

**NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Scrutiny call-in mechanism on key decisions

Date	22/07/2026
Key Decision Item (title and state whether Cabinet/Portfolio Holder/Officer)	Market Place and High Street Cabinet
Decision Notice No.	
Reason(s) for Call-in	This decision approves material revisions to the transport and parking arrangements for Cleethorpes Market Place, including changes to parking provision, the progression of new Traffic Regulation Orders and a two-year free-parking trial. The Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel recommended that a formal public consultation be undertaken on the revised proposals before any final decision was made. Cabinet rejected that recommendation. Instead, Cabinet relied upon “informal engagement undertaken by elected Members” and “stakeholder feedback”. However, no evidence arising from that engagement has been published, no methodology has been provided, no stakeholder responses have been summarised, and no explanation has been given as to how conflicting views were considered. The report also confirms that the revised arrangements will reduce parking income by £145,000 over two years and that this shortfall will initially be met from Council reserves. At a time when the Council’s reserves are already at an all-time low, the report does not identify which reserve will be used, how it will be replenished, or how any ongoing loss of income will be accommodated within the Council’s budget. This is a material financial consequence that has not been fully explained or supported by a clear and sustainable funding plan.

	Furthermore, Cabinet has not published a transport appraisal, parking assessment, accessibility assessment or other analysis demonstrating why the revised transport arrangements would better achieve the objectives of the Council's adopted Transport Plan than the previously approved scheme. As the Transport Plan forms part of the Council's adopted Policy Framework, Cabinet has not demonstrated through published evidence that the revised proposals are consistent with that framework. This call-in therefore seeks Scrutiny's consideration of whether the decision was taken on a sufficient evidential basis and whether it is consistent with the Council's adopted Policy Framework.
Desired outcome for Call-in	That the Scrutiny Panel determines whether Cabinet has demonstrated that the revised transport and parking arrangements are consistent with the Council's adopted Policy Framework. If the Panel concludes that the constitutional test is met, the decision should be referred to Full Council. Alternatively, the decision should be referred back to Cabinet to undertake a formal public consultation, publish the evidence relied upon, demonstrate consistency with the adopted Transport Plan and reconsider the decision before implementation
Intended Recommendation to Decision maker	That Cabinet withdraws the current decision and brings forward a revised report supported by a formal public consultation, publication of the stakeholder engagement evidence relied upon, and an assessment demonstrating how the revised transport and parking arrangements are consistent with the Council's adopted Transport Plan and wider Policy Framework before reaching a further decision.
Details of estimated/actual cost	Officer time associated with reconsideration and consultation. No additional financial implications identified beyond those necessary to ensure the decision is evidence-based and constitutionally robust. £145,000 of lost revenue from loss of parking fees during the two year trial.
To be referred to which Scrutiny meeting?	Economy, Culture and Tourism

SIGNATURES OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(signature)

(1)

(2)



(printed name)

