

# AGENDA



**MEETING VENUE:**

**Council Chamber Council Offices,  
Priory Road, Spalding**

Contact: Democratic Services  
Direct Dial: 01775 764454  
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Date: 18 July 2023

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding** on **Wednesday, 26 July 2023**, commencing at **6.30 pm** at which your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Barlow', is written over a light grey circular stamp.

Rob Barlow  
Chief Executive

(Quorum:13)

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 18)  
To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 (copy enclosed).
3. Declaration of Interests.  
(Where a Councillor has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest the Councillor must declare the interest to the meeting and leave the room without participating in any discussion or making a statement on the item, except where a Councillor is permitted to remain as a result of a grant of dispensation.)
4. Chairman's Announcements.
5. Announcements by Leader and Members of the Cabinet.
6. Questions asked on notice under Standing Order 6

7. Questions asked without notice under Standing Order 7
8. Committee Minutes  
To receive the minutes and exempt minutes of the following Committees and Panels:-
- [Planning Committee – 7 June 2023](#)  
[Governance and Audit Committee – 29 June 2023](#)  
[Performance Monitoring Panel – 4 July 2023](#)
9. Key Decision Plan (Pages 19 - 26)  
To receive the current Key Decision Plan (copy enclosed).
10. Final Report of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group (Pages 27 - 36)  
To present the Final Report of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group (report of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group enclosed).
11. Nominations for Committees and other Seats and Proposed Changes to the Constitution.  
To receive, from political groups, nominations for any changes to Committees and other seats and to consider any proposed changes to the Constitution.
12. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

NOTE: No other business is permitted unless by reason of special circumstances, which shall be specified in the minutes, the Chairman is of the opinion that the items(s) should be considered as a matter of urgency.

13. To consider resolving that, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.
14. Report from Cabinet meeting on 6 June 2023 (Pages 37 - 56)  
To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of:
- Strategic Land Acquisition - To secure Cabinet consent to progress a strategic land acquisition in the South Holland area (Exempt Cabinet minute 11) (Exempt Cabinet agenda item 11)
- (Report of the Cabinet enclosed).

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 17 May 2023 at 6.30 pm.

## PRESENT

P A Redgate (Chairman)

|                |              |               |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| B Alcock       | S Chauhan    | S-A Slade     |
| J R Astill     | L J Eldridge | E J Sneath    |
| J Avery        | M Geaney     | T Sneath      |
| P Barnes       | R A Gibson   | G J Taylor    |
| A C Beal       | A Harrison   | A C Tennant   |
| H J W Bingham  | M Hasan      | J Tyrrell     |
| M D Booth      | S Hutchinson | J Whitbourn   |
| B Boulding     | J L King     | D J Wilkinson |
| C J T H Brewis | J Le Sage    | A R Woolf     |
| T A Carter     | M Le Sage    | C N Worth     |
| A Casson       | J L Reynolds |               |
| N Chapman      | I Sheard     |               |

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors D Ashby and A Spencer

In Attendance: The Joint Chief Executive, the Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Assistant Director – General Fund Assets and the Democratic Services Team Leader.

### 1. **ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman welcomed newly elected and re-elected Councillors to the meeting.

The Chairman invited nominations for the election of Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. Councillor A Woolf was nominated and seconded.

#### **DECISION:**

That Councillor A Woolf be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

(Councillor Woolf thereupon took the Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.)

### 2. **ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of a Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. Councillor J Whitbourn was nominated and seconded.

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**DECISION:**

That Councillor J Whitbourn be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

(Councillor Whitbourn thereupon signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.)

3. **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 2 March 2023.

Newly elected members abstained from the vote as they had not been present at the meeting.

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

4. **ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Chairman invited nominations for the election of a Leader of the Council for the four year period ending May 2027. Councillor Worth was nominated and seconded.

Following his election, Councillor Worth thanked members for electing him as Leader, stating that becoming Leader was a huge honour. He had been a Councillor at South Holland District Council for many years, and highlighted the wealth of experience and long service of a number of longer-serving members, specifically Councillors B Alcock, M Booth and C Brewis.

He paid tribute to those that had not been re-elected at the recent District Election. He made particular reference to ex-Councillor R Gambba-Jones who had made a significant impact as Chairman of the Planning Committee, a role in which he was held in regard; and to the previous Leader, Lord Porter who had worked hard to put South Holland and Lincolnshire on the map – through his networks, he had brought in large amounts of funding and influence to the District, and as Chairman of the LGA, and his elevation to the House of Lords had brought a spotlight to South Holland.

The Leader looked forward to working with everybody across the Council. There had historically been a good relationship between the Conservative and Independent Groups, and he would continue to work closely with the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor R Gibson. The Independent Group had been particularly successful in the recent District Election and it was important that both groups worked together for the good of the residents of South Holland.

The Leader had spoken with the Leaders at East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council, and it was clear that all Leaders were committed to consolidating the work of the S&ELCP and taking it forward.

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The Leader wished to acknowledge the excellent staff at South Holland District Council and across the Partnership who formed part of a great team, who would help to make South Holland and the wider Partnership area a good place to work and live.

The Leader welcomed all newly elected members and appreciated how daunting the role of Councillor was. Members would receive plenty of training to help them in their roles, and he stated that his door was always open to all members.

The Leader concluded in laying out his broad priorities: Ensuring the delivery of the Levelling Up funds for the new Spalding leisure facilities and associated extra care housing; green energy, particularly around the delivery of a hydrogen plant; refinement of the existing Delivery Plan for the Partnership and the District; making the most of Right to Buy receipts and HRA funding to enable the continued construction of sheltered, affordable or rented housing; inward investment, and encouraging new businesses into the area; Devolution; and the Environment Bill.

**DECISION:**

That Councillor Worth be elected Leader of the Council for the four year period ending May 2027.

5. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

There were none.

6. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Chairman thanked members for electing him as Chairman for the next year and stated that it was a privilege and an honour to serve the people of the District.

The Chairman welcomed all members of the new administration and commented that it was important to work together for the benefit of all residents of the District.

Finally, he expressed his sincere thanks to the previous Chairman, Councillor P Redgate for his two year tenure as Chairman of the Council, and for all he had done for the District. He also commented on the value of shadowing him whilst in his previous role as Vice-Chairman of the Council.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.**

The Leader made an announcement regarding the membership of his Cabinet for the period 2023-2027. The following members had been appointed:

- Councillor N Worth – Leader of the Council, and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Partnerships
- Councillor G Taylor – Deputy Leader (Council), and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing, Leisure Centre Delivery and Spalding Town Improvement

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- Councillor T Carter – Deputy Leader (Cabinet), and Portfolio Holder for Communities and Operational Housing
- Councillor J Astill – Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Governance and Communications
- Councillor H Bingham – Portfolio Holder for Assets and Strategic Planning
- Councillor A Casson – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection
- Councillor P Redgate – Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation, UKSPF and Levelling Up
- Councillor E Sneath – Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Conservation and Heritage
- Councillor J Tyrrell – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

The Leader also announced that, after many years of lobbying, and particularly intense lobbying in the past year, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had confirmed that it recognised the issues around the Internal Drainage Boards and the pressures this was putting on a small number of local authorities in England (currently the IDB element accounted for between 50-60% of the Council Tax raised annually). SHDC had been successful in securing a one-off, one year funding award of £298,739 which was much appreciated. The Leader thanked the Deputy Chief Executive – Corporate Development (S151) and her team for all the work they had put into achieving this result.

Councillor Taylor thanked all staff involved in the organisation of the recent District and Parish Council Elections. He also thanked the various community groups and volunteers that had participated in the Flower Parade, and the celebration of the King's Coronation.

Councillor Taylor also announced that he was launching a plan to visit every ward in South Holland, in order to work together in harnessing ideas for the improvement of the district as a whole.

**8. QUESTIONS ASKED ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 6**

There were none.

**9. QUESTIONS ASKED WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 7**

Prior to raising any questions, the Leader of the Independent Group congratulated Councillor Worth in his appointment as Leader of the Council, and also welcomed all new members elected at the District Council election. He also passed his thanks on to the Deputy Chief Executive – Corporate Development (S151) for the work she had undertaken in lobbying for the funding from Central Government in relation to the Internal Drainage Board pressures on Council Tax.

**Question to:** Councillor Worth

**Question from:** Councillor Gibson

**Subject:** Cross party working following District Council Election results

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Councillor Gibson stated that voters had returned a larger number of Independent councillors at the recent District Council Elections, and he was therefore hopeful that all 37 Councillors could work together for the district. The Leader acknowledged that the Conservative Group had a majority of only one and that it was important for them to work with the Independent Group. Both Groups had much in common and a good relationship going forward was anticipated.

**Question to:** Councillor Worth

**Question from:** Councillor Gibson

**Subject:** Cost of the Cabinet

Councillor Gibson commented that due to his other responsibilities as Chairman of the LGA and within the House of Lords, Councillor Porter had appointed two Deputy Leaders. It was noted that Councillor Worth had retained two Deputy Leaders as part of his Cabinet – could a breakdown of responsibilities for these positions be provided in order to ensure that value for money was being achieved? The Leader responded that this information could be provided. He also highlighted that the Cabinet membership had been reduced by one, and that there were no longer any Executive Support posts. The new members of the Cabinet possessed an array of skills and were looking forward to the work ahead of them.

**Question to:** Councillor Redgate

**Question from:** Councillor Gibson

**Subject:** Security of Levelling Up funding

Councillor Gibson asked whether the Levelling Up funding received from Central Government that was to be used towards the Spalding leisure facilities and the associated extra care housing was secure? The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation, UKSPF and Levelling Up deferred to the Deputy Chief Executive – Corporate Development to provide specific information, and she confirmed that subject to a meeting to be held at the end of the week, it was expected that all necessary paperwork would be signed off.

**Question to:** Councillor Tyrrell

**Question from:** Councillor Wilkinson

**Subject:** Holbeach Waste Depot update

Councillor Wilkinson asked if an update could be provided on the Holbeach Waste Depot, had a new site been identified, and where were vehicles currently being stored? Councillor Tyrrell stated that he had been newly appointed as Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, but would provide a response to these questions in due course.

**Question to:** Councillor Worth

**Question from:** Councillor Brewis

**Subject:** Internal Drainage Board interim settlement

Councillor Brewis commented that although it was excellent news that the authority had been successful in securing an interim settlement for one year in respect of IDB levies, it was important to ensure that IDB precepts were treated as IDB precepts, and that this should be pursued. The Leader responded that this was an issue that

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should continue to be pursued. Although the one year award was not completely ideal, the authority was in a better position than it had been a year ago.

**Question to:** Councillor Taylor

**Question from:** Councillor King

**Subject:** Welfare of birds within the aviaries at Ayscoughfee Gardens

Councillor King advised that she had been advised by members of the public that there were a number of birds in the aviaries in Ayscoughfee Gardens that were dead or dying – had this been due to neglect, and were SHDC compliant with DEFRA rules and regulations in relation to bird flu? The Deputy Leader (Council) advised that he was aware that some birds had escaped, and that this was being investigated. Previous care of the birds had been good, and it was important that this should continue, and that the incident be investigated. It was important to also look into the future of this particular area, and councillors could feed into this.

**Question to:** Councillor Taylor

**Question from:** Councillor Wilkinson

**Subject:** Long Sutton Leisure Centre

Councillor Wilkinson commented that some of the equipment at the Long Sutton Leisure Centre had been broken for several months and had not yet been repaired – efforts were required to ensure that the equipment was brought back into service as soon as possible. The Deputy Leader (Council) responded that he had contacted the Assistant Director responsible to ensure that some pressure was put on the contractor to rectify the situation. It had taken longer than expected but he acknowledged that his was an important facility serving a large area of the district and that it needed to be addressed promptly.

10. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The minutes of the following Committees and Panels were noted:

- Governance and Audit Committee – 19 January 2023
- Joint Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel – 26 January 2023
- Committee of the Licensing Authority – 1 February 2023
- Licensing Committee – 1 February 2023
- Policy Development Panel – 28 February 2023
- Joint Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel – 6 March 2023
- Planning Committee – 8 March 2023
- Performance Monitoring Panel – 14 March 2023
- Licensing Committee – 15 March 2023
- Governance and Audit Committee – 16 March 2023

11. **REPORT FROM CABINET MEETING ON 21 MARCH 2023**

Consideration was given to the report of the Cabinet which sought approval for the Cabinet's recommendations.



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South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Asset Management Strategy 2023 – 2028

The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Strategic Planning presented the report.

**DECISION:**

That the draft South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Asset Management Strategy 2023 – 2028 be adopted.

12. **KEY DECISION PLAN**

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Plan.

**DECISION:**

That the Key Decision Plan be noted.

13. **POLITICAL GROUP REGULATIONS - COMMITTEE SEATS REVIEW AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES; AND 2023/24 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring Officer) which sought to confirm: a) in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Committee Seats Review and Appointments to Committees; and b) To agree the 2023/24 Schedule of Meetings.

The Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring Officer) introduced the report stating that the Council was due to appoint to committees until the Annual Council meeting after the District Council Election in 2027.

Proposals for membership of Committees and Panels (and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen where indicated) are detailed below:

**Planning Committee**

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Constitution: 15 members to be appointed in accordance with political group regulations (8 Conservative seats, 7 Independent seats). |                         |
| Cllr J Avery (Con) <b>(Chairman)</b>   | Cllr B Alcock (Ind)     |
| Cllr A Beal (Con) <b>(Vice-Chairman)</b>   | Cllr D Ashby (Ind)      |
| Cllr H Bingham (Con)   | Cllr P Barnes (Ind)     |
| Cllr P Redgate (Con)   | Cllr C Brewis (Ind)     |
| Cllr G Taylor (Con)  | Cllr S Hutchinson (Ind) |
| Cllr J Tyrrell (Con)   | Cllr T Sneath (Ind)     |
| Cllr J Whitbourn (Con)   | Cllr A Tennant (Ind)    |
| Cllr A Woolf (Con)   |                         |

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**Governance and Audit Committee**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Constitution: 7 non-cabinet members (excluding the Chairman of the Council), to be appointed in accordance with the political group regulations (4 Conservative seats, 3 Independent seats). |                       |
| Cllr A Beal ( <b>Chairman</b> )  | Cllr B Boulding (Ind) |
| Cllr S-A Slade ( <b>Vice-Chairman</b> )  | Cllr C Brewis (Ind)   |
| Cllr N Chapman (Con)   | Cllr M Le Sage (Ind)  |
| Cllr M Geaney (Con)  |                       |

**Performance Monitoring Panel**

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Constitution: 15 members to be appointed in accordance with political group regulations                         |                         |
| (No Cabinet members may be appointed. Appointments must be made in accordance with political group regulations. |                         |
| <i>Note: Executive Support Members are prohibited from being appointed to the Performance Monitoring Panel.</i> |                         |
| (8 Conservative seats, 7 Independent seats).  |                         |
| Cllr B Alcock (Ind) ( <b>Chairman</b> )   | Cllr J Whitbourn (Con)  |
| Cllr M Booth (Ind) ( <b>Vice-Chairman</b> )   | Cllr A Woolf (Con)      |
| Cllr N Chapman (Con)  | Cllr P Barnes (Ind)     |
| Cllr L Eldridge (Con)   | Cllr C Brewis (Ind)     |
| Cllr M Geaney (Con)   | Cllr S Chauhan (Ind)    |
| Cllr A Harrison (Con)   | Cllr S Hutchinson (Ind) |
| Cllr J Reynolds (Con)   | Cllr D Wilkinson (Ind)  |
| Cllr S-A Slade (Con)  |                         |

**Policy Development Panel**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Constitution: 16 members to be appointed in accordance with political group regulations (9 Conservative seats, 7 Independent seats). |                      |
| Cllr A Woolf (Con) ( <b>Chairman</b> )   | Cllr J Whitbourn     |
| Cllr L Eldridge (Con) ( <b>Vice-Chairman</b> )   | Cllr D Ashby (Ind)   |
| Cllr J Avery (Con)   | Cllr S Chauhan (Ind) |
| Cllr A Beal (Con)  | Cllr M Hasan (Ind)   |
| Cllr N Chapman (Con)   | Cllr J Le Sage (Ind) |
| Cllr M Geaney (Con)  | Cllr M Le Sage (Ind) |
| Cllr J Reynolds (Con)  | Cllr I Sheard (Ind)  |
| Cllr S-A Slade (Con)   | Cllr T Sneath (Ind)  |

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**Licensing Committee and Committee of the Licensing Authority**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Constitution: 15 members, appointed in accordance with political group regulations (8 Conservative seats, 7 Independent seats) |                      |
| Cllr A Harrison (Con) ( <b>Chairman</b> )  | Cllr D Ashby (Ind)   |
| Cllr J Tyrrell (Con) ( <b>Vice-Chairman</b> )  | Cllr M Booth (Ind)   |
| Cllr A Beal (Con)  | Cllr R Gibson (Ind)  |
| Cllr H Bingham (Con)   | Cllr M Hasan (Ind)   |
| Cllr A Casson (Con)  | Cllr J King (Ind)    |
| Cllr N Chapman (Con)   | Cllr I Sheard (Ind)  |
| Cllr M Geaney (Con)  | Cllr A Spencer (Ind) |
| Cllr J Whitbourn (Con)   |                      |

