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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

24th July 2025

Present: Councillor Goodwin (in the Chair)

Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Beasant, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Clough, Cracknell, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Farren, Freeston, Haggis, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Humphrey, Jackson, Kaczmarek, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Mill, Morland, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Shutt, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Wheatley and Wilson.

Officers in Attendance:

- Sharon Wroot (Interim Chief Executive)
- Zoe Campbell (Senior Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- David Humm (Civic Chauffeur and Assistant)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance - Monitoring Officer)
- Guy Lonsdale (Interim Section 151 Officer)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

NEL.15 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor took the opportunity to remind Elected Members to be respectful to one another at all times during the course of this meeting.

The Mayor reflected on her first two months in office and the wonderful people she had met, including at an afternoon tea for one of her Mayoral charities, Home Not Alone. She noted that she would be taking part in a charity bike ride on 23rd August 2025, organised by Flourish, and invited Members to sponsor her.

NEL.16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Brookes, Cairns, Downes and Jervis.

NEL.17 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings 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 be approved as a correct record.

NEL.18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Wilson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest during NEL.20 when the Leader referred to the Prax Lindsey Oil Refinery as he was employed at the site. The Monitoring Officer advised that there was no need for him to leave the meeting as this merely formed part of the Leader's Statement and no decisions were involved.

NEL.19 QUESTION TIME

There were eight questions submitted by members of the public for this meeting, in accordance with the Council's procedures.

The first question was submitted by Sam Brown to Councillor Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education. Sam attended the meeting and put the question as set out below.

Our council have an obligation to look after and care for our young looked after children and young people. Some looked after young people leave care heading into adulthood, what support is offered to these young people to prepare them for next step of their journey?

Councillor Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, responded that young people in our care had a social worker up until the age of 18, or longer if they were disabled or had additional needs. Between 16 and 18 years old, social workers talk regularly with young people to support and prepare them for adulthood. Young people in care with local foster carers, or in a home, would also be supported to develop their independence skills by their foster carers or care officers, in line with their needs, wishes and feelings. From the age of 16 years old (up to 25 if they wanted to), young people had access to a Personal Advisor, who would also help them to transition to adulthood. Personal Advisors help young people leaving care to access support, for example, in relation to

health, relationships, employment, training, education, housing and money. Where a young person had adult social needs, or were disabled, Personal Advisors would work closely with the adult social worker to ensure support was provided. Each young person leaving care had a pathway plan from the age of 16, which was young person led and outcome focused and identified what support was required, for example, in relation to health, relationships, employment, training, education, housing and money.

The pathway plan was informed by the Care Leaver Local Offer, which was co-produced with young people. The Care Leaver Local Offer can be accessed on the North East Lincolnshire Council website. Recent changes to the Care Leaver Local Offer included:

- A revised and updated financial policy for care leavers, including further enhanced financial support to young people
- Care experience as a protected characteristic across all functions of North East Lincolnshire Council (ratified by democratic processes in October 2024)
- Improved partnership support to care leavers through partnership involvement in the redesign of the offer.

Examples of opportunities and support in the context of the offer include:

- Driving lessons, or other flexible support towards getting around such as bus passes or the purchase of a bike
- Young people attending university are supported regardless of the level of study
- Help with budgeting, cooking, understanding home insurance and other independent living skills
- Support to choose and move into independent accommodation
- Help with accessing health appointments, including mental health support
- Support to access education, training and employability based on aspirations and need

The council was also further developing its 'all age' care leaver offer, so support could be accessed through the council throughout their lives and the council was further developing its corporate grandparenting offer for care leavers who were also parents, to ensure that they got the best start in life.

The second question was submitted by Sam Brown to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education. Sam attended the meeting and put the question as set out below.

Children and young people need activities to do. In Cleethorpes they have places like arcades and the Trin, in Grimsby young people will soon be getting the Horizon Youth Zone, what will the children and young people of Immingham and outer villages have?

Councillor Cracknell responded that there were a significant number of activities for the children and young people to participate in if they lived in Immingham or outer villages:

In Immingham during the summer holidays, there was a comprehensive Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) programme of activities based at Oasis Academy, Canon Peter Hall, and Pilgrim Academy, as well as sessions led by the Football Fun Factory, Climb 4 and the Trin. In addition, there were paid places organised by the Grimsby Town Foundation. The council's Family Hub in Immingham was hosting a Family Fun Day for parents and children as well as a Teddy Bears Picnic. The One Voice Community Project, which was National Lottery funded offered a range of activities all year round for our children and young people. The current programme offered:

- Parent and Child Play sessions
- Photography Group
- Bouncy Castle and Soft Play sessions
- Sewing Group
- Taiko Drumming
- Games Night
- Netball

All of the above activities were free for young people to attend, or at a highly subsidised rate.

In Humberston, Humberwild offered a Forest School and Bushcraft session twice a week and Splashpups offered a range of water based activities.

In Keelby, Artybeanz were offering an extensive summer youth club offer.

In Healing, a daily craft club was being held.

In Waltham there was football, Nunny's Farm were bringing their animals to the Windmill and there was a Circus Skills programme.

In Great Coates there would be a Summer Fayre.