EMMA CLOUGH,

TREVOR CROFTS,

**NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Notes on Scrutiny call-in mechanism on key decisions

- 1 A Decision Notice of a key decision (taken by for example, Cabinet, an individual Portfolio Holder or by an officer with delegated authority from Cabinet) will be published within two working days of the meeting/decision and will be sent to all Members of the Council with a copy of this form. That notice will include the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless any two Members of the Council object to it and call it in.
- 2 The notice must be signed (electronic signatures permitted) by any two Members of the Council (including co-opted members, provided the Proposal relates to their area of responsibility) and must give reasons for the call in and referral of the decision to Scrutiny.
- 3 The notice must be received by the Chief Executive no later than 4.00 p.m. on the fifth working day after publication of the Decision Notice, and must specify the item reference number in question and indicate which Scrutiny meeting the matter will go to with reasons for preference. The Chief Executive will adjudicate on allocation to the appropriate Scrutiny meeting and the decision-taker shall be notified of the call-in.
- 4 A maximum period of 28 days will be set for scrutiny to hear a call-in following receipt of notice. Having considered the decision in question, the Scrutiny Panel must resolve either to:
 - (i) free the decision for implementation (the decision shall take effect on the date of the relevant Panel meeting); or
 - (ii) refer the decision back to the decision making person or body with recommendations for consideration; or
 - (iii) In the event of the decision being found to be contrary to the local policy framework or not wholly in accordance with the annual budget set by Council, Scrutiny may refer the decision to full Council for approval.
- 5 If referred back to the decision making person or body, they shall reconsider the matter within a further four weeks before adopting a final decision. It is a matter for the decision maker as to what weight (if any) is given to any recommendation made by Scrutiny. Once considered, by the decision maker, the matter cannot be further called in.
- 6 If the matter is referred to full Council and the Council (on a simple majority) does not object to the decision which has been made, then no further action is necessary and the decision shall take effect on the date of the Council meeting. However, if the Council does object it has no power to make decisions in respect of a key decision, or implementation thereof, unless it is contrary to the local policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly consistent with the setting of the annual budget. Unless that is the case, the Council will refer any decision to which it objects back to the decision making person or body, together with the Council's views on the decision. That decision making body or person shall choose whether to amend the decision or not before reaching a final decision and implementing it. Where a decision was taken by the Cabinet as a whole, a meeting will be convened to reconsider within four weeks of the Council request. Where the decision was made by an individual, the individual will also reconsider within four weeks of the Council request.
- 7 The call-in procedure set out above shall not apply where a decision is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the community's best interests. The record of the decision, and notice by which it is made public shall state whether in the opinion of the decision making person or body, the decision is an urgent one and the reason for this, and therefore not subject to call-in. The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council must agree both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. In the absence of the Leader and/or Deputy Leader, the head of paid service (Chief Executive) or his/her nominee's consent shall be required. In all cases, the decision maker will be required to consult with the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Panel to satisfy that person that urgency is justified. In the absence of the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Panel, a Chair of another Scrutiny Panel shall be consulted. Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.
- 8 The operation of the provisions relating to call-in and urgency shall be monitored annually, and a report submitted to Council with proposals for review if necessary.

CABINET

DATE	15th July 2026
REPORT OF	Councillor Oliver Freeston Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Renewal, Delivery and Place Leadership
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Carolina Borgstrom. Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Market Place Cleethorpes design, and St Peters Avenue and The Old Vic parking charges
STATUS	OPEN
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 07/26/01

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The Cleethorpes Market Place scheme contributes directly to the Council's strategic ambition to regenerate the borough's coastal economy, enhance place-making, and improve outcomes for residents and visitors. It forms part of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) programme for Cleethorpes, alongside Sea Road and Pier Gardens, supporting economic growth, increased dwell time, and wider community benefit. The scheme aligns with the Cleethorpes Masterplan and complements ongoing regeneration interventions to deliver a cohesive and enhanced public realm.

The consideration of a free parking trial for St Peter's Avenue car park and the car park known as The Old Vic links to the Stronger Economy priority by assessing the potential for short stay free parking.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report notes the continued delivery of the Cleethorpes Market Place scheme, subject to finalisation of design and limited amendments following a review of scope and stakeholder feedback.

The project has progressed through multiple stages of governance including Cabinet approval of concept design, scrutiny engagement, and delegated officer decisions to procure and appoint a contractor.

Following a change in administration, there has been a proposed recalibration of the scheme shaped by informal engagement undertaken by elected Members. The revised approach retains the core objectives and delivery requirements associated with Levelling Up funding but proposes:

- modest traffic management amendments to facilitate the retention of 12

- parking seasonal spaces when operationally appropriate
- use of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to provide flexibility between open and closed spaces on a seasonal basis
- review of parking arrangements including potential trial concessions at St Peter's Avenue and The Old Vic, Cleethorpes

