

COUNCIL AGENDA
for the meeting on
Thursday 30th July, 2026 at 6.30 p.m. in Grimsby Town Hall

1.	<u>Mayor's Announcements</u>	-
2.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	-
3.	<u>Minutes</u> To submit for approval the minutes of the meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 26th March 2026, the Mayor Making Meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 12th May 2026, and the Annual Meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 21st May 2026 (copy attached).	11
4.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> To record any declarations of interest by any Member in respect of items on this agenda. Members declaring interests must identify the Agenda item and the type and detail of the interest declared.	-
5.	<u>Question Time</u> To consider questions from members of the public submitted in accordance with the Council's policy.	
6.	<u>The Leader's Statement</u> To receive a statement from the Leader updating Council in respect of: (i) Key issues of significance to the social, economic or environmental well-being of the area (ii) The implementation of Motions previously resolved at the preceding Council meeting(s).	-
7.	<u>Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2025/26</u> To receive a report detailing the activities of the Audit and Governance Committee during the Council year and setting out how it has discharged its responsibilities. This report was referred to Council by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 16 th April, 2026 (copy attached).	37
8.	<u>Questions on Notice</u> To consider any questions from Elected Members, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.	-

9.	<u>Polling District and Polling Places Review</u> To consider a report seeking approval to commence a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations, and to agree the proposed timetable and consultation approach (copy attached).	55
10.	<u>Amendments to Places on Committees and Panels of the Council and Outside Body Appointments</u> To consider a report advising of proposed changes to places on Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies of the Council since the Annual Meeting held on 21st May, 2026 (copy attached).	87
11.	<u>Notice of Motion 1</u> To consider a Notice of Motion, to be proposed by Councillor Clough and seconded by Councillor Wilson, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders as set out below: <i>Bringing Long-Term Empty Homes Back into Use Through Council Ownership</i> <i>North East Lincolnshire faces a growing housing challenge. The Council's Housing Strategy 2023–2028 identifies significant demand for affordable housing, with 4,780 households on the housing register and almost 500 households in urgent or high housing need. At the same time, Government data cited within the strategy records 2,819 empty homes across the borough, including 1,348 long-term empty properties that have stood vacant for more than six months. Many of these are concentrated in urban areas where housing market failure, poor property condition and neighbourhood decline are most evident.</i> <i>The Council's current Empty Property Strategy rightly seeks to work with owners to return homes to occupation through advice, grants, loans and, where necessary, enforcement action. However, despite these interventions, the number of long-term empty homes has remained persistently high over many years. The current strategy places the responsibility primarily on private owners rather than enabling the Council to intervene directly where owners are unwilling or unable to act.</i> <i>North East Lincolnshire Council is not currently a social landlord. Consequently, opportunities to acquire neglected homes, refurbish them and retain them as permanently affordable housing are limited. This leaves the authority dependent upon registered housing providers and the private sector to meet increasing housing demand.</i> <i>At a time when families remain on waiting lists, homelessness pressures continue to rise and vulnerable residents struggle to access secure accommodation, the Council should consider a more ambitious approach by directly intervening in the empty homes market.</i> <i>Returning empty homes to occupation would regenerate neighbourhoods, reduce anti-social behaviour, improve public health, preserve existing housing stock and make better use of existing infrastructure while reducing pressure for new development.</i>	-

This Council Notes:

- *There are over 1,300 long-term empty homes within North East Lincolnshire.*
- *Nearly 5,000 households remain on the Council's housing register.*
- *Long-term empty properties contribute to neighbourhood decline, crime, anti-social behaviour and reduced confidence in local communities.*
- *The Council currently supports owners through grants, advice and enforcement but does not have a mechanism to directly acquire and retain empty homes as council-owned affordable housing.*
- *The Council is not currently a social landlord.*

This Council Believes:

- *Every long-term empty home represents a missed opportunity to house local people.*
- *Existing housing stock should be brought back into use before significant new development is pursued wherever practicable.*
- *The Council should play a greater leadership role in tackling empty homes.*
- *Care leavers, Armed Forces veterans, victims of domestic abuse, disabled residents and those experiencing homelessness should receive priority access to high-quality affordable accommodation.*

This Council Resolves:

1. To commission a report examining the feasibility, financial implications and legal requirements for North East Lincolnshire Council to become a provider of social housing, either directly or through a wholly-owned housing company.

2. To explore the development of a programme for the acquisition of long-term empty residential properties through:

- *voluntary purchase;*
- *negotiated acquisition;*
- *Compulsory Purchase Orders where appropriate; and*
- *other statutory powers available to local authorities.*

3. To explore the establishment of a revolving Empty Homes Regeneration Fund, using external grants, Government funding, borrowing where appropriate and receipts from property income to refurbish acquired homes.