All of this was in addition to the 26 providers offering over 12,000 HAF sessions this summer. That list was not exhaustive and did not cover all the voluntary and community groups that existed, such as Immingham Sea Cadets. Councillor Cracknell concluded that there were many things going on throughout the whole of the year.

The third question was submitted by John Middleton to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy. Mr Middleton attended the meeting and put the question as set out below.

When will the work begin on restoring Grimsby library back to full use? It has been closed now for 3 months, plenty of time for assessments and work to have been completed.

Councillor Dawkins, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy responded that since closure the council had worked at pace to organise and arrange for the packing of over 70,000 items within an area of asbestos risk. The priority was to progress this swiftly, and completely safely to relocate library stock. It needed to be understood that none of the survey work that required disturbing the asbestos could take place with any items still in the building. If any exploratory work was carried out that resulted in asbestos dust being released into the atmosphere, books and archives would have had to be destroyed. Therefore, survey works could only take place when every item had been removed, which was a time-consuming activity and something that could not be rushed as many of the archives were irreplaceable.

The fourth question was submitted by John Middleton to the Leader of the Council. Mr Middleton attended the meeting and put the question as set out below.

Why has the funding for the work on the library been moved to Freshney place, when it was clearly meant for the library?

The fifth question was similar to this and was submitted by Mary Middleton to the Leader of the Council. Ms Middleton attended the meeting and put the question as set out below.

Remarks made at a call in meeting, July 7th, 2025, by a council official, are at odds with the information in the original paperwork on the Town Fund Grant for the Central Library. Given this inconsistency will Council now commit to a full and frank public discussion on the following: 1, To acknowledge the original purpose of the grant (£4.2 million). 2. Explain the process by which the money was transferred to another project not named in the grant application 3. Explain the council's part in the decision-making procedure and produce the paperwork for meeting where the transferring of the grant money was discussed and agreed. If the council is fully committed to acting in the best interests of our area, and being seen to do so, I would suggest that they answer the above question in order to dispel or confirm the widely held public perception that monies were used incorrectly and possibly illegally.

Councillor Jackson, Leader of the Council, noted that this has previously been fully explained in the public domain on several occasions but he was more than happy to run through it again and responded as follows to both questions:

In 2020 the Council carried out extensive consultation to create a Town Centre Master Plan and from this a Towns Fund Investment Plan was developed, setting out the proposed spend and outcomes for the Towns Fund grant.

The Town Fund Investment Plan included a grant allocation for refurbishment of currently unused space within the Central Library to accommodate new uses, including a new learning and innovation facility (a Green Skills Hub).

The ambition for the library building was to create new space on the upper floors which would enable the people of Grimsby to develop their skills and receive training with a key focus on green technologies and renewables.

At the point of the approval of Town Investment Plan, the Council had active interest from an established local skills provider to take on the space being created, which would deliver the required Town Fund grant outputs. Unfortunately, this changed following the approval of the investment plan. Extensive work was undertaken to identify an alternative provider, but this had been unsuccessful. During the same time period, the construction cost estimates increased, due to structural challenges identified in early surveys and inflationary pressures.

The council was not unique in experiencing challenges around viability with Town Fund or Levelling Up Fund schemes or applying to government for changes in grant allocations. Since 2020, the UK's construction industry had experienced unprecedented external challenges leading to significant changes in pricing across the UK. A National Audit Office review in 2024 acknowledged that Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund projects across the country were being delivered in the context of delays to grant awards by government, rising costs and pressures on public finances. Their report concluded that many projects were experiencing delays and financial challenges, resulting in requests from local authorities for project adjustment or rescope. The National Audit Office recommended that Department for Levelling Up (now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) work in partnership with local authorities around project adjustment requests to agree new realistic expectations for delivery and scope, to ensure intended benefits would be realised.

The project adjustment request to relocate the green skills hub funding was made in the context that the grant outcomes of creating new and active skills space and employment opportunities was no longer deliverable within the grant time scales in the Central Library location. The request to reallocate the funding to support delivery of other Master Plan projects, ensured the overarching ambition of the Towns Fund was delivered, albeit in a different way. The grant funding adjustment request was approved both locally, by the Great Grimsby Board, and by Government. The funding further formed an integral part of the Freshney Leisure Scheme approval, which was considered by Scrutiny, Cabinet and full Council.

The next question was submitted by Mary Middleton to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets. Ms Middleton attended the meeting and put the question as set out below.

As we are all aware the Council has just concluded another public survey, along with focus groups, supposedly to gauge the feeling of local people. They have said throughout that no decision has been made so far. Therefore, could the council explain why the Cleethorpes library is now showing signs of lack of general maintenance, for example external paint work. The assumption might be, from the more sceptical, that this is because plans are going ahead behind closed doors to sell off the building at the first opportunity and therefore it's not worth the price of the paint.

Councillor Harness, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, responded that no decisions had been made regarding Cleethorpes Library, as the public library and archives service remained in a process of review. In line with this, he confirmed that Cleethorpes Library continued to form part of the Council's planned preventative maintenance programme.

The next question was submitted by Bryan Dicker to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy. Mr Dicker attended the meeting and put the question as set out below.

