

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

5 December 2022

- Present -

THE MAYOR - Councillor John Briggs

Councillors Ali, Armiger, Armitage, Bainbridge, Clark, A Davison, J Davison, Ellerby, England, L Foster, T Foster, Gosling, Grant, Hannigan, Kirk, Lee, Longcake, Marper, Mitchell, O'Sullivan, Ogg, Rayner, Reed, Robinson, Rose, Ross, Rowson, Saunby, C Sherwood, N Sherwood, Southern, Swift, K Vickers, P Vickers, Walshe, Waltham MBE, Wells, Wilson and Yeadon

The Council met at The Chamber, UCNL, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe.

2882 **MAYOR'S REMARKS.**

The Mayor welcomed all members and officers to the meeting. He referred to the recent sad death of former Councillor Bernard Regan and on behalf of all councillors expressed their thoughts for his family at this sad time. The council observed a minute's silence in memory of Bernard Regan.

The Mayor then summarised recent events he had attended over the past few months and in particular encouraged and welcomed members to attend his Christmas concert to be held at Normanby Hall on 8 December 2022 and participate in his charity Christmas draw. He also thanked the Deputy Mayor Councillor Janet Longcake for her support over another busy period.

2883 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

Declarations of personal interests were indicated as follows –

Member	Subject/Minute
Councillor M Ali	Taxi Licence Holder with schools transport contract. Crosby Community Association – Trustee
Councillor J Briggs	Member and Chair of Humberside Fire Authority
Councillor M Grant	Member of Humberside Fire Authority
Councillor N Sherwood	Member of Humberside Fire Authority
Councillor R Waltham MBE	Member of Humberside Fire Authority

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2884 **MINUTES -**

Resolved - That the minutes of the Ordinary Meetings of the Council held on 18 October 2022, having been circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Mayor.

2885 **CALCULATING THE COUNCIL TAX BASE 2023/2024.**

The Director: Governance and Communities submitted a report requesting the council to consider and approve the council tax base to be used for each part of the council's area for formula grant and tax setting purposes. The key points in the report were to note the council tax base for grant purposes as submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), to set a tax base for setting Council Tax for the council, local parishes and major precepting authorities, and to confirm the implementation of the empty property surcharge for properties empty for longer than ten years from 2023/24.

The Director in her report explained the above key points, analysed options, addressed financial implications and set out associated information in appendices 1, 2 and 3.

Resolved – (a) That the council tax base for grant purposes set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted; (b) that the council taxbase for the Council and other precepting bodies in 2023/24 be set at 51,270.5 band D equivalents as detailed in Appendix 2 and 3 of the report, and (c) that the empty property surcharge increased to 300% for properties empty for longer than ten years from 2023/24.

2886 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2022/23.**

The Director: Governance and Communities submitted the treasury management mid-year report for the financial year 2022-23. The report attached as an appendix provided an overview of the council's treasury performance during the first six months of 2022-23 and set out national factors that affect the council's treasury activity.

The report fulfilled the authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), previously Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Investment Guidance. The CIPFA Code required that Council received a report at the start of the financial year, mid-year and year end. The Audit Committee also received regular updates regarding treasury activity, providing assurance on the effectiveness of the council's treasury management arrangements.

The Director highlighted the key points of the mid-year report stating that –

- Investment returns in the first six months of the year amounted to £317k due to increases in interest rates.
- Interest Rates were forecast to continue to rise in the short term as the

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- bank of England seeks to manage inflation.
- Borrowing remains comfortably within the control levels set and no new borrowing was undertaken.
- Treasury activity was compliant with the Prudential Indicators set for the financial year.

Resolved – That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2022/23 be received and noted.

2887 A DEVOLUTION DEAL FOR NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE.

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report asking the Council to support draft proposals for devolution for Greater Lincolnshire and to enter into negotiations with Government to seek a devolution deal at the earliest opportunity.

The Deputy Chief Executive in his report explained that the levelling up white paper sets out the Government's ambitions for devolution across England and provided the framework for devolving powers to local economic geographies. The white paper was being enshrined in legislation through The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill currently in Parliament. A first wave of new devolution deals was being negotiated between the Government and upper tier councils with deals already announced in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and North Yorkshire. A second wave of deals was expected to be negotiated in 2023 and would provide upper tier councils with an opportunity to seek the transfer of a range of new powers and budgets from Government that can be targeted to local need, used to boost growth in the local economy and level up Greater Lincolnshire.