**Chief Officer Employment Panel**

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Constitution: 3 members, appointed in accordance with political group regulations, to include at least one Cabinet member (2 Conservative seats, 1 Independent seat)<br>3 named members may act as substitute |                                  |
| Cllr N Worth (Con)  | Cllr R Gibson (Ind)              |
| Cllr T Carter (Con)   |                                  |
| Substitute – (Con) not appointed  | Substitute – (Ind) not appointed |
| Substitute – (Con) not appointed  |                                  |

**Chief Officer Employment Appeals Panel**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Constitution: 3 members, appointed in accordance with political group regulations, to include at least one Cabinet member (2 Conservative seats, 1 Independent seat) |                   |
| Cllr J Astill (Con)  | Cllr J King (Ind) |
| Cllr P Redgate (Con)   |                   |

**Shared Memorandum of Agreement Committee**

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Constitution: 6 members (3 South Holland and 3 Breckland members), appointed in accordance with political group regulations, to include at least one Cabinet member from each authority (2 Conservative seats, 1 Independent seat) |                                  |
| Cllr P Redgate (Con)   | Cllr R Gibson (Ind)              |
| Cllr G Taylor (Con)  |                                  |
| Substitute – (Con) not appointed   | Substitute – (Ind) not appointed |
| Substitute – (Con) not appointed   |                                  |

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**Standards Panel**

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Constitution: 6 members, <u>not</u> appointed in accordance with political group regulations: |                        |
| Cllr J Astill (Con) <b>(Chairman)</b>   | Cllr B Alcock (Ind)    |
| Cllr E Sneath (Con) <b>(Vice-Chairman)</b>  | Cllr J King (Ind)      |
| Cllr S-A Slade (Con)  | Cllr D Wilkinson (Ind) |

**Appeals Panel**

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Constitution: 4 members who shall <b>not</b> be appointed in accordance with the political group regulations. |                        |
| Cllr P Redate (Con) <b>(Chairman)</b>   | Cllr M Booth (Ind)     |
| Cllr H Bingham (Con) <b>(Vice-Chairman)</b>   | Cllr D Wilkinson (Ind) |

**Settlements Agreements Sub Committee**

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Constitution: 4 members who shall <b>not</b> be appointed in accordance with the political group regulations. |                        |
| Cllr T Carter (Con)   | Cllr M Hasan (Ind)     |
| Cllr N Worth (Con)  | Cllr D Wilkinson (Ind) |

**Independent Panel**

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Constitution: 3 members to comprise of the Independent Person appointed by SHDC, BBC and ELDC, pursuant to s28(7)of the Localism Act 2011 |                           |
| Mike Sofianos (SHDC Independent Person)   | Boston Independent Person |
| ELDC Independent Person   |                           |

**Spalding Town Forum**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 11 Councillors elected to Spalding wards. |   |
| Cllr D Ashby (IND)                        | Cllr M Le Sage (IND)  |
| Cllr B Boulding (IND)                     | Cllr I Sheard (IND)   |
| Cllr S Chauhan (IND)                      | Cllr A Spencer (IND)  |
| Cllr R Gibson (IND)                       | Cllr G Taylor (CON)   |
| Cllr M Hasan(IND)                         | Cllr J Whitbourn (CON)                                      |
| Cllr J Le Sage (IND)                      | Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be appointed at first meeting |

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**Councillor Development Working Group**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 7 Councillors reflecting cross party membership |   |
| Cllr T Carter (Con)                             | Cllr G Taylor (Con)   |
| Cllr N Chapman (Con)                            | Cllr C Brewis (Ind)   |
| Cllr P Redgate (Con)                            | Cllr R Gibson (Ind)   |
| Cllr S-A Slade (Con)                            | Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be appointed at first meeting |

In relation to the Schedule of Meetings, members commented that it appeared that there were fewer meetings of the Performance Monitoring Panel over the year and questioned whether further meetings could be held if necessary? It was confirmed that additional meetings could be held where they were required.

**DECISION:**

- 1) That the following Committees be appointed in accordance with political group regulations:
  - Planning Committee;
  - Governance and Audit Committee;
  - Performance Monitoring Panel;
  - Policy Development Panel;
  - Licensing Committee;
  - Committee of the Licensing Authority;
  - Chief Officer Employment Panel;
  - Chief Officer Employment Appeals Panel;
  - Shared Memorandum of Agreement Committee;
- 2) That the following Committees be appointed without being politically balanced:
  - Standards Panel;
  - Appeals Panel;
  - Settlements Agreements Sub-Committee;
  - Independent Panel;
- 3) That the Council appoints for 2023 – 2027 the Committees and Panels listed in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.12 and 3.2 to 3.3 of the report (and as detailed above);
- 4) That the Council appoints the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for Committees listed in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.5 and 2.9 to 2.10 of the report (and as detailed above);
- 5) That the Councillor Development Working Group be re-appointed to, reflecting cross party membership;

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- 6) That the Council approve Council meeting dates and notes the proposed dates for Cabinet and Committee meetings for the Council Municipal Year 2023/24, as set out in Appendix A; and
- 7) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman to amend or cancel meeting dates as necessary, subject to compliance with any constitutional requirements where an agenda has already been published.

**14. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring Officer), which asked members to consider: 1) the benefits of making appointments to outside bodies that were due and to make such appointments as deemed appropriate for the period 2023 – 2027; 2) appointing Member Champions; and 3) appointing members as Directors/Shareholder Representatives to PSPS, Welland Homes and South Holland Homes.

The Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring Officer) introduced the report stating that the Council was due to appoint to outside bodies until the Annual Council meeting after the District Council Election in 2027.

In addition to the information detailed in Appendix B to the report, further proposed appointments were put forward as follows:

- Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire – Councillor M Geaney
- South Holland in Bloom Advisory Committee – Councillor N Chapman

Proposals for appointments to Outside Bodies, appointments of Member Champions, and appointments of members as Directors/Shareholder Representatives to PSPS, Welland Homes and South Holland Homes are detailed below, and include the additional nominations. It was agreed that any remaining vacancies could be considered outside of the meeting and confirmed at a future meeting of the Council.

**Outside Bodies**

| Name of Outside Body   | Nomination for 2023 -2027    |
|--|------------------------------|
| Advisory and Liaison Committee to the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire | Cllr E Sneath                |
| Air Training Corps – Civilian Welfare Committee (Spalding Squadron)  | Cllr A Woolf                 |
| Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board                                 | Cllr M Geaney                |
| Citizens Advice Bureau – Board of Trustees                           | Cllr J Astill<br>Cllr A Beal |
| East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership                       | Cllr T Carter                |

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|  |  |
|--|--|
| East Midlands Councils   | Cllr N Worth<br>Cllr G Taylor (Substitute)   |
| Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire                                   | Cllr M Geaney<br>Named replacement vacancy – no nomination received  |
| Lincolnshire County Council Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee | No nominations received – 1 vacancy  |
| Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel  | Cllr J Astill  |
| Lincolnshire Waste Partnership   | Cllr J Tyrrell   |
| Local Government Association – General Assembly                              | Cllr N Worth   |
| North Level District Internal Drainage Board                                 | Cllr A Beal<br>Cllr A Harrison<br>Cllr C Brewis  |
| PATROL UK  | No nominations received – 1 vacancy  |
| Rural Services Network – SPARSE Rural  | Cllr G Taylor  |
| South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee                   | Cllr J Avery<br>Cllr H Bingham<br>No Con subs provided<br>Cllr B Alcock<br>No Ind sub provided   |
| South Holland in Bloom Advisory Committee                                    | Cllr N Chapman<br>Cllr J Reynolds<br>Cllr J Whitbourn<br>Cllr R Gibson<br>1 vacancy remaining  |
| South Holland Internal Drainage Board  | Cllr A Beal<br>Cllr H Bingham<br>Cllr A Casson<br>Cllr N Chapman<br>Cllr P Redgate<br>Cllr J Tyrrell<br>Cllr D Wilkinson<br>Cllr T Sneath<br>3 vacancies remaining |
| South Holland Parish Voluntary Car Scheme                                    | No nominations received – 1 vacancy  |
| Spalding Town Husbands   | Cllr E Sneath<br>Cllr J Whitbourn  |
| Spalding Water Taxi Company Limited  | Cllr G Taylor  |
| The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Group       | Cllr D Wilkinson   |

**SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL -**

17 May 2023

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Welland & Deepings Internal Drainage Board | Cllr J Avery<br>Cllr H Bingham<br>Cllr A Casson<br>Cllr E Sneath<br>Cllr R Gibson<br>Christine Lawton<br>1 vacancy remaining |
|--|--|

**Councillor Champions**

| Champion Title           | Nomination for 2023/27 |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Armed Forces Champion    | Cllr J Whitbourn       |
| Children's Champion      | Cllr J Reynolds        |
| Dementia Champion        | Cllr J Astill          |
| District Carers Champion | Cllr A Casson          |
| Heritage Champion        | Cllr E Sneath          |
| Mental Health Champion   | Cllr J Astill          |

**Board members/Shareholder representatives – PSPS, Welland Homes and South Holland Homes**

| Company             | Role                       | Nominations               |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| PSPS                | Director                   | Proposed - Cllr J Astill  |
| PSPS                | Shareholder Representative | Proposed - Cllr T Carter  |
| South Holland Homes | Director                   | Proposed - Cllr H Bingham |
| South Holland Homes | Director                   | TBC                       |
| South Holland Homes | Shareholder Representative | Proposed - Cllr A Beal    |
| Welland Homes       | Director                   | Proposed - Cllr H Bingham |
| Welland Homes       | Director                   | Proposed - Cllr P Redgate |
| Welland Homes       | Shareholder Representative | Proposed - Cllr T Carter  |

**DECISION:**

- 1) That appointments be made to outside bodies for the period 2023 – 2027, as set out at Appendix B to the report and detailed more fully above;



**SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL -**  
17 May 2023

- 2) That Member Champions be appointed as set out at Appendix B to the report and detailed above; and
- 3) That Directors to the Boards of PSPS, Welland Homes and South Holland Homes, and Shareholder Representatives be appointed, as set out at Appendix B to the report and detailed above.

15. **NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES AND OTHER SEATS AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION.**

There were none.

16. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

There were none.

17. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

18. **APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Paid Service which requested that members consider the designation of an officer as Monitoring Officer.

**DECISION:**

That the recommendations detailed within the exempt report be approved.

(The meeting ended at 7.25 pm)

(End of minutes)

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KEY DECISION PLAN

Issued – 14 July 2023

*Representations in respect of all the matters shown should be sent in writing, at least one week before the date or period the decision is likely to be made, to:*

*Democratic Services, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2XE*

*Telephone: 01775 764451 Email: [demservices@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:demservices@sholland.gov.uk)*

**The Key Decision Plan shows all Key decisions that the Council is likely to make over the next twelve months**

*The Key Decision Plan is updated on a rolling basis and shows the decisions that will be considered and the date when the decision is expected to be made. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the DECISIONS detailed within this document, unless otherwise stated, come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of a 5 working day call-in period from the date of publication of any decision.*

**Key decisions are:** "A decision which, in relation to an executive function, has a significant effect on communities in two or more Wards of the Council and / or is likely to result in the Authority incurring expenditure, generating income or making savings in any single financial year above the threshold of £75,000 in respect of revenue expenditure and £180,000 in respect of capital expenditure."