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes the governance history, including prior Cabinet decisions, scrutiny engagement, and delegated authorities exercised to date.
2. Notes and receives a petition in support of Cleethorpes Market Place Regeneration Project 23/05/2026 seeking support for the continued delivery and completion of the project.
3. Approves continuation of the Cleethorpes Market Place scheme with the revised design approach as set out in this report.
4. Approves the progression and confirmation of associated Traffic Regulation Orders required to support the operational model.
5. Delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader, to finalise detailed design and implementation arrangements and in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing Infrastructure and Transport to resolve supporting traffic regulation orders to underpin delivery of the revised scheme together with appropriate car parking concessions.
6. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to carry out any other activity reasonably arising from the above and in furtherance of the delivery of the scheme overall, set out in this report.
7. Directs the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader, to implement a two-year trial period of short stay free parking at St Peter's Avenue and The Old Vic Cleethorpes car parks with a report being presented to Cabinet after such trial for further decision.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To ensure:

- delivery of a strategically significant regeneration project
- compliance with Levelling Up Fund conditions and timescales
- alignment with wider Cleethorpes regeneration initiatives
- responsiveness to stakeholder and Member feedback

Failure to proceed would place funding, reputational standing, and programme delivery at risk.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 The Cleethorpes Market Place scheme forms one of three projects funded through the Government's Levelling Up Fund programme for Cleethorpes.

- 1.2 The project has been developed through the following governance stages:
 - 1.2.1 Development of the Cleethorpes Masterplan and supporting business case.
 - 1.2.2 Securing of Levelling Up Fund allocation.
 - 1.2.3 Public and stakeholder engagement to inform concept design.
 - 1.2.4 Scrutiny engagement, including Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel and related forums.
 - 1.2.5 Cabinet approval of concept designs and delegation to progress delivery
 - 1.2.6 Procurement and appointment of a Principal Contractor via delegated decision.
- 1.3 The scheme is designed to transform the Market Place into a flexible, multi-use civic space, moving it from its current primary use as a traffic route and car park to a destination that supports events, businesses and community activity.
- 1.4 Following a change in administration, Members have undertaken further informal engagement with stakeholders and the public, leading to a proposed recalibration of the scheme.
- 1.5 This has resulted in a revised approach as outlined below.
 - 1.5.1 This approach retains the core 'as-built' design principles and funding compliance of the previously approved scheme.
 - 1.5.2 However, it adjusts the balance between pedestrianisation and parking provision, by seeking to introduce up to twelve seasonal parking bays that will provide 30 minutes maximum free no-return parking within Market Place.
 - 1.5.3 This will be achieved by introducing up to twelve parking bays within Market Place, as outlined in the concept plan at Appendix One, which will be accessed via the lifting bollards/barrier, which were already incorporated within the scheme.
 - 1.5.4 It should be noted that adoption of the proposal outlined above will be subject to further road safety assessments and a new Traffic Regulation Order, which will need to be carried out, before implementation.
- 1.6 The original Cabinet approval for the Market Place scheme, dated 17th July 2024, included additional car parking provision at The Old Vic, and short-stay parking within the High Street car park.
- 1.7 Given Member feedback, Cabinet is requested to consider the introduction of 1-hour free no-return parking at St Peter's Avenue and The Old Vic car parks all year round for a two-year trial period.
- 1.8 A petition has been lodged which is compliant with the constitutional petition scheme signed by 56 people. The petition seeks support for the continuation of the Market Place Scheme. This is classed as an "Ordinary Petition" and

raises an issue that is in the control and purview of the Council.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

2.1 Risks

- loss or clawback of external funding if delivery requirements are not met
- reputational risk arising from perceived inconsistency or change in direction
- programme delay impacting delivery of linked schemes
- public dissatisfaction where expectations differ
- Loss of income

2.2 Opportunities

- positive response to Member feedback following direct stakeholder engagement
- continued delivery of a high-quality public space driving footfall and local spend
- the ability to gauge the impact of free parking

2.3 Equality issues

The scheme supports improved accessibility and inclusive design, consistent with the objectives of the wider masterplan to improve navigation, accessibility and user experience for all.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1. Option 1: Proceed as originally designed.
- 3.2. Option 2: Proceed with revised scheme (recommended). Balances funding compliance, regeneration benefits, and revised local priorities.
- 3.3. Option 3: Halt the scheme. This would result in a variety of challenges including risking funding clawback, reinstatement costs and undermining confidence.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. The scheme carries both positive and negative reputational implications.

