

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 23 July 2025 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

J Whitbourn (Chairman)

B Alcock	N Chapman	I Sheard
D Ashby	L J Eldridge	S-A Slade
J R Astill	M Geaney	E J Sneath
J Avery	R A Gibson	T Sneath
P Barnes	A Harrison (Vice-Chairman)	A Spencer
A C Beal	M Hasan	G J Taylor
H J W Bingham	S Hutchinson	A C Tennant
M D Booth	J Le Sage	J Tyrrell
C J T H Brewis	M Le Sage	J Whitbourn
T A Carter	P A Redgate	D J Wilkinson
A Casson	J L Reynolds	C N Worth

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors S Chauhan, J L King and G P Scalese.

In Attendance: Director of Communities, Legal Advisor, Assistant Director - Corporate, Assistant Director - Strategic Projects, Assistant Director - Strategic Growth and Development, Head of Special Projects (Leisure), Head of Environmental Services, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and HR Manager - Operations, Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services Team Leader.

18. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Full Council held on 14 May 2025.

DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 14 May 2025 be signed as a correct record.

19. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

There were none.

20. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairlady reminded members that details of events that she had attended as Chairlady could be viewed under the Chairlady's

Action By

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Log on the Council website.

The Chairlady advised of the following forthcoming events:

- Race Night on 1 August 2025 at Welland Yacht Club
- VJ Flag Raising at 10am on 15 August 2025 at the SHDC offices
- VJ Day 80 Parade on 17 August 2025 – mustering in Ayscoughfee Gardens at 1.30pm followed by a service at 2pm at St Mary and St Nicholas Church, Spalding
- Chairlady's Civic Service on 28 September at St Mary and St Nicholas Church, Spalding

21. PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATES

The Chairman invited Members to note the written Portfolio Holder updates, which had been circulated with the agenda. This was the first time such a report had been presented following a request from Council, and it provided a summary of work undertaken by each Portfolio Holder within their respective areas of responsibility.

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and explained that it was intended to improve transparency and provide members with a regular overview of Cabinet activity. He reminded members that the report was for noting only and that any questions arising from its contents should be raised under Agenda Item 8 – Questions Asked Without Notice.

Members welcomed the report and expressed appreciation for the additional insight into Cabinet portfolios. No formal debate took place.

DECISION:

That the Portfolio Holder updates be noted.

22. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.

The Leader made the following announcements:

The Leader announced the appointment of Councillor Glynis Scalese as a Support Councillor to the Cabinet, with a particular focus on assisting the Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Governance, Communications and Environmental Services in his portfolio responsibilities. He further advised that, due to the size and complexity of Councillor Astill's portfolio, elements of it would be

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redistributed between himself and the Deputy Leader from 1 September 2025. Full details of the revised responsibilities would be circulated to members following the meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection made the following announcement:

South Holland District Council had been made aware of a group of individuals rough sleeping on private land in Abbey Passage. The Community Safety Team and the Community Warden had liaised with the landowner to determine appropriate action. While no direct complaints had initially been received regarding antisocial behaviour, concerns had been raised about the increasing number of individuals at the location and associated issues such as urination and defecation.

A plan was agreed with the landowner to issue notice to vacate by 20 June. Community Protection Notice Warnings were issued to the individuals involved. The Portfolio Holder extended his thanks to the Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Operational Housing and her team for their work in accommodating the individuals and to the landowner for promptly securing the site.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Operational Housing made the following announcement:

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Operational Housing provided a detailed update on the Council's recent response to a homelessness issue in Abbey Passage, Spalding. She began by thanking the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and the Community Safety Team for their collaborative efforts in addressing the situation.

She reported that six individuals had been rough sleeping on privately owned land in Abbey Passage. The situation had been particularly challenging due to the complex needs of those involved and the fact that the land was not in Council ownership. Despite these challenges, the Homelessness Service, working closely with Community Safety and Waste Services, had successfully relocated all six individuals into appropriate accommodation on 16 June 2025.

The Portfolio Holder explained that the approach taken was person-centred and tailored to the specific needs of each individual, with the aim of minimising the risk of them returning to rough sleeping. Support was provided throughout the relocation process and continued through follow-up visits to ensure stability.

