

COUNCIL AGENDA
for the meeting on
Thursday 24th July, 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Grimsby Town Hall

1.	<u>Mayor's Announcements</u>	-
2.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	-
3.	<u>Minutes</u> To submit for approval the minutes of the meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 20th March 2025, the Mayor Making Meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 14th May 2025, and the Annual Meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 22nd May 2025.	
4.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> To record any declarations of interest by any Member in respect of items on this agenda. Members declaring interests must identify the Agenda item and the type and detail of the interest declared.	-
5.	<u>Question Time</u> To consider questions from members of the public submitted in accordance with the Council's policy.	
6.	<u>The Leader's Statement</u> To receive a statement from the Leader updating Council in respect of: (i) Key issues of significance to the social, economic or environmental well-being of the area (ii) Special Urgency decisions taken in accordance with the Constitution (iii) The implementation of Motions previously resolved at the preceding Council meeting(s).	-
7.	<u>Petition for Debate – Save Our Libraries</u> A petition for debate has been received requesting that the Council protect library services and commit to providing a first-class library service across all libraries (copy attached).	13
8.	<u>Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2024/25</u> To receive a report detailing the activities of the Audit and Governance Committee during the Council year and setting out how it has discharged its responsibilities. This report was referred to Council by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 3 rd April, 2025 (copy attached).	15

9.	<p><u>Appointment of Independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee</u></p> <p>To consider a report on the appointment of the independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee (copy attached).</p>	35
10.	<p><u>Amendment to Council Procedure Rules (Standing Orders)</u></p> <p>To consider a report setting out proposed amendments to the rules of procedure for Council meetings (the 'Standing Orders' of Council), as previously set out in the Annual Review of the Constitution report considered at the Annual Meeting of Council on 22nd May 2025 and subsequently referred to the Standards and Adjudication Committee (copy attached).</p>	39
11.	<p><u>Local Government Reorganisation</u></p> <p>To consider a report outlining the council's emerging position on local government reorganisation (copy attached).</p>	43
12.	<p><u>Notice of Motion 1</u></p> <p>To consider a Notice of Motion, to be proposed by Councillor Clough and seconded by Councillor Farren, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders as set out below:</p> <p><i>The residents of North East Lincolnshire have consistently demonstrated deep respect and gratitude for the Armed Forces community. This is evident in the strong support for Remembrance events and a nationally recognised Armed Forces Day.</i></p> <p><i>The support for Armed Forces Day locally in Cleethorpes this year was a thorough success, enjoyed by all, and we thank everyone involved with making the three days the proud achievement it undoubtedly was.</i></p> <p><i>Nationally, 1 in 25 people is a veteran, but in North East Lincolnshire, this statistic is believed to be even higher, reflecting the area's strong connection to the Armed Forces.</i></p> <p><i>In 1963, the final National Service conscripts were discharged, and the 2021 census revealed that 31% of veterans are now over the age of 80. Since the Afghanistan conflict, over 140,000 British military personnel have served, many now transitioning to civilian life. A significant portion resides in North East Lincolnshire, alongside veterans from a wide range of historical conflicts, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>WW2 (1939–45)</i> • <i>Palestine (1945–49)</i> • <i>Indonesia (1945–49)</i> • <i>Vietnam (1945–49)</i> • <i>Malayan Emergency (1948–60)</i> • <i>Yangtse Incident (1949)</i> • <i>Korean War (1950–53)</i> • <i>Kenya Emergency (1952–60)</i> • <i>Cyprus Emergency (1955–59)</i> 	-

- *Suez Crisis (1956)*
- *Dhofar Rebellion (1962–75)*
- *Malaysia Confrontation (1962–66)*
- *Aden Emergency (1963–67)*
- *Northern Ireland Troubles (1969–98)*
- *Falklands War (1982)*
- *Gulf War I (1990–91)*
- *Bosnia & Kosovo (1992–2006)*
- *Rwanda (1994)*
- *Sierra Leone (2000)*
- *Afghanistan (2001–20)*
- *Iraq War (2003–09)*

The Armed Forces Covenant is a national promise to ensure fairness and respect for those who serve, veterans, and their families. Its core principle is that no one should be disadvantaged due to their service.

Veterans face unique challenges, including, but not limited to:

- *Housing and homelessness issues.*
- *Mental and physical health concerns.*
- *Social isolation and financial difficulties.*
- *Substance misuse due to service-related factors*

National statistics further emphasize the need for action:

- *Two-thirds of UK veterans face mental health challenges.*
- *Nearly half experience PTSD, anxiety, or depression.*
- *Veterans under 25 are four times more likely to take their own lives than their civilian peers.*

Since the covenant was adopted, our Borough has seen the growth of many veteran's community groups and charities, many of whom commit to amazing, and sadly at times, unrecognised selfless work within our Borough. As the community support has grown, so much this council and its approach to engaging with such groups also needs to grow.

Further to this, Council notes and welcomes the 'VALOR' Veteran support scheme, £50 million of extra funding announced by the government. The pledge being to work with national and regional, services, local government, and other service providers to deliver better support for our Veterans at the local level.

Council resolves to:

1. *Formally recognise and place on record our thanks to all that made the 2025 National Armed Forces Day weekend possible.*
2. *Write to the Secretary of state for defence, John Healey, thanking him for holding the first National Armed Forces Day Event since 2023 in Cleethorpes.*
3. *Instruct the Head of Paid Service to hire a full time directly employed officer to oversee and develop the Council's delivery of its commitment to the armed forces covenant and help engagement and collaborative working between local Veteran's groups.*

13. Notice of Motion 2

To consider a Notice of Motion, to be proposed by Councillor Aisthorpe and seconded by Councillor Beasant, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders as set out below:

This Council notes that:

- *Between June 2024 and June 2025, just 122 PCNs were issued for pavement and verge parking, all in only four of the borough's fifteen wards.*
- *Currently, verge and pavement parking is only enforced via Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) in Humberston & New Waltham, Waltham, The Wolds, and Immingham, leaving urban and central wards without consistent enforcement.*
- *Pavement parking in other areas, especially East Marsh, Heneage and Sidney Sussex, continues to obstruct pedestrians, damage footways, and force vulnerable residents, including disabled people, parents with prams, and older residents, into the road, putting lives at risk.*
- *The current online system for reporting verge parking is buried under general categories and does not reassure residents that their reports lead to action. This undermines confidence and discourages reporting.*
- *Many councils successfully allow residents to submit photographic evidence to support enforcement where officers can't be present, but this is not clearly promoted or widely used here.*
- *Officers confirm complaints can't be easily tracked without time-consuming manual checks, wasting resources.*
- *Humberside Police are overstretched and do not prioritise parking enforcement.*
- *Many older streets were never designed for modern traffic, meaning some drivers mount pavements to let emergency vehicles pass, so better design, not just enforcement, is needed in these areas.*

This Council believes that:

- *Pavement parking is a serious risk to public safety, accessibility and the condition of our streets.*
- *All communities should have fair, consistent enforcement.*
- *Residents need a clear, dedicated system to report pavement parking, backed by proper follow up.*
- *Residents should not replace enforcement officers but can help tackle persistent issues with photographic evidence where appropriate.*
- *Practical redesigns and managed parking should be considered where pavement parking is unavoidable.*
- *A joined-up approach between highways, enforcement, and communities will deliver safer, more accessible streets for everyone.*
- *Stopping vehicles parking on pavements could save money long-term by preventing damage from heavy vehicles.*

This Council resolves to instruct the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport to:

1. *Review and expand TROs for verge and footpath parking across all suitable wards, in consultation with local communities and ward councillors.*

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>Identify streets where the road layout means drivers are routinely forced onto pavements, consider excluding these areas from TROs, and look into other practical measures to better support residents and address the problem in a fair and workable way.</i> 3. <i>Consult access and disability groups to help identify and priorities areas for action.</i> 4. <i>Improve the online reporting system with a clear category and landing page to report pavement parking, with simple guidance on what evidence to submit, and regular updates on reports and outcomes. Allocate officer capacity to respond promptly with clear feedback to residents.</i> 5. <i>Run a new, public campaign to promote the improved system, encourage responsible community participation, and explain how photographic evidence can support enforcement.</i> 6. <i>Publish quarterly updates on pavement parking reports by ward, actions taken, PCNs issued, and hotspots addressed.</i> 7. <i>Report back to the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel within six months of launch to review impact and next steps.</i> 	
14.	<p><u>Notice of Motion 3</u></p> <p>To consider a Notice of Motion, to be proposed by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Shreeve, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders as set out below:</p> <p><i>North East Lincolnshire Council's annual housing delivery target has almost tripled, from 208 dwellings to 618 dwellings, under the Labour Government-imposed current standard calculation methodology.</i></p> <p><i>Over the past three-year period 2022-2025, housing delivery has been consistently high but has still averaged only 428 dwellings per year.</i></p> <p><i>The Council is required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable housing sites to provide five years' worth of housing against its housing targets. Using the 618 dwellings target, this equates to a basic five-year land supply requirement for 3090 dwellings. However, the NPPF requires a 5% buffer to ensure choice and competition in the market for land, resulting in a total five-year land supply requirement for 3245 dwellings. Using the guidance and calculation method set out in the NPPF, the Council is only able to demonstrate a 3.6 year supply of housing land for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2030.</i></p> <p><i>Since the Council is unable to demonstrate a five year supply of housing land, the NPPF "presumption in favour of sustainable development" is triggered, opening the door to developers submitting speculative planning applications for sites that are not identified for housing in the Local Development Plan. Even if NELC's Planning Committee refuses such applications, it is likely that they will be granted at any subsequent Planning Appeals. Several such speculative applications are already proceeding through the planning process. The negative effects of this situation include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Planning consent being granted for sites where the Council and/or the local community did not consider housing appropriate.</i> - <i>Speculative applications being concentrated on greenfield sites.</i> - <i>Unwanted development proceeding in locations where highways and/or infrastructure are inadequate.</i> 	

	<p>- <i>Reduced likelihood of applications coming forward for town centre brownfield redevelopment.</i></p> <p><i>In short, there is a real danger of the Council losing control of local housing planning.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst North East Lincolnshire needs to be ambitious and build sufficient housing to meet local needs and expected economic and job growth in and around the borough, a nationally-imposed annual target of 618 dwellings is too high and is unlikely to be deliverable, even in the most aspirational scenarios. Furthermore, it will potentially result in loss of local planning control as described earlier.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, this Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, explaining the damage that will result from the Government's centrally-imposed housing target of 618 dwellings per annum and requesting that, in consultation with the Council, the target be reduced to a figure that remains ambitious but deliverable, and that enables the Council to maintain control of housing development via the local planning process.</i></p>	
15.	<p><u>Questions on Notice</u></p> <p>To consider any questions from Elected Members, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.</p>	-
16.	<p><u>Minutes of the Cabinet and Committees of the Council</u></p> <p>To receive the minutes of decisions taken under delegated powers at the following meetings, subject to any questions asked in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet - 12th March, 2nd April and 11th June 2025 • Portfolio Holder Housing, Infrastructure and Transport - 24th March 2025 • Portfolio Holder Safer and Stronger Communities – 18th June 2025 • Scrutiny Panel Children and Lifelong Learning – 6th March 2025 • Scrutiny Panel Communities – 27th February 2025 • Scrutiny Panel Economy, Culture and Tourism – 13th March 2025 • Scrutiny Panel Health and Adult Social Care - 19th March 2025 • Scrutiny Panel – Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing – 4th March 2025 • Joint Meeting of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel and the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel - 3rd March 2025 • Audit and Governance Committee – 3rd April 2025 • Planning Committee - 26th February 26th March 23rd April and 11th June 2025 • Licensing and Community Protection Committee - 5th March and 18th June 2025 • Licensing Sub Committee – 14th March 17th April 17th April 2025 • Standards Referrals Panel - 4th June 2025 • Appointments Committee - 7th April 2025 	-

17.	<p><u>Urgent Business</u></p> <p>To receive any business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, is urgent by reason of special circumstances which must be stated and minuted.</p>	-

SHARON WROOT
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE