



## **CABINET DECISION NOTICE**

Publication Date: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 the following matters were discussed. The decisions of Cabinet are set out below each item along with reasons for the decision and other options considered.

**Present:** Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)

Councillors Cracknell, Lindley, Procter, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

### **DN.39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received for this meeting.

### **DN.40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from any Councillor for this meeting.

### **DN.41 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

### **DN.42 REVIEW OF BRING TO SITE PROVISION**

Cabinet considered a report from Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport detailing the current situation in regard to all Bring to sites across the borough and the options available to ensure their effective deployment.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the detail in this report on the current usage and issues relating to Bring to sites across the borough and the options available to the Council in respect of these, be noted.**

- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport to proceed with the gradual removal of all Bring to sites, with the least used sites (50%) removed by Autumn 2021 and remaining sites removed by Autumn 2022.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - The use of Bring to sites in the borough was shown to be decreasing when last reviewed in 2019. Improvements to kerbside recycling collections made in 2020 have had a further impact on the use of Bring to sites. Most households in the borough now have two 240l recycling bins, increasing the capacity available to them to dispose of household recycling. Volumes of recycling left at the Bring to sites have decreased since the new recycling bins have been issued and no excess waste was experienced at these sites during the busy Christmas period of 2020.

With usage typically reducing and sites often attracting fly tipped waste and requiring regular maintenance and refurbishment a further review and decision on future provision is now required.

#### OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

A full options appraisal has been undertaken with the following options also being considered:

Do nothing and continue with existing sites: This option is not considered to be viable considering the low usage of many sites. This would not be a cost-effective use of council resources and would not deliver the savings committed in relation to vehicle and fuel.

Complete removal of all sites by Autumn 2021: Whilst the long-term aim is to remove all sites this option would not allow enough time for the full impact of the new kerbside recycling offer and the new DEFRA schemes to take effect. Householders are still adjusting to the new model of collection and work is ongoing to educate residents on the best ways to reduce waste and recycle correctly in their household bins.

Removal of least used sites by Autumn 2021 with retention of remaining sites: To retain the most used sites indefinitely would not be a good use of Council resources. The DEFRA schemes mentioned above will begin to impact on their usage once introduced and the proposed improvements to CRC provision will also reduce the need for Bring to sites. Many of the better utilised sites are regular fly tipping hot spots or are suspected to be used by businesses who are taking advantage of these sites, which are meant to be for residential use only.

## **DN.43      POTENTIAL MERGER OF CORONIAL JURISDICTIONS**

Cabinet considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets on the potential merger of

coronial jurisdictions at the combined instruction of the Office of the Chief Coroner and Ministry of Justice.

**RESOLVED – That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets to support a merger of coronial jurisdictions with Lincolnshire County Council and engage with the Office of the Chief Coroner and Ministry of Justice on that basis.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - North East Lincolnshire Council is the lead authority for the coronial jurisdiction of Grimsby (North East Lincolnshire) and North Lincolnshire. The Senior Coroner is appointed by the local authority but works to the Chief Coroner under the Ministry of Justice. To support the Senior Coroner, the local authority has a duty to provide coroners officers, administrative support and suitable accommodation for the Senior Coroner to undertake his/her duties to the area.

The Chief Coroner has expressed the desire to reduce the number of coronial jurisdictions across the country and that the opportunity for merger should be fully explored when circumstances permit.

In December 2018 our Senior Coroner retired and therefore, before being authorised to recruit a replacement, merger must be considered.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED - There are three options to consider:

Option 1 – maintain the current North Lincolnshire and Grimsby coroner area.

Option 2 – agree to proceed with the Greater Lincolnshire business case and work with partners to develop merged service plan for a new Greater Lincolnshire coroner area.

Option 3 - agree to proceed with the Humberside business case and work with partners to develop merged service plan for a new Humberside coroner area.

Option 1 - The North Lincolnshire and Grimsby coroner area and service has been in place since 1996 - as per The Humberside (Coroners) Order 1996 - and has been providing an effective and low-cost service to residents since. However, this is a difficult option to sustain given the instruction from the Office of the Chief Coroner to consider a merger with a neighbouring jurisdiction to form a larger coronial area.

Option 2 - Merging with Greater Lincolnshire gives rise to a series of opportunities and risks, some of which are considered in the draft business case in Appendix A. It must be noted that the positive, constructive and collaborative engagement between Lincolnshire

County, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils and the supporting project group has aided progress to date.

The main opportunities of a merged and enlarged coroner area, irrespective of which, are as follows:

- The creation of a single team means that the service would have greater capacity.
- Harmonisation of best practice processes leading to a more efficient and effective operation.
- Better use of technology, with an increased role for technology improving the user experience.
- Improved resilience to deliver the service and additional resources to deal with fluctuations in service demand.
- Opportunities in respect of maximising geographic advantages, reducing travel/conveyancing where possible.
- Enable improved business continuity planning for the service as a whole.
- Potential synergies that could lead to reductions in part of the cost base.

However, the merger and creation of a Greater Lincolnshire coroner area would form a single region, consistent with emerging and developing collaborative arrangements across the three upper tier councils on a broad range of issues both strategically and on service delivery.

The main risk of a merged Greater Lincolnshire coroner area is the potential impact to the cost base. The North Lincolnshire and Grimsby service is comparatively low cost, whereas the Lincolnshire service is comparatively high cost based on a range of measures (cost per death/capita/referral). The project group have recognised this, and are working to best understand these differences with a view to understanding the fairest way to share, which conforms to the underpinning principles supporting the merger being:

- No increase in cost to any of the three authorities
- Phased approach to cost sharing to ensure the above.
- Staff and service delivery (inquests) retained in current localities to ensure communities are served appropriately.
- Shared governance through committee and operational board including decisions on moving to next phase.
- Adoption of relevant IT and technological solutions to improve service to the public and drive efficiencies.

Based on the first two principles, the intent is not for one local authority to benefit financially at the expense of another and therefore there is confidence that this risk can be mitigated through further development of the cost sharing mechanism. The phased approach to cost sharing also provides security, in that all parties need to agree before this can be enacted.

In summary, there are potentially significant benefits to the residents of North Lincolnshire of this merger. The merger and creation of a Greater Lincolnshire coroner area and service could improve the experience for bereaved residents, with greater capacity and better use of technology. The resident experience will remain central to service planning. Notwithstanding the financial risk identified, this is the preferred option.

### Option 3

As noted in 1.7, Hull City Council resolved to make an application to the Chief Coroner for a merged Humberside coronial service. North and North East Lincolnshire did not contribute towards this report in any way, other than to state that it needed all available options to be fully developed before considering which to adopt as its preferred option. The business case can be seen in Appendix B.

Many of the benefits stated within option 2 also apply to option 3, in that a larger coronial area and service will have increased resilience, capacity and make better use of technology. It would also allow for staff localities to remain unchanged. In addition to this, a merged Humberside service would also have the benefit of aligning with Humberside Police and Fire, and the Humberside Resilience Forum.

However, it is important to consider that it is not a requirement for a coronial area to fall within the boundary of one police/fire authority and as such this should not stop the development of a different solution if the perceived benefits to residents could be greater, with improved outcomes in keeping people safe, well, prosperous and connected. Also, working with more than one police force could be really positive if best practice can be implemented area wide.

The creation of a new Humberside coroner area would not be consistent with stated aim of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council to work collaboratively on a greater Lincolnshire footprint.

## **DN.44 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE STATUTORY COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Skills providing an overview of the activity and analysis of complaints and compliments for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints and Compliments Annual Report for 2020/21 be received and accepted.**

- 2. That the Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints and Compliments Annual Report for 2020/21 be referred to the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel for their consideration.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - It is a requirement of The Children Act 1989 Representation Procedure (England) Regulations 2006 to produce an annual report regarding the representations made about social care statutory services. The purpose of the attached report is to inform the general public, elected members and Council officers about the effectiveness of the statutory complaints procedure.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – It is a statutory requirement that an annual report is completed for these complaints and the activities undertaken in responding to the complaints follows current guidance. The current approach is set out in the attached report.

## **DN.45 2021/22 QUARTER 1 FINANCE MONITORING REPORT**

Cabinet considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets which provides key information and analysis of the Council's position and performance against its Finance and Commissioning Plan for the first quarter of the 2021/22 year.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the reported position and the uncertainties related to the impacts of COVID-19 and its potential longer-term implications, be noted.**
- 2. That the Financial Monitoring Report be referred to all Scrutiny Panels for consideration.**
- 3. That the revised Capital Programme included at Annex 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – The report is important in informing Cabinet on the financial position and performance of the Council and highlighting key risks and opportunities.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Not applicable to monitoring report.

## **DN.46 TREASURY OUTTURN REPORT 2020/21**

Cabinet considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets containing details of treasury management arrangements, activity and performance during the 2020/21 financial year.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL - That the treasury management activity during 2020/21 be approved.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – The Council's treasury management activity is guided by CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code"), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year. We therefore report after Quarter 2 and year end.

Full Council holds responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of the organisation's treasury management policies and practices, and delegates the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to The Director of Finance, who will act in accordance with the organisation's policy statement and TMPs and, if he/she is a CIPFA member, CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – These are set out on Page 28 of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.