



CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 14th February 2025

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on the 12th February 2025 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, Dawkins, Harness, Hudson, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

DN.66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received for this meeting.

DN.67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made from Members with regards to items on the agenda for this meeting.

DN.68 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the 11th December 2024 and 15th January 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

DN.69 BUDGET, FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING PLAN 2025/26- 2027/28

Cabinet considered a report from Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets presenting the Budget, Finance and Business Plan 2025/26 – 2027/28 for consideration prior to Full Council

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet recommended to full council, approval of:

- **That the 2025/26 Budget and summary 2025/26 – 2027/28 Medium Term Financial Plan ('MTFP') be approved.**
- **That a 1.98% increase in Council Tax in 2025/26 be approved.**
- **That the application of a 2% Adult Social Care precept in 2025/26 be approved.**
- **That the business plans be approved**
- **That the Capital Investment Strategy be approve.**
- **That the 2025/26 - 2027/28 Capital Programme be approved.**
- **That the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy be approved.**
- **That, further to the recommendation from formal budget scrutiny, a budget of £150k be apportioned for the next two years from the planned use of flexible capital receipts to the public health budget to support transformational projects, subject to the realisation of appropriate capital receipts and appropriate projects being accompanied by suitable business cases and that the S151 Officer be authorised to make appropriate adjustments to the Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan.**

REASON FOR DECISION – The Council must determine how it is to operate within the forecast financial resources over the medium term. To comply with its legal obligations, the Council must set a balanced budget for 2024/25 and provide a realistic financial forecast for the medium-term financial planning period.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Option appraisals have been undertaken in setting the budget.

A range of options have been considered when considering service delivery within defined financial resources to support the delivery of the Council's outcomes.

DN.70 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY POLICY AND STATEMENT 2025-26

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets

RESOLVED –

1. That the report and its contents be referred to Full Council:

- **the Treasury Management Policy Statement – Appendix 1**

- **the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 - Appendix 2**
- **the MRP Policy Statement – Annex 2 of Appendix 2**

REASON FOR DECISION –

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Public Services (the CIPFA TM Code) and the Prudential Code require local authorities to approve their Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators on an annual basis. This Authority requires the Strategy to be approved by full Council.

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.

The Council's treasury management activity is guided by CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code"), The Code recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year with interim updates on performance against Prudential Indicators reported quarterly. We therefore report in full after Quarter 2 and year end with Prudential Indicators being reported additionally to Cabinet after Quarters 1 and 3 in the Commissioning and Resource Report.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – These are set out on Page 30 of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

DN.71 2024/25 Q3 COUNCIL PLAN RESOURCES AND FINANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cabinet considered a report from Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets presenting the Council Plan Performance Report for quarter three of 2024/25

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the content of the reports was noted and the reports be referred to all Scrutiny Panels for further consideration and oversight appropriate to the scope of the panel.**
- 2. That the revised Capital Programme for 2024/27 be approved.**

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

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Not applicable to monitoring report.

DN.72 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE ALL AGE HOUSING WITH CARE STRATEGY

Cabinet received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care seeking approval to adopt the All-Age Housing with Care Strategy for 2025-2029

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the adoption of the All-Age Housing with Care Strategy for 2025-2029 be approved.**
- 2. That the Director of Adult Social Services and the Director for Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, be delegated authority to take all action reasonably necessary to implement the actions set out in the strategy including authority to make such modifications to the strategy that are necessary from time to time.**

REASON FOR DECISION – Making the above decision will enable the Council to put in place plans, to support residents who have care and support needs to live in a suitable home, which is safe and affordable and enables them to live as independently as possible in the community.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – The strategy brings together into one document the housing with care objectives and actions that currently are in separate documents. This has been done to ensure clarity on North East Lincolnshire's requirements to all stakeholder and partners.

DN.73 RECOMMISSIONING OF NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL DEDICATED OUTREACH SUPPORT SERVICE AND OUTREACH PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM OR COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION NEEDS

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education seeking approval to undertake a procurement for dedicated

outreach support service and outreach provision for children with autism or communication and interaction needs provision

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the undertaking of a procurement exercise for dedicated outreach support service and outreach provision for children with autism or communication and interaction needs provision as set out in the report now submitted be approved.**
- 2. That the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education be authorised to commence the above procurement exercise.**
- 3. That the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education be delegated authority to award, and take all ancillary actions reasonably arising, including implementation and mobilisation.**
- 4. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to complete and execute all requisite legal documentation arising from the above recommendations.**

REASON FOR DECISION -

This decision enables the Council to continue to deliver a dedicated outreach support service and outreach provision for children with autism or communication and interaction needs provision across the borough. This follows evaluation of successful piloting of these services following identified need via the Delivering Better Value in SEND services (DBV) programme.

The current contracts for the commissioned support are due to expire in August 2025.

Without this decision, the Council would not be able to deliver the commissioned support to professionals, and their parents and carers. It also supports strengthening our local services and inclusive culture ensuring sustainable approaches and improved inclusivity in local schools for children and young people.

This provision will also enable the Council, with its partners, to be better prepared for future SENDAP services inspections which without provision to support meeting identified needs could negatively impact on judgement, the impact that would have for the borough and children's outcomes.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Do nothing. This option has not been recommended as it would not improve inclusion in mainstream settings, outcomes for children and young people with autism or communication and interaction needs. It would also leave NELC and its partners at risk of a poor future SEND inspection.

Only deliver some of the functions described. This option is not recommended as need has been identified for all functions described.

DN.74 SCHOOL TERM DATES 2026-2027

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education to approve the proposed dates for voluntary controlled and community schools for the 2026 –2027 academic year.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the proposed dates in Appendix A of the report now submitted for voluntary controlled and community schools for the 2026–2027 academic year be approved.**
- 2. That the Director for Children’s Services be authorised to so implement and take all reasonable steps arising in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education**

REASON FOR DECISION –

The 1996 Education Act requires local authorities to determine school term dates annually. The proposal in Appendix A is recommended as this would ensure as much uniformity as possible with our internal own admission authority schools and academies and neighbouring local authorities. Therefore, minimising where possible internal differences and any cross-boundary disruption.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – None.

DN.75 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2026-2027

Cabinet considered a report from the from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education to approve the general admission arrangements, including published admissions numbers, for the local authority’s community and voluntary controlled schools for 2026-2027.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the position whereby, the general admission arrangements, including published admissions numbers**

(PANs), for the local authority's community and voluntary controlled schools for 2026-2027 be unchanged.

- 2. That the position that, no material changes be made to the local authority's co-ordinated school admission arrangements published schemes other than the updating of dates and deadlines, and that locally agreed protocols that support admission arrangements continue to be reviewed on a regular basis be supported.**
- 3. That the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education be delegated authority to increase the published admission number of an individual year group in a school in exceptional circumstances.**
- 4. That that those schools / academies that are their own admission authorities have the ability to consult and determine their own admission arrangements be noted.**
- 5. That with the increasing number of academies within the local authority the number of schools for which the local authority is responsible for in respect of determining admission arrangements is reduced be noted.**

REASON FOR DECISION - The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 requires school admission arrangements for 2026-2027 to be determined and published, after any required consultation by 15th March 2025. The recommendations above result from the statutory consultation required under legislation which took place for a minimum period of 6 weeks between 1st October 2024 and 31st January 2025.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Other options are regularly considered in the wide-ranging consultations.

DN.76 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME

Cabinet considered a report from Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport seeking approval of the continuation of the current, statutory minimum North East Lincolnshire Concessionary Fares Scheme from 1st April 2025 to 31 March 2026

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the continuation of the current, statutory minimum North East Lincolnshire Concessionary Fares Scheme from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 be approved,**
- 2. That the Director for Environment, Economy, and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport (subject to the agreement of the Section 151 Officer), be authorised to manage and make decisions on the 2025/2026 A1274 Transport budget (secure socially necessary bus services and manage non-statutory Concessionary Fare enhancements including pre 9:30am Concessionary Travel) and ensure decisions are made within the available transport budget.**
- 3. That the Director for Environment, Economy, and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport be authorised to approve 2025/2026 Concessionary Fares Scheme reimbursement arrangements with transport operators.**
- 4. That the Director for Environment, Economy, and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport be authorised to ensure that all actions necessary and ancillary to the above recommendations be completed.**
- 5. That the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets be authorised to complete and execute all requisite legal documentation arising.**

REASON FOR DECISION – Adoption of the North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) Concessionary Fares scheme will ensure the Council meets the relevant statutory requirements in relation to the operation of the national scheme and the reimbursement of eligible transport operators.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

In addition to the recommended option identified above, the following options have been considered and are not recommended.

Do nothing – Local authorities have a legal duty to provide free bus travel for eligible pass holders to a statutory minimum level and failing to do this would mean the Council would not be discharging its legal duty.

Reimburse operators based upon alternative calculation – The DfT recommend the use of their calculator tool to inform Concessionary Fare

arrangements with operators. In the event that an alternative calculation is used which returns a payment lower than the DfT guided payment, operators are likely to appeal to the Secretary of State for Transport under section 150 (1) of the Transport Act 2000.

Payments based upon usage – A ‘pay as you go’ reimbursement method is not recommended for the large volume operators. As concessionary travel is demand led, the risk of overspend is greater than with a fixed price agreement. This option may also create instability in the bus network.

Reduce other (excluding pre 9:30am Concessionary Travel) non-statutory enhancements of concessionary fares scheme – This option is not recommended. Options for non-statutory savings have been explored previously (Cabinet 21 January 2015). Following Cabinet on 21 January 2015 other elements of the scheme were reviewed and, due to their comparably low value and high impact, were not pursued.

DN.77 CORPORATE CLEANING CONTRACT

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and asset seeking approval to re procure the cleaning services contract

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the commencement of a procurement exercise for a new cleaning services contract be approved.**
- 2. That the Executive Director Place and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, be delegated authority to commence a procurement exercise and thereafter make award, settle all terms, and ensure that all reasonably ancillary actions are carried out to mobilise and implement the contract.**
- 3. That the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to complete and execute all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.**

REASON FOR DECISION – The current contract period is nearing its expiration date and whilst there are two (2) 12-month extension periods, it is prudent that steps are taken to procure and tender a new cleaning services contract. The contract will be required to supplement self-management of cleaning across work and welfare areas. In order that the new contract for cleaning services can mobilise as soon as

possible it is essential that a decision is made to commence the procurement and award the tender at the earliest opportunity following evaluation and in line with the expiration of the contract term.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Do Nothing - the main contract term for cleaning services of three (3) years, will be ending this year. There is the opportunity following the end of the main term to extend the contract by 2 x 12-month extensions. The contract could therefore be extended twice; however, this will be a direct award and there would be no way to assess value for money is being achieved. It is recommended a re-tendering exercise is commenced and therefore this is not considered a viable option.

DN78. DEVOLUTION: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY

RESOLVED -

That the following members be appointed to act as members of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority, subject to the making of The Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Regulations 2025:

Councillor Philip Jackson designated Lead Member and Councillor Stan Shreeve.

Councillors Stewart Swinburn and Stephen Harness as substitute members for Councillor Philip Jackson

Councillors Margaret Cracknell and Hayden Dawkins as substitute members for Councillor Stan Shreeve.

REASON FOR DECISION - The anticipated approval of the Regulations will see the creation of the GLCCA. The Regulations require that the Council, as a Constituent Council, appoints two of its elected members to the GLCCA, one of whom must be designated as 'Lead Member.'

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Option 1 is to appoint the members reflected in the above recommendation to act as members of the GLCCA, subject to the making of the Regulations.

The alternative option would be to not approve the recommendations.

