

# AGENDA



**MEETING VENUE:**

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

Contact: Democratic Services  
Direct Dial: 07557 821124  
e-mail: demservices@sholland.gov.uk  
Date: 5 May 2026

Dear Councillor,

The Annual meeting of the **DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding** on **Wednesday, 13 May 2026**, commencing at **6.30 pm** at which your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Barlow'.

Rob Barlow  
Chief Executive

(Quorum:13)

## **AGENDA**

1. Election of a Chairman  
The Chairman will invite nominations for the election of a Chairman for the ensuing year. A Chairman will then be elected and sign the declaration of acceptance of office.
2. Election of Vice-Chairman  
The Chairman will invite nominations for the election of a Vice-Chairman.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Minutes  
To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2026 (copy enclosed). (Pages  
5 - 24)
5. 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.)

6. Chairman's Announcements.
7. Portfolio Holder Updates (Pages 25 - 42)  
To note Portfolio Holder updates on work being undertaken within each of their Portfolios (report of the Leader enclosed).
8. Announcements by Leader and Members of the Cabinet.
9. Questions asked on notice under Standing Order 6
10. Questions asked without notice under Standing Order 7
11. Committee Minutes  
To receive the minutes of the following Committees and Panels:-
  - a) [Policy Development Panel – 3 February 2026](#)
  - b) [Special Policy Development Panel – 9 February 2026](#)
  - c) [Performance Monitoring Panel – 10 March 2026](#)
  - d) [Planning Committee – 11 March 2026](#)
  - e) [Governance and Audit Committee – 19 March 2026](#)
12. Key Decision Plan (Pages 43 - 52)  
To receive the current Key Decision Plan (copy enclosed).
13. Report from Cabinet meeting on 28 April 2026 (Pages 53 - 74)  
To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of:
  - Pride in Place Programme Delivery(report of the Cabinet enclosed).
14. South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Performance Report (Pages 75 - 108)  
To provide a Partnership performance update and MOA review (report of the Service Director – Corporate Services enclosed).
15. Spalding Community Governance Review - Stage 1 Consultation Outcomes and Draft Recommendations (Pages 109 - 136)  
To present the draft recommendations of the Community Governance Review (CGR) Working Group following the Stage 1 consultation and seek approval to publish these for Phase 2 consultation (report of the Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring Officer) enclosed).
16. Democratic Arrangements 2026/27 (Pages 137 -
  - a) To establish, allocate seats and appoint members to the Council's

- b) To receive nominations and appoint to any vacancies on outside bodies
- c) To approve the 2026/27 Schedule of Meetings
- d) To reappoint members of the Independent Remuneration Panel until May 2028

(Report of the Service Director – Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) enclosed).

Appendix 1 to follow.

- 17. 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.
- 18. Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Report (Pages 147 - 152)  
To provide South Holland District Council with an update following the latest meeting of the Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Committee (report of Councillor Glynis Scalese enclosed).
- 19. 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.

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Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Thursday, 26 February 2026 at 6.30 pm.

## PRESENT

J Whitbourn (Chairman)  
A Harrison (Vice-Chairman)

B Alcock	A Casson	G P Scalese
D Ashby	N Chapman	I Sheard
J R Astill	S Chauhan	E J Sneath
J Avery	L J Eldridge	T Sneath
P Barnes	M Geaney	A Spencer
A C Beal	M Hasan	G J Taylor
H J W Bingham	J Le Sage	J Tyrrell
M D Booth	M Le Sage	A R Woolf
C J T H Brewis	P A Redgate	C N Worth
T A Carter	J L Reynolds	

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors R A Gibson, J L King, A C Tennant and D J Wilkinson,

In Attendance: The Chief Executive, the Assistant Director - Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), the Interim Strategic Finance Manager, the Finance Team Leader, the Assistant Director - Communities and Housing Services, the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development (PSPS), the HR Transformation Manager (PSPS), the Group Communications and Engagement Manager - Corporate, the Democratic Services Manager and the Democratic Services Officer.

### 93. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the open and restricted minutes of Full Council held on 28 January 2026.

#### **AGREED:**

That both the open and restricted minutes of Full Council held on 28 January 2026 be signed as a correct record.

### 94. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

There were none.

### 95. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairlady reported her attendance at the following events across the

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district:

- Spalding Sea Cadets Open Evening at the United Reform Church;
- The Chairlady's Charity Race Night at Welland Yacht Club; and

Upcoming events included:

- A Flower Arranging Competition on 28 March 2026 as part of the Spring into Spalding event. Local participation was encouraged; and
- The Chairlady's Civic Reception at the Cley Hall Hotel on 2 May 2026.

**96. PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Leader which asked the Council to note Portfolio Holder updates on work being undertaken within each of their Portfolios.

Members were reminded that the report was for noting only and that any questions arising from its contents should be raised under Agenda item 8 – Questions Without Notice.

**DECISION:**

That the Portfolio Holder updates be noted.

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

The Leader did not make any announcements.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Environmental Services announced the following:

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership had recently announced that it would fund the provision of paper and card bins for South Holland. This represented a capital saving of £1.4 million, as the Council would no longer need to use or borrow that sum. In addition, this created a reduction of £70,000 per annum in revenue costs. The Portfolio Holder thanked Councillor Brookes at the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership for working with SHDC to secure this outcome.

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

There were none.

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

**Question to:** Councillor Casson

**Question from:** Councillor Barnes

**Subject:** Fly-tipping

Councillor Barnes referred to data from the reporting website 'FixMyStreet', noting that 366 reports of fly-tipping had been recorded in the previous year

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and that 14 reports had been made in the past week. He commented that, when projected across a full year, this would equate to approximately 728 incidents. He queried the provision that would be made to Kingdom (the council's enviro-crime contractor), or any other enforcement contractor, to increase capacity in response to the projected rise. He also requested a breakdown of the locations of fly-tipping reports across the district to determine whether the correct areas were being targeted. In response, Councillor Casson acknowledged the concerns regarding rising fly-tipping levels, noting both the national trend and recent severe cases featured in the media. He stated that many incidents were not reported and encouraged residents to do so, as Kingdom could only investigate cases that had been formally logged. He explained that, where no evidence could be found such as within loads of bricks or rubble, enforcement action was often not possible. He confirmed that Kingdom investigated all reports received and had recently secured successful prosecutions.

As a related supplementary question, Councillor Barnes reiterated that reports were being made, as evidenced by the recorded figures, and sought clarification on where those incidents were occurring and how many were being properly investigated. He acknowledged that some types of fly-tipping, such as sofas or rubble, might not yield evidence, but emphasised the need to understand how many cases were nonetheless subject to investigation. He further noted that, with the maximum fine for fly-tipping now increased to £1,000, it was in Kingdom's interest to investigate more incidents, which could have implications for future enforcement capacity. In response, Councillor Casson advised that fly-tipping reports were received by Waste Services, who then liaised with the Enforcement Team. Councillor Astill, as the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services was invited to respond, and added that existing statistics indicated a decrease in fly-tipping, confirming that figures by ward area would be circulated. He explained that although reports submitted via FixMyStreet were actioned by Waste Services, the system interacted differently with internal SHDC processes and was not updated in the same way as Lincolnshire County Council's highway-related reporting system. He advised that the most effective and preferred method for residents to report incidents was via the Council's own website and forms.

**Question to:** Councillor Worth

**Question from:** Councillor Chapman

**Subject:** Withdrawal of funding from the Food Enterprise Zone

Councillor Chapman referred to Lincolnshire County Council's withdrawal of funding from the Food Enterprise Zone at Holbeach and asked the Leader for his assessment of the likely impact on the site and wider business confidence. In response, Councillor Worth stated that the withdrawal of funding would have a significant impact. He reported that the Executive Member for Economic Development at the County Council had suggested that the Food Enterprise Zone was underused; however, he considered such underuse to be inevitable in the absence of investment in essential infrastructure, including lighting,

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energy, electricity supply and roads. Without this investment, businesses would not locate on the site, and he therefore regarded the County Council's decision as failing to support local businesses in South Holland. He added that businesses would come forward if the necessary infrastructure was provided. He referred to comments made in the Mayor's recent budget announcement, in which it had been stated that "infrastructure comes before expansion", and the importance of supporting the farming industry to access innovation and new technologies. Councillor Worth expressed strong agreement with both points and confirmed that he would be writing to the Mayor to seek support in this matter, given that Lincolnshire County Council had opted not to do so.

**Question to:** Councillor Casson  
**Question from:** Councillor Avery  
**Subject:** Fly-tipping at South Drove

Councillor Avery requested an update on the clearance of the significant fly-tipping activity at South Drove, a matter raised at the previous Council meeting. In response, Councillor Casson reported that delays in clearing the fly-tip had occurred due to the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board requirement to prioritise the manning of pumps following heavy rainfall. Since the last meeting, a bund had been installed to prevent further fly-tipping, which had already produced a noticeable improvement, although some existing waste remained. Following a site visit that morning, Councillor Casson advised that the bund had been temporarily opened to allow the Drainage Board access to clear the remaining waste. He assured members that the area would be cleared shortly and apologised for the delay. He noted that the road had been closed for a period, necessitating the removal of machinery for safety reasons, but confirmed that work had now resumed.

**Question to:** Councillor Astill  
**Question from:** Councillor Booth  
**Subject:** Wheelie Bin Exemption Process

Councillor Booth asked when residents would be able to contact the Council regarding exemptions from the new wheelie bin collection service, particularly for those unable to manage wheelie bins. He also sought clarification on the appropriate point of contact for such enquiries. In response, Councillor Astill advised that the information was not yet available. He explained that the Council was currently in a mobilisation phase and was working with the Communications Team and the Waste Services Team to determine the criteria for the provision of wheelie bins to households. He hoped to arrange a Member Briefing in April 2026 or early May 2026 to provide an update. He confirmed that the relevant information would be published as soon as possible and added that assessments for wheelie bin eligibility would be undertaken. The service was already aware of properties on restricted collection rounds, and these would form part of the assessment process. Councillor Astill further noted that a set of 'Frequently Asked Questions' had been published on the Council's website, and that an insert was expected to be issued with Council

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Tax bills directing residents to this information.

**Question to:** Councillor Astill

**Question from:** Councillor Woolf

**Subject:** Waste Policies and Fly-tipping Concern

Following recent scrutiny of Waste Policies by the Policy Development Panel and their subsequent approval by Cabinet, Councillor Woolf reiterated concerns regarding the potential for increased fly-tipping once the new service was implemented, although he stated that he hoped this would not materialise. He requested that additional measures be explored to ensure fly-tipping did not increase following implementation. In response, Councillor Astill reported that partner councils, particularly East Lindsey, had not experienced a rise in fly-tipping when wheelie bins were introduced several years earlier, and that evidence from other authorities indicated similar outcomes. He reiterated, as noted earlier in the meeting, that fly-tipping levels in 2024/25 had decreased compared to the previous year, and hoped that this downward trend would continue. Councillor Astill advised that the Council's Engagement Team would be active within communities to educate residents on recycling and correct use of the various containers. The ongoing communications campaign, delivered through the Council's website and local newspapers, would continue to emphasise the appropriate disposal of waste and the importance of only using licensed waste carriers. He further noted that the approved policies clearly set out the enforcement measures to be applied where necessary.

**Question to:** Councillor Astill

**Question from:** Councillor Brewis

**Subject:** New Waste Collection Communication Programme

Councillor Brewis expressed his strong objection to the decision to introduce wheelie bins, highlighting a large number of terraced properties in Sutton Bridge and many elderly residents who would struggle to move the bins. He asked how the Council intended to manage the complexity of the new collection system, noting that some residents already presented the wrong waste for collection under the current weekly service. He queried whether a full education and communication programme would be provided and, specifically, whether every household would receive a timetable showing the days on which each type of waste would be collected. In response, Councillor Astill stated that he had received two letters on this matter from residents in the member's ward, which he would reply to. He reiterated that the Council was planning a district-wide programme of engagement, to begin shortly, and confirmed that the intention was to provide a hard-copy timetable. The most effective method of distribution was currently being determined.

**Question to:** Councillor Redgate

**Question from:** Councillor Beal

**Subject:** Efficiency Savings update

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Councillor Beal referred to the recent publication of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2025 and requested that the Finance Portfolio Holder provide further detail regarding the 2025/26 budget. He noted that the budget required efficiency savings of £1.2m, rising to £1.8m by 2028/29, and asked for an update on progress to date and the controls in place to monitor delivery. In response, Councillor Redgate advised that the 2025/26 budget contained an efficiency requirement of approximately £1.2m. Over the past year, officers had identified efficiencies and, by the end of Quarter 2 2025/26, more than half of the requirement had been delivered. It was anticipated that, through ongoing financial monitoring, the Quarter 3 2025/26 position would confirm delivery of the full requirement. For the forthcoming financial year, he reported that sufficient savings and income opportunities had been identified through the budget process to enable a balanced budget without the need for in-year efficiencies. Looking further ahead, he stated that the negative impact of the local government finance settlement, combined with the timing of benefits expected from the Waste Service transformation programme and the revised Leisure Contract, would result in a projected budget gap of approximately £1.6m for 2027/28. This gap was projected to reduce over the following two years before returning to a balanced position. Councillor Redgate added that the absence of in-year efficiency requirements would enable focus on addressing the 2027/28 gap, which would be managed through existing mechanisms. These included the Transformation Board, which monitored, scrutinised and supported delivery of agreed efficiency proposals; regular financial monitoring for officers and Cabinet, through which any necessary corrective action would be identified; and a review by Internal Audit of savings identification and monitoring processes to support further improvements. Ultimately, External Audit would review the position and report through its annual Value for Money statement. In conclusion, Councillor Redgate stated that the measures outlined demonstrated a healthy financial position and a robust framework being in place.