**Significant decisions are:** 1. A decision made in connection with setting the Council Tax; 2. A decision to approve any matter relating to a Policy or Strategic Plan; 3. Any non-Executive decision which significantly affects the community in two or more wards or electoral divisions. Some of the decisions will be recommendations to full Council, particularly if they impact on the Budget and the Policy Framework (comprising of statutory plans and strategies)

| PORTFOLIO HOLDER / SUBJECT   | PURPOSE OF DECISION  | CONSULTEES AND METHOD OF CONSULTATION   | SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS                      | LIKELY DATE OF DECISION AND WHO WILL MAKE DECISION   | OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION   |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p><u>Portfolio Holder for Communities and Operational Housing</u><br/>(Councillor Tracey Carter)</p> <p>Servicing and Maintenance of Sewage Treatment Plants and drain clearance contract 2024 - 2027</p> | <p>Contract to undertake the maintenance and operation of the Councils sewerage treatment plants and the provision of drain clearance and domestic cesspool services 2024 - 2027</p> | <p>Portfolio Holder for Communities and Operational Housing</p> <p>Discussion with Portfolio holder</p> | <p>Report and any relevant appendices</p> | <p>Assistant Director – Housing, or any other officer with delegation</p> <p>Not before 29th Jul 2023</p>  | <p>David Higgs, Technical Contracts Officer<br/><a href="mailto:David.Higgs@sholland.gov.uk">David.Higgs@sholland.gov.uk</a></p>              |
| <p><u>Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services</u><br/>(Councillor Jack Tyrrell)</p> <p>The Procurement of Fuel Supplier</p>  | <p>To agree the procurement and contract of a fuel supplier</p>  | <p>Procurement and AD. PFH</p>  | <p>Report and any relevant appendices</p> | <p>Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods, or any other officer with delegation</p> <p>Before 31 Jul 2023</p> | <p>Charlotte Paine, Head of Environmental and Operational Services<br/><a href="mailto:cpaine@sholland.gov.uk">cpaine@sholland.gov.uk</a></p> |

| PORTFOLIO HOLDER / SUBJECT   | PURPOSE OF DECISION   | CONSULTEES AND METHOD OF CONSULTATION  | SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS                      | LIKELY DATE OF DECISION AND WHO WILL MAKE DECISION  | OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION   |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p><u>Portfolio Holder for Communities and Operational Housing</u><br/>(Councillor Tracey Carter)</p> <p>Provision of Retrofit Services</p>                  | <p>To award a contract for the provision of retrofit services in support of the delivery of the Councils Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund 2.1 bid for energy efficiency works to its housing stock</p> | <p>Portfolio Holder Communities and Operational Housing Portfolio Holder Finance, Commercialisation, UKSPF, Levelling Up</p> | <p>Report and any relevant appendices</p> | <p>Assistant Director – Housing, or any other officer with delegation</p> <p>Before 31 Jul 2023</p>       | <p>David Higgs, Technical Contracts Officer<br/><a href="mailto:David.Higgs@sholland.gov.uk">David.Higgs@sholland.gov.uk</a></p>  |
| <p><u>Portfolio Holder for Communities and Operational Housing</u><br/>(Councillor Tracey Carter)</p> <p>Purchase of homes in Crowland, by Welland Homes</p> | <p>To purchase homes in Crowland, from a developer.</p>   | <p>Ward members</p>  | <p>Report and any relevant appendices</p> | <p>Portfolio Holder for Communities and Operational Housing, or Leader</p> <p>Not before 2nd Aug 2023</p> | <p>Caroline Hannon, Head of Delivery<br/><a href="mailto:Caroline.Hannon@sholland.gov.uk">Caroline.Hannon@sholland.gov.uk</a></p> |

| PORTFOLIO HOLDER / SUBJECT   | PURPOSE OF DECISION   | CONSULTEES AND METHOD OF CONSULTATION   | SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS                      | LIKELY DATE OF DECISION AND WHO WILL MAKE DECISION  | OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p><u>Portfolio Holder for Communities and Operational Housing (Councillor Tracey Carter)</u></p> <p>uPVC window and door replacement contract 2023 - 2026</p> | <p>Contract for the manufacture and installation of replacement of existing time expired uPVC windows and refurbishment of uPVC doors</p> | <p>AD Housing<br/>PFH Communities and Operational Housing<br/>S151<br/>MO</p> | <p>Report and any relevant appendices</p> | <p>Assistant Director – Housing, or any other officer with delegation</p> <p>Before 31 Aug 2023</p> | <p>David Higgs, Technical Contracts Officer<br/><a href="mailto:David.Higgs@sholland.gov.uk">David.Higgs@sholland.gov.uk</a></p>                                 |
| <p><u>Leader (Councillor Charles Nicholas Worth)</u></p> <p>Land at Holbeach FEZ</p>   | <p>To consider a decision relating to the potential sale of land at Holbeach FEZ.</p>   |   | <p>Report and any relevant appendices</p> | <p>Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Partnerships</p> <p>Before 1 Sep 2023</p>          | <p>Matthew Hogan, Assistant Director - Strategic Growth and Development<br/><a href="mailto:Matthew.Hogan@sholland.gov.uk">Matthew.Hogan@sholland.gov.uk</a></p> |