4.2. Delivery of the revised scheme would:

- 4.2.1. ensure continued delivery and enhance the town centre
- 4.2.2. demonstrate delivery of external funding
- 4.2.3. bring positive feedback from those supporting the changes and potential negative feedback from those who do not

4.3. Conversely, delay or withdrawal may:

- 4.3.1. undermine public confidence
- 4.3.2. create negative perception regarding governance and decision-making

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1. The scheme is funded through the Levelling Up Fund, supplemented by Council resources where required.

5.2. Financial considerations include:

- 5.2.1. adherence to funding conditions and delivery profiles
- 5.2.2. management of cost pressures and programme risks
- 5.2.3. The costs of implementing the changes to Market Place include:
 - Professional fees related to the proposed changes – c.£1,500
 - Costs related to implementing parking bays (each season) – c.£2,000
 - Costs related to Traffic Regulation Orders required – c.£5,000
- 5.2.4. income implications arising from changes to parking provision at St Peter's Avenue and the Old Vic car parks estimated at approximately £72,500 pa

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

The scheme will provide improved and safer public space, supporting family use, events, and inclusive access to the town centre

7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The scheme promotes:

- 7.1.1. enhanced public realm
- 7.1.2. reduced vehicle dominance
- 7.1.3. improved environmental quality

7.2. Design elements may include greening, sustainable materials, and improved pedestrian environments.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS

The scheme supports:

- improved wellbeing through public space
- enhanced social interaction and community cohesion

9. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

- 9.1 The project has been subject to significant scrutiny engagement through relevant panels and governance routes, including regeneration and programme oversight structures.
- 9.2 This reflects established governance processes associated with major capital and externally funded schemes
- 9.3 At the time of writing, the draft Cabinet report is scheduled to be considered at a special meeting of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Panel on 10 July 2026.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 From a Section 151 perspective, the proposal is affordable in the short term but introduces a planned reduction in income of £145,000 over two years that must be transparently reflected in the Council's budget and Medium Term Financial Planning processes. In the short term this will need to be drawn from reserves.
- 10.2 The approach has been considered in the context of ongoing engagement with MHCLG as funder, with assurance that the revised scheme remains compliant with Levelling Up Fund requirements and delivery expectations. The trial approach is appropriate to manage uncertainty; however, clear monitoring, reporting, and mitigation planning will be essential to ensure ongoing financial sustainability, alongside continued oversight of funding compliance and any emerging financial implications.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Legal implications arising from the above are limited and the comments made in the listed Background Papers are deemed repeated. The above sees a slight recalibration in a scheme that is already underway and properly contracted for underpinned by appropriate governance and decision making.
- 11.2 The proposed alterations are limited in nature and are adequately captured above, subject to further technical assessment.
- 11.3 Any supporting traffic regulation orders are properly identified as being the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport and will be subject to appropriate process.
- 11.4 A further report to Cabinet on the results of the proposed trial period around parking arrangements is deemed prudent. Naturally it will be important to ensure that the Economy, Culture and Tourism Panel is properly engaged at the appropriate time

12. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no HR implications.

13. WARD IMPLICATIONS

Specifically Croft Baker although the success of Cleethorpes is relevant to the wider borough.