**Question to:** Councillor Worth  
**Question from:** Councillor Sheard  
**Subject:** Remembrance Parade

Councillor Sheard sought reassurance that the Remembrance Parade for 2026 would be delivered properly, professionally and in accordance with the expected standards. She reported that several military organisations had expressed concerns that their views were not being sufficiently considered in the organisation of the event, and she sought assurance that the Council's role and responsibilities were distinct from those of the Royal British Legion (RBL). She also asked for confirmation that every effort would be made to ensure that the parade was carried out correctly. In response, the Councillor Worth confirmed that the Council's role in relation to the Remembrance Parade was limited to arranging the necessary road closures and ensuring that appropriate safety measures were in place. He advised that the RBL was responsible for the organisation and running of the parade, and therefore he could not comment on its behalf. However, he confirmed that the Council would continue

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to work closely with the RBL and other relevant organisations to support the effective delivery of the event and noted the concerns raised.

**Question to:** Councillor Astill  
**Question from:** Councillor Avery  
**Subject:** Waste Vehicles

Councillor Avery referred to a recent local newspaper headline and queried whether the new waste and recycling vehicles would be electric, seeking clarification on the associated logistics and practicalities. In response, Councillor Astill advised that the headline had overstated the issue, and that the full article had clarified that the Council was not moving to fully electric refuse or food-waste vehicles. He confirmed that the electric element related solely to the mechanism at the rear of the waste vehicles, which would be electrically powered rather than hydraulic. This represented the most efficient option currently available, as the technology required for fully electric refuse vehicles was not yet sufficiently advanced.

**Question to:** Councillor Astill  
**Question from:** Councillor T Sneath  
**Subject:** Food Waste Collection

Councillor Sneath noted the level of public interest in forthcoming waste collection changes and asked whether the authority remained on track to be operational for food waste collections by October 2026, as reported by Lincolnshire County Council. In response, Councillor Astill advised that October 2026 was an indicative timeframe rather than a confirmed start date, and that the earliest point at which the Council would implement the new collection arrangements would be from October 2026 onwards. He stated that further details would be announced in due course.

**Question to:** Councillor Bingham  
**Question from:** Councillor Eldridge  
**Subject:** Solar Developments on Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Councillor Eldridge referred to the recent decision of the Planning Inspector to enable the progression of an appeal for a solar development at Cordwell Farms, located entirely on Grade 1 agricultural land, where permission had now been granted. She also referred to a further appeal relating to the Fendike Solar proposal in her ward, for which a decision was awaited, as well as a rescheduled appeal for another application in the same ward. She noted that each appeal carried a financial cost to the Council, and therefore ultimately to residents, which should not be overlooked. Given that previous appeal decisions had to be taken into account when assessing planning applications, and in light of the increasing number of large-scale solar developments proposed across the district, Councillor Eldridge asked that the Council consider the broader, strategic question of whether it could continue to demonstrate the necessary tenacity to properly value and protect the district's

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Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land. In response, Councillor Bingham expressed concern regarding recent appeal outcomes in which Planning Inspectors had placed limited weight on the impact of large-scale solar development on BMV land and local landscape character. He observed that, although individual applications represented a relatively small proportion of BMV land, the cumulative impact of multiple schemes coming forward across Lincolnshire and South Holland was a significant issue. He commented that national policy direction was influencing these decisions and that further applications were likely. He stated that the Council was not opposed to renewable-energy development in principle and had supported schemes where they were appropriately located, however proposals needed to be situated in suitable locations, with lower-grade land and rooftop or commercial-site opportunities prioritised. He noted that large-scale proposals and forthcoming Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects could, over time, alter the landscape character of the district, and confirmed that the Council would continue to put forward its evidence and local considerations through both the Planning and appeal processes.

**Question to:** Councillor Carter

**Question from:** Councillor Hasan

**Subject:** Houses in Multiple Occupation and Infrastructure

Councillor Hasan raised concerns regarding the increasing number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) in his area, particularly on St Thomas' Road, Priory Road and Spring Gardens. He noted that some properties accommodated between 10 and 12 occupants but did not appear to have adequate parking provision, resulting in parking congestion, blocked access and unsafe conditions for residents and other road users. He queried the local infrastructure considerations, including parking capacity and road safety, when determining applications for such developments, and the steps that could be taken where issues had already arisen. In response, Councillor Carter confirmed that a revised HMO policy had recently been considered through the scrutiny process, including detailed discussion of fees and property standards. She noted that national minimum standards, such as minimum room sizes, were set by Government, but that the Council had examined whether higher local standards were appropriate. She advised that planning considerations, including matters relating to parking and amenity, were assessed as part of the application process. She acknowledged that some HMOs had created parking pressures in certain areas and advised that issues could be considered at the point of licence renewal, although refusals could only be made on statutory grounds. She reiterated that significant work had been undertaken in reviewing regulations and standards within the new policy and confirmed that officers remained mindful of the impact of HMOs on local neighbourhoods.

**100. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The minutes of the following Committees and Panels were noted:

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- Governance and Audit Committee – 29 January 2026
- Planning Committee – 7 January 2026
- Joint Performance Monitoring Panel/Policy Development Panel (Budget Scrutiny) – 13 January 2026
- Planning Committee – 11 February 2026

**101. KEY DECISION PLAN**

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Plan.

**DECISION:**

That the Key Decision Plan be noted.

**102. REPORT FROM CABINET MEETING ON 17 FEBRUARY 2026**

Consideration was given to the report of the Cabinet meeting hold on 17 February 2026 which sought approval for the Cabinet's recommendations.

The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection introduced the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Strategy, which set out how South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey District Councils would work collaboratively with partners, including Lincolnshire Police, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, and the voluntary and community sector, to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime across South and East Lincolnshire.

Members were advised that the strategy fulfilled the Council's statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and aligned with countywide activity undertaken through the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership.

It was noted that the strategy had been informed by police data, health data and public feedback, and was structured around the following four Priority Areas:

- Tackling antisocial behaviour in communities;
- Understanding the fear of crime;
- Adopting a place-based approach; and
- Encouraging increased reporting of crime and antisocial behaviour.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the strategy underpinned the corporate priority of 'creating safe and resilient communities' and would strengthen the Council's reputation for responding effectively to local concerns.

Members were informed that the Council's Scrutiny Committee had reviewed the strategy and expressed its support.

**DECISION:**

That Council:

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- 1) Adopted the Community Safety Strategy which set out the areas of focus identified by the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership; and
- 2) Authorised the Executive of the authority to make further amendments to the Strategy as required to meet emerging needs identified.

**103. ANNUAL BUDGET REPORT 2026/27, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL STRATEGY, TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY/STRATEGY, ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN, AND LIVING WAGE SUPPLEMENT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to approve the General Fund Budget and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budgets for 2026/27, including the use of reserves, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital Programme and Strategy, Treasury Management Policy/Strategy, the Annual Delivery Plan and Living Wage Supplement, including the approval of Council Tax levels.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance introduced the report by thanking the Finance Team for their diligent work in producing a balanced budget, and expressed appreciation to Cabinet Members, Assistant Directors and officers for their commitment throughout the process. The following main points were highlighted:

- The Annual Delivery Plan document reflected the anticipated impacts of Local Government Reorganisation and set out a broad programme of activity to support communities;
- Ongoing partnership work continued to influence national discussions on Local Government Reorganisation and Internal Drainage Board (IDB) levies;
- Investment in a new Local Plan was highlighted, as were savings achieved through the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership which had exceeded the initial £42m savings target, and the recent procurement of a leisure operator, which would deliver further efficiencies;
- It was noted that the budget had been prepared amid significant financial pressures, changes to the Local Government Finance system, increased reliance on Revenue Support Grant and locally raised Council Tax;
- Provision had been made for the introduction of a food waste collection service, and members were advised of continued Internal Drainage Board (IDB) pressures, with the 2026/27 levy exceeding £3.7m and accounting for 55% of the Council Tax retained by the authority;
- Despite challenges, the proposed budget delivered a balanced and sustainable position with no in-year efficiency target for 2026/27 whilst protecting services and maintaining capacity for investment. The Capital Programme totalled over £25m, and Treasury Management activity had supported the balanced position through increased returns;

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- The proposed Council Tax of £214.92 for a Band D property equated to an increase of 12 pence per week from the 2025/26 position. Members were asked to note that 74% of properties in South Holland fell within the A to C Council Tax brackets and therefore increases were lower, as follows: Band A, 8 pence; Band B, 10 pence; and Band C, 11 pence;
- The following minor amendments to Fees and Charges at Appendix 5 were to be noted:
  - In respect of 'Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licences' at page 225 of the agenda pack, the word 'renewal' needed to be added at the second row, with the 2026/27 fee amended to £229 instead of £240; and
  - In respect of 'Scrap Metal' at page 226 of the agenda pack, the third row needed to be removed; and
- Further proposals included a significant investment in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and HRA Capital Programme, focussing on Decent Homes and Major Adaptations and Green Homes Energy Efficiency. Use of the Spalding Special Expense Reserve for parks and play areas was also proposed, with a detailed plan to follow.

In conclusion, the Portfolio Holder stated that the budget responded to a highly challenging financial environment and demonstrated strong planning and commitment to local services whilst positioning the Council for a stable future.

The following issues were raised:

- The Leader congratulated the Finance team and Section 151 Officer for preparing a balanced budget under challenging circumstances. On this point he noted that the Government settlement had assumed a 3% Council Tax increase, which if not applied would have resulted in a reduction of resources of approximately £250,000. Also, that a significant number of grants appeared to have been rolled into the overall funding allocation which blurred the clarity on whether the Council was receiving a greater or lesser level of support than in previous years. The savings delivered through the partnership were therefore crucial and contributed to the Council's financial stability, exceeding the targeted £42 million to achieve £47 million over five years.
- Members referred to the significant (55%) proportion of district Council Tax being directed to Internal Drainage Boards and raised concern regarding the associated impact on local services. The efforts of the Internal Drainage Board Special Interest Group were noted, and disappointment expressed that concerns had not been recognised nationally.
- Members praised officers for the presentation of a balanced budget under challenging circumstances and stated that their involvement in the process over the preceding months had served to minimise queries at the current meeting.

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**DECISION:**

That, incorporating the presented minor amendments in respect of Fees and Charges, Council approved the following recommendations as considered by Cabinet,:

- 1) The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (at Appendix 1) be approved;
- 2) That it be noted that the Council Tax Base for South Holland District Council of 31,567 and 9,746 for Spalding Special Expenses (Band D equivalent) has been set for 2026/27 and on the 23 December 2025 by the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer under offer delegation in line with the Constitution;
- 3) That the Revenue Estimates for the General Fund, HRA and Spalding Special Expense for 2026/27 (Appendices 1, 1a, 1b and 1c) be approved;
- 4) The additions to and use of reserves (as detailed at Appendix 1) be approved;
- 5) The Capital Programmes and Capital Strategy (Appendices 2a, 2b and 3) be approved;
- 6) That the Treasury Management Statement, Treasury Management Strategy Statement, MRP Policy and Annual Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Practices (Appendix 4a, 4b and 4c) be approved;
- 7) The Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/27 (Appendix 5) be approved;
- 8) That it be noted that on 28 January 2026 Council approved the housing rent increase for 2026/27;
- 9) That the report of the Section 151 Officer, under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations and adequacy of proposed financial reserves be noted (Paragraph 11);
- 10) That the Council Tax for a Band D property in 2026/27 be set at £214.92 (£6.39 per annum increase on 2025/26 levels) for South Holland District Council and £23.40 (£0.27 per annum increase on 2025/26 levels) for Spalding Special Expenses.
- 11) That Annual Delivery Plan for 2026/27 (Appendix 6) be approved; and

That Council:

- 12) Approved the application of the Living Wage Supplement to be paid to all employees whose current hourly rate fell below the Real Living Wage

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Foundation rate of £13.45 with effect from 1 April 2026 as outlined in paragraph 10.2 of this report.

*In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 a recorded vote was taken on each Budget decision. The vote was as follows:*

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent/Apologies</b>
Councillor Alcock			Councillor Gibson
Councillor Ashby			Councillor Hutchinson
Councillor Astill			Councillor King
Councillor Avery			Councillor Slade
Councillor Barnes			Councillor Tennant
Councillor Beal			Councillor Wilkinson
Councillor Bingham			
Councillor Booth			
Councillor Brewis			
Councillor Carter			
Councillor Casson			
Councillor Chapman			
Councillor Chauhan			
Councillor Eldridge			
Councillor Geaney			
Councillor Harrison			
Councillor Hasan			
Councillor J Le Sage			
Councillor M Le Sage			
Councillor Redgate			
Councillor Reynolds			
Councillor Scalese			
Councillor Sheard			
Councillor E Sneath			
Councillor T Sneath			
Councillor Spencer			
Councillor Taylor			
Councillor Tyrrell			
Councillor Whitbourn			
Councillor Woolf			
Councillor Worth			

**104. COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2026/27**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to set the amounts of Council Tax applicable for 2026/27 for each valuation band and in each part of the district.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report and noted that:

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- Since Council Tax affected all households, residents experiencing financial difficulty were strongly encouraged to contact the Council for support and advice; and
- Following approval of the Council's budget at agenda item 12, the Council Tax Setting report incorporated the relevant resolutions necessary to bring together all elements for the setting of the Council Tax for 2026/27, as summarised at point 4.1 of the report and detailed in Appendices A to E. In this respect the Council was fulfilling its obligations as a billing authority in the manner specified by law and regulation.

**DECISION:**

That the formal Council Tax resolutions for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix A and summarised in paragraph 4.1 (and detailed below) and the accompanying appendices B to E be approved

**4.0 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS**

4.1 The required resolutions for the approval of the levels of Council Tax are set out at Appendix A. The figures relating to the District Council and the average of the parishes are summarised in the following table:

<b>Resolution Ref</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SHDC</b>	<b>Parish Precept</b>	<b>Total</b>
(3a)	Gross Expend	£50,631,400	£1,804,877	£52,436,277
(3b)	Gross Income	£43,847,020	-	£43,847,020
(2,3c and 3e)		£6,784,380	£1,804,877	£8,589,257
	Divided by Tax Base	31,567	31,567	31,567
(3d and 3f)	Band D Council Tax	£214.92	£57.18	£272.10

**Council is recommended to approve the following resolutions:**

1. It is to be noted that on 23 December 2025 the Council calculated: -
  - (a) The Council Tax Base for 2026/27 for the District as **31,567** (item T in the formula in section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended) and;
  - (b) Dwellings in those parts of the district to which a Parish precept relates as shown in **Appendix B**
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2026/27 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£6,784,380**.

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3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2026/27 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act): -

- (a) £52,436,277 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act;
- (b) £43,847,020 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;
- (c) £8,589,257 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (item R in the formula in Section 31a (4) of the Act);
- (d) £272.10 being the amount at 3(c) divided by the amount at 1(a) (item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts);
- (e) £1,804,877 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Including Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (see **Appendix B**);
- (f) £214.92 being the amount at 3(d) less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) by the amount at 1(a) calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its areas to which no parish precept relates;
- (g) The figures shown in *Appendix C*, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the district divided in each case by the amount at 1(b), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate (Band D equivalent);
- (h) The figures shown in *Appendix D*, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a

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particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2026/27 the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Lincolnshire have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Council Tax 2026/27	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Lincolnshire County Council	1,115.34	1,301.23	1,487.12	1,673.01	2,044.79	2,416.57	2,788.35	3,346.02
Police & Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire	222.06	259.07	296.08	333.09	407.11	481.13	555.15	666.18

5. That having calculated the aggregate in each case the amounts at 3(f) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in **Appendix E** as the amount of Council Tax for 2026/27 of the categories of dwellings shown and that the relevant basic amount of Council Tax calculated for 2026/2027 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

6. **Appendix F** provides definitions for the formal Council Tax resolution.

*In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 a recorded vote was taken on each Budget decision. The vote was as follows:*

For	Against	Abstain	Absent/Apologies
Councillor Alcock			Councillor Gibson
Councillor Ashby			Councillor Hutchinson
Councillor Astill			Councillor King
Councillor Avery			Councillor Slade
Councillor Barnes			Councillor Tennant
Councillor Beal			Councillor Wilkinson
Councillor Bingham			
Councillor Booth			
Councillor Brewis			
Councillor Carter			
Councillor Casson			
Councillor Chapman			
Councillor Chauhan			

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Councillor Eldridge			
Councillor Geaney			
Councillor Harrison			
Councillor Hasan			
Councillor J Le Sage			
Councillor M Le Sage			
Councillor Redgate			
Councillor Reynolds			
Councillor Scalese			
Councillor Sheard			
Councillor E Sneath			
Councillor T Sneath			
Councillor Spencer			
Councillor Taylor			
Councillor Tyrrell			
Councillor Whitbourn			
Councillor Woolf			
Councillor Worth			

**105. PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2026/27**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive which sought approval of the Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Environmental Services presented the report and outlined the statutory requirement under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 for the statement to be approved annually by Council. He highlighted the remuneration information that must be included, as outlined at point 1 of the report, and the need to publish the final Statement by 31 March 2026.

No issues were raised.

**DECISION:**

That the Pay Policy Statement, at Appendix 1, be approved.

**106. TERMS AND CONDITIONS ALIGNMENT ACROSS THE SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development (PSPS) which brought forward proposals for alignment of further Terms and Conditions and sought Council agreement to commence delivery.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Environmental Services presented the report which detailed the next phase of the Partnership's Terms and Conditions alignment work. He stated that several terms, conditions and employment

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policies had previously been aligned and a shared pay structure had been implemented for shared officers. The report proposed further alignment of seven terms and conditions and three employment policies as summarised at point 2 of the report, with relevant full policy documents set out at Appendices A, B and C. It was noted that the report had been considered by the Policy Development Panel and if approved by Council, would proceed to consultation.

- Members referred to the recommendations and queried whether any constraints applied to the delegated authority given to the Chief Executive to make future revisions.
  - The Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring Officer) clarified that: recommendation ‘a’ granted delegated authority to undertake consultation on the proposed changes; and recommendation ‘b’ allowed implementation after consultation, provided the changes did not exceed those approved by Council. Therefore, the delegation did not allow unrestricted or enhanced changes beyond those set out in the report.

**DECISION:**

That Council:

- a) Delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service: to lead the employment consultation(s) (excluding those related to the Chief Executive) to further revise Terms and Conditions of employment to seek greater alignment across the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership; and to implement an enhanced on-call provision for the Housing Landlord Services Team at South Holland District Council who undertake emergency repairs outside of working hours;
- b) Delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to implement revised Terms and Conditions (excluding those that impact the Chief Executive), after staff and union consultation taking into consideration any changes that arise through consultation from the workforce and unions, provided changes are less than or equal to those approved by Council. This includes approving any new policies and policy updates required for implementation; and
- c) Approved an amendment to the Pay Policy Statement 2026/27, if following a period of consultation, the proposed changes were implemented as set out in this report, specifically for South Holland District Council, the details related to: ‘Redundancy and Severance Payments’ would be amended.

**107. HEALTH SCRUTINY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report of Councillor G Scalese which provided South Holland District Council with an update following the latest meeting of the Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Committee.

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**DECISION:**

That the report be noted.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

(The meeting ended at 7.40 pm)

(End of minutes)

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**Report To:** South Holland District Council

**Date:** Wednesday, 13 May 2026

**Subject:** Portfolio Holder Updates

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Nick Worth, Leader

**Report Of:** John Medler, Service Director – Legal & Governance  
(Monitoring Officer)

**Report Author:** Rhonda Booth, Democratic Services Manager

**Ward(s) Affected:** All Wards

**Exempt Report:** No

## Summary

This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by each Portfolio Holder within their individual Portfolios.

The report is for noting only and will appear as an item at each ordinary Council meeting going forward.

## Recommendations

That the report be noted.

## Reasons for Recommendations

To inform and keep all Councillors up to date with work undertaken in each Portfolio area

## Other Options Considered

Not to provide a report – not considered.

## **1. Portfolio Holder Updates**

### **Update from the Leader – Councillor Nick Worth**

#### **Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Employment and Skills Board**

Key items discussed were the

- Implementation of the Adult Skills Fund (from August 2026, £18.3m, flexible allocation)
- Updated Careers Action Plan (stronger local coordination, employer-led careers support, currently a real mess of support which needs to be greatly simplified if it is to be effective.)
- Post-16 Capacity Capital Fund (£9.97m to 2029/30, subject to devolution bill going through Parliament).
- Confidential Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP): employer-led priorities for 2026–29 across key sectors, with actions to address skills gaps, employability, digital/AI skills, management skills, and access to training.

#### **Spalding Neighbourhood Board**

The main issue for the board has been the withdrawal of the Hot Spot Policing due to capacity issues within Lincolnshire Police. As successful as this was, it was felt important to keep up the momentum and positive effect on ASB and the perception of safety in Spalding Town centre. The board therefore agreed to employ two additional Council Wardens who have enforcement powers (bearing in mind this may take a few months to recruit to the posts), contract out with the local security / private sector for an immediate visible presence and for use during larger events and continue to work closely with the police and any newly appointed PCSOs.

The Board also approved the Government's Memorandum of Understanding for the 10 year Pride in Place Programme and specifically the funding for the next four years. This has since gone to Cabinet for formal approval.

#### **DCN Conference**

I attended the District Council Network Annual Conference. Not surprisingly the main topic of conversation was around LGR, with the Priority Areas recently announced. The new Chairman (Cllr Richard Wright, NKDC) announced a name change for the network so it is now known as the Local Council's Network to better align to the future of local government. Districts were mostly pleased with the smaller unitaries announced in Norfolk in particular, although some were not pleased that the 500,000 population had been ignored. Ministers have made it clear that this has not set a precedent for the next round of announcements.

#### **LGR**

We have had our 'Listening' meeting with MHCLG, (all councils get these), which was positive from our point of view. More recently they have visited SKDC and LCC. MHCLG are not surprisingly giving anything away only to say the decision is still expected mid July, most likely to align to the LGA Conference. We are now working with our colleagues across the Districts to prepare for the Structural Changes Order, (we are expecting questions from MHCLG about this in the next couple of weeks), which after the decision is

announced will have the details of the name(s) of the new Unitaries, details of wards and numbers of councillors and the representation on the Joint Committee that will oversee the process from Decision until the Election in 2027.

### **Update from the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance – Councillor Paul Redgate**

The Special Interest Group has been renamed the Drainage and Flood Resilience Group; the Group continues to grow with 42 Member Councils.

We continue to work close with the Local Councils Network and the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) to raise the profile of the IDB levy on levy paying Councils and the impact it has.

Specifically:

- We continue to engage with MPs and officials in both DEFRA and MHCLG.
- We are a member of a DEFRA/MHCLG working group that is overseeing for Government the production of a report into the funding arrangement for IDBs, which will inform future Government policy decisions. The report is due to produce its findings in the coming weeks.
- ADA are in the process of collecting all levy data from IDBs to submit to MHCLG to inform how the Government will allocate the £5m support package – this Council received £578k last year and we hope that figure will further increase when allocations are announced around June-time.

### **UKSPF – Update on Programme Closure & Completion**

- South Holland's UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Programme has closed for a final time, with 94% of the funding (£982,553 of £1,047,595) distributed.
- In December 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a six month 'technical extension' to the national UKSPF/REPF Programme. South Holland's Programme, which has largely delivered to the original timeline, will only use this for the underspend funds, the collection of additional impact data from projects and to give two projects more time to deliver.
- Those projects are supporting more businesses to engage with the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone in Holbeach and supporting the construction of a £340,000 new Football Foundation PlayZone in Sutton Bridge. Works on the latter are commencing on site. The facility will be delivered in time for young people to access it during the school holidays.
- With the remaining, underspent funds, we have opened one a final 'quickfire' round of the popular GRASSroots scheme – giving grants to Parish Councils, Village Halls and community projects. This closes on 12<sup>th</sup> May. On account of the small amount of funding left, the maximum grant in the final Round will be £10,000. This scheme has delivered some transformational projects in South Holland this year, including extensive works to the Bromley Memorial Hall in Pode Hole, a new play area in Moulton and the renovation of West Pinchbeck Village Hall.
- As the Programme is now closing, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what it has achieved in South Holland. Since the UKSPF Programme launched in March 2023, it has:
- Transformed £4.4m of Central Government funding into £7.4m in direct cash investment in South Holland since 2023, including £2.3m invested in local

businesses through Grants4Growth - created or renovated 59 community facilities across South Holland District, leading a major transformation of local village halls, green spaces and community hubs across our Parishes.

- Supported over 350 residents to gain new qualifications, licences and skills, funded by UKSPF.
- Even though UKSPF is concluding, the team delivering the Fund will continue to deliver other local growth projects across South Holland District, as they have been established as a permanent, Partnership-wide local growth and funding delivery Service within Economic Development. They will assist the Council by delivering other funding schemes and by building on the achievements of the UKSPF Programme, which was successfully delivered between 2023 and 2026.

### Debt restructuring

Members will be aware that we regularly assess the opportunity to restructure the Councils PWLB debt and due to the prevailing market conditions, such an opportunity arose in March and was acted upon.

The original borrowing figure of £67,456,000 has been redeemed at a cost of £49,084,370 meaning that a discount of £18,371,630 has been achieved. With this discount being charged (or released) to revenue in ten annual instalments of £1,837,163, commencing in 2025/26.

Accrued interest of £1,121,857 also needed to be paid making a total amount of £50,206,227 paid on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

To fund this repayment, new loans have been taken with the PWLB totalling £50m from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Forecasts indicate that the cost of borrowing will fall so loans have been taken out in 5 tranches of £10m each at 6 monthly intervals of 2years 3 months through to 4 years 3 months.

Annual interest on the old loans was £2,347,469 and the annual interest payable on the new loans will be £2,264,000 in the first 2 years. This therefore results in an annual saving on interest payable costs of £83,469.

## **Update from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Environmental Services – Councillor Jim Astill**

### **Environmental Services**

#### **Garden Waste**

As members will know work to expand the garden waste collections has been ongoing for several months.

In total we have just over 12000 subscribers to this service and approximately 2500 of these needed to have their collection day adjusted. Whilst the new rounds were checked, as part of uploading these to the relevant systems, problems arose that resulted in disruption for these 2500 customers.

Disruption included missed collections (small number of residents) and incorrect information on the Councils website (all 2500 residents).

We have communicated with the residents and updated Councillors via email during this process, and where appropriate additional collections have been completed.

Those residents impacted have had an extra collection added to their subscription which means their renewal date is pushed back.

Whilst these changes have only disrupted around 20pc of garden waste subscribers, it comes at a time where we are planning large scale transformation of waste collections in South Holland.

It is likely that these events have eroded confidence in the service, and its ability to rollout the larger scale transformation without issues.

We have commissioned an external consultant to complete this review, and it will be brought forward to scrutiny in due course.

I can only apologise to garden waste customers and Councillors for this situation.

### **Waste Transformation**

Work is ongoing with this project, and an all-member briefing has been planned for early June to update Councillors on where we are.

The team is currently completing a review of all rounds to ascertain where wheeled bins are appropriate and where they are not. Where they identify streets or properties of concern further work will be completed to ensure any specific needs are considered.

When we made the decision at Cabinet back in July 2025, we committed to asking members if they have any concerns about the introduction of wheeled bins for areas of their ward.

Steps are being taken to start this process, and we will advise Councillors of how to engage with this shortly.

### **Apprentice**

Our vehicle maintenance unit is based at West Marsh Road depot and provides specialist vehicle servicing, diagnostics and maintenance services to all of the Council's vehicle fleet and equipment. As we look to develop talent and skill in this work area, we have recently taken on an Apprentice Technician who has successfully joined our small team and has already proven to be a valued and respected work colleague, demonstrating skill, knowledge and potential. The apprenticeship scheme provides an opportunity for young people to gain specialist knowledge and training in a workshop environment, working on a range of highly technical vehicles and equipment, from ride on mowers to sweepers to heavy goods vehicles. The apprenticeship provides a number of benefits to the Council including cost effective talent development, staff retention, loyalty and improved productivity.

Our apprentice works 4 days per week in our workshop, and is supported by a mentor, the fifth day is spent studying in a class room at Peterborough Regional College. The course is

for 3 years and after completion, our apprentice will be a fully qualified vehicle mechanic and able to work on a wide diverse range of vehicles.

This is a fantastic opportunity to engage young people in this work area, and to grow our own, and this scheme is helping build capacity to ensure we provide valuable and cost-effective public services to our residents.

### **Update from the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Strategic Planning – Councillor Henry Bingham**

- National planning reform continues to be rolled out. Key highlights are a national scheme of delegation likely to be introduced in September.
- New Local Plan regulations came into force late March. Work ongoing in terms of project and resource planning for a new local plan for Boston/South Holland. Joint Strategic Planning Committee scheduled for late May.
- Current national consultation on potential to introduce locally-set planning fees.
- Performance strong with 100% of both majors and non-majors determined in time.
- Recent appeal decision on Fendyke Farm solar farm received. Appeal upheld and approved.

### **Ayscoughfee Hall Museum & Gardens**

Ayscoughfee Hall Museum has seen 4437 visitors in March.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> saw Ayscoughfee Hall Museum and Gardens transformed into an immersive world of colour, light and movement. The magical light based installation created by recognised artists Squidsoup, celebrate the heritage, creativity and community of Spalding, the event saw 3271 in attendance.

New Bird Boxes and bug hotels have been installed by the Men's Shed PE11 in Ayscoughfee Gardens.

The site was also used for half term Nature Day, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Over 600 people enjoyed a relaxed, fun and education day designed to celebrate amazing wildlife and nature.

### **South Holland Centre**

- Ticket sales continue to be healthy, Q4 figures are slightly down on last year but this is due to an extended closure in January to enable maintenance to take place.
- New bar concessionaire due to start week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> May. The South Holland Centre Manager is working with the new supplier and Red Lion to ensure smooth handover.

### **Conservation Team (ELDC, BBC & SHDC)**

As of September 2025 the new SELCP conservation team was established. We are all S113 officers which means we can work together across the partnership providing

resilience and knowledge sharing. We also have a joint email address [conservation.advice@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:conservation.advice@e-lindsey.gov.uk) for general enquiries. The team comprises of:

- Emilie Wales, Heritage Manager
- Greg Watkinson , Principal Conservation Officer
- Imogen Colenutt, Assistant Conservation Officer

This represents the best capacity the three authorities have had for over 10years. Greg is in the process of dropping his planning officer role with the intention of becoming a consultee only, this provides better use of his time and expertise.

### Archaeology

While there has been no change in archaeological provision for South Holland it is useful to note that the contract for archaeological advice across the partnership was tendered for in Summer 2025. LCC won the contract and started to provide advice across the three councils from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2025. Prior to this ELDC and BBC received advice from Heritage Trust Lincolnshire. The new contract with LCC runs until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2028. The team providing advice over the partnership are:

- Grahame Appleby, Archaeological Consultant (Team leader)
- Ruben Lopez, Archaeological Consultant
- Gregor Robertson-Morris, Archaeological Consultant

The contract also includes a requirement to provide social value benefits in the area. These outcomes are mainly community outreach and education based. Sarah Grundy at LCC is working on these. They are also providing an Archaeology in Planning CPD session to the partnerships planning officers on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

### New Documents for Adoption, Cabinet 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

- Spalding Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and Appendix 1 - Spalding Shop front Design Guide.
- Holbeach Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
- South and East Lincolnshire Council Partnership Design Guide
- The Spalding Heritage Strategy Action Plan and Theory of Change

These will also go to South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

**The Spalding Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and Holbeach Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan** are planning documents which required a statutory consultation period. The need to assess our conservation areas and publish proposals for their preservation and enhancement is required in Sections 66 and 71 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Consultation ran from November 2025 – February 2026 and included writing to the addresses considered for changes (addition and exclusion from the conservation area). Providing Site Notices around the area (minimum of 4 per area) as well as Press Notices. The Documents have also been available to view online and a hard copy available in Priory Road Council Offices on request. In person events were also held in each area attended by council officers and consultants (authors), and the documents take to Town Board and PDP. The document will also go to South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on 27 May 2026 prior to Cabinet for adoption on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

Unlike the above **The Spalding Heritage Strategy** and **SELCP Design Guide** are not planning documents for adoption but purely documents which can be used by the council in support of future development and investment.

The heritage strategy was produced following Spalding Reconnected with The National Lottery Fund in mind, yet it has been written in such a way that it can be used to support a number of other town centre focused funds as and when they become available. It outlines high-level themes and priorities for Spalding's heritage over the next 10 years developed through co-production with the local community and heritage organisations. The practical ways to achieve those goals are detailed in the Action Plan for Transformative Change. These documents aim to show how a focus on heritage across Spalding will create an environment for local people to be proud of with an improved healthy high street, spaces for improving wellbeing and connecting with nature and each other. The Strategy was used to inform Spalding Pride in Place Plan.

The SELCP Design Guide was born from a desire across the partnership to provide advice to building owners and occupiers championing proper repair and maintenance of historic fabric.

### Spalding Pride In Place

The above documents come along at the same time as developing Pride in Place, an endowment-style fund to invest £20m over the next decade. Spalding Town Board, was set up to oversee the funding and develop a ten-year vision, they wish to use the documents referenced in this report to inform the Plan and increase public participation shaping Spalding's future. Given the tight time frame for the development of Spalding's Plan for Pride in Place we and coordinate public consultation of these 4 documents to run alongside it.

All four of the documents put forward to Cabinet highlight why heritage should form a huge part in future investment. But also recognises that there are opportunities to compliment and capitalise on the momentum this initial Pride in Place funding provides by targeting additional funding championing heritage in our Town Centres.

### Spalding Gentlemen's Society

As part of this spotlight on Heritage that the above creates the Spalding Gentlemen's Society are also being supported. While the museum is being renovated and there are plans to extend they are currently temporarily located in Ayscoughfee. We are supporting a project to provide museum outreach displays in empty shopfronts as well as incorporating their artifacts and images within our marketing and documents to provide a cohesive message.

### Planning

First four months of 2026 (Jan - April) has seen 76 heritage consultations for South Holland. This averages around 17 consultations per month or 5 per week. The majority of those are residential alterations or conversions. We also have a number of national infrastructure consultations for solar, reservoir, energy pipelines and pylons. For comparison Boston's numbers for the same period have been 68. East Lindsey have received 182.

### National At Risk Register

The 2025 at risk register has just been published. It can be search here: [Search the Heritage at Risk Register | Historic England](#)

Below are the entries currently registered as at risk in South Holland:

Name	Designation	List Entry Numbers	Assessment Type
<b>Church of Holy Trinity, Hillgate, Gedney Hill</b>	Listed Building Grade II*	1146771	Place of worship
<b>Broad Street Methodist Church and attached Sunday School, Broad Street, Spalding</b>	Listed Building Grade II	1067614	Place of worship
<b>Church of St Mary Magdalen, Hallgate, Fleet, Fleet</b>	Listed Building Grade I	1146568	Place of worship
<b>Settlement south west of The Parks, Deeping St. Nicholas</b>	Scheduled Monument	1004981	Archaeology
<b>Settlement south east of Lower Delgate Farm, Weston</b>	Scheduled Monument	1002945	Archaeology
<b>Settlement north of The Parks, Deeping St. Nicholas</b>	Scheduled Monument	1004980	Archaeology
<b>Sneaths Mill, Lutton Gowts, Lutton</b>	Listed Building Grade I	1064530	Building or structure
<b>Old office block of Land Settlement Association, Mallard Road, Low Fulney</b>	Listed Building Grade II*	1359567	Building or structure
<b>Crowland Manor, 5, East Street, Crowland</b>	Listed Building Grade II*	1359273	Building or structure
<b>Dawsmere, Gedney</b>	Conservation Area	4868	Conservation area
<b>Holbeach</b>	Conservation Area	4826	Conservation area
<b>Long Sutton</b>	Conservation Area	4834	Conservation area

### Enforcement

The Vechery is currently a priority following two recent episodes of collapse. A report is likely to be shared shortly to consider service of a Notice and the possibility of the Council carrying out works in default to secure and prevent further deterioration.

Below is a list of possible legislation that can be used to support the historic environment in enforcement. Each section has its own constraints and requirements. The most used Notice is S215 to require improvements to an untidy site. Both planning and Listed Building Enforcement Notices are also regularly used to require breaches in planning to be undone/returned to a previous state.

### **Update from the Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Operational Housing – Councillor Tracey Carter**

#### HRA Update

Since the last Council meeting, the following developments have occurred across Housing Landlord Service (HRA):

- Tenant Influence Panel recruited, and Panel members started a programme of training
- Continued progress of the Regulatory Improvement Plan and engagement with the Regulator of Social Housing.

- Informal All Member Briefing held covering Tenant Satisfaction Survey Results 25/26, Damp, Condensation and Mould update, Housing Repairs Transformation Project, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) improvements, Aids and Adaptations update, launch of our Tenant Influence Panel, Competence and conduct project and Regulatory Update.
- Held a district-wide Repairs Roadshow to understand tenant views on the repairs service and how we can make improvements. (Revised Repairs policy to follow)
- Held our first Aids and Adaptations Appeal Panel meeting (includes tenant representation).
- Launched a new Tenant Facebook page “Tenant Talk” to broaden digital engagement.
- Co-designed a Contractors Code of Conduct – contractors required to commit to this.
- Reviewed our approach to ASB with tenants including our response timescales and how we keep tenants informed.
- Analysed access to HRA services to map out whether any groups were subject to barriers in accessing services, including adoption of an action plan to deliver service improvements. (Minor barriers encountered with action plan establish to deliver service improvements including enhancing communication pathways, increasing visibility of translation and interpretation services and supporting younger tenants through improved digital engagement tools).
- Reviewed our approach to damp, condensation and mould with tenants including how we report our performance to tenants also.
- Presented findings on stock condition surveys to Performance Monitoring Panel including how Officers are overcoming access issues and continue to work towards surveying 100% of homes during 2026.
- Established an approach to surveying tenants on satisfaction regarding completed capital programme works.

Looking ahead, the Service is currently working on the following:

- Engagement on a new Housing specific Code of Conduct (Tenants, Members and Staff).
- Ongoing tenant engagement including testing new online repairs system, how we present performance to Tenant Influence Panel, seeking tenant views on contract specifications including kitchen and bathroom upgrades.
- Establishing a programme of “In Your Area” events targeting ASB hotspots across the district.
- Delivering service improvements in response to repairs roadshow.
- Regulator of Social Housing observing our newly formed Tenant Influence Panel.
- Implementation of Awaabs Law phase 2 and ensuring the service is able to deliver the legislative change during 2026 (‘go live’ date tbc by government).
- Updated complaints and compensation policy reflecting tenant feedback and advice from the Housing Ombudsman.
- Formally presenting Tenant Satisfaction Measure results and 25/26 year end performance to Scrutiny.

## **HOUSING STANDARDS**

### **Renters’ Rights Act**

Operative Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 - The Housing Standards team have put together a Comms timetable to promote awareness around the new legislation. The various pieces of

information, planned throughout May, will inform landlords of their statutory duties whilst also providing the necessary guidance. Additionally, the same articles assist tenants on what they can expect from the new Act. The Housing Standards enforcement policy is due to be revised this year so that it includes any new powers taken on by the team as a result of the new Act.

### **Projects**

**New Burdens Funding** - The council recently received a further £60,000 in addition to the £26,439.68 towards the delivery of the Renters' Rights Act. Additional staffing resources are being considered as part of the funding to ensure work across multiple areas of housing is carried out to facilitate compliance of the new Act.

**Advice** - The team have almost finished developing informative leaflets for tenants in order to promote general awareness as well as signposting for those who may not be aware of the Housing Standards Team and its functions. There is a further leaflet that expands on what the Renters' Rights Act means for tenants.

### **Events**

**Landlord Forum at Boston United F.C.** - Following the success of the landlord's forum on 21<sup>st</sup> January, the council are planning to host a further session to discuss "phase 2" of the Act later on in the year. This will be delivered along with partners from DASH Services, the National Residential Landlords Association and East Midlands Property Owners.

**Members Briefing Session** - An online session will look to be rolled out in due course to promote awareness around the Renters' Rights Act and what it means for the council and its members, landlords and tenants.

**Tenant Drop-in Session** - The team is planning a drop-in session for members of the community to ask questions about Housing Standards, especially the Renters' Rights Act as well as take away the information leaflets referred to, above.

### **DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS**

**Adaptations** - During 2025/26 the Council assisted 30 families with adaptations to their properties, to a value of over £600,000. These adaptations include the provision of level floor bathroom facilities, ramped access, stairlifts and ground floor extensions to accommodate bedroom and bathroom facilities. In addition to this a further commitment of £450,000 has rolled forward in to 2026/27 for ongoing adaptation work.

### **Homelessness**

#### **Housing Related Support**

Lincolnshire County Council has extended the Housing Related Support service until 31 March 2027. The longer-term future of the service will be considered at the County Council's June meeting.

A letter of support for the continuation of the service is to be sent to Councillor Matthews. In addition, a report was submitted to Anne-Marie Scott, Lincolnshire County Council Assistant Director for Public Health. The report set out how Lincolnshire could modernise health-related support in homeless hostels, including rebalancing provision, strengthening crisis pathways, and improving move-on and support arrangements. These changes would help reduce homelessness, improve health outcomes, and ease pressure on public services.

#### **Ending Homelessness Communities Funding**

The Government has made £37 million available nationally to invest in voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) organisations to ensure people receive the right

support at the right time. Local VCFS organisations were informed of the funding opportunity, including the requirement that any application must be supported by the Council.

Three applications from local organisations have been supported. Successful applicants are expected to be notified in June 2026; however, the funding programme is likely to be oversubscribed and many organisations may be unsuccessful.

### **Temporary and Resettlement Accommodation**

Two new properties have been funded under round three of the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF).

In addition, four homelessness properties have now been adapted for use by disabled people. This has reduced reliance on nightly paid temporary accommodation, such as bed and breakfast placements, and provides a far more suitable housing option for disabled households.

The Council expressed an interest in round four of LAHF funding and has been successful. The current proposal is to provide one property for resettlement purposes and two homelessness properties. A final decision on this proposal will be made by the Council.

**The Housing Strategy and Enabling team** are proactively working with Registered Providers and house builders to progress potential affordable housing schemes to assist RP's to prepare their bids to Homes England, for the Social and Affordable Homes Programme 2026-2036.

## **Update from the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection – Councillor Anthony Casson**

### **Crowland Parish Council CCTV Cameras**

We are pleased to say we have recently agreed with Crowland Parish Council for the continuation of the Local Authority managed CCTV Camera service in Crowland. As part of a new agreement and continued partnership between ourselves and the Parish Council we will be upgrading the 3 Local Authority CCTV Cameras for the very latest in CCTV Camera technology. We would like to thank Crowland Parish Council for working with us to help to upgrade the cameras in the village, contribute towards annual costs of the service and for allowing us to use their Parish Council Building for the transfer of CCTV Images back to our CCTV Suite at Boston, this has saved both us and the Parish Council annual BT cost for this service.

### **Holbeach Parish Council CCTV Cameras**

Outside of Spalding Town Centre the only other area which has Local Authority managed CCTV Cameras in is Holbeach, I and Peter Hunn, Safer Communities Manager, have recently met up with the Chairman of Holbeach Parish Council and are now in discussions to look at the continuation of CCTV Services provided to Holbeach and also exploring a potential new area in Holbeach for CCTV Services, as this is still in the discussion stage I will update you again at the end of process.

### **Spalding Town Centre Graffiti on private premises**

I can confirm over the last 2 months a letter has been sent to every private premise in Spalding Town Centre which has been reported to the Council or observed to have graffiti

on identified by our Community Warden. This letter asks the building owner to support our aim to clean up and make Spalding Town Centre more presentable by cleaning off the graffiti on their building. Any graffiti on council buildings or offensive graffiti on any building (with permission of building owner for private premises) will be removed as soon our Cleaning / Operations Team are able to complete the works. Unfortunately, the council do not have any powers or resources to remove non offensive graffiti on private premises, but we are hoping our letter to the building owner will encourage them to remove the graffiti themselves.

### Licensing

A response was provided in March to the Government (Department for Transport) consultation on a proposal to move taxi and private hire vehicle licensing to the Local Transport Authority. We considered that the proposal would not meet the stated objectives, to reduce cross border working and improve safety standards across the sector. Our consultation response recognises that improved consistency could be achieved through changes that local government re-organisation will introduce, and that taxi licensing, and in particular enforcement, is more effective at a local level.

### Enviro-Crime

We are pleased to confirm that the enviro-crime enforcement contract with Kingdom LA Support has been extended for a further two years. This recognises the hard work that has gone into developing and improving the contract over the last three years and takes on board feedback and recommendations from the partnership scrutiny process. The extended contract has a renewed focus on education and engagement as well as strengthened measures to help us to continue to monitor the effectiveness of the contract.

## **Update from the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Conservation and Heritage – Councillor Elizabeth Sneath**

### **Heating Oil Support**

In March, the UK Government announced that it would provide targeted support for households reliant on heating oil who are facing financial hardship because of the increase in heating oil prices.

The funding is being provided to areas with high levels of households reliant on oil as a top-up to [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#). In Lincolnshire, the heating oil support scheme will be administered by Lincolnshire Community Foundation. In South Holland 14.1% of Households rely on heating oil only: [Type of central heating in household - Census Maps, ONS](#)

Eligible households can now apply for a £300 prepaid off-grid energy voucher to help with increasing costs of heating oil. To qualify, households must:

- *Have under £36,000 combined household income*
- *Have savings of less than £6,000 after the cost of oil*
- *Not be on a mains gas & use heating oil as the primary fuel for heating and/or hot water*
- *Be at risk of losing immediate access to heating or hot water due to a lack of heating oil*
- *Be able to pay the difference between the voucher value (£300.00) and the full cost of the heating oil, including delivery*

Further information can be found at [www.lincolnshirecf.co.uk/crf/](http://www.lincolnshirecf.co.uk/crf/) Lincolnshire Community Foundation can be contacted via [crf@lincolnshirecf.co.uk](mailto:crf@lincolnshirecf.co.uk) or on 01529 572575

### **Crisis & Resilience Fund**

After seven rounds over 5 years, the Household Support Fund has now ended. The scheme has been successfully delivered locally by SHDC and local partners charities and community groups and supported nearly 5000 low-income households each year. Cost of living support information will continue to be updated at: [www.sholland.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.sholland.gov.uk/costofliving)

The Government has announced the new 3-year **Crisis & Resilience Fund** to both provide a safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock and to invest in building local financial resilience to enable individuals and communities. Lincolnshire County Council are the lead authority and have indicated a provisional allocation District Councils.

We are currently awaiting the final confirmation of local schemes which will need to work through each Council's governance process and hope to launch the local crisis support scheme and resilience funding for local charities and community groups in July 2026.

### **SELCP Healthy Living Board**

The Healthy Living Board (HLB) continues to provide strategic oversight and a collaborative partnership forum to address health inequalities and improve health outcomes across South and East Lincolnshire. Partners from local government, health, and the voluntary and community sector are working collectively to align activity, share intelligence and target resources effectively.

HLB have recently reviewed Terms of Reference & membership to ensure wider representation and reflection of current partnership work across the 3 Councils. New members include representatives from Public Health, Primary Care Networks & NHS Neighbourhood Leads.

The new Healthy Communities Team now in place following service review across the 3 Councils. The SELCP new team will work across 3 key strands – Health inequalities, Ageing Well & Prevention & Resilience (including financial and digital inclusion) and can be contacted at [healthycommunities@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:healthycommunities@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

### **Digital Inclusion**

In partnership with local charity Lincs Digital the Healthy Communities team have delivered 17 successful community-based digital drop-in sessions across the District, helping 211 people with essential digital skills to help them access and navigate online service. Help with devices, NHS App, online and safety and scam awareness continue to be the key issues people are seeking help with. These sessions continue to provide a safe, friendly and inclusive environment to help build confidence and independence in using technology.

#### ***Digital Inclusion Case Studies from South Holland***

Samuel needed support because his device was not working correctly. He also needed to contact a company regarding a purchase that had been fitted incorrectly and needed help to provide photographic evidence by email.

Lincs Digital checked Samuel's device and updated software to ensure it was working correctly. They guided Samuel step-by-step to show him how to attach photos to an e-mail

and helped him send the e-mail to the company. This has reduced Samuel's frustration and helped him resolve the issue promptly. It also increased his confidence in using his device and e-mails for future online communication.

Feedback from Samuel *"I wouldn't have been able to send it without help — I didn't know where to turn to before I was told about your service, sincere thanks."*

Sylvia had set up the NHS APP so she could manage her prescriptions and view her healthcare information online but was having issues using it. Lincs Digital identified the issues with the NHS App set-up and helped Sylvia deleted and reinstall. They guided her through re-registering and demonstrated how to use and navigate the key features. This help has increased Sylvia's confidence, improved her ability to manage health care digitally and enabled easier and more reliable access to health services.

Feedback from Sylvia: *"Thank you for resolving these issues, no one else has been able to work out the problem. It worked to begin with, but I didn't set it up properly, I can see by how you have register everything I did not follow that process correctly. Thank you"*

For details about upcoming digital inclusion sessions in South Holland, please visit: <https://www.sholland.gov.uk/DigitalInclusion>

### **Ayscoughfee Hall – Light Night – Shifting Perspective**

In March, Ayscoughfee Hall Museum and Gardens transformed into an immersive world of colour, light and movement. The magical light-based installation created by recognised artists Squidsoup, celebrate the heritage, creativity and community of Spalding. 3271 people attended over the two days of this successful event.

### **Update from the Portfolio Holder for Community Development – Councillor Gary Taylor**

Work is continuing at pace on the Castle Activity & Fitness Centre development. The steel frame and internal steel reinforcement works are fully completed. Formation of the concrete slabs for the pools and new extension are well underway. Underground drainage works have commenced for both storm and foul drainage and alterations are now nearing completion for the new main entrance and reception area. The existing roof to the sports hall is being removed concurrent with installation of the new roof.

Evaluation of tenders for the 3G pitch construction are due to conclude imminently to enable award of contract for its installation. Overall, progress is very positive. A 3D flythrough video is being prepared and will be published in the coming weeks. The project team are continuing to engage with key stakeholders and Parkwood Leisure as our appointed operating agent in preparation for completion and opening in early 2027.

During Quarter 4, the temporary gym facilities continued to operate successfully and delivered a strong sales performance, demonstrating sustained member demand despite the limited capacity. The temporary offer is proving effective and continues to attract and retain users during this transitional period. Even with the limits of the temporary set-up, the programme is working well. Classes continue to be popular and well attended, helped by extra sessions added during the quarter to make the most of the space available.

Wetside activity saw encouraging progress during the quarter, with swimming participation increasing and swimming lesson memberships continuing to grow following earlier

seasonal impacts. Strong uptake of aqua classes further contributed to overall activity levels.

## Events:

### Spring into Spalding

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, the Communities and Event Team held the annual Spring into Spalding event with a day of live entertainment, children's entertainment, flower arranging competition, free arts and crafts and facepainting and a number of food traders. The event was a huge success, with good footfall throughout the day, the strength of winds meant the team did have to cancel the market/craft traders due to health and safety concerns, but this did not stop residents from coming out to enjoy the entertainment with an estimated 3000 attending over the course of the day.

### Nature Day Ayscoughfee

Half Term Nature Day was held at Ayscoughfee Hall Museum and Gardens on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Over 600 people enjoyed a relaxed, fun and educational day designed to celebrate amazing wildlife and nature. There were stalls from RSPB, Wildlife Trust, Anglian Water, Men's Shed, Boston Beekeepers Association and Fens Falconry.

### Spring Bunny Hunts

Spring trails have taken place in Long Sutton and Donington over the half term to encourage the community to visit some of our local villages within the district. The trails encourage footfall into local businesses and is a health by stealth initiative to encourage active walking for children and adults.

### Upcoming Events

Our next half term event in May will see the team getting ready to cheer on England and other countries with our World Cup Fever activity day in Carters Park, Holbeach on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

## Communities:

### South and East Lincolnshire Crowd Funding

The funding window for the Spring round is now open – a total of 21 projects have now been funded across the Partnership, totalling £235,536 with a total crowd contribution of £124,369.

### Community Lottery

Community Lottery scheme continues to raise funds for good causes, with a total of £107,860 having been raised. Weekly ticket sales are up and 27 groups within South Holland have now joined the scheme.

### Volunteers

Ayscoughfee Gardens and Museum have recently welcomed 2 new volunteers who are already making a positive contribution. Volunteers are supporting a range of roles, including gardening and outdoor maintenance, helping to care for the aviary, and

welcoming visitors to the museum. We are pleased to report that another volunteer has successfully secured a casual museum assistant role.

### **Acronyms**

None

### **Appendices**

None

### **Background Papers**

None

### **Report Approval**

Report author:

Rhonda Booth, Democratic Services Manager  
rbooth@sholland.gov.uk

Signed off by:

Councillor Nick Worth – Leader of the Council

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KEY DECISION PLAN

Issued – 29 April 2026

*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."

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 Health &amp; Wellbeing, Conservation &amp; Heritage</u> (Councillor Elizabeth Jane Sneath)</p> <p>Crisis and Resilience Fund</p>	<p>To accept funding allocation from Lincolnshire County Council to deliver the Government funded Crisis and Resilience scheme locally. Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029) - GOV.UK</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Report and any relevant appendices</p>	<p>Executive Director - Finance (Section 151 Officer)</p> <p>Not before 28th May 2026</p>	<p>Roxanne Warrick, Strategic Lead - Healthy Living, Wellbeing and Community Leadership roxanne.warrick@e-lindsey.gov.uk</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 Assets &amp; Strategic Planning</u> (Councillor Henry J W Bingham)</p> <p>Disposal of Land and Property Assets</p>	<p>The Council holds a broad range of land and property assets; some of those provide limited amenity, others present cost risks with many offering alternative opportunity. A number of Executive Decisions will come forward in the short to medium term, all of which will be 'key decisions' taken by the Portfolio holder, declaring a range of land and property assets surplus and seeking to dispose of them. In all cases, due process will be followed so they can be put to the market and disposed/let in the most appropriate way including but not being limited to their freehold disposal or being let on a long or short tenancy.</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Assets and Strategic Planning Local ward members Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Operational Housing Housing team</p>	<p>Report and any relevant appendices</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Assets &amp; Strategic Planning</p> <p>Before 30 Jun 2026</p>	<p>Andy Fisher, Executive Director - Programme Delivery andy.fisher@boston.gov.uk</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>Portfolio Holder for Assets &amp; Strategic Planning (Councillor Henry J W Bingham), Portfolio Holder for Health &amp; Wellbeing, Conservation &amp; Heritage (Councillor Elizabeth Jane Sneath)</p> <p>Spalding Conservation Area Appraisal, Spalding Heritage Strategy, Holbeach Conservation Area Appraisal, SELCP Design Guide.</p>	<p>To consider the documents prior to public consultation .</p>		<p>Report and any relevant appendices</p>	<p>Cabinet 30 Jun 2026</p>	<p>Emilie Wales, Heritage Manager Emilie.Wales@e-lindsey.gov.uk</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>Leader (Councillor Charles Nicholas Worth)</u></p> <p>Destination Lincolnshire Local Visitor Economy Partnership Destination Management Plan and SELCP Destination Management Plan</p>	<p>Destination Lincolnshire are the defined Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) for the Lincolnshire and Rutland areas. As part of this they have created a Plan to 2033 to promote and co-ordinate the Visitor Economy. This Plan will cover and impact the South Holland District Council area. In addition, a Destination Management Plan has been produced for the Partnership area. These two documents together form a suite to support the visitor economy in the Partnership area from the local to the sub-regional. It is therefore proposed that the LVEP Destination Management Plan should be acknowledged and agreed by the Council and the SELCP Destination Management Plan agreed by the Council.</p>		<p>Report and any relevant appendices</p>	<p>Cabinet 30 Jun 2026</p>	<p>Pranali Parikh, Executive Director - Economic Development pranali.parikh@boston.gov.uk</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 Strategic and Operational Housing (Councillor Tracey Carter)</u></p> <p>Award of periodical electrical testing for landlord safety certificate</p>	<p>A contract to be awarded, following full tender process, to an appropriate contractor to undertake the periodical Electrical Installation Condition Report that is required under legislation for the HRA Landlord to obtain.</p>	<p>Tracey Carter - Portfolio Holder  Vikki Cherry - Assistant Director for Housing  Russell Stone - S151 Officer  John Medlar - Assistant Director for Governance</p>	<p>Report and any relevant appendices</p>	<p>Assistant Director - Housing</p> <p>Before 31 Aug 2026</p>	<p>Chris Mycock,  Housing Property and Repairs Manager  cmycock@sholland.gov.uk</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 Finance (Councillor Paul A Redgate)</u></p> <p>Approval of the award and spend of funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund 25/26</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). 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 2026)</p>	<p>Panel of relevant Officers in Economic Development, Portfolio Holder and where appropriate, Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Report and any relevant appendices</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance</p> <p>Before 31 Aug 2026</p>	<p>Saul Farrell, Senior Programme Manager - Local Growth and Grant Funding Saul.Farrell@sholland.gov.uk</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 Assets &amp; Strategic Planning (Councillor Henry J W Bingham),</u>  <u>Portfolio Holder for Health &amp; Wellbeing, Conservation &amp; Heritage (Councillor Elizabeth Jane Sneath)</u>            Cultural Services Delivery Arrangements</p>	<p>To consider proposals for the future delivery of cultural services</p>		<p>Report and any relevant appendices</p>	<p>Cabinet 29 Sep 2026            South Holland District Council 15 Oct 2026</p>	<p>Mark Humphreys, Head of Special Projects (Leisure)            mark.humphreys@e-lindsey.gov.uk</p>

09/09/2025

**\*Cabinet Membership**

Councillor C N Worth (Leader)  
Councillor P Redgate (Deputy Leader)  
Councillor J Astill (Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor H Bingham (Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor T Carter (Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor A Casson (Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor E Sneath (Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor G J Taylor (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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**Report To:** South Holland District Council

**Date:** Wednesday, 13 May 2026

**Subject:** Report from Cabinet meeting on 28 April 2026

**Purpose:** To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of:

- Pride in Place Programme Delivery

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Nick Worth, Leader

**Report Of:** Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration

**Report Author:** Forrest White, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

**Ward(s) Affected:** Spalding Castle; Spalding Monkshouse; Spalding St John's; Spalding St Mary's; Spalding St Paul's; Spalding Wygate.

**Exempt Report:** No

## Summary

This report provides Members of the Council with details on issues considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 28 April 2026, which require decisions by Full Council. Relevant extracts from the Cabinet minute are detailed at Section 2 below, and the relevant Cabinet report and appendices are attached as appendices to this report.

## Recommendations

It is recommended from Cabinet that Full Council amends the Capital and Revenue budgets to reflect the funding as set out in Section 2 of the Cabinet report and delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer to vary the Council's Capital and Revenue base budgets for projects under the parameters of the Pride in Place programme for Spalding.

## Reasons for Recommendations

The reasons for recommendation are detailed within the individual report attached and are summarised in the relevant Cabinet minute below.

### **Other Options Considered**

Other Options considered are detailed within the individual report attached and are summarised in the relevant Cabinet minute below.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Article 4 of the Council's Constitution provides that only the Full Council may exercise the functions of approving, adopting or amending the policy framework and budget, adopting or changing the Constitution. Staffing matters are also a Council function. The Cabinet however has responsibility for advising the Council on such matters. At its meeting on 28 April 2026, the Cabinet made recommendations to Council in respect of the above item which may affect budget and policy framework, the constitution or compromise staffing issues.
- 1.2 The remainder of this report details the recommendations of the Cabinet which must be read in conjunction with the individual report to Cabinet, a copy of which is attached as appendices.

## **2. Pride in Place Programme Delivery (Report submitted to Cabinet – Agenda item 16 attached)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Service Director – Culture and Regeneration which sought acceptance of the UK Government's Memorandum of Understanding to enable delivery of the ten-year Pride in Place programme for Spalding to commence in 2026/27. It also requested delegated authority arrangements to ensure effective and lawful use of public funds under the programme and that robust decision-making arrangements were in place throughout the subsequent investment periods.

The Leader introduced the report which explained that the Pride in Place Memorandum of Understanding had been issued by the UK Government and required the Council to act as the accountable body.

The Leader advised that the Memorandum set out the delivery arrangements for the ten-year Pride in Place programme and clearly detailed the funding profile to be paid over that period, with specific allocations identified for years one to four.

The Leader added that the Memorandum confirmed that the Council, as accountable body, held responsibility for the programme, while the Supporting Neighbourhood Board was responsible for recommending how funding should be allocated to individual projects. Cabinet would be kept informed and updated on Board priorities, project approvals, funding allocations, and spend profiles, and would monitor risks and benefits on a regular basis.

Members discussed the funding, governance, and delivery arrangements for the Pride in Place programme in detail. It was confirmed that the costs associated with the programme related primarily to staffing and that all staffing costs, including any support from PSPS Ltd if required, were fully funded by UK Government grant. No Council funding was being used.

It was explained that Boston and Spalding Town Boards had agreed to share a delivery team to ensure efficiency and appropriate capacity. This comprised a Pride in Place Programme Manager, split equally between the two Boards, and a Programme Coordinator, thereby avoiding duplication and ensuring both strategic oversight and operational delivery. Both posts had been appointed following interviews, with external resources used only on an interim basis prior to those appointments. The delivery of the programme was funded entirely through the Boards, and where possible, staffing costs were capitalised, as they represented a significant element of the overall funding.

Members noted that the funding related specifically to Spalding and did not impact the wider South Holland District. Assurance was given that the grant was ring-fenced government funding intended for the Pride in Place programme.

In relation to governance, reference was made to the Memorandum of Understanding, which appointed the Leader of the Council to the Neighbourhood Board to represent South Holland District Council. It was acknowledged that this arrangement would inevitably change as a result of Local Government Reorganisation, at which point the Council would cease to be the accountable body. It was anticipated that a revised Memorandum would be issued by Government at that stage. Current guidance required representation from the local Member of Parliament and an elected representative, and this would transfer to the new unitary authority.

The overall governance arrangements were explained, with confirmation that the Council acted as the accountable body and that all funding required Cabinet approval. Any significant changes would also be subject to Cabinet approval and, where appropriate, Council approval. While project-level decisions were made by the Town Board, these were reported to Cabinet for noting. The Council retained responsibility for ensuring that public money was spent properly, with appropriate due diligence, and that projects aligned with the priorities approved by Cabinet in November.

It was acknowledged that the programme represented a shift in decision-making towards the Town Board, making strong oversight and accountability essential. The presence of the MP and the elected Member on the Board was seen as critical to maintaining democratic accountability.

Regular reports would be brought to Cabinet covering spend, risks, benefits, and progress, with relevant matters also reported through Governance and Audit processes. It was noted that Overview and Scrutiny Committees retained the ability to examine the programme if required.

Members emphasised that Pride in Place funding was public money and must be spent wisely on projects delivering clear benefits to Spalding and improving the local

environment. The programme's purpose was to rebuild civic pride, with success ultimately judged through delivery outcomes. It was noted that the majority of the funding had not yet been spent, given the ten-year life of the programme, and that significant work was taking place behind the scenes to develop projects.

Safety and security were highlighted as key priorities, including hotspot policing initiatives, the introduction of Community Wardens, and continued lobbying for improved policing resources across Lincolnshire, recognising that the county remained under-funded for policing. It was also noted that one of the Board's remits was to seek additional external funding from both public and private sectors to maximise the impact of the initial £20m allocation and leave a sustainable legacy beyond the ten-year period.

Members considered the implications of Local Government Reorganisation and changes in national government, and it was stated that Town Boards and their associated funding were expected to remain in place, with only the accountable body changing.

In respect of Community Wardens, it was confirmed that they were not intended to replace hotspot policing but to complement existing arrangements. Recruitment and training would take time, and in the interim, private sector security would be deployed where funding permitted to provide a visible presence and support events. The distinction between enforcement-powered Community Wardens and private security staff was noted, and continued close working with the police was confirmed, including discussions regarding the potential involvement of PCSOs. It was also clarified that wardens would operate across Spalding and surrounding areas as required.

## **DECISION:**

That Cabinet:

- Recommends that Council amends the Capital and Revenue budgets to reflect the funding as set out in Section 2 of this report and delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer to vary the Council's Capital and Revenue base budgets for projects under the parameters of the Pride in Place programme for Spalding.
- Approves that the Council be the accountable body for the Pride in Place programme for Spalding and delegates authority to the Council's Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Pride in Place Programme in Spalding, as attached at Appendix 2.
- Notes that it is the responsibility of the Spalding Neighbourhood Board to consider and recommend how the funding is allocated to individual projects. The Cabinet will be notified and updated with the Board's priorities, approved projects, allocations and spend profile and monitoring of risks and benefits on a regular basis.
- Delegates authority to the Council's Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer to approve the Board's recommended expenditure, following due diligence in consultation with the Director of Economic Development and Leader of the Council.
- Delegates authority to the Council's Director of Economic Development to enter into all associated delivery contracts and grant funding agreements on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Council's Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer and the Leader of the Council.

*(Other options considered:*

- To not accept the Pride in Place funding for Spalding.*
- To work with the Spalding Neighbourhood Board to identify an alternative accountable body structure for the governance and management of the approved funding.*

*Reasons for recommendations:*

- To enable the Council to receive the annual funding allocations under the Pride in Place Programme and support the Spalding Neighbourhood Board to progress with the delivery of subsequent investment periods.*
- To ensure that all public funds associated with the programme delivery are used lawfully, effectively and in line with Government rules and relevant Council procedures.*
- To ensure transparent, consistent and robust decision making and appropriate due diligence is undertaken on the recommended funding awards prior to formal contracting and expenditure.)*

## **Appendices**

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

Appendix 1	Cabinet Agenda Item 16 – Pride in Place Programme Delivery
Appendix 2	Cabinet Agenda Item 16 – Pride in Place Programme Delivery (Appendix 1 to the original Cabinet report)

## **Background Papers**

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

[Pride in Place Programme: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)  
[Spalding Regeneration Plan - submission copy](#)

## **Chronological History of this Report**

Previous Cabinet reports have agreed recommendations on the use of programme capacity funding (31<sup>st</sup> July 2025) and the submission of the Regeneration Plan for Spalding (16<sup>th</sup> November 2025)

### **Name of Body**

### **Date**

Cabinet	28 April 2026
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### **Report Approval**

Report author: Forrest White, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer  
FWhite@sholland.gov.uk

Signed off by: The individual report has previously been signed off by the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder.

Approved for publication: As above.

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<b>Report To:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Pride in Place Programme Delivery
<b>Purpose:</b>	To accept the UK Government's Memorandum of Understanding to enable delivery of the ten-year Pride in Place programme for Spalding to commence in 2026/27. Delegated authority arrangements are also requested to ensure effective and lawful use of public funds under the programme and that robust decision-making arrangements are in place throughout the subsequent investment periods.
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr Nick Worth, Leader
<b>Report Of:</b>	Maria Cotton, Assistant Director (Culture and Regeneration)
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jon Burgess, Programme Manager (Economic Growth)
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	Spalding Wygate, Spalding St John's, Spalding Monks Road, Spalding St Mary's, Spalding St Paul's, Spalding Castle.
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	No

### Summary

This paper seeks Cabinet approval to accept the UK Government's Memorandum of Understanding to enable the local authority to undertake the lead contracting and accountable body requirements to progress delivery of the Pride in Place programme for Spalding. It will ensure that the spend decisions recommended by the Spalding Neighbourhood Board are subject to appropriate compliance and assurance work by the Council prior to contracting and meet the requirement to ensure effective and lawful use of the allocated public funds.

### Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- Recommends that Council amends the Capital and Revenue budgets to reflect the funding as set out in Section 2 of this report and delegates authority to the Director of

Finance and Section 151 Officer to vary the Council's Capital and Revenue base budgets for projects under the parameters of the Pride in Place programme for Spalding.

- Approves that the Council be the accountable body for the Pride in Place programme for Spalding and delegates authority to the Council's Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Pride in Place Programme in Spalding, as attached at Appendix 2.
- Notes that it is the responsibility of the Spalding Neighbourhood Board to consider and recommend how the funding is allocated to individual projects. The Cabinet will be kept notified and updated with the Board's priorities, approved projects, allocations and spend profile and monitoring of risks and benefits on regular basis.
- Delegates authority to the Council's Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer to approve the Board's recommended expenditure, following due diligence and in consultation with the Director of Economic Development and Leader of the Council.
- Delegates authority to the Council's Director of Economic Development to enter into all associated delivery contracts and grant funding agreements on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Council's Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer and the Leader of the Council.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- To enable the Council to receive the annual funding allocations under the Pride in Place Programme and support the Spalding Neighbourhood Board to progress with the delivery of the subsequent investment periods.
- To ensure that all public funds associated with the programme delivery are used lawfully, effectively and in line with Government rules and relevant Council procedures.
- To ensure transparent, consistent and robust decision making and appropriate due diligence is undertaken on the recommended funding awards prior to formal contracting and expenditure.

### **Other Options Considered**

- To not accept the Pride in Place funding for Spalding
- To work with the Spalding Neighbourhood Board to identify an alternative accountable body structure for the governance and management of the approved funding

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Spalding has been allocated the award of up to £20million of new grant funding over a ten-year period under Phase One of the Pride in Place Programme (formerly Plan for Neighbourhoods and Long Term Plan for Towns). The programme forms part of the UK Government's wider Pride in Place Strategy published on the 25th September 2025 which is intended to represent a new way for government to work in partnership with communities and neighbourhoods, empowering them with the tools and levers to drive meaningful change that reflects their priorities.

- 1.2 Decision-making responsibility on how and where this new funding is spent sits with Spalding Neighbourhood Board, working in partnership with South Holland District Council. The Neighbourhood Board must develop a plan for their local area and distribute funding to the projects to deliver on this vision. All activities supported by the programme must be shaped and informed by undertaking meaningful, iterative engagement with the local community, ensuring that any future investment reflects local need and evidencing that that people’s priorities have been acted upon.
- 1.3 The submission of the Neighbourhood Board’s Regeneration Plan for Spalding was approved by Cabinet on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025, following a widespread programme of community consultation to ensure that any future investment reflects local need and evidencing that local people’s priorities have been acted upon. Cabinet has also previously received a report on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 to approve delivery arrangements for the capacity funding received under the programme to date and help move the programme towards the first year of delivery commencing in 2026/27.
- 1.4 The intervention area for the Pride in Place funds has been determined by the UK Government and is intentionally targeted on delivering new investment into the Spalding town boundary, rather than the wider South Holland District. As such, this is a Spalding specific programme and funding cannot be distributed to projects in other towns or villages. At least 51% of the Neighbourhood Board representation must be from people who live or work in Spalding and the beneficiaries of the investment are intended to be within the redline boundary provided at Appendix 1.
- 1.5 The Leader of the Council is appointed onto the Neighbourhood Board to represent South Holland District Council.

## 2. Report

- 2.1 On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, the Council received a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) from the UK Government to enable the local authority to undertake the lead contracting and accountable body responsibilities to deliver the Pride in Place programme for Spalding. The MoU is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 In order to undertake the programme arrangements and requirements, approval is needed to accept the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding as attached at Appendix 1. It is therefore requested that Cabinet provides authority for the Council’s Section 151 Officer to sign the MoU on behalf of South Holland District Council.

## 2.3 Financial Implications

- 2.4 The Pride in Place programme is due to release the following funds to the accountable body for Spalding over the next ten years. This provides the basis of the recommendation to vary the Council’s capital and revenue budgets under the parameters of ‘Pride in Place for Spalding up to the limit of the provisions set out below.

Grant type	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35	35/36	Total
Revenue funding (capacity)	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	600
Revenue funding (grants)	232	256	432	432	432	432	437	450	450	450	3,999
Total revenue funding	382	256	432	432	432	432	437	450	450	450	4,599
Capital funding (grants)	360	1,736	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	14,936
<b>Total</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>2,042</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>19,535</b>

- 2.5 To allow the Government to undertake periodic spending and performance reviews, the funding model will be delivered across three investment periods:
- Period 1: 2026–27 to 2029–30 (4 years)
  - Period 2: 2030–31 to 2032–33 (3 years)
  - Period 3: 2033–34 to 2035–36 (3 years)
- 2.6 The local authority retains responsibility and accountability for ensuring that all expenditure is managed in line with public sector financial principles and is compliant with procurement law and subsidy control requirements. As such, it is recommended that delegated authority is given to the Council’s Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer to approve the expenditure decisions recommended by the Neighbourhood Board prior to contracting in consultation with the Director of Economic Development and the Leader of the Council.
- 2.7 Governance and Assurance**
- 2.8 It is expected that the spend allocations recommended by the Spalding Neighbourhood Board will be delivered via either a direct Council led commission or by passporting funds to a local community group, business or other appropriately constituted organisation to deliver the approved activities and investments.
- 2.9 The Council will therefore need to undertake a range of duties to ensure that robust, consistent and transparent decision-making arrangements are in place prior to the contracting of any approved spend. Contracts for the delivery of new works, goods or services undertaken directly by the Council will be managed in accordance with the local authority’s adopted contract and financial procedure rules. Where the delivery is to be undertaken indirectly via an external partner, the Council will require a signed grant funding agreement to be in place prior to commencement which will clearly set out the requirements of all parties in undertaking the agreed investment and activities.
- 2.10 It is therefore recommended that delegated authority is given to the Director of Economic Development to enter into all of the necessary contractual arrangements and grant funding agreements to deliver the approved programme of investment.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1. The Pride in Place programme requires the local authority to act as the accountable body responsible for overseeing the management and use of public funds. The Spalding Neighbourhood Board is required to provide strategic direction and make recommendations on project selection and prioritisation of spend. The delegated authorities recommended within this report will ensure that the Council undertake an appropriate level of due diligence on the proposed spend decisions prior to contracting and reserve the right to withhold approval of any proposal that does not meet the necessary legal requirements.
- 3.2. The latest policy guidance for the Pride in Place programme sets out an expectation that the Neighbourhood Board should look to move to a community led delivery model by Year Three of the programme (by March 2029). As such, the role of the local authority may be subject to change over the delivery period but the recommendations in this report set out the immediate recommendations and requirements needed to progress delivery in Year One of the programme in 2026/27.

## **Implications**

### **South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership**

Cumulatively, the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership is due to receive up to £80m of new investment for the local area over the next ten financial years under the Pride in Place Programme. This represents a significant opportunity to provide enhanced places and better outcomes for the residents, businesses and visitors of South and East Lincolnshire and to achieve economies of scale in the delivery of coordinated approach to linked interventions across four towns in the Partnership area. Boston, Skegness and Spalding are included in Phase One of the current Programme. Mablethorpe is allocated under Phase Two of the programme, due to commence delivery from April 2027.

### **Corporate Priorities**

The Pride in Place programme provides the opportunity for existing Council and public services to deliver additional benefit in the approved towns under the agreed themes and proposed interventions. Group Managers and service leads will be consulted as part of the development and delivery phase.

### **Staffing**

Initial project management resources have been approved by the Neighbourhood Board to enable the Council to proceed with the recruitment and employment of a dedicated programme manager and programme coordinator post to help deliver the Spalding programme (roles to be shared with the Boston Neighbourhood Board). Additional programme management support to be provided by the substantive Economic Development directorate with additional associated support services from PSPS Ltd.

### **Workforce Capacity Implications**

The delivery of the Plan may require additional capacity within the teams. Capacity implications of any actions included in the regeneration plan will need to be considered and monitored on ongoing basis.

### **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

The Council will act as the accountable body for the funds with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the Nolan Principles and Managing Public Money principles. The Council will also be responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement. As an accountable body, the Council must comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 when administering public money under the programme.

The Council may need to recover funding from project deliverers where subsidy control has not been complied with. The Council will be responsible for ensuring that all funding is managed in accordance with relevant public contract regulations.

### **Data Protection**

Any exchange of data and information with Neighbourhood Board and other partners will be subject to data protection regulations.

## **Financial**

As set out in Section 2 of the report

## **Risk Management**

The key risks to be managed in the process of the submission of the Regeneration Plan are:

1. Capacity – to prepare the Regeneration Plan in compliance with the guidance and in timescales prescribed by the Government.
2. Inclusive engagement – Spalding communities from all quarters have an opportunity to influence the Regeneration Plan.
3. Partnership – relationship between the Council, the Neighbourhood Board and partners is constructive and collaborative to maximise the benefits of the community.
4. Deliverability – the Regeneration Plan is aspirational and deliverable to ensure the desired outcomes are achieved.
5. Accountability – the Council as accountable body is responsible for compliance to a range of issues as identified in the legal implications above.

## **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

The Neighbourhood Board membership was reviewed in March 2025 in alignment with the priority themes of the Plan for neighbourhood. The Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Worth, sits on the Neighbourhood Board for Spalding. Engagement with stakeholders and communities is part of the programme of activities that the Neighbourhood Board is leading in preparation of the Plan. The Regeneration Plan submitted (and approved by Cabinet in November 2025) provides detailed evidence of stakeholder engagement undertaken to date and of further scheduled activities. The guidance for the Pride in Place programme makes clear that the Board is expected to undertake stakeholder engagement and consultation across the full 10-year funding period to ensure Plans are aligned to emerging priorities.

## **Reputation**

The Programme presents a positive and good news story for increasing Pride in Place in Spalding. It places the Council in a positive position at the heart of a partnership with the Neighbourhood Board and MHCLG to drive and deliver meaningful change for the community. The investment builds on a successful track record with Government in delivering major regeneration programmes in Spalding via the previous Towns Fund and Levelling Up funds.

## **Contracts**

The local authority in each place will act as the accountable body for the funds with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the Nolan Principles and Managing Public Money principles. They will also be responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control and procurement.

## **Crime and Disorder**

Safety and security is one of the key themes as part of the Plan for Spalding.

## **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding**

Equality, inclusivity and accessibility are key principles for the preparation of the Plan for Spalding.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

Health and Wellbeing is one of the key priority themes for the Plan for Spalding.