Concerns were raised at the recent meeting with the engagement officer about the quality and transparency of the recent public consultation regarding local library services, highlighting difficulties in accessing information and perceived lack of collaboration between the local authority and service providers.

The public found the consultation process lacking, with council officers unable to answer basic questions and a noted absence of accessible information and reflecting on past reports (Wilkin Chapman Nursery review) criticising transparency. I would refer to page 28 of that report that states "...information was not being provided led to a perception that the council had an underlying agenda..." and that "...they did not have any evidence to back up their position".

Proposals to move Cleethorpes Library, likely to be at the Leisure Centre, and convert Waltham Library into a community library faced public disapproval, while plans for the Central Library are unclear due to pending surveys and building neglect, despite reassurances that the books will be returned to the current site.

What has the council done to work collaboratively with Lincs Inspire to enable themselves to have worked within the relevant parts of the Wilkin Chapman Nursery Report ensuring information is being provided to the residents of North East Lincolnshire to enable them to engage with the consultation effectively?

Councillor Dawkins, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy responded that the public consultation which had just concluded received a large number of responses. The consultation questions were processed through scrutiny. The results of the consultation would be known later this summer and would form part of the decision-making process. The council worked in partnership with Lincs Inspire Limited as the service provider and operator of our library services, our leisure centres and the auditorium. There had been collaboration throughout the library and archives review process between Lincs Inspire and the council, on a practical basis. This included elements such as the approach taken to public consultation and engagement, communications and sharing of library service data.

The final question was submitted by Mr Dicker to the Leader of the Council. Mr Dicker attended the meeting and put the question as set out below.

The Central Library has suffered neglect including restroom closures, lack of utilising unused spaces on the upper floors and a recent sudden leak with no timeline or cost estimates provided, leading to public distrust fuelled with reports that the money allocated by Government funding to the library was redirected to the Freshney Place project.

Given other issues such as the Corporation Bridge incident, opposition to Freshney Place plans and other recent consultations, there is a significant drop in public trust, attributed to the lack of openness and transparency from the council. Does the Leader recognise that trust in the council has dropped drastically, particularly due to the lack of openness and transparency?

Councillor Jackson, Leader of the Council, responded that he did not, and nor did he agree with the premise of the question.

NEL.20 THE LEADERS STATEMENT

The Council received a statement from the Leader of the Council.

The Leader commented on the bad news earlier in the week when the Government had confirmed that no acceptable offer had been submitted to the official receivers dealing with Prax Lindsey Oil Refinery and it was expected to close in the autumn. Though the plant was geographically in North Lincolnshire, 65% of the workforce lived in North East Lincolnshire. It was clearly a very worrying time for those affected, and the council was already actively working with North Lincolnshire's Council's Economic Growth Team, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and the Department for Work and Pensions to develop an action plan, as well as with our local MPs. Clearly, there would also be a major effect on supply chains across the region. The Government has pledged to continue paying staff until October and, apparently, there are buyers potentially interested in parts of the site. However, the Leader commented that

the Government must recognise that the refinery was arguably critical national infrastructure and consider the effect on fuel resilience if it closed permanently. He felt that the Government must redouble efforts to find a buyer for the whole site by October.

On a more positive note for the local economy, following dismissal of Animal Equality UK's legal challenge to overturn the Planning Committee's approval for an onshore salmon farm at New Clee Sidings, AquaCulture were now free to proceed with the £120 million development, creating around 100 new, well-paid jobs and providing locally, sustainably sourced salmon for our thriving seafood processing sector.

Earlier this month, RWE officially opened its Grimsby Hub on the Port of Grimsby. This is their operations and maintenance base for the Triton Knoll and Sofia windfarms in the North Sea. The former had 90 operational wind turbines and the latter would have 100 when completed next year. This was a great vote of confidence for Grimsby and further evidence of the importance of the growing offshore wind sector to the local economy.

The Leader commented on the biggest change in the skyline of Grimsby town centre in a generation with the demolition of the former Bullring and Flottergate retail units to make way for the new leisure scheme at the western end of Freshney Place. The occupier market had responded enthusiastically and principal terms for two further lets, over and above Parkway Cinema and Starbucks, were agreed at July's Freshney Place Cabinet sub-committee. At the same meeting, terms were also agreed for a national retail chain to take most of the ground floor of the former House of Fraser store. This was all great news for the renaissance of Grimsby town centre.

Moving to children's services, the Leader reported that the council was in the closing stages of the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services by Ofsted. Over the past couple of years, the council's children's services had improved at pace and the Leader thanked officers and the portfolio holder for their dedicated hard work as well as the extensive preparation for this Ofsted inspection. Members would be informed of the outcome as soon as it could be announced.

The Leader noted that the adult social care CQC assessment was also currently underway. This would finish on 6 August, by which time CQC inspectors would have spoken to over 100 people, including those with lived experience of adult social care in North East Lincolnshire, elected members, professionals, providers and voluntary and community sector organisations. The Leader again thanked officers and the portfolio holder for all their preparatory work.