4. To ensure that all refurbished properties meet high standards of energy efficiency, accessibility and quality.

5. Subject to the Council becoming a social housing provider, and subject to any necessary review of the Council's Housing Allocations Policy, to allocate refurbished homes in accordance with the Council's Housing Allocations Policy, giving particular priority to:

- *Care leavers;*
- *Armed Forces veterans;*
- *Victims of domestic abuse;*
- *Residents leaving temporary accommodation;*
- *Disabled residents requiring adapted housing;*

	- <i>Key workers where there is an identified local housing need.</i> 6. <i>To request the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport to provide an annual report to Full Council detailing:</i> - <i>the number of long-term empty homes identified;</i> - <i>the number returned to occupation;</i> - <i>acquisitions completed;</i> - <i>expenditure and income;</i> - <i>households accommodated; and</i> - <i>recommendations for expanding the programme where appropriate.</i>	
12.	<u>Notice of Motion 2</u> To consider a Notice of Motion, to be proposed by Councillor Freeston and seconded by Councillor Grice, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders as set out below: <i>Voluntary Asylum and Refugee Resettlement Schemes and Opposition to Compulsory Asylum Dispersal</i> <i>This Council notes that:</i> 1. <i>This Local Authority continues to face significant pressures on housing, public services and local finances.</i> 2. <i>Participation in a number of refugee and humanitarian resettlement schemes is voluntary and requires the agreement of the local authority.</i> 3. <i>The Home Office also operates compulsory asylum dispersal arrangements, under which asylum accommodation may be provided within local authority areas without the Council's agreement.</i> 4. <i>Many residents have expressed concerns regarding the impact of these policies on local housing availability, public services, community cohesion and local infrastructure.</i> 5. <i>The published figure of approximately 270 asylum seekers reflects those currently supported by the Home Office asylum system at a particular point in time. It does not include people who have subsequently been granted refugee status or another form of leave to remain and have moved into mainstream housing, nor does it necessarily reflect the longer-term impact of asylum and refugee policies on local housing, public services and infrastructure. The Council therefore believes greater transparency and more comprehensive local data are required.</i> <i>Council believes that:</i> 1. <i>A key responsibility of this Council is to ensure that local housing, public services and infrastructure provision primarily meets the needs of our existing residents, particularly our young people with respect to housing.</i> 2. <i>Decisions with significant implications for local communities should be made with the consent of local authorities rather than imposed by central government.</i> 3. <i>Government policies should not place additional pressure on the borough's limited housing stock where there is already significant demand from existing residents and others lawfully resident in the United Kingdom.</i>	-

	4. <i>Local communities should have greater democratic control over decisions relating to refugee resettlement and asylum accommodation within their area.</i> <i>This Council resolves to:</i> 1. <i>Request that Cabinet reviews the Council's participation in the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), the Afghan Resettlement Programme (ARP), and any other voluntary refugee or humanitarian resettlement schemes in which the Council participates, with a view to withdrawing from those schemes where participation is voluntary.</i> 2. <i>Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary expressing this Council's opposition to the compulsory dispersal of asylum seekers into the borough without the Council's consent, and calling upon the Government to end compulsory dispersal into local authority areas that have not agreed to participate.</i> 3. <i>Call upon the Government to publish comprehensive local data showing:</i> • <i>the number of individuals granted refugee status or other leave to remain who have remained within the borough following the conclusion of their asylum claim;</i> • <i>the number of individuals who have left the asylum support system following refusal of their claim where their onward destination is unknown; and</i> • <i>the cumulative impact of asylum and refugee schemes on local housing demand and public services.</i> • <i>crime, arrests, charges, prosecutions and convictions, broken down by offenders' nationality and immigration status.</i> 4. <i>Request that copies of the Leader's letter be sent to the borough's Members of Parliament, neighbouring local authorities and the Local Government Association.</i>	
13.	<u>Notice of Motion 3</u> 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: <i>In March, Secretary of State for Transport Heidi Alexander confirmed that North East Lincolnshire would not be getting its long-promised through train from London Kings Cross, despite many years of lobbying by local MPs, business leaders and trade organisations. Restoration of this through service would be a major boost for local business, industry and tourism.</i> <i>We have a new Prime Minister wanting to see Northern towns and coastal communities thrive and committed to "good growth in every postcode".</i> <i>This Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister, copying the Secretary of State for Transport and local MPs, setting out the clear business case for restoring a direct London rail service to North East Lincolnshire and requesting Government intervention to support its delivery.</i>	-

14.	<u>Urgent Business</u> To receive any business which, in the opinion of the Chair, is urgent by reason of special circumstances which must be stated and minuted.	-
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SHARON WROOT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE