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**NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**

**25<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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

Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Beasant, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Cairns, Clough, Cracknell, Crofts, Dawkins, Downes, Emmerson, Farren, Freeston, Haggis, Harness, Hasthorpe, Holland, 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)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance - Monitoring Officer)
- Joanne Patterson (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)

**NEL.32 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced that she would be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 at 10:30am to 12:00pm in Grimsby Town Hall and all would be welcome.

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

### **NEL.33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Brookes, Henderson, Hudson and Jervis.

### **NEL.34 MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025 be approved as a correct record.

### **NEL.35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items on the agenda for this meeting.

### **NEL.36 QUESTION TIME**

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

The questions were submitted by Zachary Kellerman to Councillor Shreeve, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care. Mr Kellerman attended the meeting and put the questions as set out below.

*North East Lincolnshire has one of the highest rates of disability in the country — with over 10,000 people relying on Personal Independence Payments (PIP), most of them older or long-term ill residents who use it just to meet their daily additional needs that their disability costs them. On top of this, major changes to Universal Credit will now slash the extra 'health element' support for new claimants by around £200 a month from 2026 — and despite promises, even existing claimants will likely only stay protected until their next reassessment. That means many of the most vulnerable people in our borough could soon find themselves stripped of vital support and pushed deeper into poverty. This isn't just about those directly affected — everyone in this chamber will feel the consequences, whether through their loved ones, caring responsibilities, or the knock-on pressure these cuts place on our already stretched local health and social care services. So, I'd like to ask: what reassurance can this council offer to our disabled residents facing an existential crisis — including those who will soon be forced to rely on even less during the cost-of-living crisis, such as unpaid carers — that they won't be forced into crippling debt? What local action will be taken to support their independence, mobility, and dignity at a time when national safety nets are being pulled away?*

Councillor Shreeve, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, responded that changes to universal credit and PIP was a

matter being dealt with by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and it was a matter of national policy by the Labour Government. He suspected that these measures would give rise to unintended consequences and the questioner was right to be concerned.

It was worth noting that many of the residents affected would be receiving support from Adult Social Care and the Health services, some of which were means tested. It was possible that a reduction in support from DWP may push individual means below the means threshold, leaving our Adult Social Care in part to foot the bill.

Finally, not all forms of support were means tested, he cited attendance allowance and carers support payments as examples. He urged all of our affected residents to check whether they qualify for these as it was known that many people who did qualify did not apply.

In terms of prevention and support our integrated Health and Adult Social Services were in a good place to ensure our residents were supported, as would our stakeholder partners in the voluntary sector. If people were eligible for adult social care support under the Care Act 2014 then support would be given based on their individual need.

This year we had schemes through the Household Support Fund for people that were experiencing hardship and required support. This was due to be replaced by the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which was currently being consulted on by the government.

## **NEL.37 ADDRESS OF CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER: POST OFSTED INSPECTION**

The Council received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education presenting an opportunity for the Children's Services Commissioner to address Council on the outcome of the recent Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services.

Mr Anthony Douglas CBE, the Children's Services Commissioner, was welcomed to the meeting and invited to address Council. Standing Orders were suspended for this purpose.

Mr Douglas was able to give independent assurance and insight into the significant improvements in Children's Services and commented on the work still to be done. Following the inspection, the Council had now been rated "Good" overall with one area ('the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families') rated as "Outstanding". He commented that this had been one of the most spectacular, rapid improvements in Children's Services in the country. He paid tribute to Members, officers and partners for their contribution to the improvements.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **NEL.38 THE LEADERS STATEMENT**

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

The Leader reported that the situation remained uncertain over the future of Prax Lindsey Oil. This refinery provided 10% of the UK's crude oil refining capacity and was hugely important to the local economy. Mixed messages were being received about potential buyers, but local politicians at all levels continue to exert pressure on both Government and the official receivers to try to ensure the site remained fully operational.

The council continued to work with our neighbouring upper tier councils in Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire to develop a common narrative as to how local government reorganisation might look across Greater Lincolnshire. North East Lincolnshire's public engagement had recently closed, with nearly 1500 responses. The council was about to start a round of engagement with local businesses. The outcome of both engagements would help inform this Council's proposals. Group Leaders continue to meet regularly to oversee progress, and a special full Council had been called on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2025 to consider our proposal document.

Turning to Grimsby's rapidly changing town centre, the Leader commented that, with most of the demolition of the western end of Freshney Place complete, the leisure scheme development was on time and on budget. Work continued at pace on the site of the proposed new transport hub. The demolition of the structures on Osborne Street was complete. Material was currently being sorted on site before removal. Overall, the demolition project was 85% complete and was on time and within budget. The public consultation for the provision of facilities within the transport hub closed on 19th September and he would like to thank everyone who had responded.

The Leader felt that combatting crime and the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre was essential if we wanted to see footfall continuing to increase. He set out the remarkable results achieved by Operation Mastery, a very effective partnership between the police and the council. This had been driven by the team's intelligence-led approach and their ability to identify and target high-harm offenders. These outcomes were not only statistically significant but also reflected the team's relentless effort and strategic focus. The Operation Mastery team had also undertaken a number of very effective days of action over the past 18 months. However, it was recognised that there was still much to do, and the relentless tackling of crime and disorder in the town centre would continue.

The Leader stressed that Cleethorpes had not been neglected. On the back of an ongoing review of resort management arrangements, a Resort Task Force had been established with dedicated resource to clean and smarten up the resort. He

set out the works undertaken and noted how these initiatives were making a significant improvement.

Immingham had not been forgotten and the new owners of Kennedy Way were already improving this important shopping facility with retail premises being re-opened.

This month had seen the opening of two new primary academies in Waltham and at Scartho Top, part of the ongoing improvement in the education offer to young people across North East Lincolnshire.

The Leader noted that North East Lincolnshire had been selected as the only location within the Humber and North Yorkshire ICB footprint to pilot the new National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme. It would focus on Immingham and East and West Marsh. This involved formalising and scaling integrated neighbourhood working, using data and co-production to improve outcomes for people with multiple long-term conditions, while reshaping funding, workforce and estates to sustain the shift from hospital to community care. This initiative also aligned with our Marmot Place status.

The Leader provided an update on the Ukrainian refugee situation. Since its inception, North East Lincolnshire had received 154 people through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The application process was still open but new arrivals were few. The team was still supporting 30 people residing with sponsors and 77 living independently. The scheme provided an initial 3 years leave to remain plus an 18-month extension. A further announcement had been made that this would be extended by an additional 24 months. The Ukraine Permission Extension scheme launched in February 2024. This did not come with any additional funding, and the previous Homes for Ukraine grant was used to facilitate any further work. 25 people had moved on to the extension scheme. We were now in the fourth year of Russian aggression against Ukraine and North East Lincolnshire continued to be supportive of the Ukrainian people and those who had come here. We were sympathetic to the suffering of Ukraine, recognised the threat this conflict poses to a wider Europe and continued to fly the Ukrainian flag over this town hall.

Finally, the Leader confirmed that there were no special urgency decisions taken by Cabinet or Portfolio Holders since his last statement in July. The latest update of the Council tracking report had also been circulated at this meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the Leader's Statement be noted.

Note - Councillor Pettigrew joined the meeting at this point.

## **NEL.39 TREASURY OUTTURN REPORT**

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets setting out details of treasury management arrangements, activity and performance during the 2024-25 financial year.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and the treasury management activity during 2024-25 be noted.

## **NEL.40 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 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 and subsequently referred to the Standards and Adjudication Committee.

Councillor Jackson proposed acceptance of the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Standards and Adjudication Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025. This was seconded by Councillor Shreeve.

Councillor Freeston moved an amendment for the Council meetings to finish at 10.30pm. This was seconded by Councillor Mickleburgh. Following a debate, a vote was taken on the amendment and, upon a show of hands, the amendment failed.

Councillor Wilson moved an amendment to delete the proposal as set out in paragraph 1.2.1 of the report, which related to the number of amendments to a motion. This was seconded by Councillor Clough.

Following a debate, a vote was taken on the amendment and, upon a show of hands, the amendment was carried.

Councillor Patrick moved an amendment in relation to the proposal for any amendment to Standing Orders to stand adjourned to the Audit and Governance Committee rather than the Standards and Adjudication Committee. The Standards and Adjudication Committee had recommended that it retain this function. Councillor Patrick further proposed that any referral not be restricted to the next 'ordinary' meeting of the Standards and Adjudication Committee, thus allowing the matter to be considered at a special meeting if required. This was seconded by Councillor Wilson.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the vote and, upon a show of hands, the amendment was carried.

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

RESOLVED –

1. That the proposal regarding the duration of Council meetings, as set out at paragraph 1.2.2 of the report now submitted, be approved subject to the Mayor (as Chair of the meeting) having discretion over the final guillotine at 11.30pm and that the 'Questions on Notice' item be moved further up the agenda for ordinary meetings of full Council.
2. That the proposal regarding the Leader's Statement, as set out at paragraph 1.2.3 of the report now submitted, be approved.
3. That the proposal regarding the Minute Book, as set out at paragraph 1.2.4 of the report now submitted, be approved.
4. That the proposal regarding content and length of speeches, as set out at paragraph 1.2.5 of the report now submitted, be approved.
5. That the proposal regarding right of reply, as set out at paragraph 1.2.6 of the report now submitted, be approved.
6. That the proposal regarding amendment of standing orders, as set out at paragraph 1.2.7 of the report now submitted, not be supported at this time and that this function be retained by the Standards and Adjudication Committee (with any referral not restricted to the next ordinary meeting of the Standards and Adjudication Committee, thus allowing the matter to be considered at a special meeting if required), and that the views of the independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee be sought on this proposal prior to further consideration by the Constitution Working Group.

There was a brief adjournment of the meeting at this point and Councillor Mickleburgh left the meeting.

## **NEL.41 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN**

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education seeking approval and adoption by Council of the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2025/26.

RESOLVED – That the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2025/26, which sets out the shared ambition and priorities of the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Service, be approved and formally adopted.

## NEL.42 NOTICE OF MOTION 1

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

*This Council notes that there is growing problem throughout the Borough of North East Lincolnshire with family homes being converted into Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO). This often occurs under the radar via permitted development so without a planning application. The impact is we lose existing family housing, replaced with temporary bed-sit type accommodation for individuals, particularly (though not exclusively) in Heneage, Sidney Sussex and Park wards. The current legal position is that planning permission for an HMO is required when there are 7 or more residents, but is NOT required for conversion of a house to a HMO of 3 to 6 residents as they benefit from Permitted Development rights.*

*Neighbouring local authorities have tackled this issue by introducing Article 4 Directions which remove those Permitted Development rights and thus change the process for property owners to convert their properties into HMOs by adding the need to make a planning application.*

*If an Article 4 Direction was introduced of this type, then those property owners would need to apply for planning permission and thus their application would be reviewed by our planning officers and subject to consultation including of local residents and statutory consultees.*

*This Council believes an Article 4 Direction regarding HMOs is overdue.*

*Council resolves to:*

- 1. Instruct the Portfolio Holder Housing, Infrastructure and Transport to work with officers to develop a proposed Article 4 Direction regarding Houses in Multiple Occupation for those areas of the Borough impacted by HMOs.*
- 2. To establish a Select Committee to work in parallel and deliver its recommendations to the portfolio holder timely to any decisions made.*
- 3. To ensure that Article 4 Directions removing Permitted Development rights form part of the basis of our draft Local Plan.*
- 4. To develop local planning policy to accompany an Article 4 Direction.*

An amendment to the Motion had been received, in accordance with the Constitution, and was moved by Councillor Aisthorpe and seconded by Councillor Beasant, proposing that the resolution be replaced with the following:

- 1. Instruct the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport to continue working with officers and the existing Selective Licensing and HMO Cabinet Working Group to develop a proposed Article 4 Direction to manage*

*the spread of new HMOs. This work also includes consideration of Additional Licensing for those areas of the Borough already impacted by HMOs, alongside wider measures such as enforcement and planning controls.*

- 2. To ensure that Article 4 Directions removing Permitted Development rights form part of the basis of our draft Local Plan and*
- 3. To continue with the planned development of local planning policy to accompany an Article 4 Direction.*

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, Beasant, Boyd, Cracknell, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Harness, Hasthorpe, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, Swinburn K and Swinburn S, (18 votes).

Against the amendment:

Councillors Augusta, Bonner, Bright, Cairns, Clough, Downes, Farren, Freeston, Goodwin, Haggis, Holland, Humphrey, Kaczmarek, Mill, Morland, Patrick, Shutt, Wheatley and Wilson (19 votes).