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In addition, the Homelessness Team Leader had engaged directly with a local business affected by the situation to provide reassurance and to agree an action plan. This included clear timescales and contingency arrangements should any issues arise.

Following the relocation, Waste Services carried out a deep clean of the site, and the landowner subsequently boarded up the area to prevent further unauthorised access. The Portfolio Holder emphasised that the Council remained committed to supporting vulnerable individuals while also protecting the amenity of public and private spaces. She concluded by expressing her thanks to all officers and partners involved and wished the individuals well in their journey towards more stable housing.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance made the following announcement:

Councillor Redgate reported that the Government had confirmed an increase in financial support for Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs), rising from £3 million to £5 million nationally. For South Holland District Council, this meant an increase from just under £300,000 in 2023/24 to approximately £578,000 in 2025/26.

He welcomed the additional funding but stressed that the issue remained unresolved and that he would continue to work with officers and other authorities to press for a long-term solution.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Governance, Communications and Environmental Services made the following announcement:

Cllr Astill informed Members that Keep Britain Tidy had commenced a campaign in Spalding to tackle cigarette litter. The initiative included the installation of "butt boxes" and other cigarette disposal infrastructure, as well as pavement markings to discourage littering. Briefing notes had been circulated to Members, and Keep Britain Tidy representatives would be present in the town centre during the campaign.

The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Strategic Planning made the following announcement:

Cllr Bingham reminded Members that Ayscoughfest would take place on Saturday, 26 July 2025, from midday until 8pm. The event would feature live music from local bands and free activities for children. He thanked officers and Councillor Mark Le Sage for their support in organising the event for a second consecutive year.

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23. QUESTIONS ASKED ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER
6

The following questions on notice were received from Councillor P Barnes. Responses were provided by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Governance, Communications and Environmental Services.

Councillor Barnes was entitled to ask one Supplementary Question to each Question on Notice, without notice (this should be a question and not a statement). Where a Supplementary Question was asked, the question and the response is detailed under the relevant question.

Subject: Waste Services Delivery Model (subject of agenda item 11, and report considered at Cabinet on 26 June 2025)

Question 1.

Looking at recommendation numbers 3-6 inclusive below could you please provide some more details as to how these proposed costs have been arrived at? Specifically, but not limited to, what is the cost of the vehicles and how many, cost and how many bins for all streams, staff costs etc

Recommendations to Council from Cabinet:

3. That Council approves drawing forward £3.150m from the Capital Programme allocation for 2028/29 and 2030/31 into 2026/27 to fund the capital costs of purchasing food waste collection vehicle and wheeled bins.
4. That Council approves rephasing of £0.735m in the Capital Programme allocations for Food Waste for 2025/26 into 2026/27 to fund the capital costs of purchasing food waste collection vehicles.
5. That Council approves rephasing of £0.225m in the Capital Programme allocations for refuse and recycling vehicles for 2025/26 into 2026/27 to fund the capital costs of purchasing new refuse collection vehicles.
6. That Council approves an addition of £3.771m to the Capital Programme in 2026/27 to fund the capital costs of purchasing food waste collection vehicles and wheeled bins.

Response from Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Governance, Communications and Environmental Services:

The proposals 3-6 relate to recommendations for the capital

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programme, related to the purchase of vehicles and bins. Whilst it is possible to capitalise salaries associated with the delivery of capital projects, there are no associated salary costs with the above proposals. The figures stated are budget adjustments to fund the following items.

The capital costs are:

- Wheeled bins 240L- £30.56 x 135,000. Total cost- £4,125,600.
- Estimated bins per waste stream- 45,000.
- Food waste vehicles- £113,245 x 7. Total cost- £792,715.
- Refuse freighters- £269,372 x 11. Total cost- £2,963,092.
- Total capital expenditure- £7,881,407.

For the purposes of the Cabinet and Cabinet to Council report the financial adjustments are rounded for presentation purposes to the nearest million. As specific costs are requested for items to be purchased the figures remained unrounded.

