NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
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# CABINET

## 16th September 2026 at 5.00pm

**Present:** Councillor Freeston (in the Chair)
Councillors P. Batson, Callison, Grice, Mayne, N Oliver, and Taylor

## Officers in attendance:

- Katie Brown (Director of Adults, Housing and Communities)
- Zoe Campbell (Senior Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Damien Jaines-White (Assistant Director of Regeneration
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance)
- Diane Lee (Director of Public Health)
- Michelle Lalor (Head of Communications and Customer)
- Ann Marie Matson (Director of Children Services)
- Sharon Wroot (Chief Executive)

There were 6 members of the public and no members of the press.

**Also in Attendance:**

Councillor Aisthorpe
Councillor Augusta
Councillor Downes
Councillor Jackson

## CB.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

## CB.27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## CB.28 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 3rd August and the 19th August 2026 be approved as a correct record.

## CB.29 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT (RIPA) 2000 UPDATE 2025/26

Cabinet received a verbal update from the Monitoring Officer on activity conducted by the Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 during 2025/26 as required by the Home Office Code of Practice for Covert Surveillance and Property Interference.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed there was no activity during this period.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

## CB.30 REFERRAL FROM SCRUTINY PANELS

Cabinet received recommendations from the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel, at its meeting held on 23rd July 2026 in relation to the Council Plan Performance and Finance Quarterly reports.

RESOLVED –

1. That the recommendation from the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel be accepted being:

    a. That a report be requested that detailed the virements, their importance, impact (especially beyond a single portfolio), and for it to be presented to this Scrutiny Panel for review.

## CB.31 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education seeking approval of the Youth Justice Plan, in line with statutory requirements, which sets out the shared ambitions and priorities which supports children and young people to be divested from youth justice services.

RESOLVED –

1. That the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2026/27 which sets out the shared ambition and priorities of the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Service be endorsed.

2. That the plan be referred to and approved by Full Council.

3. That future iterations of the Youth Justice Plan more clearly identify the links between poverty and deprivation and youth offending, and detail how collaborative strategies were being deployed to combat this issue.

4. That smarter Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and clear operational thresholds be incorporated into the plan particularly concerning repeat offending and clarifying the trigger points for the graduated response with performance data regularly brought back to Scrutiny to monitor effectiveness.

## CB.32 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) - NUISANCE VEHICLES

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities proposing the introduction of a new borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle persistent anti-social behaviour linked to nuisance vehicles.

RESOLVED –

1. That the introduction of a borough-wide PSPO and the associated prohibitions as set out in the report for a period of three years from implementation be approved.

2. That a fixed penalty notice tariff of £100 for each breach of the PSPO conditions, payable within 14 days of issue, with no early payment discount be approved.

3. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities be authorised to approve any future renewals, variations or extensions to the PSPO where the supporting evidence and legal criteria are satisfied.

## CB.33 DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2026–2030

Cabinet considered a report from the from the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities seeking approval of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2030.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026 to 2030 for North East Lincolnshire and its publication be approved.

2. That the delivery of the strategy through the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, multi-agency steering groups, nominated system leads, and the Domestic Abuse Coordination and Support Team be supported.

3. That the Director for Public Health in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Stronger and Safer Communities be delegated authority to make minor amendments to the final published strategy and supporting delivery plan where required.

4. That Officers establish a reporting process to provide the Communities Scrutiny Panel with more frequent progress updates on the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-2030, including opportunities for the Panel to consider and comment on the associated Action Plan as it is developed.

## CB.34 PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT LOCAL PLAN - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport that subject to escalation to Full Council, sought approval to commence public (Reg 19) consultation on the draft Local Plan.

Councillor Downes addressed the Cabinet, requesting that they recommend two courses of action to Full Council which were decline to progress the Local Plan to Regulation 19 consultation in its current form and urgently approach the government to request an extension to the 31 December 2026 deadline to allow for a comprehensive review.