The Leader referred to the transfer of around 270 Equans staff back into the council fold as the 15-year outsourcing contract ended. He hoped that this would make service delivery more seamless for the public as well as for elected members. Following a period of consolidation, there would be an assessment of what was needed to maximise the quality and efficiency of service delivery. This

had been a mammoth project that had been handled very efficiently, and the Leader thanked all those involved in the process.

The Leader commented on Cleethorpes hosting the National Armed Forces Day last month. It was an honour to welcome the Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt Hon John Healey MP, to the resort. As usual, the crowds descended on Cleethorpes for this weekend, and the weather was perfect. We were on parade on the national stage and, as well as proudly honouring our armed forces, the event was a huge boost to the local economy. The Leader offered his congratulations and thanks to everyone involved in the organisation and running of the weekend, particularly the Armed Forces Major Events Team. He referred to the letter of thanks from the Secretary of State that had been circulated to elected members.

The Leader congratulated Dame Andrea Jenkyns on being elected the first Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire. The Leader and Councillor Shreeve were the two North East Lincolnshire representatives on the Combined County Authority, and the Leader also chaired the Business and Infrastructure Board. The Leader reiterated that it was also essential that the Humber economic landscape worked. The governance arrangements for effective pan-Humber collaboration, incorporating the two Mayors, local authority leaders and business representatives, were currently on the drawing board.

The Leader concluded his statement by confirming that there were no special urgency decisions taken by Cabinet or Portfolio Holders since his last statement in March. The latest update of the Council tracking report had also been circulated to elected members at this meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Leader's Statement be noted.

NEL.21 PETITION FOR DEBATE – SAVE OUR LIBRARIES

The Council considered a petition for debate requesting that the Council protect library services and commit to providing a first-class library service across all libraries.

Mr Neil Cartwright was invited to address Council on behalf of the petitioners. Mr Cartwright noted that the campaign was initially focused on saving Grimsby Central Library but it soon became clear that there were three under threat. The petition had attracted almost 5,000 signatures and with more time could have doubled that number. The petition requested that Waltham library be retained as a proper library service rather than as a volunteer run community hub. It further requested that Cleethorpes library remain in its current building as it was felt that Cleethorpes Leisure Centre was an unsuitable venue. For Grimsby Central Library, it was requested that the building be restored following years of degradation. The building was much loved and should continue to operate as a

library service. Further concerns were raised about the consultation on the library service not being neutral. A recent public meeting was standing room only and the petitioners were keen to work with the council to provide a first class library service.

Councillor Dawkins, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy, responded to the petition. He advised that on taking office it was apparent that library services had been on a decline for a number of years, and he wanted to find out what could be done to encourage use of the service and the buildings. He felt that Grimsby Central Library had not received appropriate maintenance for a number of years. However, he continued to give an assurance that it would remain a council asset. Unfortunately, there was no choice but to look for a temporary location. This had also been agreed by scrutiny. He noted that this administration was fully aware of its statutory responsibilities in relation to library service provision. The strength of feeling generated by this issue was fully understood and the level of public engagement welcomed. He proposed that, subject to an urgent and comprehensive analysis of the results of the recent Library and Archive Review Phase 2 public consultation, and in recognition of this petition, it be recommended to Cabinet that:

- Cleethorpes Library remain open and initiatives to better utilise the available space and facilities be pursued.
- Waltham Library remain open and initiatives to better utilise the available space and facilities be pursued.
- In principle, the current Grimsby Central Library be reopened, subject to confirmation of the options and costs for refurbishment, on which there would be full and transparent engagement.
- During the temporary closure of Grimsby Central Library, a pop-up facility be provided in Freshney Place to ensure the Council provided an alternative service location in Grimsby for residents within this period.

This was seconded by Councillor Jackson.

Councillor Henderson moved an amendment in addition to the recommendations proposed by Councillor Dawkins. He proposed that an independent Cabinet Party be established with cross- political group membership and chaired by a non-Cabinet member, with terms of reference to be developed by the Chief Executive. He expected the terms of reference to include the following:

- To review and make recommendations based on the second phase of the consultation.
- To support officers in developing a business case for the future of library buildings as libraries.

- To consider setting up a Libraries Board to review governance and processes that led the council to vire monies away from the Central Library, to review how the Central Library building had been allowed to fall into disrepair, to review the contract to run the library service, and to consider whether the council had breached its statutory obligations to provide comprehensive library services and should therefore refer itself to the Department for Culture, Media Leisure and Sports regulatory compliance officers.

This was seconded by Councillor Bright.

The Monitoring Officer advised that a Cabinet Working Party chairmanship would rest with the appropriate portfolio holder as per the Council's Constitution.

During the course of the debate on the amendment, Councillor Mickleburgh left the meeting.

Following the debate, the amendment was put to a vote. Upon a show of hands, the amendment was lost by 5 votes to 32.

Councillor Wilson moved an amendment that in addition to the recommendations proposed by Councillor Dawkins, a Select Committee be established to look into, but not limited to, the points raised within Councillor Henderson's amendment. The terms of reference would be drafted by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Group Leaders. This was seconded by Councillor Augusta.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the vote. Upon a show of hands, the amendment was carried unanimously.

The substantive motion, as amended, was put to the vote and, upon a show of hands, was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED –

1. That the petition for debate be received.
2. That, subject to an urgent and comprehensive analysis of the results of the recent Library and Archive Review Phase 2 public consultation, and in recognition of this petition, it be recommended to Cabinet that:
 - Cleethorpes Library remain open and initiatives to better utilise the available space and facilities be pursued.
 - Waltham Library remain open and initiatives to better utilise the available space and facilities be pursued.

- In principle, the current Grimsby Central Library be reopened, subject to confirmation of the options and costs for refurbishment, on which there would be full and transparent engagement.
 - During the temporary closure of Grimsby Central Library, a pop-up facility be provided in Freshney Place to ensure the Council provided an alternative service location in Grimsby for residents within this period.
3. That a Library Services Select Committee be established, with terms of reference to be drafted by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Group Leaders.

NEL.22 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

The Council considered 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 3rd April, 2025.

Councillor Boyd, Deputy Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, provided an update from Mr Tim Render, the retiring Chair of the committee, setting out the key points covered in the annual report.

Council took the opportunity to thank Mr Render for his service to the council and the knowledge and professionalism that he had brought to the role.

RESOLVED – That the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee be noted.

NEL.23 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report on the appointment of the independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee

RESOLVED –

1. That, subject to satisfactory references, Mr. P. Stone be appointed as the Independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for a four-year term of office.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the conditions of appointment to this role.

NEL.24 AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES (STANDING ORDERS)

The Council considered a report that set 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. The minutes of the Standards and Adjudication Committee meeting held on 23rd July 2025 had been circulated to elected members.

Councillor Jackson proposed acceptance of the recommendations of the Standards and Adjudication Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Shreeve.

Councillor Wilson moved an amendment that consideration of this item be deferred to allow proper consideration of the Standards and Adjudication Committee recommendations. This was seconded by Councillor Humphrey and agreed upon a show of hands.

RESOLVED – That consideration of this item be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of this Council.

NEL.25 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Council considered a report that outlined the council's emerging position on local government reorganisation

RESOLVED –

1. That the contents of the report now submitted, including the contents of both appendices, be noted.
2. That the following in principle positions be supported:
 - a. That the preference is for North East Lincolnshire to remain within its current administrative boundaries;
 - b. That this option is promoted across Greater Lincolnshire; and
 - c. Continue to explore opportunities to work closely with North Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire County Councils on any Greater Lincolnshire submissions to government.
3. That, in furtherance of the above, authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to oversee the continuation of the Local Government Re-organisation Working Group and to consult and collaborate with neighbouring authorities, with a view to building the requisite level of detail

around the above in principle positions so as to enable submission of a coherent and compliant business case to government at the appropriate time.

4. That the Chief Executive be authorised to engage with authorities across Greater Lincolnshire together with appropriate stakeholders (including residents at the appropriate time) regarding matters pertinent to Local Government Re-organisation, with a view to realising the aims of this report.
5. That the Chief Executive be instructed to bring a further report to Council prior to submission of the final business case to government.

NEL.26 NOTICE OF MOTION 1

The Council considered a Notice of Motion, proposed by Councillor Farren and seconded by Councillor Clough, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders as set out below:

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.

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.

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.

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:

- *WW2 (1939–45)*
- *Palestine (1945–49)*
- *Indonesia (1945–49)*
- *Vietnam (1945–49)*
- *Malayan Emergency (1948–60)*
- *Yangtse Incident (1949)*
- *Korean War (1950–53)*
- *Kenya Emergency (1952–60)*

- *Cyprus Emergency (1955–59)*
- *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.*

An amendment to the Motion had been received, in accordance with the Constitution, and was moved by Councillor Shepherd and seconded by Councillor Jackson, proposing that the third paragraph of the proposed resolution be replaced with the following:

Engage with the Armed Forces Major Events Team and other groups in North East Lincolnshire to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant for the future.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the vote. A recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the amendment:

Councillors Boyd, Cracknell, Dawkins, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, K Swinburn and S Swinburn (13 votes).

Against the amendment:

Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Beasant, Bonner, Bright, Clough, Emmerson, Farren, Freeston, Goodwin, Haggis, Henderson, Holland, Humphrey, Kaczmarek, Mill, Patrick, Pettigrew, Shutt, Wheatley and Wilson (21 votes).

Abstained:

Councillors Crofts, Morland, Parkinson (3 votes).

The amendment was therefore lost.

Councillor Freeston proposed an amendment that the second paragraph of the proposed resolution include asking the Secretary of State to support a change to housing policy so that veterans were given priority over any other groups, including asylum seekers. There was no seconder so this proposal fell.

The debate returned to the substantive motion. During the course of the debate, the Mayor moved that the Council's Standing Orders governing the length of meetings be suspended to permit this meeting to continue beyond 10.00 p.m. This was seconded by Councillor Jackson. Upon a show of hands, the motion was carried and it was:

RESOLVED - That the Council's Standing Orders governing the length of meetings be suspended to permit this meeting to continue beyond 10.00 p.m.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Jackson requesting an additional resolution that an external review be commissioned to review delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant and the support available for the armed forces community. This was seconded by Councillor Dawkins.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the vote. A recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the amendment:

Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Beasant, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Clough, Cracknell, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Farren, Freeston, Goodwin, Haggis, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Humphrey, Jackson, Kaczmarek, Lindley, Mill, Morland, Patrick, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Shutt, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Wheatley and Wilson (36 votes).

Abstained:

Councillor Parkinson (1 vote).

The amendment was therefore carried.

Following a debate, the substantive motion as amended was put to the vote. A recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the motion:

Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Beasant, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Clough, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Farren, Freeston, Goodwin, Haggis, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Humphrey, Jackson, Kaczmarek, Lindley, Mill, Morland, Patrick, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Shutt, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Wheatley and Wilson (34 votes).

Abstained:

Councillor Cracknell, Morland, Parkinson (3 vote).

The substantive motion, as amended, was therefore carried and it was

RESOLVED –

1. That this Council formally recognise and place on record its thanks to all that made the 2025 National Armed Forces Day weekend possible.
2. That this Council 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. That the Head of Paid Service be instructed 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.
4. That an external review be commissioned to review delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant and the support available for the armed forces community.

NEL.27 NOTICE OF MOTION 2

The Council considered a Notice of Motion, 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 are 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.*
2. *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.*
3. *Consult access and disability groups to help identify and priorities areas for action.*
4. *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.*
5. *Run a new, public campaign to promote the improved system, encourage responsible community participation, and explain how photographic evidence can support enforcement.*
6. *Publish quarterly updates on pavement parking reports by ward, actions taken, PCNs issued, and hotspots addressed.*
7. *Report back to the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel within six months of launch to review impact and next steps.*

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Wilson requesting replacement of the last section beginning with "This Council resolves to instruct" and all the text after this, with:

This Council resolves to form a Select Committee, to gather evidence regarding pavement parking.

The evidence gathered may involve, but not limited to:-

- 1. Highway engineers; for measures to help residents address the problem in a fair and equitable way.*
- 2. Access and disability groups; to understand their issues of both parking and being obstructed.*
- 3. Portal system editors; that meaningful adjustments can be made to the reporting system.*
- 4. Reach out to other local authorities for any best practice solutions.*
- 5. Legal advice on enforcement issues.*

The Select Committee would be expected to make evidence-based recommendations to Cabinet, via the appropriate scrutiny panel.

This was seconded by Councillor Humphrey.

During the course of the debate on the amendment, Councillor Freeston moved a closure motion to adjourn the debate. This was seconded by Councillor Hudson. The Mayor did not think the debate had been reasonably exhausted so the debate continued.

Following the debate, the amendment was put to the vote. A recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the amendment:

Councillors Augusta, Clough, Farren, Haggis, Humphrey, Kaczmarek, Mill, Patrick, Shutt, Wheatley and Wilson (11 votes).

Against the amendment:

Councillors Aisthorpe, Beasant, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Cracknell, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Freeston, Goodwin, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, K Swinburn and S Swinburn (25 votes).

Abstained:

Councillor Morland (1 vote).

The amendment was therefore lost.

Following a debate, the substantive motion was put to the vote. A recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the motion:

Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Beasant, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Clough, Cracknell, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Farren, Freeston, Goodwin, Haggis, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Humphrey, Jackson, Kaczmarek, Lindley, Mill, Morland, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Shutt, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Wheatley and Wilson (37 votes).

Against the motion:

Nil.

The substantive motion was therefore carried and it was

RESOLVED –

That this Council instruct the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport to:

1. Review and expand Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for verge and footpath parking across all suitable wards, in consultation with local communities and ward councillors.
2. 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.
3. Consult access and disability groups to help identify and priorities areas for action.
4. 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.
5. Run a new, public campaign to promote the improved system, encourage responsible community participation, and explain how photographic evidence can support enforcement.
6. Publish quarterly updates on pavement parking reports by ward, actions taken, PCNs issued, and hotspots addressed.

7. Report back to the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel within six months of launch to review impact and next steps.

NEL.28 NOTICE OF MOTION 3

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:

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.

Over the past three-year period 2022-2025, housing delivery has been consistently high but has still averaged only 428 dwellings per year. 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.

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:

- *Planning consent being granted for sites where the Council and/or the local community did not consider housing appropriate.*
- *Speculative applications being concentrated on greenfield sites.*
- *Unwanted development proceeding in locations where highways and/or infrastructure are inadequate.*
- *Reduced likelihood of applications coming forward for town centre brownfield redevelopment.*

In short, there is a real danger of the Council losing control of local housing planning.

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.

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.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Jackson noted that an amendment to the Motion had been received, in accordance with the Constitution, to be moved by Councillor Holland and seconded by Councillor Henderson, proposing that the final paragraph be replaced with:

Therefore, this Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, explaining the damage, including damage to green space and villages 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 much lower figures, in the order of 200 market dwellings per annum and 200 social housing dwellings per annum which more accurately reflects local housing need and infrastructure capability and that enables the Council to maintain control of housing development via the local planning process.

This amendment had been tabled at the meeting and Councillor Jackson was happy to accept the amendment. This was accepted by Councillor Holland.

During the debate on the motion, with the agreed amendment, Councillor Wilson proposed a closure motion that the question be put. This was seconded by Councillor Freeston. Upon a show of hands this was carried.