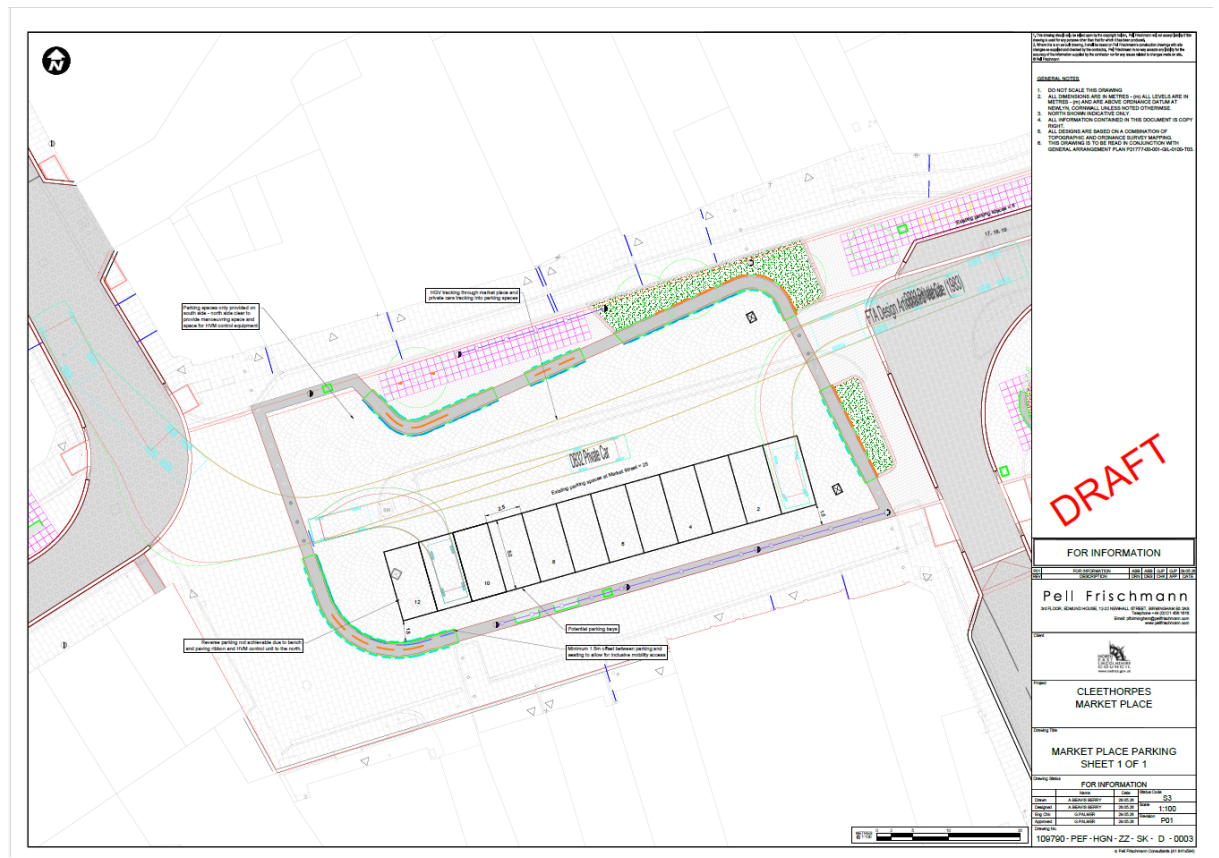
14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Report – Clee LUF Market Place Concept Designs - 17th July 2024 - [4.-Cabinet-Clee-LUF-Market-Place-Concept-Designs.pdf](#)
- Officer Decision Record – Appointment of Principal Contractor – Market Place – 4th February 2026 - [Market Place ODR REDACTED \(1\)](#)
- Cabinet Report – Cleethorpes LUF Wayfinding – 11th March 2026 - [8.-Cleethorpes-LUF-Wayfinding-Cabinet-Report.pdf](#)
- Cleethorpes Masterplan 2021 (referenced) - [Cleethorpes-Masterplan-Report_PUBLIC-FINAL_2025_reduced.pdf](#)

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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COUNCILLOR OLIVER FREESTON
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR
STRATEGIC RENEWAL, DELIVERY
AND PLACE LEADERSHIP



Appendix One – Proposed Parking Provision within Market Place