Councillor Downes highlighted that the proposed plan relied on an annual target of 621 homes, which was 65% above the historic four year average. Furthermore, the plan only identified a 3-6 year housing land supply, failing

to meet the five-year requirement. She added that while local evidence identified a need for 333 to 465 affordable homes annually, actual delivery averages were 38 homes per year. She also noted outstanding concerns regarding the Habitats Regulation Assessment for Grimsby West and Weelsby Hall Farm.

Councillor Aisthorpe also addressed Cabinet and referred to a petition that was received and was speaking on behalf of 1,700 petitioners objecting to the inclusion of the land beside Weelsby Woods as a housing allocation. The site was earmarked for up to 1,500 homes. Key concerns raised included:

- The permanent loss of greenfield and agricultural land, alongside threats to local wildlife habitats.
- Inadequate infrastructure, specifically regarding drainage and flooding issues (similar to issues observed at the adjacent 122 home Humberston Road development).
- Lack of specific commitments for onsite healthcare facilities or detailed plans to accommodate additional school pupils.
- The risk of government intervention if the draft was rejected in its entirety later, highlighting a recent precedent with West Northamptonshire Council.

The Monitoring Officer advised that Cabinet had a constitutional duty to develop the policy framework and refer the draft plan to full Council, which served as the ultimate decision making body. The Monitoring Officer also advised that, at this late stage in the process, it was not constitutionally or legally viable to cherry-pick or remove specific allocated sites (such as Grimsby West or Weelsby Woods) from the draft document, as these had been integrated into the plan since 2018 and were subject to established sustainability assessments.

Despite the constitutional advice, Cabinet members expressed a strong desire to protect green spaces, utilise brownfield land, and challenge what they described as unrealistic, government imposed housing targets.

Following extensive discussion, the Cabinet voted on a series of amendments and recommendations to be referred to Full Council alongside the main report:

RESOLVED –

1. That the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (2026) set out in Appendix A to this report be received.

2. That the Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (2026) and accompanying documents be referred to Full Council with a request that Full Council considers publication and consultation on the Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Local Plan, together with supporting documentation, for the purposes of statutory consultation in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, such consultation period to be no less than six weeks in accordance with regulatory expectations.

3. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing Infrastructure and Transport be delegated authority to make any typographical, grammatical, formatting, mapping or other minor presentational amendments required to the Draft Local Plan, together with finalising any supporting documents prior to final publication, provided that such amendments do not materially alter the intent or effect of the Plan.

4. That that following completion of the Regulation 19 consultation period, a further report will be submitted to Cabinet be noted.

5. In addition Cabinet made the following recommendations to Full Council:

    a. That in considering publication, Full Council carefully considers whether the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective, sound, consistent with national policy, and in alignment with the Council Plan. Should Full Council not be satisfied on these counts, they should support a proposal to pause the process and request an extension from the government

    b. That the recommendations from the Transport, Infrastructure and Housing Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on the 8th September 2026 be referred to Full Council.

    c. That Cabinet formally supports the removal of the Grimsby West and Weelsby Woods housing allocations from the Local Plan.

    d. That the Council writes to the government requesting that brownfield sites be prioritised for development funding, greenfield sites be released from local building requirements, and empty homes brought back into use be counted toward arbitrary housing targets.

    e. That officers consult ministerial colleagues regarding a potential pause or delay to the 31st December 2026 deadline. Officers to

report back to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport and the Leader of the Council by the end of the current week, and present a formal report on the government's response to Full Council on the 24th September 2026.

f. That the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan report, recommendations and amendments supported by Cabinet, be referred to full Council for consideration.

## CB.35 HOME CHOICE LINCS ALLOCATIONS POLICY

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport on the adoption of the Home Choice Lincs (HCL) Housing Allocations Policy.

RESOLVED –

1. That the adoption of the revised HCL Housing Allocations Policy be supported.

2. That the Policy is subject to formal approval through the HCL Partnership Board governance arrangements. Should Cabinet identify any elements of the policy that it wishes to be reconsidered, the Director of Adults, Housing and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing Infrastructure and Transport, is delegated authority to present such representations to the HCL Board for consideration by the partnership. Any amendments would be subject to agreement through HCL partnership governance arrangements be noted.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.40 p.m.