail at this stage. Whilst a fixed occupation date cannot be confirmed, work is actively progressing and we remain focused on securing a sustainable tenant at the earliest opportunity.

The Council is taking a proactive and comprehensive approach to attracting businesses and strengthening the town centre offer. Working with our specialist agents, Eddisons, we are actively promoting investment opportunities to national, regional and local operators and benchmarking Gainsborough against comparable locations. Alongside this, we are actively managing vacant properties through targeted action plans and direct engagement with landlords.

This is supported by a wider programme of interventions, including business support, grant funding to improve shopfronts, and ongoing public realm investment. We continue to deliver a strong programme of town centre events and initiatives, alongside measures such as free parking, to drive footfall and increase dwell time. These actions are underpinned by regular vacancy monitoring, data-sharing with partners, and engagement through the town centre business group.

Members can be assured that this position is not comparable to that experienced in other towns. Two of the three units have been successfully let within the first year of the cinema opening, and active discussions are ongoing regarding the final unit. Whilst the wider market conditions remain challenging, we are taking a proactive, intervention-led approach to ensure that the unit is brought into use as quickly as possible with a viable and sustainable occupier.

More broadly, our regeneration work continues to be recognised externally. A recent visit by the Academy of Urbanism highlighted Gainsborough as a positive example of collaborative, place-based regeneration despite challenging market conditions. Looking ahead, the STEP Investment Plan, due for completion later this year, will set out the next phase of growth and development for the town and the wider district.

In summary, we are seeing tangible progress, with strong footfall, new occupiers secured, and continued active engagement with the market. We remain confident in the role of the cinema-led development as a catalyst for further investment and will continue to take an active approach to securing the best possible outcome for the remaining unit and the wider town centre”.

With permission of the Chairman, Councillor Young posed a supplementary question and statements suggesting that empty retail units were increasing, that the previous administration’s priority was to employ a specialist to attract businesses to the town and sought to understand whether the current administration would be putting more focus into this area, suggesting it was needed.

In responding the Chairman of the Thriving Council Committee shared his views on the significant progress and investment the town of Gainsborough had received particularly through Levelling-Up.

The Chairman invited Councillor Rollings to put her question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jackie Brockway, as follows:-

“Residents across West Lindsey continue to raise concerns regarding poor internet connectivity, despite previous assurances from officers that broadband provision in our district compares favourably with many other parts of the country.

In today's digital age, reliable high-speed internet is no longer a luxury but an essential service. Many residents depend on it for work, education, accessing public services, healthcare appointments, and staying connected with family and friends.

Can the Leader please inform Council:

- What action is being taken by the Council, working with broadband providers and partner organisations, to improve internet connectivity across West Lindsey?
- Which areas of the district are currently identified as having the poorest broadband and mobile internet provision?
- What broadband infrastructure improvements are planned over the next 12 to 24 months?
- What timescales can residents expect for the delivery of improved services in those communities that continue to experience poor connectivity?

Finally, can the Leader assure residents that improving digital connectivity remains a priority for the Council and that every effort is being made to secure the level of internet service that residents and businesses require to thrive in the modern economy?"

The Leader of the Council responded as follows: -

"Thank you for your question

The latest figures show that in West Lindsey 93.75% of premises have access to Superfast coverage (30Mbps or higher) and 74.26% of premises have access to Gigabit coverage (1Gbps or 1,000Mbps). Whilst we continue to see high speed coverage increase we currently have 5.23% of premises with coverage below 15Mbps.

As a District Council we continue to work closely with Lincolnshire County Council and key services providers such as Openreach, Virgin, Quickline and Grain Communications. Our Officers maintain regular contact with providers who have been issued BDUK Government contracts to deliver broadband infrastructure improvements.

There are areas of the district that struggle with slow connection speeds. These are being identified as part of BDUK's Project Gigabit which aims to support fast and reliable broadband and mobile coverage in hard-to-reach places. This national work includes looking at alternative ways of supplying service such as satellite or air wave delivery.

Infrastructure improvement works are delivered as part of contracted Lot's issued by BDUK. In particular Lot 10 covers improvement work in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire but is currently waiting for a new provider to be announced. Lot 23 was awarded to Quickline to deliver improvements in Lincolnshire which includes various communities in West Lindsey.