The amendment was therefore lost.

Councillor Freeston proposed an amendment that the reach of the motion be applied to all wards across North East Lincolnshire. This was seconded by Councillor Holland.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to a vote and, with the agreement of Council, upon a show of hands, the amendment was carried.

Councillor Freeston proposed a further amendment that the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport write to the Secretary of State for Housing to stop the dispersal scheme sending asylum seekers to North East Lincolnshire as we cannot take any more people due to the blight on communities caused by HMOs.

At this point Councillor Wilson moved the closure motion that the question be put. This was seconded by Councillor Jackson. This was carried.

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

RESOLVED –

1. That the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport be instructed to work with officers to develop a proposed Article 4 Direction regarding Houses in Multiple Occupation in all areas of the Borough .
2. That a Select Committee be established to work in parallel and deliver its recommendations to the portfolio holder timely to any decisions made.
3. That Article 4 Directions removing Permitted Development rights form part of the basis of our draft Local Plan.
4. That the planned development of local planning policy to accompany an Article 4 Direction be continued.

## **NEL.43      QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

The Chair invited Councillor Downes 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.

*Over 2,000 residents submitted their views to the Local Plan consultation more than 12 months ago, all of the 2000 residents opposed the Grimsby West development, yet those views have not been formally acknowledged, published or considered in any process undertaken by North East Lincolnshire Council to date. When the Grimsby West master plan goes before Cabinet for approval, how will you ensure that the concerns and feedback from those residents are properly taken into account given these delays?*

Councillor S. Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, responded that the present local plan adopted in 2018, with cross party approval, allowed for the land known as the Grimsby West site to be allocated for housing development.

The local plan consultation and the Grimsby West masterplan were separate pieces of work. The local plan review was led by the council, and the responses received from the last consultation were being considered and fed into the document that would be subject to further consultation later this year. He added that all comments received last year would soon be available to view on the consultation portal.

The Grimsby West Masterplan was a document owned by and commissioned by the developer. It included a statement of community involvement that detailed the consultation that they had undertaken and also explained how that influenced the masterplan.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Downes asked if the views of two thousand residents were still being analysed and would not be taken into consideration when Cabinet reviewed the master plan?

Councillor S Swinburn responded that all comments would be available to view on the consultation portal.

The Chair invited Councillor Wilson 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.

*Can the portfolio holder provide this Council, a list of properties contained in the register of assets of community value?*

Councillor Harness, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, responded that there were three properties on the register which were the Humberston Fitties Chalet Park, Wellington Street Methodist Church and Wold Newton Village Hall.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Wilson asked if the Portfolio Holder would develop the list as a matter or priority to protect assets around North East Lincolnshire that were of community value?

Councillor Harness responded that this would require an active community group to identify any assets that they would like to have some degree of protection for and he would be happy to speak with Councillor Wilson to see what his ideas were.

The Chair invited Councillor Bright to present the following question to Councillor Dawkins, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

*There are 18 conservation areas situated around our borough. In the current local plan adopted in 2018, the SWOT analysis in the plan identified out of date conservation area appraisals as a threat to our heritage. In Policy 39 of that local plan document - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment - it has the statement 'The Council will pursue an integrated approach that: seeks to update existing Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans to identify the qualities and interests of each area and management guidelines to guide future development'. Section 69(2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states, 'local planning authorities must review their conservation areas from time to time' and Historic England's advice recommends that conservation area appraisals should be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they remain relevant and effective. In the December 2023 draft local plan, out of*

*date conservation area appraisals are no longer identified as a heritage threat, but the Draft Strategic Policy 14 still has that same statement on seeking to update appraisals.*

*Can the portfolio holder advise how many conservation area appraisals have been updated or what other measures have been taken to mitigate the heritage threat since it was identified in the 2018 local plan.*

Councillor Dawkins confirmed that between 2013 and the Local Plan's adoption in 2018, four appraisals were prepared, but no other work had progressed since then. However, the Cleethorpes Central seafront conservation area assessment was within the recent bid for heritage funding.

The council's heritage officer conducts a rolling program of informal visits to all listed buildings and conservation areas, to maintain awareness of any changes to the historic environment. Appropriate information was shared across council teams and used to inform planning decisions.

The Chair invited Councillor Aisthorpe 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.