2023-08-28

| PORTFOLIO HOLDER / SUBJECT   | PURPOSE OF DECISION   | CONSULTEES AND METHOD OF CONSULTATION  | SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS                      | LIKELY DATE OF DECISION AND WHO WILL MAKE DECISION  | OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION  |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p><u>Portfolio Holder for Communities and Operational Housing</u><br/>(Councillor Tracey Carter)</p> <p>Sheltered Housing Digital Alarm Upgrade</p> | <p>Upgrading of the sheltered housing hard wired pull cord system from an analogue to a digital system.</p> | <p>Tenants; Portfolio Holder and informal all member briefing</p> <p>Formal and informal</p> | <p>Report and any relevant appendices</p> | <p>Assistant Director – Housing, or any other officer with delegation</p> <p>Before 30 Nov 2023</p> | <p>Jason King, Assistant Director - Housing<br/><a href="mailto:JasonKing@sholland.gov.uk">JasonKing@sholland.gov.uk</a></p> |

| PORTFOLIO HOLDER / SUBJECT  | PURPOSE OF DECISION  | CONSULTEES AND METHOD OF CONSULTATION   | SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS                      | LIKELY DATE OF DECISION AND WHO WILL MAKE DECISION   | OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION   |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p><u>Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Partnerships (Councillor Charles Nicholas Worth)</u></p> <p>Approval of the award and spend of funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund</p> | <p>Decision to allocate grant funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural Prosperity Fund for South Holland District, in line with the Programme's three core themes highlighted in the Prospectus (Communities and Place, Supporting Local Businesses, People and Skills).</p> <p>This item could cover multiple Key Decisions in relation to the above, for the period until the end date of the entire Programme (end of March 2025)</p> | <p>Local Partnership Group Theme Group structure</p> <p>Consultation has occurred through the medium of the Local Partnership Group and Theme Group structure associated with UKSPF/REPF's governance</p> | <p>Report and any relevant appendices</p> | <p>Deputy Chief Executive – Growth, or any other officer with delegation</p> <p>Before 31 Mar 2025</p> | <p>Saul Farrell, Senior Programme Manager - UK Shared Prosperity Fund/Rural Prosperity Fund<br/> <a href="mailto:Saul.Farrell@sholland.gov.uk">Saul.Farrell@sholland.gov.uk</a></p> |



**\*Cabinet Membership**

Councillor C N Worth (Leader)  
Councillor G J Taylor (Deputy Leader of the Council)  
Councillor T Carter (Deputy Leader of the Cabinet)  
Councillor J Astill (Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor A Casson (Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor E Sneath (Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor J Tyrrell (Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor P Redgate (Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor H Bingham (Portfolio Holder)

**If you have any comments or queries regarding any of the entries in the Key Decision Plan please contact:**

Democratic Services, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2XE  
Telephone: 01775 764451 Email: [demservices@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:demservices@sholland.gov.uk)

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|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>REPORT TO:</b>        | South Holland District Council – 26 July 2023   |
| <b>DATE:</b>             | Wednesday, 26 July 2023   |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>          | Final Report of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group                               |
| <b>PURPOSE:</b>          | To present the Final Report of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group                |
| <b>KEY DECISION:</b>     | No  |
| <b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b> | Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing, Leisure Centre Delivery and Spalding Town Improvement |
| <b>REPORT OF:</b>        | Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group   |
| <b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>    | Christine Morgan, Rachel Rowett   |
| <b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> | Spalding wards  |
| <b>EXEMPT REPORT?</b>    | No  |

## SUMMARY

The Performance Monitoring Panel reconvened the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group with a view to ascertaining the position with regard to the deeds of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field, what SHDC's responsibilities were, and how the requirements impacted on the use of the field by Spalding United; and to consider a way forward with regard to the required floodlighting upgrade for the pitch used by Spalding United. The work was undertaken and the Task Group's findings are included within this report. Full Council is asked to consider the findings and recommendations of the Task Group.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the recommendations of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group be considered.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

That if approved by Full Council, the report and its recommendations be taken on board to maximise opportunities at the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field; and

That if agreed by the Council, progress be updated to the Performance Monitoring Panel.

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The Council may:

- Approve the Task Group's Final Report and recommendations; or
- Not approve the Task Group's Final Report and/or suggest that some or all of the recommendations be amended; or
- Do nothing.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

**1.1** The Performance Monitoring Panel reconvened the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group on 29 November 2022. It commenced its work on 1 February 2023.

**1.2** The scope of the Task Group was:

- To ascertain the position with regard to the deeds of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field, what SHDC's responsibilities are, and how the requirements impact on the use of the field by Spalding United;
- To consider a way forward with regard to the required floodlighting upgrade for the pitch used by Spalding United.

**1.3** The membership of the Task Group consisted of Councillors C J T H Brewis, P A Redgate, S C Walsh (Chairman) and D J Wilkinson.

**1.4** At a meeting of the Performance Monitoring Panel on 4 July 2023, consideration was given to the Task Group's final report and recommendations. The final report is attached as Appendix A. The recommendations in Section 7 of the report were approved by the Panel for submission to the Council.

## **2. IMPLICATIONS**

### **2.1 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP**

2.1.1 None

### **2.2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

2.2.1 The provision of a sports facility contributes to the Council's Corporate Priorities of:

- Your Place – Lead, enable and embed the provision of a range of improved local community, cultural, arts and newly contracted leisure facilities that support the enhanced wellbeing of South Holland's communities.
- Your Health & Wellbeing – Target our leisure facilities to provide a programme of activities to tackle obesity and inactivity in South Holland

### **2.3 STAFFING**

2.3.1 None

## **2.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

2.4.1 Any use of Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field must comply with the terms of the 1951 Deeds.

## **2.5 DATA PROTECTION**

2.5.1 None

## **2.6 FINANCIAL**

2.6.1 None

## **2.7 RISK MANAGEMENT**

2.7.1 None

## **2.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES**

2.8.1 The following were consulted as part of the Task Group's research:

- Cllr Gary Taylor as Portfolio Holder for Communities & Facilities
- Phil Perry, Assistant Director Leisure & Culture
- Andy Fisher, Assistant Director, General Fund Assets
- Steph Powell, Head of Football Development, Lincolnshire FA

## **2.9 REPUTATION**

2.9.1 None

## **2.10 CONTRACTS**

2.10.1 Any tenant would be subject to a fully ratified contract.

## **2.11 CRIME AND DISORDER**

2.11.1 None

## **2.12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING**

2.12.1 None

## **2.13 HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

2.13.1 Any investment or improvement of sports facilities that creates more opportunities for participation will contribute to improved outcomes for Health & Wellbeing.