I have requested Officers prepare a list of locations we are aware of planned

improvement works in West Lindsey and to share these with all Members for information. Where possible this will include details of timescales for planned works.

Improving digital connectivity continues to be a priority for the Council and is reflected under our objective of 'Supporting our communities to thrive' within our Corporate Plan 2026-2030. Whilst infrastructure works are governed by BDUK, including where and when service upgrades can be introduced, we will continue to pro-actively engage with partners such as Lincolnshire County Council and broadband providers to influence positive improvements for West Lindsey residents.

At a local community level we also continue to deliver Wi-Fi Hotspots in community locations, such as village halls, further enabling digital access and supporting community activity".

The Leader also outlined some of her experiences at speaking with the big providers and the reasons they give for not investing.

With permission of the Chairman, Councillor Rollings posed a supplementary question and statements suggesting that more needed to be done, that it was unacceptable that many areas had very limited connection and that this hampered modern life and the ability to run businesses. Councillor Rolling's suggested the Council needed to advocate more on this issue, understand better the gaps in provision and considered it would be a good topic for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider.

In responding the Leader indicated that it would be passed on to the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee for her consideration.

This brought Rule No.9 questions to an end.

24 MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10

The Chairman advised the meeting that one Motion had been submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No.10 and this was as set out in the agenda.

As the mover of the motion Councillor Emma Bailey was invited to read aloud her motion to the meeting, as follows: -

Improving Rural Transport Access for Young People in West Lindsey

West Lindsey is a predominantly rural district where many young people rely on public transport to access education, employment, training, healthcare, leisure activities, and social opportunities.

Limited bus services, high travel costs, and poor connectivity between villages and market towns create barriers to opportunity and contribute to social isolation among young people.

Apprentices particularly under 18, often face even greater difficulties. Their

income is minimal and they do not have the same financial support as someone in full time education. Some may not have independent transport, and bus services in our area do not align with early or late working hours typical of apprenticeships. This adds further pressure on working families. Improving transport links supports economic growth, educational attainment, workforce development, and community wellbeing.

The Wheels to Work scheme has already proven successful in other rural areas, providing affordable scooter or bicycle hire schemes, enabling young people, including apprentices, to overcome transport barriers.

Young people, particularly apprentices, should not be disadvantaged because they live in a rural area. Resources should be directed towards addressing structural barriers faced by young people. Affordable and reliable transport is essential for helping young people, particularly apprentices under 18, to remain connected to education, employment, apprenticeships, volunteering, and community life.

Strategic Transport is now the responsibility of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority. The Mayor has recently established a Rural Transport Group and a Transport Taskforce. Our Leader Cllr Jackie Brockway is a member of the Greater Lincolnshire Transport Board.

In order to highlight the barriers faced by our young people in rural communities and to instigate proactive planning to address this: -

Council Resolves To:

Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire to:

1. Highlight the barriers faced by young people in rural communities such as West Lindsey and feed these issues into the emerging Local Transport Plan.
2. Seek a review of rural transport provision for young people, including bus services and accessibility for apprentices.
3. Request that action planning arising from the Rural Transport Group, Transport Taskforce and emerging Local Transport Plan include consideration of the following potential interventions:
 - Wheels to Work
 - Improved rural bus services
 - Affordable travel options for under 25s
 - Targeted Support scheme for driving lesson and tests for 16-18 year olds
 - Means tested bursaries for travel for apprentices and young people in villages with no evening or weekend bus services

I so move
Councillor Emma Bailey”

With the motion duly seconded debate ensued, with several Members speaking in support of the motion. Members acknowledged the existence of the issues, referred to in the motion, across the District, and of the need for these matters to be brought to the attention of the Mayor, requesting action.

The Leader of Opposition, whilst supportive of the motion, indicated he felt it could be stronger and moved the following amendment: -

- “4. That the Council request that the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority undertake a specific assessment of transport needs of young people in rural communities, including apprentices, students, young carers and people with disabilities and report back on the feasibility, cost and expected benefits of the proposed interventions, identifying opportunities for the external funding and pilot schemes within West Lindsey.”

