



## **CABINET DECISION NOTICE**

Publication Date: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 the following matters were discussed. The decisions of Cabinet are set out below each item along with reasons for the decision and other options considered.

**Present:** Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)  
Councillors Cracknell, Harness, Hudson, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

### **DN.61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received for this meeting from Councillor Dawkins.

### **DN.62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **DN.63 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were agreed as a correct record.

### **DN.64 REFERRAL FROM SCRUTINY PANELS**

Cabinet considered a recommendation from the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel, at its meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 in relation to an interim report from the Library Services Select Committee.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet receive a report to outline the associated costs to enable the central library to be made water tight to allow the appropriate removal of the asbestos.

## **DN.65 COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH**

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills seeking approval of the refreshed Council Plan.

### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL -**

- 1. That the content of the refreshed Council Plan be agreed.**
- 2. That the refreshed Council Plan be referred to Full Council for approval and adoption.**

REASON FOR DECISION – The Council Plan is a North East Lincolnshire Council policy framework document. Amendments to the Plan may only be approved by Full Council following consultation with Scrutiny.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – The Council Plan 2025-28 is already adopted by Council, and therefore Cabinet has an option not to review at this time. However, good practice suggests that an annual review is prudent to ensure that the plan remains active and relevant.

## **DN.66 2025/26 QUARTER 3 COUNCIL PLAN RESOURCES AND FINANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets providing information and analysis of the Council's financial performance during the third quarter of 2025/26.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the content of the report be noted and referred to all Scrutiny Panels for further consideration and oversight appropriate to the scope of the panel.**
- 2. That the 2025/26 revenue budget movement overview as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted be approved.**

3. That the re-profiling requests in respect of the 2025/26 capital programme as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted be approved.
4. That the revised Capital Programme for 2025/28 included in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted be approved.
5. That the write off of debt, which is fully provided for and considered unrecoverable, including debts >£50,000 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION – This report provides Cabinet important information relating to the Council's performance and financial position at the end of quarter 3, and highlights risks and opportunities in relation to both performance and finance.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Not applicable to monitoring report.

## **DN.67 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY POLICY AND STATEMENT 2026-27**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets asking Cabinet to consider this report and refer its contents to Full Council for approval and adoption.

**RESOLVED that the following be:**

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL -**

**That this report, its contents and the following be referred to Full Council for approval and adoption:**

- **the Treasury Management Policy Statement – Appendix 1**
- **the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2026/27 - Appendix 2**
- **the MRP Policy Statement – Annex 2 of Appendix 2**

REASON FOR DECISION –

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

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

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

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – These are set out on Page 31 of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

## **DN.68 GRIMSBY TRANSPORT HUB - PROGRESS AND APPROVAL FOR NEXT DESIGN STAGES**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder Housing, Infrastructure and Transport seeking approval of the final concept designs for the Transport Hub project.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the final concept designs for the Transport Hub project be approved.**
- 2. That the Director of Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure, and Transport, be delegated authority to:**
  - a. progress and approve development of the Transport Hub in a phased approach, including undertaking technical designs for the scheme through to RIBA stage 7 for phase 1, and RIBA Stage 3, for future phases, or if funding allows RIBA Stage 7 for future phases.**
  - b. bid for funding to deliver the scheme; and**
  - c. procure and appoint contractors to deliver the Transport Hub scheme thereafter to mobilise and implement the scheme.**

- 3. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure, and Transport, be authorised to undertake:**
- a. submission of any planning applications for the Transport Hub scheme that may be required.**
  - b. dealing with any land matters that may arise regarding the project.**
  - c. commission any enabling surveys and works for the Transport Hub scheme that might be required; and,**
  - d. any ancillary action reasonably arising out of the above.**

REASON FOR DECISION – To enable the Council to progress the Transport Hub project through technical design, procurement of contractors, and delivery.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Do Nothing

1. Under this option, the site would be converted into a car park to offset lost parking capacity elsewhere in the town centre. While this would provide short-term parking benefits, it would not deliver the strategic objectives of improving public transport connectivity, supporting sustainable travel, or contributing to town centre regeneration. This option is recommended to be discounted.

Do Minimum

2. This option represents the minimum infrastructure required to operate a safe bus facility on the site. It would involve a basic layout with a bus apron and temporary shelter structures. While this approach could be delivered within the current funding allocation, it would not meet the full project objectives. This option was considered but not preferred due to its limited long-term benefits.

Do Something in Phases

3. This option would involve constructing the minimum infrastructure initially, without opening the hub for public use until sufficient funding is secured to complete the full scheme. While this approach would allow immediate use of available funding, it would create uncertainty around completion timescales. This option is being considered but presents operational and reputational risks.

Preferred Options –

4. Two design-led options were developed and assessed during RIBA

Stage 2. Both options were assessed against criteria including operational efficiency, passenger experience, cost, and future flexibility. The preferred concept design reflects the outcome of the assessment and consultation feedback.

**DN.69 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL  
CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport seeking approval for the continuation of the current, statutory minimum North East Lincolnshire Concessionary Fares Scheme from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the continuation of the current, statutory minimum North East Lincolnshire Concessionary Fares Scheme from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 be approved.**
- 2. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport (subject to the agreement of the Section 151 Officer) be authorised to manage and make decisions on the 2026/2027 A1274 Transport budget (secure socially necessary bus services and manage non-statutory Concessionary Fare enhancements including pre 9:30am Concessionary Travel) and ensure decisions are made within the available transport budget.**
- 3. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport be authorised to approve 2026/2027 Concessionary Fares Scheme reimbursement arrangements with transport operators.**
- 4. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport be authorised to ensure that all actions necessary and ancillary to the above recommendations be completed.**
- 5. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to complete and execute all requisite legal documentation arising.**

REASON FOR DECISION - Adoption of the North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) Concessionary Fares scheme will ensure the Council meets the relevant statutory requirements in relation to the operation of

the national scheme and the reimbursement of eligible transport operators.

#### OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

1. In addition to the recommended option identified above, the following options have been considered and are not recommended:
2. **Do nothing** – Local authorities have a legal duty to provide free bus travel for eligible pass holders to a statutory minimum level and failing to do this would mean the Council would not be discharging its legal duty.
3. **Reimburse operators based upon alternative calculation** – The DfT recommend the use of their calculator tool to inform Concessionary Fare arrangements with operators. In the event that an alternative calculation is used which returns a payment lower than the DfT guided payment, operators are likely to appeal to the Secretary of State for Transport under section 150 (1) of the Transport Act 2000.
4. **Payments based upon usage** – A ‘pay as you go’ reimbursement method is not recommended for the large volume operators. As concessionary travel is demand led, the risk of overspend is greater than with a fixed price agreement. This option may also create instability in the bus network.
5. **Reduce other (excluding pre 9:30am Concessionary Travel) non-statutory enhancements of concessionary fares scheme** – This option is not recommended. Options for non-statutory savings have been explored previously (Cabinet 21 January 2015). Following Cabinet on 21 January 2015 other elements of the scheme were reviewed and, due to their comparably low value and high impact, were not pursued.

## **DN.70 REPLACEMENT OF CREMATORS AT GRIMSBY CREMATORIUM**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero seeking approval for the plan to replace the cremators at Grimsby Crematorium.

#### **RESOLVED –**

1. **That the plan to replace the cremators at Grimsby Crematorium as set out in the report now submitted be approved.**

- 2. That the Director of Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero, be delegated authority to:**
  - a. recognising the very narrow non-UK market for such equipment and expertise, directs the Director of Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure to immediately award and engage DFW Europe Netherlands to manufacture and provide the electric cremators required;**
  - b. undertake the final technical designs for building works required to enable replacement of the cremators; and**
  - c. procure and appoint contractors to undertake the required works, alongside DFW Europe Netherlands, to deliver the Grimsby Crematorium scheme and thereafter to mobilise and implement the scheme;**
  
- 3. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero, be authorised to undertake:**
  - a. submission of any planning applications for the Grimsby Crematorium scheme that may be required;**
  - b. dealing with any land matters that may arise regarding the project; and,**
  - c. commission any enabling surveys and works that might be required for the Grimsby Crematorium scheme.**
  
- 4. That the Director of Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero be authorised to deal with all matters reasonably arising from or ancillary to the above recommendations.**
  
- 5. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to execute and complete all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.**

REASON FOR DECISION – To enable the Council to progress the Grimsby Crematorium scheme through to technical design, procurement of contractors, and deliver in line with the Council's requirements.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

1. Gas/electric options as compared in Paragraphs 1.7-1.12 above. Gas discounted as the cost to the Council would be £5.7m versus the £3.2m for electric.
  
2. The option to “do nothing” is not available as the cremator units do

need planned replacement to ensure continuity of service.

## **DN.71 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2027-2028 ACADEMIC YEAR FOR NELC COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education seeking support for the position whereby, the general admission policy for the local authority's community and voluntary controlled schools for 2027-2028 be unchanged.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the position whereby, the general admission policy for the local authority's community and voluntary controlled schools for 2027-2028 be unchanged.**
- 2. That the proposed reduction in the published admissions number (PAN) for Western Primary School be reduced from 45 to 30 for the 2027-2028 year of entry, to reflect continuing trend of change in their allocation and enrolment numbers. The published admission numbers (PANs) of all other local authority-maintained schools remain the same as for the previous year be supported.**
- 3. That no material changes be made to the local authority's co-ordinated school admission arrangements published schemes other than the updating of dates and deadlines, and that locally agreed protocols that support admission arrangements continue to be reviewed on a regular basis be supported.**
- 4. That the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education be delegated authority to increase the published admission number of an individual year group in a school in exceptional circumstances.**
- 5. That those schools / academies that are their own admission authorities have the ability to consult and determine their own admission arrangements. Details of known proposed changes are provided at Appendix 1 of the report now submitted be noted.**

- 6. That with the increasing number of academies within the local authority the number of schools for which the local authority is responsible for in respect of determining admission arrangements is reduced be noted.**

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

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

## **DN.72 SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE'S COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2027-2028**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education seeking approval for the proposed dates for voluntary controlled and community schools for the 2027–2028 academic year.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the proposed dates in Appendix A of the report now submitted for voluntary controlled and community schools for the 2027–2028 academic year be approved.**
- 2. That the Director for Children's Services be authorised to implement and take all reasonable steps arising in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education.**

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

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – None

## **DN.73 SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH FREE SCHOOL AND DfE CAPITAL ANNOUNCEMENT DECISION**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education seeking approval for option 1, to proceed with the planned DfE construction of a 150 place specialist free school for Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

Cabinet considered recommendations from the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel from its meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and agreed that the recommendation be included.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That Option 1, to proceed with the planned DfE construction of 150 place specialist free school for SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) be approved.**
- 2. That the Director for Children’s Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education be delegated authority to respond to the DfE on those terms by the stated deadline.**
- 3. That the additional estimated capital costs (estimated at £2.3M) as set out in this report now submitted be approved and the Section 151 Officer be authorised to make such provision in the capital program as appropriate.**
- 4. That the Director for Children’s Services be instructed to update Cabinet via a further report at an appropriate stage, once matters begin to crystallise and with the support of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education.**
- 5. That the Director of Children Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education be authorised to explore safeguards around exposure to risk of increasing costs and for the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel to retain oversight.**

NOTE: That in the opinion of the Monitoring Officer, the above recommendations constitute an urgent decision due to the time restrictions imposed by the Department for Education and the need for the Council to engage with the Department for Education as to the direction to be taken and give assurance as to the Council's commitment to the scheme. The public interest has been considered, and the Monitoring Officer is minded that the public interest is best served by a swift decision enabling a program that will alleviate demand and pressures in the SEMH area.

REASON FOR DECISION – This will enable the build of a dedicated specialist school for 150 children and young people with SEMH needs, with long-term savings and alignment to the SENDAP Strategies and regeneration goals

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

1. Opt for Option 2 and accept a £7 million capital grant to deliver a number of small-scale projects, creating both resource specialist provision and specialist places in our local schools.
2. Do nothing, and risk losing both the planned Free School Project or the capital grant offer.

## **DN.74 RECOVERY COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care seeking approval for the commencement of a procurement exercise for Community Recovery Services, using the Provider Selection Regime Most Suitable Provider process.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the commencement of a procurement exercise for Community Recovery Services, using the Provider Selection Regime Most Suitable Provider process be approved.**
- 2. That the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care be delegated authority to finalise and award such contracts for Community Recovery Services.**
- 3. That the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care be delegated responsibility to oversee all ancillary matters reasonably arising, including service implementation,**

**mobilisation, and ongoing monitoring.**

- 4. That Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to complete all requisite legal documentation in relation to the direct award and associated contractual arrangements.**

REASON FOR DECISION - The procurement of Community Recovery Services in North East Lincolnshire is recommended to ensure timely access to peer-led support within the recovery community. The successful providers will have expertise in delivering lived-experience-led groups, workshops, and community initiatives that inspire hope, build resilience, and make recovery visible and celebrated across the area.

It is anticipated that the procurement will follow a three-lot model targeting wider communities and then narrowing focus onto the area's most vulnerable with targeted support.

Awards are anticipated to commence in April 2026 for a likely three-year period, with contractual options to extend subject to monitoring, evaluation and performance.

Overall, the procurement exercise aims to support and preserve a proven, community-embedded model, strengthen visible recovery pathways, and support sustainable wellbeing outcomes by ensuring recovery remains an integral, ongoing part of people's lives.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

1. In considering the procurement of this contract, members had several options available. Key considerations include the established infrastructure and community networks already developed by the current provider. The way the grant operates, the tight timescales between grant notification and the start of the financial year, make it extremely challenging to run a full market exercise within the required deadlines, and the risk of disruption to ongoing recovery activities, loss of continuity for individuals engaged in peer-led support, and potential non-compliance with funding conditions.
2. An option would have been to discontinue the service altogether. This was discounted, as it would remove essential lived-experience-based recovery support, weaken visible recovery pathways, and undermine efforts to reduce stigma and build community resilience. Discontinuation would negatively impact wellbeing outcomes and reduce opportunities for people in recovery to engage in meaningful, empowering activities.
3. The recommended option is therefore to proceed with a procurement using the Provider Selection Regime Most Suitable Provider process. This approach aligns with the requirements of the grant

funding, builds on the strong foundations and capacity already in place, and ensures continuity of a proven, community-embedded recovery model. It provides assurance that the services can continue to deliver lived-experience-led groups, workshops, and community initiatives without interruption, while maintaining appropriate governance, oversight, and monitoring arrangements.