## **2.14 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

2.14.1 None

### **APPENDICES**

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A

Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group Final Report

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There are none.

**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT**

A report on this item was previously considered by the Performance Monitoring Panel at its meeting on 4 July 2023.

**REPORT APPROVAL**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Report author:            | Christine Morgan, Rachel Rowett<br>cmorgan@sholland.gov.uk,<br>rrowett@sholland.gov.uk |
| Signed off by:            | Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development)<br>Assistant Director, Governance       |
| Approved for publication: | The Sir Halley Stewart Task Group  |



South Holland District Council

## Review of

Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field

An Overview and Scrutiny Review undertaken by  
Sir Halley Stewart Task Group  
on behalf of  
Performance Monitoring Panel

(4<sup>th</sup> July 2023)

## **Contents**

1. Introduction
2. Scope of the Review
3. Membership of Task Group
4. Background to Review
5. Method of Review
6. Summary of Findings
7. Conclusions and Recommendations
8. Financial implications of recommendations
9. Main Sources of Information and individuals contacted during the Review
10. Abbreviations

## **Appendices**

- 1.



## **1. Introduction**

The original Sir Halley Stewart Task Group was formed in December 2013 in response to a concern raised by the Charity Commission about the perceived level of public benefit derived from the Playing field which is a registered charity. The recommendations of that Task Group have been reported on regularly since then, with the latest update given at the Performance Monitoring Panel meeting on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November. At this meeting it was agreed that the Sir Halley Stewart Task Group be re-established to investigate opportunities and report back to the Committee.

## **2. Scope of the Review**

The floodlights at Spalding United currently did not meet the FAs minimum lux requirements – failure to upgrade by the end of the season would result in demotion. Spalding United could not access assistance from the FA to pay for the upgrade did not wholly lease the ground itself. The FA stipulated upgrades should not be funded by SHDC and a way forward therefore had to be found.

- To ascertain the position with regard to the deeds of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field, what SHDC's responsibilities are, and how the requirements impact on the use of the field by Spalding United;
- To consider a way forward with regard to the required floodlighting upgrade for the pitch used by Spalding United.

## **3. Membership of Task Group**

Councillor C J T H Brewis  
Councillor P A Redgate  
Councillor S C Walsh (Chairman)  
Councillor D J Wilkinson

## **4. Background to Review**

During discussion of an update report on the Sir Halley Stewart Task Group at Performance Monitoring Panel on 29 November 2022, the following debate ensued around the financial responsibility of the playing field maintenance, as outlined at point 2.2 of the report:

- a distinction was drawn between the cost of general ground maintenance relating to health and safety compliance which was covered by the Council; and that of specific Football Association (F.A.) league upgrade requirements which was paid for by the respective football club; in the latter case, the Council offered support regarding the sourcing of contractors; and the Assets team ensured that satisfactory standards were upheld;
- an immediate challenge existed in that whilst the floodlights complied with the FA's minimum lux reading requirements for Pinchbeck United, they did not comply with the minimum requirements for Spalding United, who played in a

different league. Spalding United would be demoted if the upgrade was not completed by the end of the current season. The anticipated cost was £25,000.00;

- Some members were unhappy if the cost of F.A. stipulated upgrades to Spalding's Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field, for the benefit of Spalding United, were met by South Holland District Council; maintenance of playing fields in other areas were funded by Parish Councils;
- The Communities Manager confirmed that conditional league upgrade costs were met by the relevant football club, however the Council worked with clubs to assist with the recovery of costs;

Members were aware that the F.A. assisted with the cost of imposed upgrades where a ground was wholly leased by a football club, but the Spalding and Pinchbeck teams were unable to draw on this resource as the field was a public facility. The lease option could be investigated however this would involve lengthy negotiations with the Charity Commission who would likely insist on the inclusion of a provision that the field remain available for the wider use of the community and not be restricted to one user. The complexities of the issue were acknowledged, nonetheless, some football clubs in similar positions had been successful in

- obtaining grant funding for conditional upgrades and members suggested that options be investigated for the benefit of football clubs and the growth of the town.
- The Chairman suggested that the Sir Halley Stewart Task Group be re-established to investigate opportunities and report back to the Committee in the near future. This was supported by majority vote.

## **5. Method of Review**

- Task Group Meetings were held on:  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2023  
16<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
16<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- A site visit of Sir Halley Stewart Playing Fields was undertaken prior to the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Informal meetings to seek advice and opinion from Officers, Members and external agencies.

## **6. Summary of Findings**

- External Legal advice was received which confirmed that it would be possible to grant a lease of the facility provided it is leased at the proper market value, certified by a valuer who gives a written report. The lease should be subject to a reservation that meets the requirements of the deeds.

## **7. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- Having taken the appropriate legal advice, it is recommended that the Council seek a suitable tenant for Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field and that a lease for

at least 7+ years be agreed with a fully ratified contract which states the tenant must comply with the terms of use as stated in the 1951 Deeds.

## **8. Financial Implications of Recommendations**

There is significant funding available for improving facilities that a tenant could be eligible for but Local Authorities cannot access. Leasing the site could enable investment in the site and improvement in the facilities.

## **9. Main Sources of Information and individuals contacted during the Review**

- The Chair and Lead Officer met with the following:
  - Phil Perry, Assistant Director Leisure & Culture
  - Andy Fisher, Assistant Director, General Fund Assets
  - Steph Powell, Head of Football Development, Lincolnshire FA
- Cllr Gary Taylor was consulted informally as Portfolio Holder for Communities & Facilities

## **10. Abbreviations**

FA Football Association

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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