- **Supplementary Question:** Reference was made to 11 refuse freighters – were these 11 additional vehicles or were they replacements for current stock?
- **Response:** The Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Governance, Communications and Environmental Services advised that these were 11 additional vehicles, and this was the number of vehicles required to deliver the new service. He also stated that he could provide a written response with more detail if required.

Question 2

You have mentioned that the proposed new scheme will make savings of £0.5m per year. How is that to be achieved and is that a saving against the current overspend or a saving in addition to clearing the overspend for the department.

Response from Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Governance, Communications and Environmental Services:

Extract from the Cabinet report of the 26 June 2025- the annualised cost on average over the current MTFS is £0.514m pa less than the projected cost of the current service on average of £5.217m, meeting the requirement for an efficient total waste management service.

The table below sets out how the average saving quoted has been calculated.

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Revenue	Current Service (£)	Revised Service (Option B) (£)
Base Cost of Service	4,044,000	3,647,000
Food Waste	799,000	0
MRP	246,000	617,000
Cost of Borrowing	128,000	439,000
Total Revenue Cost	5,217,000	4,703,000
Net Saving		(514,000)

- **Supplementary Question:** The table included a current service figure of £799,000 for food waste – how could this be the case is this was not a service that was currently being provided.
- **Response:** The Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Governance, Communications and Environmental Services stated that a table had been considered the best way to circulate information. He advised that he could either meet with Councillor Barnes or provide a written response by way of explanation.

The following question on notice was received from Councillor J Le Sage. A response was provided by the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Strategic Planning.

Councillor J Le Sage was entitled to ask one Supplementary Question to his Question on Notice, without notice (this should be a question and not a statement). Where a Supplementary Question was asked, the question and the response is detailed under the relevant question.

Subject: Future sale of SHDC assets

With regard to the future selling off of SHDC assets. Is a full and proper assessment made of any assets being sold whereas there may be a potential larger benefit of using that asset as a

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community asset?

I have asked a number of times with regard to the possibility of the 'old market stall holding area' in Spring Gardens to be used as a community garden and a potential base for the 'Wombles'; still no further forward with any answer.

Assets should not always be viewed in purely monetary gain whereas the community benefit in the longer term may be greater.

Response from Portfolio Holder for Assets and Strategic Planning:

I thank Councillor Le Sage for notification of his question, and for reminding Council that when it comes to our assets, they are absolutely considered in terms of the wider value they do or could create for our communities. For example, I have worked hard with officers since being privileged to hold the Portfolio to enable - the community transfer of public open space and play equipment to two parish councils and a further one in progress; the sale of Moulton Park to a local charity to support its opening up to the community; and I am currently working with a local organisation on possible lease of land at Surfleet to help their local users access community space in order to tackle isolation and support their beneficiaries physical and mental health. I have further asked officers to work with internal and external colleagues to explore the potential for social and supported housing schemes on our land as well as working closely with a community sports group on an exciting project that could really enhance the use and benefit derived from a piece of our public open space and have some thoughts on a community garden within Spalding. So please be assured that our approach really does consider value and benefit in the vein you query.

However, it is incumbent on me to set out for Councillor Le Sage and indeed all members of this Council that this Council also holds assets that can and will create capital receipts through their freehold sale, or could enable the Council to resource any agreed borrowing by disposing of assets by way of long leases at market values that can help finance this Council's capital priorities. Disposal of such sites, a number of which are set out in a Decision Notice I have recently issued, are likely to be put to purely commercial uses by the private sector, but that is not something that we should shy away from as commercial developments will further benefit our communities by securing new business rates and council tax revenues to support ongoing service delivery to, for and within those very communities.

Finally, whilst I really do not recall any request for a base for the

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Wombles, I do recall previous correspondence on a possible community garden but did not consider the site proposed at the time at all suitable which was relayed back. I'll be very happy to meet outside of tonight's meeting and look to support the Wombles if at all possible.

- **Supplementary Question:** Would it be possible for Parishes and Councillors to receive a list of assets in their areas?
- **Response:** The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Strategic Planning advised that although this information was in the public domain, there were many assets ranging from large buildings to tiny pieces of land, and the list was long. He would respond to Councillor Le Sage in due course.

The original Questions on Notice and Portfolio Holder responses to each were provided to members in printed form at the meeting and are detailed above.