*At Full Council in March 2024, I raised the issue of persistent graffiti on our railway bridges. You assured members that officers would restart conversations with Network Rail on removal and prevention, and that you would report back to the Communities Scrutiny Panel. Over a year later no update has been provided, while graffiti on our bridges continues to scar our borough and undermine community pride. Could you explain why no update has been provided since that commitment?*

Councillor S Swinburn responded that when the petition was received he worked with officers at the time and improvements were made to a lot of the bridges. He appreciated that graffiti had started to appear again and he would speak to Councillor Hudson as this was part of his portfolio now and ask him to look at it again with the relevant officers.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Aisthorpe welcomed the response and asked when portfolio holders changed hands did members update each other on the commitments that had been made?

Councillor S Swinburn responded that the relevant officers would update the new portfolio holder.

The Chair invited Councillor Holland 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.

*Our current Local Plan, adopted in 2018, sets out the Borough's housing requirements as Policy Number 2. For the current period 2023/24 to 2027/28 – the requirement was set at 649 homes per year. Policy 2 goes on to say that the Council will, however, bring forward sufficient land to meet an overall housing requirement of 13,340 new homes representing an annualised requirement of 702 homes per year. Does the Leader concur that with the benefit of hindsight, these numbers were mistakenly set far too high, which has made it very difficult to now produce logical arguments to oppose the high housing targets recently imposed by Government?*

Councillor Jackson responded that the current Local Plan was agreed unanimously by Full Council in March 2018. The housing targets included in Policy 2 were directly linked to the employment and economic growth predictions that were made at that time. These were ambitious housing numbers when they were set, but they were found sound and acceptable by the Planning Inspector.

Our delivery rates now tell the true story. We achieved more than 500 completions in only one of the 12 years since the plan's 2013 base date. Indeed, the assessment of five-year housing land supply was made much easier when, five years after the plan's adoption, we reverted to the government's standard calculation methodology of 203 homes per year.

With regard to our revision of the Local Plan, prior to the Labour government's December 2024 changes to national planning policy, we were looking at a target of 415 homes per year, as set out in the 2024 consultation. This was considered to reflect market realities and maintain a good degree of growth ambition, being an uplift on the earlier mentioned 203 prescribed figure at the time. The evidence that informed the 415 figure told us that, even with the most optimistic and ambitious economic changes factored in, the associated housing need was nowhere near the 622 that national policy required us to currently plan for. Following unanimous agreement at the meeting of Council in July 2025, a letter was sent to the Secretary of State challenging our centrally imposed housing target and requesting a more realistic one of 400 homes per year. Almost two months on, a response had yet to be received.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Holland asked whether the Leader agree that, where legally possible, the previously agreed target of 400 homes should be reflected in the revised new local plan?

Councillor Jackson responded that the council could put whatever number it wanted but if we had a national target of 622 per annum there was a danger that would be overturned by the planning inspector as part of the public examination of the new local plan. However, he would be in favour of speaking to officers to see what number could be put in the new local plan.

The Chair invited Councillor Holland 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.

*At a recent scrutiny panel meeting, it was confirmed by council officers that one of the Council's looming financial risks is associated with housing need, and the impact of non-registered housing providers was specifically mentioned. Low house prices in some areas of our Borough make us extremely vulnerable to this risk, which may well increase in impact. Could the Portfolio Holder give this Council assurance that control and mitigation measures are being put in place as a matter of urgency to minimise the financial risk?*

Councillor Harness responded that the financial pressure arrived in the quarter one financial report which forecast an overspend of £1.5m; an improved position on recent years. A key driver in the forecast overspend was the council's ability to reclaim the full housing subsidy for accommodation providers that did not meet the DWP criteria for full cost recovery. This was driven largely by the increase in the number of unregistered providers across the borough. A service review of the housing provision was being undertaken. Councillor Harness read out a list of actions by the team and confirmed that he would work with the Section 151 Officer ahead of quarter two to understand what the impact would be on the council.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Holland asked of the Portfolio Holder would he commit to working with officers to produce a report on this matter which could be brought to scrutiny?

Councillor Harness agreed that would be a good way forward.

The Chair invited Councillor Wheatley 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.