Reason for the addition was offered including that it broadened the scope, and the mover of the amendment, suggested seeking evidenced-based planning, rather than simply requesting an action would differentiate the request.

With the amendment seconded, Members debated the merits of the amendment. Some were in agreement that the addition added strength, and again spoke of the barriers young people in general faced in accessing transport, and the knock-on effects, as such the broadening of the scope was also welcomed. Some expressed caution that the amendment requested a considerable amount of work and data collation to enable it be answered. The motion as submitted, however, enabled answers to be expected in a reasonable time frame.

It was suggested that the mover of the amendment, may wish to submit their amendment as a stand-alone motion to a future meeting, to keep traction in this area.

Debate on the amendment continued, with Members sharing their experiences, the high level of NEETS across Lincolnshire, and how travel access and costs may be contributing to this.

The mover of the original motion explained why her motion had sought to focus on apprentices, noting that she understood the Mayoral Authority had already undertaken research into this area. Members spoke of the additional financial burden sometimes created for families when choosing apprenticeships.

The mover of the amendment, reaffirmed that he supported the original motion, but felt having data to back up where and what type of intervention was required would have ensured the most strategic decisions were made, noting major employment developments on the horizon and the changing needs and opportunities.

Following much debate on the amendment, on being put to the vote the amendment was declared **LOST**.

Note: Councillor Dobbie requested that his vote for the amendment be noted in the minutes.

Members returned to debating the motion as submitted, and a further amendment was moved to recommendation two, so that it read: -

- “2. Seek a review of rural transport provision for young people, including bus services and accessibility for apprentices, *across West Lindsey, supported by meaningful engagement with schools, colleges and apprenticeship providers, employers, youth organisations and young people themselves, to better understand the transport barriers they face.*”

The mover of the amendment suggested it sought to ensure any review was not a simple desk based review but included meaningful engagement.

With the amendment seconded, the mover of the original motion, indicated her agreement to the addition, followed by there being general consensus indicated across the wider Chamber.

Many Members spoke of the barriers young people faced as a result of inadequate public transport, of their concerns for the rising number of young people not in training, employment or education, how the cost of travel impacted a young person's desire to continue working and of fears for a lost generation, if changes or investment was not made.

On being put to the vote the motion, **AS AMENDED**, was declared **CARRIED** on that basis it was **RESOLVED** that: -

The Leader of the Council writes to the Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire to:

1. Highlight the barriers faced by young people in rural communities such as West Lindsey and feed these issues into the emerging Local Transport Plan.
2. Seek a review of rural transport provision for young people, including bus services and accessibility for apprentices, across West Lindsey, supported by meaningful engagement with schools, colleges and apprenticeship providers, employers, youth organisations and young people themselves, to better understand the transport barriers they face.”
3. Request that action planning arising from the Rural Transport Group, Transport Taskforce and emerging Local Transport Plan include consideration of the following potential interventions:
 - Wheels to Work
 - Improved rural bus services
 - Affordable travel options for under 25s
 - Targeted Support scheme for driving lesson and tests for 16-18 year olds
 - Means tested bursaries for travel for apprentices and young people in villages with no evening or weekend bus services.

25 ADOPTION OF THE SAXILBY WITH INGLEBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

The Chairman, prior to introducing the report, again welcomed representatives from Saxilby

with Ingleby Neighbourhood Planning Group, Liz Hillman, Martin Furnish and Pete Crowther who would have opportunity to address the Chamber and formally present their Plan.

Members gave consideration to a report which sought Members' approval to adopt the review of the neighbourhood plan for the parish of Saxilby. The reviewed plan would replace the original neighbourhood plan for Saxilby to form part of the development plan and thereby had a major influence on planning application decisions in the Saxilby parish.

A referendum, held been held on 6 May; the outcome of this was shown in section 3.6 of the report with 90.71% of residents who voted being in favour of the Revised Plan.

As such the Plan was now ready to be adopted or "made" by Full Council as it had completed all its stages and had the support of its local community.

The Chairman moved the recommendations before inviting Ward Councillors to address the Chamber, with both speaking of their support and admiration of the work undertaken in completing a Neighbourhood Plan Review.