The report stated that working together, Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, the seven district councils across Greater Lincolnshire, business and key stakeholders had developed options for a devolution deal for the economic geography of Greater Lincolnshire. This has been informed by:

- Collaboration across all 10 Councils in Greater Lincolnshire to develop a long-term vision for greater Lincolnshire to deliver a better future for the communities, visitors, and businesses of Greater Lincolnshire. A copy of the vision document was attached as Appendix B to the report,
- Business Engagement through the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership to gauge the interest, understanding and desire for devolution from local business,
- Involvement of all 10 Councils in Greater Lincolnshire including discussions with council leaders and a series of meetings of chief executives to refine proposals for devolution to meet the needs of all parts of the historical county, and
- Officer level workshops to explore the detail of skills, innovation, investment and infrastructure asks and principles for devolution.

The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that engagement across Greater

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Lincolnshire had informed the development of proposals for devolution set out in the draft Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Growth | Energy | Food document attached to Appendix B of the report. The proposals sought to achieve the maximum level of devolution for Greater Lincolnshire to bring greatest benefit for Greater Lincolnshire's residents and deliver on the area's ambitious strategies for growth across key sectors that would lead to more high skill, high wage jobs. The focus of the proposed deal would be to:

- Boost growth and productivity in key sectors and supply chains by levelling up infrastructure to create high skill, high wage jobs,
- Increase living standards and opportunity by levelling up skills and access to employment and new high skill, high wage jobs, and
- Target investment to level up our towns and places to deliver sustainable growth.

Key sectors of the Greater Lincolnshire economic geography were also of strategic importance to the UK and devolution for Greater Lincolnshire would support wider UK objectives for levelling up, energy security, food security and achieving net zero. A devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire would be subject to negotiation with Government and the council was invited to consider the proposals for devolution as basis for engaging with Government officials to secure a future deal.

The Deputy Chief Executive's report stated that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill sets out the levels, requirements and process for devolution. New powers and funding would be devolved from Government to a new county combined authority and the maximum level of devolution – level 3 – would only be achieved if this also included a directly elected mayor. This new type of combined authority had an initial prescribed voting membership of the mayor and upper tier councils, identified as constituency members. It could also involve a range of stake holders including district councils and businesses as non-constituency members, scrutiny committee members and advisory boards. In return for devolution of powers the Government expected the county combined authority to provide strong and effective leadership; flexibility; and appropriate accountability.

The Government had also set out that devolution deals should be led by upper tier councils. In preparation for any negotiation upper tier councils would continue to engage with district councils, businesses, the education sector and other stakeholders to develop the strongest possible devolution proposition and negotiating position for Greater Lincolnshire. This would include building on initial local discussions to negotiate and agree the governance arrangements and principles for a mayoral county combined authority within the constraints of the legislation. Members would be asked to formally consider progress at a number of decision points including agreement to:

- seek a deal and enter into negotiation with government (report as submitted)
- consult on a draft devolution deal following negotiations with

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- Government (future report), and the final deal and to establish a mayoral county combined authority (future report).

If successful, residents across Greater Lincolnshire would be invited to elect a mayor in 2025.

Resolved - That Council (a) supports engagement with government officials to secure a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire on the basis of the draft devolution prospectus at Appendix A of the report; (b) supports in principle, devolution to a mayoral county combined authority for Greater Lincolnshire, and (c) supports continued engagement with key stakeholders with a view to Appendix A being further developed and enhanced as the basis of the devolution bid to government to ensure that Greater Lincolnshire is in as strong a position as possible to secure a deal.

At the request of members and in accordance with Procedure Rule 1.22(d) the names of members voting for, against and abstaining from the motion are as follows –

FOR: *Councillors Armiger, Briggs, Clark, J Davison, England, T Foster, Hannigan, Lee, Longcake, Marper, Mitchell, Ogg, Reed, Robinson, Rose, Ross, Rowson, Saunby, C Sherwood, N Sherwood, K. Vickers, P Vickers, Walshe, Waltham MBE, and Wells.*

AGAINST: *Councillor Kirk*

ABSTAINING: *Councillors Ali, Armitage, Bainbridge, A Davison, Ellerby, L Foster, Gosling, Grant, O'Sullivan, Rayner, Sothern, Swift, Wilson and Yeadon.*

Motion Carried

2888 OUTCOMES OF OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

The Director: Children and Families submitted a report informing Council of the outcomes of the recent Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services, in which Ofsted judged North Lincolnshire to be outstanding across all areas and with no identified areas for improvement. The full report by Ofsted was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Director in her report explained that The Inspection of North Lincolnshire's Local Authority Children's Services took place between 3 and 14 October 2022. Following a period of quality assurance, the final inspection report was published on 25 November, in which the formal

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judgement grades were confirmed. This is the first judgement for North Lincolnshire's local authority children's services since 2017.