24. QUESTIONS ASKED WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

Question to: Councillor Worth

Question from: Councillor Paul Barnes

Subject: Market stall numbers and entertainment

Councillor Barnes thanked the Leader and Portfolio Holders for the information provided in their reports. He requested a breakdown of the number of market stalls at each venue for each week over a period of 2 months, noting that Spalding market had only three stalls on a recent Saturday. He also suggested the Council consider providing a stage for buskers to enhance the market atmosphere. Councillor Worth confirmed that a detailed breakdown could be provided and that the Market Manager held this information. He noted that stall numbers were often weather-dependent. He welcomed the suggestion of a performance space and confirmed it would be considered.

Question to: Councillor Worth

Question from: Councillor Gibson

Subject: Town Council consultation

Councillor Gibson asked whether South Holland District Council had plans to consult on the formation of a town council for Spalding, similar to the consultation being undertaken in Boston. Councillor Worth confirmed that the matter formed part of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) engagement exercise involving SHDC, Boston Borough Council, and East Lindsey

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District Council. He emphasised that Spalding having a voice was a top priority.

Question to: Councillor Worth
Question from: Councillor Eldridge
Subject: National Grid consultation

Councillor Eldridge urged all Members to respond to the Grimsby to Walpole National Grid consultation and asked whether the Leader would be responding on behalf of the Council. Councillor Worth confirmed that he would be responding on behalf of the Council and would also liaise with Lincolnshire County Council, which shared similar concerns.

Question to: Councillor Casson
Question from: Councillor Booth
Subject: West Marsh Road Recycling Centre

Councillor Booth asked whether the Council could request Lincolnshire County Council to extend the opening hours of the West Marsh Road Recycling Centre to help reduce fly-tipping. Councillor Casson expressed full support for the proposal and confirmed that the Council would press the County Council to consider longer opening hours. Councillor Astill added that the Leader would write formally to the Leader of Lincolnshire County Council on the matter.

Question to: Councillor Worth
Question from: Councillor Mark Le Sage
Subject: Town centre consultations and business support

Councillor Le Sage raised concerns about the perceived ineffectiveness of consultations and asked whether more could be done to support new businesses, such as through business rate relief. Councillor Worth confirmed that business rate support had been offered in the past and that the Town Board would consider a package of support for start-ups. He noted that a retail survey was underway to inform a town centre masterplan. He advised that retrospective support was unlikely but could be explored in the future.

Question to: Councillor Astill
Question from: Councillor Avery
Subject: Waste and recycling collections for parish councils and community groups

Councillor Avery noted that schools were no longer eligible for free waste and recycling collections and asked whether similar

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organisations such as parish councils and community groups would be affected. He expressed concern that this could result in increased parish precepts and impact charitable organisations. Councillor Astill confirmed that the Council had made a decision to cease collections for schools and childcare settings. He advised that it was his intention to continue offering a service to parish councils and community centres under the new waste regime, subject to confirmation of the exact details. He further stated that any policy changes would be brought before the Policy Development Panel for scrutiny and input.

Question to: Councillor Worth
Question from: Councillor Beal
Subject: Members' Register of Interests

Councillor Beal asked for clarification regarding the timeframe within which Members were required to update their Register of Interests following an election. Councillor Worth confirmed that Members were required to update their Register of Interests within 28 days of the election.

Question to: Councillor Worth
Question from: Councillor Brewis
Subject: Packaging surcharge and litter reduction

Councillor Brewis suggested that fast food outlets should be required to apply a surcharge to packaging, similar to historic bottle deposit schemes, to encourage recycling and reduce littering. Councillor Worth acknowledged the value of the proposal and noted that national legislation was expected to address this issue as part of the wider waste reforms, including the rollout of food waste collections. He agreed to look into the matter further.

Question to: Councillor Bingham
Question from: Councillor Sheard
Subject: Public toilet opening hours in Ayscoughfee Gardens

Councillor Sheard asked, following a question at the previous Council meeting, whether an update could be provided on the opening hours of the public toilets in Ayscoughfee Gardens. Councillor Bingham confirmed that staffing hours in the gardens had been extended during the summer, which would allow the toilets to remain open for longer. He advised that this change had started straight away.

Question to: Councillor Redgate
Question from: Councillor Woolf

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Subject: Parish Council loan scheme

Councillor Woolf referred to a recent Cabinet announcement regarding a £100,000 loan facility for parish councils and asked for further detail. Councillor Redgate confirmed that the funding had been set aside as part of the Quarter 4 finance update. The scheme would allow parish councils to apply for capital funding to support local projects. He explained that the initiative was designed to provide long-term support and stability, particularly following the success of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. He emphasised that the scheme would empower parish councils to deliver lasting improvements in their communities.

Question to: Councillor Bingham

Question from: Councillor Hasan

Subject: Children's play parks and equipment

Councillor Hasan raised concerns about the condition of children's play parks across the district, noting that many were outdated and in poor condition. He asked whether there were any concrete plans, funding, or timelines in place to renovate existing play areas and improve facilities. Councillor Bingham advised that most play parks were maintained by parish councils. In Spalding, the Town Forum could propose funding for improvements in the same way as parish councils. He confirmed that this would be considered if a proposal was brought forward. Councillor Taylor also agreed that investment in play areas was important and encouraged Members to report any specific issues. He highlighted the Council's "Love Parks Week" initiative and confirmed that officers would continue to monitor the condition of parks and seek funding opportunities where possible.

Question to: Councillor Carter

Question from: Councillor Hasan

Subject: Grounds maintenance and housing inspections

Councillor Hasan reported concerns about overgrown grass and poor garden maintenance in Council-owned housing areas, particularly in the Wygate Road area. He asked whether the Council could increase the frequency of inspections to at least every six months. Councillor Carter explained that inspections were carried out when a tenancy began, with closer monitoring during the initial period. After that, inspections became more periodic due to resource constraints. She confirmed that if issues were reported, officers would investigate and take appropriate action. She advised that most tenants maintained their properties well and that targeted inspections were more cost-effective. Councillor Carter invited Members to report specific cases for

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follow-up.

Question to: Councillor Worth
Question from: Councillor James Le Sage
Subject: BID voting process

Councillor Le Sage referred to recent press coverage in which a magistrate had described the Business Improvement District (BID) voting process in Spalding as “murky at best.” He asked whether the Council should have taken a more neutral stance and allowed businesses to determine the outcome independently. Councillor Worth responded that the Council was entitled to vote as a stakeholder in the town centre. He explained that the Council owned a significant number of properties in the BID area and paid a substantial levy. As such, it was appropriate for the Council to have a say in the process.

Question to: Councillor Astill
Question from: Councillor Thomas Sneath
Subject: Food waste collection readiness

Councillor Sneath asked why the authority was not yet ready to implement food waste collections as required under the Environment Act 2021. He queried whether the Council would incur any penalties and when it would become compliant. Councillor Astill explained that the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership had developed a phased rollout plan for food waste collections across the county. South Holland, along with East Lindsey and Boston, was scheduled towards the end of the rollout. Subject to approval of the capital budget later in the meeting, the Council would imminently place orders for the necessary vehicles. He confirmed that the Council would write to the Government to advise them of its implementation plans.

Question to: Councillor Astill
Question from: Councillor Eldridge
Subject: Grass cutting in ward areas

Councillor Eldridge reported issues with grass cutting in her ward and asked for an update on the Council’s approach to grounds maintenance. Councillor Astill advised that officers would prepare a briefing note outlining the current position and future plans for grass cutting and parks maintenance across the district.

Question to: Councillor Astill
Question from: Councillor Beal
Subject: Cyber security readiness

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Councillor Beal referred to recent cyber incidents affecting major organisations and asked for assurance regarding the Council's cyber security measures. Councillor Astill confirmed that the three Portfolio Holders across the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership had successfully secured additional resources for the IT team, specifically to strengthen cyber security. Recruitment was underway. He also advised that regular testing was carried out and that a recent audit had been completed, with the results expected to be reported to the Governance and Audit Committee.

The Chairman thanked Members for their questions and advised that, due to time constraints, any Members who had not been able to ask their questions during the meeting should email them directly to the relevant Portfolio Holder.

25. COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the following Committees and Panels were noted:

- Policy Development Panel – 22 April 2025
- Planning Committee – 7 May 2025
- Performance Monitoring Panel – 20 May 2025
- Committee of the Licensing Authority – 22 May 2025

26. KEY DECISION PLAN

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Plan.

DECISION:

That the Key Decision Plan be noted.

27. REPORT FROM CABINET MEETING ON 26 JUNE 2025

Consideration was given to the report of the Cabinet of 26 June 2025 which sought approval for the Cabinet's recommendations.

Waste Services Delivery Model

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report which had been presented and discussed fully at Cabinet. The report set out a series of financial recommendations referred by Cabinet to Full Council for approval, concerning the rephrasing and allocation of capital funding within the Council's Capital Programme. The Portfolio Holder – Finance was satisfied that the

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recommendations for budget adjustments for the financial year 2026/27 were appropriate and affordable. The recommendations were necessary to ensure the Council's operational readiness and compliance with statutory obligations. The rationale and alternative options considered were detailed in the accompanying Cabinet report and summarised in the relevant Cabinet minute.

DECISION:

- 1) That Council approves drawing forward £3.150m from the Capital Programme allocation for 2028/29 and 2030/31 into 2026/27 to fund the capital costs of purchasing food waste collection vehicles and wheeled bins.
- 2) That Council approves rephasing of £0.735m in the Capital Programme allocations for Food Waste for 2025/26 into 2026/27 to fund the capital costs of purchasing food waste collection vehicles.
- 3) That Council approves rephasing of £0.225m in the Capital Programme allocations for refuse and recycling vehicles for 2025/26 into 2026/27 to fund the capital costs of purchasing new refuse collection vehicles.
- 4) That Council approves an addition of £3.771m to the Capital Programme in 2026/27 to fund the capital costs of purchasing food waste collection vehicles and wheeled bins.

28. REPORT FROM CABINET MEETING ON 8 JULY 2025

Consideration was given to the report of the Cabinet of 8 July 2025 which sought approval for the Cabinet's recommendations.

2024/2025 Draft Outturn Finance Update

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report which had been presented and discussed fully at Cabinet, and which covered in detail the following items:

- General Fund Revenue Forecast
- General Fund Capital
- Reserves
- Treasury

The purpose of the report coming to Council was to note the outturn position, agreeing to move the surplus to a specified reserve, approve reserve transactions taken during outturn and to approval the capital phasing from 2024/25 to 2025/26.

DECISION:

That the following be agreed:

- 1) To transfer part of the surplus (£217,000) to the General Fund Reserve.
- 2) The transfer of part of the surplus (£100,000) to be transferred into a Parish Councils Loan Reserve pending the drafting of the loan scheme by officers for Cabinet in due course.
- 3) The transfer of the HRA surplus (£13,000) to the HRA General Reserve.
- 4) The approval of the reserves transactions and balances as set out in Appendix A (to the Cabinet report) - Table 3 for 24/25.
- 5) The approval of the 2024/25 capital outturn position presented in Table 4a (of Appendix A to the Cabinet report).
- 6) The capital rephasing from 2024/25 to 2025/26 presented in Table 4c (of Appendix A to the Cabinet report).
- 7) The amendment to the Capital Programme at Appendix A (to the Cabinet report) – Table 5a to Table 5d considering the changes set out in the report.

29. ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT 2024/25

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Director of Finance (S151 Officer) which provided Members with the Annual Treasury Report 2024/25 in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Code of Practice on Treasury Management to ensure best practice was maintained.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report.

Section 1 (page 108 of the agenda pack) - This Council was required to produce an annual treasury report of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2024/25. All required treasury reports had been submitted to Governance and Audit throughout the financial year for review and scrutiny, including this report, as part of their delegated role.

Member training on Treasury Management had been undertaken during the financial year.

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Section 2 – The tables on page 109 of the agenda pack showed the capital expenditure and financing for the year split between the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund. The combined budget was £22.2million and actual expenditure was £19.6million.

Section 3 – The tables on page 110 of the agenda pack showed that on 31 March 2025 the cumulative amount of unfinanced capital expenditure was £84.8million. Actual external borrowing was £67.5million so the Council's level of internal borrowing was £17.3million.

Section 4 - The tables on pages 112 and 113 showed details of cash and investments totalling £38.2million and borrowing of £67.5million.

Section 5 – Provided details of the Council's strategy for interest rates for 2024/25. The Bank of England Base Rate started the year at 5.25% and closed the year at 4.50%.

Section 6 - There was no new external borrowing undertaken during the financial year so this remained at £67.5million.

Section 7 – Investment Outturn for 2024/25 (Page 116 of the agenda pack)

- Balance Sheet resources as at 31 March 2025 reduced from £40.8million to £40.5million
- Investments achieved a combined rate of return of 5.23%.
- The budget for interest payable and receivable for 2024/25 was £1.303million net expenditure and the actual was £358,000. This was an overall favourable variance of £945,000.

Section 8 – Provided a summary of the global economy from our external treasury advisors for information.

Section 9 – The table on page 118 of the agenda pack provided details of the Council's non treasury investments.

DECISION:

That the Treasury Annual Report 2024/25 at Appendix 1 be received and approved, as required by the Local Government Act 2003 following scrutiny by the Governance and Audit Committee

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at their meeting on 10 July 2025.

30. IMPLEMENTATION OF HR POLICIES

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Corporate which sought Council approval for revised and new HR Policies.

The Portfolio Holder – Corporate, Governance, Communications and Environmental Services presented the report which included the following six policies that had been aligned across the Partnership Councils and had been reviewed by SHDC's Policy Development Panel:

New Policies

- Drugs and Alcohol Policy
- Menopause Policy
- Family Leave Policy

Existing Policies

- Disciplinary Policy
- Adverse Weather Policy
- Volunteer Policy

DECISION:

That the HR policies appended to the report be approved.

31. ALLOCATION OF SEATS REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring Officer), the purpose of which was to review committee seat allocations and make appointments in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

The Legal Advisor presented the report on behalf of the Monitoring Officer and advised that the proposed allocations and appointments had been agreed by Group Leaders following consultation. The report included proposed nominations for seats on each committee, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Supplementary Agenda Pack.

Members were reminded that Full Council was permitted to make alternative arrangements to the default proportionality rules, provided that no Member voted against the proposal. It was noted that some seats had been gifted between political groups, and

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that the overall proportionality remained compliant with legislative requirements.

Consideration was given to the report and the following issues were raised:

- Clarification was sought as to the quorum requirements for those committees that had reduced in size to 11.
 - Officers confirmed that the quorum was either three Members or one-third of the committee membership, whichever was the greater.
- Some members expressed disappointment at the reduction in committee membership numbers, particularly in relation to the Planning Committee. It was felt that all Members had been elected to represent their communities and should have the opportunity to contribute across the breadth of Council business. By reducing numbers there was a risk of disenfranchising Members and diminishing representation across the district. While it was acknowledged that the matter had been discussed and agreed at the last Council meeting, some Members stated their regret that the changes were proceeding.

DECISION:

That the revised allocation of seats and appointments to Committees as detailed in Appendix 1 be agreed.

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

There were none. Appointments to Committees had been dealt with during the previous item.

33. HEALTH SCRUTINY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE REPORT

Consideration was given to the report of Councillor Scalese in respect of Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire.

DECISION:

That the report be noted.

34. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

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35. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION:

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

36. REPORT FROM SPECIAL CABINET MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2025

Consideration was given to the report of the Cabinet of 21 July 2025 which sought approval for the Cabinet's recommendations.

Delivery of the South Holland Health and Wellbeing Hub Project

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report which had been presented and discussed fully at Cabinet.

DECISION:

That the recommendations detailed within the exempt report be approved.

37. TO IMPLEMENT A PAY STRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED JOB EVALUATION SCHEME FOR OFFICERS IN SHARED PARTNERSHIP ROLES WITHIN THE SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director – Corporate which sought approval for a Partnership shared officer pay structure, Job Evaluation scheme and associated policy.

The Portfolio Holder – Corporate, Governance, Communications and Environmental Services presented the report.

DECISION:

That the recommendations detailed within the exempt report be approved.

(The meeting ended at 8.13 pm)

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(End of minutes)