With the consent of Council, the requirement for a recorded vote on the motion was waived and, upon a show of hands it was unanimously

RESOLVED –

That this Council write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, explaining the damage, including damage to green space and villages 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 much lower figures, in the order of 200 market dwellings per annum and 200 social housing dwellings per annum which more accurately

reflects local housing need and infrastructure capability and that enables the Council to maintain control of housing development via the local planning process.

NEL.29 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair invited Councillor Henderson to present the following question to Councillor Shreeve, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

The Council is in a constant quest to provide value for money for residents and great work has been done by Officers to identify where services can be improved and expanded while budgets shrink in real terms. However, we can always do more. Our Adults and Children's teams are doing fantastic work and there is optimism that we will come out of the special measures we found ourselves in. However, the cost of social care is escalating and, without a different strategy to manage costs, they will continue to rise as a proportion of our overall council budget. So, my question is: What is your strategy to reduce spending on social care as a proportion of the overall council budget in the next 5 years – is it to raise more money, instigate cuts, transform services or just accept that the money available for other services will continue to erode?

Councillor Shreeve, Portfolio Holder for Health and Adult Social Care, felt that some of the assertions in the question were misleading. For example, under this administration, there had been no erosion of services. In many areas, additional resources had been put in place and we were increasingly working in smarter more efficient ways, not just in adult social care but across the wider range of services. Everyone had seen the slides predicting a large increase in our aged population, and the implied increase in demand for services. Councillor Henderson would be well aware that this was a national issue and that the Government had committed, through the Casey Review, to look at the long-term reform of adult social care. This was awaited with bated breath, along with the potential impact of the fair funding review.

As far as North East Lincolnshire was concerned, Councillor Shreeve was pleased to note that the Adult Social care budget had been stable for the last five years with very little variance from the budget despite demand continuing to grow. The steadily improving performance was due in part in focusing our support to enable people to remain as independent in their own homes for as long as possible. Transformation activity continued to be undertaken to ensure that demand for long term care and support was minimised. He gave some examples, such as:

- Changes to the front door of adult social care have seen an increase from 70% -82% of people being signposted since December 24.
- A review of reablement at home had resulted in
 - 16% increase in people using the service,
 - 3 day reduction in the time people spend in the service,
 - 86% of people require no further support and those that still require support there has been a reduction of 11 hours of support per week.
- Neighbourhood health due to our unique integration arrangements and the commitment to being a Marmot Town would also positively contribute to the demand for adult social care service.

Councillor Shreeve concluded by noting that Adult Social Care would remain the largest budget within the authority and its share of the overall cake was unlikely to diminish significantly without a national resolution. Irrespective of this we would continue our efforts in working more efficiently and always focus on the needs of our service users.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Henderson sought confirmation that the social care budget would not increase as a proportion of spend in next year's budget.

Councillor Shreeve stood by the answer he had already provided.

The Chair invited Councillor Holland to present the following question to Councillor S. Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

The Cabinet authorised the dismissal on 19th May of the main contractor for the Corporation Road Bridge repair works due to the extent of the delays, this after the contractor had been on site for some 27 months. Spencer Group said they were baffled by the decision. No work has been undertaken for two months now, and residents and local businesses are understandably very concerned. The best period of the year for carrying out shotblasting and painting work in terms of weather conditions continues to be lost. Can the Portfolio Holder provide the estimated date that work can be expected to restart, from which it should be possible at this stage of the project to extrapolate an estimated completion date?

Councillor Holland noted that, subsequent to his submission, he had received further information and wished to withdraw his question.

The Chair invited Councillor Beasant to present the following question to Councillor Goodwin, Madam Mayor, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

After reading the recent announcement about the 2026 Civic Awards, I have noticed that there is not a category to recognise the great achievement of our Foster Carers. Can the Mayor, please explain why this category has been dropped from the Civic Awards?

The Mayor responded that following recent discussions she was pleased to confirm that the foster carer award category had been included in the 2026 Civic Awards. This category was first introduced last year and would now continue alongside the other ward categories which celebrate the invaluable contributions of our volunteers and third sector organisations. It was recognised that comparing the work of foster carers can be challenging and each provide unique and personal support to those in their care. However, the civic awards offer one of several important opportunities to publicly acknowledge and celebrate the incredible dedication and impact of all foster carers in our Borough.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Beasant asked whether the Mayor agreed that this was the right decision considering children and foster carers were one of our priorities.

The Mayor agreed.

The Chair invited Councillor Beasant to present the following question to Councillor Hudson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

Climate Change is at times a contentious issue, but there is more and more evidence that we are reaching a point of no return. Does the Portfolio Holder believe that both Government and the Council need to take swift action to mitigate against Climate Change?

Councillor Hudson responded that Councillor Beasant was fully aware that the Council had declared a climate emergency and we were doing everything possible to reduce our CO2 emissions. Last year the nation produced 371 million tonnes; a 54 %reduction since 1990 . That was quite an achievement but at what cost? Electricity was as expensive as it had ever been, and energy intensive industries were struggling or being lost altogether. Councillor Hudson noted that in comparison, China produced 12 billion tonnes, the USA produced 6 billion tonnes, India produced 3 billion tonnes and volcanoes produced 1 billion tonnes. Therefore, he felt that we were playing our role and that was sufficient.