*What actions and compliance monitoring are being taken to enforce the ban on the sale of single-use vapes which came into effect on 1 June 2025, therefore ensuring that illegal vapes (of all kinds) are not finding their way into the retail outlets of North East Lincolnshire?*

Councillor Shepherd confirmed that retail shops were subject to unannounced compliant visits by the trading standards officers and any illegal vapes found on the premises for sale or in storage would be ceased. Information gathered would lead to multi agency raids in conjunction with Humberside Police. If sales from illicit goods could be linked to anti-social behaviour then consideration would be given to apply for a 3 month closure order through the courts.

Where appropriate, landlords with commercial tenants found to be selling illicit goods would be encouraged to evict the tenants as the landlords themselves could be subject to financial investigation through the proceeds of crime act.

If the sales of goods could be linked to wider crime, North East Lincolnshire Council would help the police with their investigations.

The Council along with others received government funding to help with reducing illicit vapes and tobacco supplies. Together with public health funding this was helping to recruit two new trading standards apprentices.

Councillor Shepherd provided data on actions that had been taken.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Wheatley asked how was the Portfolio Holder was going to regularly update councillors regarding hotspots in their wards.

Councillor Shepherd explained that he was unable to share information on ongoing investigations however there was a programme of intelligence gathering which was shared with other agencies and action taken..

The Chair invited Councillor Wheatley to present the following question to Councillor Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

*The council is on track to introduce new children's homes in the borough – will the portfolio holder and the administration commit to a rolling programme of creating new council-run children's homes over at least the next 5 years, with a target for the number of places, bringing down the financial burden on the council for children's social care and creating an avenue for income by creating provision for neighbouring authorities?*

Councillor Cracknell responded that we have in place a comprehensive sufficiency strategy which includes the option of delivering further local children's homes in the future as part of the wider local children in care provision should these be required, in particular with the focus of bringing children back into area.

The anticipated continued reduction in the children in care population meant that this provision was constantly being reviewed. In relation to targets they were

reviewed and the hope being that children would not need to live in children's homes. If we reduced the number of children in care the provision would reduce accordingly. She could not guarantee the necessity in 5 years' time to have the provision that we had now, but nothing would be ruled out.

With reference to the income generation, this was something that we would look at in the future

The Chair invited Councillor Kaczmarek to present the following question to Councillor Dawkins, Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

*Can the portfolio holder for tourism please give reassurance to residents and businesses that adequate provisions for toilets in Cleethorpes will happen?*

Councillor Dawkins responded that yes he could as the Sea Road building would start soon and talks had already taken place with a view to next season's provision.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Kaczmarek referred to an email to the Cleethorpes based councillors stating that the new facility would not be ready until the end of next season. Earlier this year we saw the previous portaloo provision taken away two months early and he enquired what was being done to not leave Cleethorpes without any adequate toilet facilities this season?

Councillor Dawkins responded that the Grant Street toilet facilities had been brought back into service and that talks were taking place about the ongoing provision alongside the cost of repairing vandalism.

## **NEL.44 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:

- Council 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Cabinet 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- Freshney Place Cabinet Sub Committee 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Portfolio Holder –Housing, Infrastructure and Transport 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- Scrutiny Panel – Children and Lifelong Learning 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025
- Scrutiny Panel – Communities 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025
- Scrutiny Panel – Economy, Culture and Tourism 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

- Scrutiny Panel – Health and Adult Social Care 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Scrutiny Panel – Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
- Joint Meeting Scrutiny Panel - Communities and Scrutiny Panel - Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025
- Health and Well Being Board 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Audit and Governance Committee 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Planning Committee 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- Licensing Sub Committee 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- Standards and Adjudication Committee 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025
- Standards Referrals Panel 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 and 15<sup>th</sup> August 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:

- Council 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Cabinet 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- Freshney Place Cabinet Sub Committee 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Portfolio Holder –Housing, Infrastructure and Transport 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- Scrutiny Panel – Children and Lifelong Learning 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025
- Scrutiny Panel – Communities 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025
- Scrutiny Panel – Economy, Culture and Tourism 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025
- Scrutiny Panel – Health and Adult Social Care 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Scrutiny Panel – Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
- Joint Meeting Scrutiny Panel - Communities and Scrutiny Panel - Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025
- Health and Well Being Board 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Audit and Governance Committee 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Planning Committee 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- Licensing Sub Committee 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- Standards and Adjudication Committee 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025
- Standards Referrals Panel 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 and 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 11.10 p.m.