The outcomes of the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services were that Ofsted judged North Lincolnshire to be outstanding in all areas, as follows:

- the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families
- the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection
- the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers; and
- overall effectiveness

The report Ofsted report highlighted that:

- Social workers worked hard to listen to children and their families when they needed extra help. They worked well with children, parents and carers to help families find their own solutions and only step in when it was really needed,
- There was a lot of work done by social workers and other professionals to help and support children to stay at home and be cared for by their parents. Sometimes this was not always possible and social workers acted quickly and took care to ask children where they would like to live. This meant that most children in care lived with foster families or with a member of their family,
- When children lived in foster families, many children said that they felt safe and well cared for and quickly felt like part of a family,
- Children and young people were supported to do their very best at school and achieve whatever they wanted to after they left school,
- Leaders had made sure that when young people left care they could still be supported as adults by children's services and for as long as they needed to, which really showed how the council cared for children and young people throughout their lives,
- Leaders and politicians worked well together to make North Lincolnshire a great place to live. They talked to parents, young people and children and listened to their views about how to make things better. Often it was children's views that were used to make positive changes, and
- The council were working hard to make North Lincolnshire a place where social workers wanted to stay and work so that children could keep the same social worker.

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Members congratulated the Director: Children and Families and her team for the outstanding Ofsted report.

Resolved - That the outcomes of the Inspection of Children's Services undertaken in October 2022 be noted.

2889 **STATUTORY CO-OPTED MEMBER VACANCY (CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL) - CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE (HAVING RECENTLY BEING APPOINTED BY THE LINCOLN ANGLICAN DIOCESE) -**

Resolved - That Dr Daphne Whiteoak be appointed as a Statutory Co-opted Member – Church of England Representative on the Children and Education Scrutiny Panel.

2890 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARD - PLANNING COMMITTEE -**

Resolved - That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 7 September, 5 October and 2 November 2022 be received with the exception of minute 2284a -

2891 **APPLICATION PA/2021/1359**

With regard to the excepted portion it was -

Moved by Councillor N Sherwood and seconded by Councillor C Ross -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2892 **LICENSING COMMITTEE -**

Resolved - That the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Committee held on 22 September, 13 October, 3 November and 10 November 2022 be received.

2893 **STANDARDS COMMITTEE -**

Resolved - That the minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 27 September, 25 October and 9 November 2022 be received.

2894 **GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL -**

Resolved - That the minutes of the meetings of the Governance Scrutiny Panel held on 17 November (x2) 2022 be received with the exception of minute 122 –

2895 **MEDIA RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY MANAGEMENT POLICY**

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With regard to the excepted portion it was -

Moved by Councillor D Robinson and seconded by Councillor T Gosling -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2896 PLACES SCRUTINY PANEL -

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Places Scrutiny Panel held on 4 October 2022 be received.

2897 CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL -

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Education Scrutiny Panel held on 27 September 2022 be received with the exception of minute 106 –

2898 EARLY YEARS PROVISION IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

With regard to the excepted portion it was –

Moved by Councillor T Foster and seconded by Councillor L Yeadon-

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2899 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD -

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 26 September 2022 be received.

2900 TO CONSIDER ANY QUESTIONS ON THE DISCHARGE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

The following question was asked by Councillor S Armitage:

“How many Humberside Fire Authority meetings have each of our four North Lincolnshire Council representatives attended since May 2019 matched against the maximum number possible? Furthermore, how many of the scheduled training sessions have each of the four members attended to compliment them in carrying out their role as Humberside Fire Authority representatives?”

Councillor R Waltham MBE (Member of the Humberside Fire Authority) replied stating that as soon as he had all the information requested, he would forward this on to Councillor Armitage. He emphasised that members of the Fire Authority had a wide range of roles and responsibilities which impacted on the meetings they were requested to attend alongside any associated suggested development. Some members also had different responsibilities

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within their own member council's and this together with the impact of Covid19 on local responsibilities determined which meetings they were able to attend during unprecedented times.

The Mayor permitted a short supplementary question and answer from the above members for overall clarification.