The Chair invited Councillor Augusta to present the following question to Councillor Jackson, Leader of the Council, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

Would the Leader agree that it's important for council decisions, particularly those relating to local investment, service delivery, and resolving ward issues, to be guided by fairness and the needs of residents, rather than by political considerations?

Councillor Jackson responded that he did agree.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Augusta enquired how that worked when he had received an email from a portfolio holder stating that Councillor Jackson had asked him to sort something out as it would bring more votes at the next election.

Councillor Jackson responded that he hadn't seen the email and therefore couldn't comment.

The Chair invited Councillor Patrick to present the following question to Councillor Hudson, Holder for Environment and Net Zero, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

In Scrutiny, we received a note saying that the Cabinet decision to pursue a council delivered affordable funeral service in North East Lincolnshire has been abandoned, why?

Councillor Hudson responded that it was simply the case that the market had beat us to it and at a lower cost than the council was proposing. He reminded Council that, if people were on certain benefits then they could request help from the Department for Work and Pensions and if they were totally destitute then the council could step in and pay for the funeral. That usually ran to about 4 or 5 cases per year but had increased to 30 last year.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick enquired if the portfolio holder had seen any evidence that the market was providing affordable funerals at a lower cost and if he could share that information

Councillor Hudson responded that he had seen figures that were commercially sensitive. He knew what national providers can charge and there was a considerable difference.

The Chair invited Councillor Patrick to present the following question to Councillor Harness, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

Could the portfolio holder tell me how much money has been spent on the structural works on corporation bridge to date and what the anticipated spend might be until it is reopened?

Councillor Harness responded by referring to information that was available in the quarterly finance and performance report, inclusive of the capital projects report. The scheme was initially set to cost £5.117m, this was funded with £2.97m from the government, £1.8m from the council and £320k from the Local Transport Fund. Additional costs from extended works had not been published due to commercial sensitivity. As was known, the project had not been completed and there were some contractual and legal issues to be resolved. Additional capital funding to complete the refurbishment was approved by Cabinet in November 2023 up to a maximum figure, as set out in a closed appendix.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick enquired whether the portfolio holder considered the money spent so far, and in the future, on Corporation Bridge to be value for money on behalf of the council tax payer.

Councillor Harness responded that value for money was hard to quantify. This was a heritage asset, a listed building, with a steel structure set in brine water that once works had been completed would unfortunately start to deteriorate straight away. However, it would be a highway asset that, once open, would hopefully be good for another 100 years or so.

The Chair invited Councillor Kaczmarek to present the following question to Councillor Harness, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

Does the Portfolio Holder for Finance believe that the council has the financial capacity to repair Grimsby Library?

Councillor Harness responded that at this time we did not have the costings for the refurbishment of the library so he would reserve any opinion on affordability until those costings were available.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Kaczmarek enquired whether the £4.2m that had been moved from the library refurbishment to FP would impact on future capacity to repair the library.

Councillor Harness responded that he did not think it would and Council had heard at this meeting a legitimate reason why the money had been moved. He referred Councillor Kaczmarek to the earlier resolution of Council on this matter and the principle of reopening the library subject to confirmation of the options and costs for refurbishment, on which there would be full transparency.

The Chair invited Councillor Kaczmarek to present the following question to Councillor Shepherd, Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

Does the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities feel that the current civil enforcement system as it stands works for the council?

Councillor Shepherd responded that he did.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Kaczmarek enquired, if it was working, why were enforcement officers currently working above capacity.

Councillor Shepherd responded that the Civil Parking Enforcement service transferred across to the Council on 1st July 2025. The current operating arrangements remained place and would continue unchanged in the short term. Those arrangements, subject to staffing levels, included dedicated patrols and the monitoring of 12 existing school cameras. In April to June 2025, 2717 penalty charge notices (PCNs) were issued, including 341 dedicated school camera PCNs. Civil Parking Enforcement had been included as a priority work stream within the Regulation and Sustainability Service Transformation Plan that would provide the opportunity to understand how the current service was provided and would consider operational activity, resources and opportunities for triage and extra business support. The plan was a significant piece of work and would take time to be completed. At the conclusion of the review, any changes would need to be evaluated and, if necessary, a business case for change would be drafted.

NEL.30 MINUTES OF THE CABINET AND COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

The Council received 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:

- 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

No questions had been submitted for these minutes.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the following meetings of Cabinet and the Committees of the Council be approved and adopted:

- 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

NEL.31 URGENT BUSINESS - OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS - GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY AUDIT AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Council considered a report advising of proposed appointments to the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority Audit Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee, deferred as part of the Outside Body appointments process at the Annual Meeting of Council held on 22nd May, 2025.

This matter was considered urgent due to the need to have appointments in place for scheduled meetings of both committees on 30th July 2025.

RESOLVED –

1. That Councillors Shepherd and Wilson be appointed as North East Lincolnshire Council's representatives on the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. That Councillors Boyd and Patrick be appointed as North East Lincolnshire Council's representatives on the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority Audit Committee.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 12.03 a.m.