The Neighbourhood Plan Group were then invited to address Members, with Mrs Hillman making the following statement to the Chamber: -

"Good evening Chair and Councillors,

Thank you for inviting representatives of the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to address Members this evening and formally hand over our revised Neighbourhood Plan. I am pleased to be joined by Martin Furnish and Pete Crowther, members of the Steering Group.

The Parish Council considered it essential that the Plan was updated to reflect changes in national planning policy, emerging priorities such as climate change and biodiversity, and the evolving nature of our parish. Since the original Plan was adopted, around 366 new dwellings have been built. It was therefore important to understand the views of newer residents, alongside those of longer-established members of our community, on how the parish should continue to develop.

Community consultation lies at the heart of neighbourhood planning. The policies contained within the revised Plan are based on the views, priorities and aspirations expressed by local residents through surveys, consultation events and ongoing engagement. Those conversations helped shape the Plan before you today.

I had the privilege of chairing the first Neighbourhood Plan, which was adopted in 2017. When we began this review, we expected it to take around a year. In reality, it took three years and involved a number of challenges, including delays caused by changing funding arrangements. We are particularly grateful to West Lindsey District Council for its support during the final stages of the process.

Despite those challenges, the revised Plan is underpinned by a strong evidence base, including the Design Codes and Guidance document and the Housing Needs Assessment. Together, these provide a robust framework for guiding future development in a way that reflects the character, identity and priorities of Saxilby with Ingleby Parish. We have retained the format used in the original Plan, combining planning policies with photographs, illustrations and explanatory text to make it accessible and easy to use.

I would like to place on record our sincere thanks to our planning consultant, Luke Brown, for his expertise throughout the review; to Nev Brown, Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer at West Lindsey District Council, for his guidance and support; to all past and present members of the Steering Group; and to the Parish Clerk and Administration Officer for their invaluable assistance.

I would also like to recognise the dedication of the final core group: Brett Fegan, Martin Furnish, Sheila Hughes and Pete Crowther whose commitment over the past three years ensured the successful completion of this review. As Chair of the Steering Group, it has been a privilege to work alongside them and to help bring this review to completion.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the residents of Saxilby with Ingleby who participated in consultations, shared their views and ultimately voted in the neighbourhood plan referendum. The revised Plan received overwhelming support, with more than 90% of those voting backing its adoption, providing a clear mandate from the community for the policies it contains.

On behalf of the Parish Council and the Steering Group, thank you for your support throughout this process. We are delighted that the revised Neighbourhood Plan has reached this final stage, and it gives me great pleasure to formally hand over the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan. Thank you.

At the conclusion of the address the Chairman of Council then formally received the Plan from the Neighbourhood Planning Group to a round of applause from all Members.

Having been proposed and seconded, on being to the vote it was: -

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan Review, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 201, be formally adopted (made)
- (b) the newly adopted (made) Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan Review June 2026, replace the Saxilby with Ingleby_Neighbourhood Plan adopted May 2017, to form part of the West Lindsey Development Plan for Saxilby with Ingleby parish area.

26 REVIEW OF THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS ON COMMITTEES

Members considered a report which set out the details of the political groups on the Council, the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each Committee and the allocation to different political groups of seats on the Committees as a result of a new Group having been formed as detailed in Section 1 of the report.

Having been proposed and seconded, with no questions or comments, it was **RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) the details of political groups, as set out in Appendix A, be noted; and
- (b) that the allocation to different political groups of seats on committees, and the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each Committee as set out in Appendix B, be approved.

27 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2026/2027 CIVIC YEAR

The Chairman of the Council presented the report which set out the wishes expressed by the political groups in respect of the appointment of Members to serve on each of the Council's formal Committees for the remainder of 2026/2027 Civic Year.

Members were advised that an updated report could be found within the supplement pack which included all nominations put forward by Group Leaders based on their allocations.

Councillor Bailey advised she would take the seat on the Planning Committee, allocated to the Community Independents Group still showing blank in the report.

With no further adjustments made, having been proposed and seconded, including the verbal notification above, it was

RESOLVED – that in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the wishes expressed by political groups, Members be appointed to serve to the Council's Committees for the remainder of 2026/2027 civic year as follows: -

Chief Officer Employment Committee (9 Members)

Councillor John Barrett
Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Trevor Bridgwood
Councillor Jackie Brockway
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Paul Key
Councillor Maureen Palmer
Councillor Baptiste Velan
Councillor Moira Westley

Thriving Council Committee (7 Members)

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Karen Carless
Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Paul Key
Councillor Paul Swift

Thriving Places Committee (7 Members)

Councillor Trevor Bridgwood
Councillor Jacob Flear
Councillor Angela Lawrence
Councillor Peter Morris
Councillor Maureen Palmer
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Moira Westley

Thriving People Committee (7 Members)

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Frazer Brown
Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Jeanette McGhee
Councillor Tom Smith
Councillor Moira Westley
Councillor Trevor Young

Governance and Audit Committee (7 Members)

Councillor John Barrett
Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Chris Darcel
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Angela Lawrence
Councillor Mandy Snee
Councillor Paul Swift

Licensing Committee (10 Members)

Councillor Emma Bailey
Councillor Stephen Bunney

Councillor Karen Carless
Councillor Angela Lawrence
Councillor Paul Lee
Councillor Lynda Mullally
Councillor Maureen Palmer
Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Mandy Snee
Councillor Trevor Young

Regulatory Committee (10 Members)

Councillor Emma Bailey
Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Karen Carless
Councillor Angela Lawrence
Councillor Paul Lee
Councillor Lynda Mullally
Councillor Maureen Palmer
Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Mandy Snee
Councillor Trevor Young

Planning Committee (9 Members)

Councillor Emma Bailey
Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Adam Duguid
Councillor Jacob Flear
Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Sebastian Hague
Councillor Tom Smith
Councillor Jim Snee

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (9 members)

Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Jacob Flear
Councillor Jeanette McGhee
Councillor Lynda Mullally
Councillor Maureen Palmer
Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Roger Pilgrim
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Mandy Snee

Standards Committee (6 Members)

Councillor Trevor Bridgwood
Councillor Karen Carless
Councillor Adam Duguid
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Paul Lee
Councillor Moira Westley

28 LGA CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE - WLDC PROGRESS REVIEW 2026

Members considered a report which presented the findings from the Council's recent LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Review, which was designed to assess the Council's progress against the eight main recommendations made during the full Corporate Peer Challenge, which took place in January 2025.

Members were asked to note the Peer Team's findings, having regard to the considerable progress that the Council were considered to have made in all areas since the original Corporate Peer Challenge in January 2025.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) the findings of the 2026 Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Review be noted; and
- (b) the significant progress made by the Council in implementing the original recommendations within the 2025 Corporate Peer Challenge Report be noted.

29 RECOMMENDATION FROM THRIVING COUNCIL COMMITTEE - ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2025/26

The Chairman of the Thriving Council Committee introduced the report which stood recommended from his Committee.

The report was required under the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and provided Members with assurance on the Council's borrowing, investments and treasury indicators during a period of continued economic uncertainty.

Having been proposed and seconded, with no questions posed, on being put to the vote it was: -

RESOLVED - that the recommendation from the Thriving Council Committee be accepted and the Annual Treasury Management Report and actual Prudential Indicators 2025/26 be approved.

30 RECOMMENDATION FROM THRIVING COUNCIL COMMITTEE - NEW STATUTORY FEES

The Chairman of the Thriving Council Committee presented the report which sought approval of new statutory fees for inclusion in the fees and charges schedules for 2026/27, as recommended by the Committee at their meeting on 25 June.

Having been proposed and seconded, with no questions or comments, on being put to the vote it was **RESOLVED** that: -

- (a) the recommendation from the Thriving Council Committee be accepted and the new statutory fee be approved for inclusion in the fees and charges schedule for 2026/2027 'Building Safety Levy' (paragraph 1.3 of the report) for implementation on the 1st October 2026; and
- (b) the recommendation from the Thriving Council Committee be accepted and the new statutory fees be approved for inclusion in the fees and charges schedule for 2026/2027 'Planning Applications (Operations)' (paragraph 1.4 of the report) for immediate implementation.

The meeting concluded 20:37

Chairman