## **Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment**

None

## **Acronyms**

None

## **Appendices**

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

Appendix 1 – Spalding Pride in Place Investment Boundary

Appendix 2 - Pride in Place for Spalding: Memorandum of Understanding

## **Background Papers**

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

[Pride in Place Programme: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)  
[Spalding Regeneration Plan – submission copy](#)

## **Chronological History of this Report**

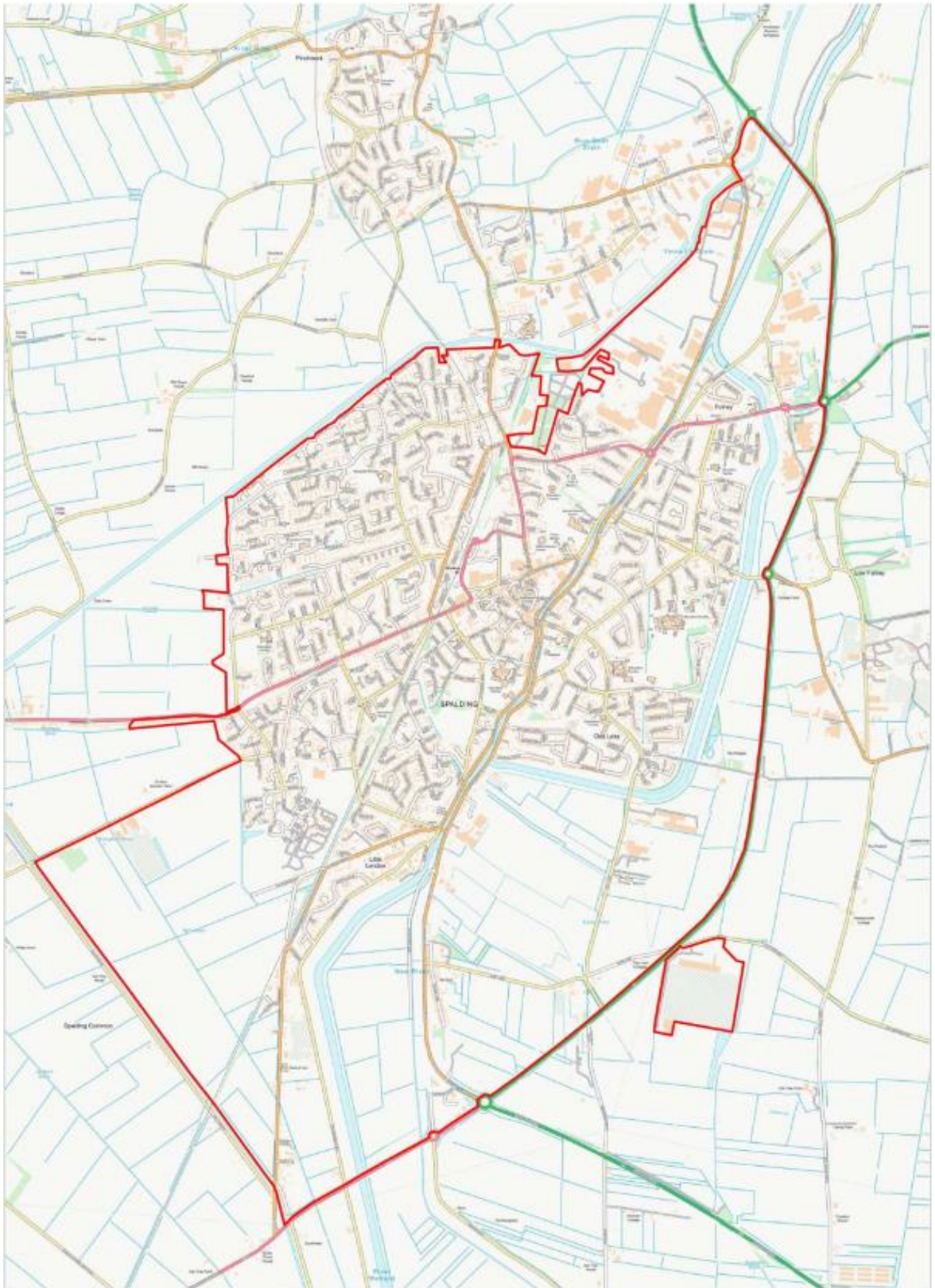
A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

Previous Cabinet reports have agreed recommendations on the use of programme capacity funding (31<sup>st</sup> July 2025) and the submission of the Regeneration Plan for Spalding (16<sup>th</sup> November 2025)

## **Report Approval**

Report author:	Jon Burgess, Programme Manager (Economic Growth) <a href="mailto:Jon.Burgess@e-lindsey.gov.uk"><u>Jon.Burgess@e-lindsey.gov.uk</u></a>
Signed off by:	Maria Cotton, Assistant Director (Culture and Regeneration) <a href="mailto:Maria.Cotton@e-lindsey.gov.uk"><u>Maria.Cotton@e-lindsey.gov.uk</u></a>
Approved for publication:	Cllr Nick Worth

## Appendix 1 – Spalding Pride in Place Investment Boundary



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## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

**The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government**

-and-

**South Holland District Council**

-and-

**Spalding Neighbourhood Board**

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets out the terms that will apply to the relationship between the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (the Secretary of State), South Holland District Council (the local authority) and the Spalding Neighbourhood Board regarding the administration and delivery of the Pride in Place Programme (the programme).
- 1.2. This MoU relates to the allocation set out in the [Programme Prospectus](#).
- 1.3. This MoU will be for the first investment period of the programme which spans the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2030. Changes will be made only where signatories deem it necessary.
- 1.4. The MoU sets out the conditions and expectations for the Programme.
- 1.5. The Secretary of State and the local authority shall be parties in this agreement.
- 1.6. This MoU is not intended to create legal or binding obligations. It describes the understanding between both parties for the use of funding specified in section 3 of this agreement.
- 1.7. The Neighbourhood Board for Spalding is not a formal party to this agreement, but a signatory in acknowledgement of the Neighbourhood Board's role and responsibilities in programme delivery within their place, as set out in the programme guidance.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. The Pride in Place Programme was launched on 25 September 2025. The Secretary of State has agreed the Neighbourhood Board's Pride in Place Plan for Spalding.
- 2.2. This MoU covers the funding commitments from the Secretary of State and the delivery, financial expenditure, agreed milestones, reporting and evaluation,

communications and branding expectations between the Parties as well as the steps the Secretary of State could take in the event of underperformance, if required.

2.3. The Secretary of State has published guidance on the delivery of the programme in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#). The Secretary of State will notify the local authority of any changes to the prospectus and, if necessary, provide guidance on how changes are to be managed.

### **3. Purpose of the Funding**

3.1. The funding from the programme is being provided to deliver activity in line with the prospectus and the priorities for investment agreed by the Neighbourhood Board, based on community engagement activity carried out throughout the programme lifetime.

3.2. The allocation to the local authority is set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#). The local authority will receive annual grant payments as set out in this allocation, subject to the conditions in sections 5 and 6.

3.3. Any changes to the allocation will be notified to the local authority as soon as practicable. Funding will not be withdrawn unreasonably.

3.4. Funding must be spent in line with the rules set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

3.5. Funding should be managed through a partnership between the Neighbourhood Board and the local authority, as set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

3.6. The local authority is expected to agree a way of working with the Neighbourhood Board which:

- recognises and upholds the Neighbourhood Board's role as decision-maker in relation to how programme funding is used to deliver the strategic aims of the programme in the local area;
- enables development and embedding of appropriate processes and controls for the funding allocation; and
- ensures that residents, businesses, and grassroots organisations are actively involved in programme design and decision-making throughout the lifetime of the programme.

3.7. Funding should be used to deliver in line with the Pride in Place Plan for Spalding which has been agreed with MHCLG. The partnership can make changes to the plan agreed by the Secretary of State. The scale, type and process for making changes is set out in published guidance and at section 10 of this agreement.

## 4. Reporting

- 4.1. As part of the delegated delivery model, the local authority will provide formal reporting on the use of Pride in Place Programme funding as set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

## 5. Financial Arrangements

- 5.1. The agreed funds will be issued to the local authority as grant payments under Section 50 of the United Kingdom Internal Markets Act 2020 ('UKIM').
- 5.2. Details of the annual funding allocation, broken down into capital and revenue funding, will be confirmed in annual grant determinations.
- 5.3. The grant payment and grant determination letters (GDL) for 2026-27 will be made after this MoU is signed.
- 5.4. The 2027-28, 2028-29 and 2029-30 grant payments will be paid in Quarter 1 (April-June) of each year. Release of payments is dependent on submission of satisfactory Statement of Grant Usage and monitoring reports in the preceding year as set out in [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#) and ongoing compliance with the Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance.
- 5.5. Grant determination letters (GDL) for years 2027-28, 2028-29 and 2029-30 will be provided following confirmation of the annual payment for each year.
- 5.6. The grant payment arrangements for financial year 2030-31 and beyond will be set out in a separate memorandum of understanding.
- 5.7. Where the local authority is holding any underspend from the Pride in Place programme capacity funding payments made in 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, this may be retained and brought forward to be spent in future years in line with the Funding Flexibility rules outlined in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#). The 2026/27, 2027-28, 2028-29 and 2029-30 grant payments from MHCLG will not be adjusted as a result of any brought forward funding.
- 5.8. Capital grant funding, as set out in grant determinations, may only be used for capital expenditure.
- 5.9. Revenue grant funding may be used for revenue or capital expenditure, in line with the local authority's accounting practices.
- 5.10. If the Secretary of State has concerns around future spending plans, based on the experience of local delivery to date, or wider financial issues or governance affecting delivery, then the Secretary of State may pay in instalments, withhold or recover funding.

5.11. The local authority accepts responsibility for meeting any costs over and above the Secretary of State's contribution, agreed in the annual grant determination. This includes potential cost overruns and the underwriting of any funding contributions expected from third parties.

## **6. Conditions of Approval**

6.1. MHCLG's agreement of the Pride in Place Plan for Spalding is conditional upon the following condition/s being completed:

a) N/A

6.2. In the event that the above conditions are not met by the date set out, the Secretary of State may withhold further annual payments until such time as the conditions are satisfactorily completed.

## **7. Branding and Communication**

7.1. The Secretary of State will provide the local authority with guidance on the Branding and Communication associated with the programme in due course.

7.2. The Parties agree to adhere to the guidance and any updates subsequently released by the Secretary of State or HMG on communications linked to the programme.

7.3. The local authority agrees to publish details of Neighbourhood Board membership, place governance arrangements and key documents regarding delivery of the programme in the local area, as outlined in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

7.4. The local authority agrees to make monitoring returns submitted to the department publicly available as outlined in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

## **8. Evaluation**

8.1 The Secretary of State will publish an evaluation strategy, setting out how the programme will be evaluated, in due course.

8.2 The local authority will support any evaluation of the fund through capturing and providing relevant monitoring data and engaging as appropriate with MHCLG or its contractors.

## **9. Assurance**

- 9.1. The Secretary of State has set out the approach to assurance for the programme in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).
- 9.2. Funding will be managed within the finance governance framework adopted by local authorities and the existing local authority accountability and assurance regime, under the oversight of the local authority's Chief Financial Officer [England and Wales: Section 151, Scotland: Section 95, Northern Ireland: Section 54].
- 9.3. The Chief Financial Officer will be required to submit an annual Statement of Grant Usage return to MHCLG. This will provide confirmation that they have undertaken to actively apply all the necessary checks to ensure proper administration of its financial affairs regarding the funding programme, and that the funding has been managed with propriety, regularity and value for money.
- 9.4. The local authority is expected to have the necessary governance and assurance arrangements in place and that all legal and other statutory obligations and consents will be adhered to.
- 9.5. As set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#), the local authority is responsible for applying management controls that:
- mitigate the risk of fraud;
  - ensure funding has been used in accordance with UK subsidy control legislation;
  - ensure that any procurement undertaken by a contracting authority funded by the fund has complied with public procurement rules;
  - ensure compliance with its statutory equality obligations;
  - ensure adequate assessment of environmental impacts arising from programme activities and compliance with environmental duty; and
  - ensure that any personal data obtained in connection with the fund's activities is handled in compliance with data protection legislation.
- 9.6. The local authority will respond directly to questions addressing the local delivery of the fund and cooperate with the Secretary of State in any inquiries regarding the delivery of the fund.

## **10. Changes to agreed Pride in Place Plan**

- 10.1. The local authority will notify the Secretary of State of any changes to the activities, expenditure, management processes and governance arrangements set out in their Pride in Place Plan through routine monitoring returns. The local authority does not need approval from the Secretary of State to make changes to its delivery unless the change constitutes a 'material change' as set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

10.2. Requests for material changes can be made to the Secretary of State as and when required during delivery, following the published process.

### **10. Compliance with the MoU**

10.1. The Parties to this MoU are responsible for ensuring that they have the necessary systems and appropriate resources in place within their respective organisations to comply fully with the requirements of this MoU.

### **11. Changes to the MoU**

11.1. The arrangements under this MoU will be kept under review. Amendments to this MoU may only be made upon written agreement between the Parties.

### **12. Resolution of Disputes**

12.1. Any dispute that may arise as to the interpretation or application of this MoU will be settled by consultation between the parties.

**Signed on Behalf of the Local Authority (by Chief Executive / Chief Financial Officer):**

**Name:**

**Job Title:**

**Date:**

**Signed on Behalf of Secretary of State:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Withers', written in a cursive style.

**Name: Kay Withers**

**Job Title: Director, Communities, Cohesion and Inclusive Growth**

**Date: 31 March 2026**

**Signed on Behalf of the Neighbourhood Board in acknowledgement of the Neighbourhood Board role in delivery of the programme:**

**Name:**

**Job Title:**

**Date:**

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<b>Report To:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Performance Report and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
<b>Purpose:</b>	Partnership performance update and MOA review
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr Nick Worth, Leader of the Council
<b>Report Of:</b>	James Gilbert, Service Director – Corporate Services
<b>Report Author:</b>	Richard Baldwin, Strategic Performance Analyst
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	All
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	No

## Summary

This report sets out the progress of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership since the last update in Autumn 2025.

## Recommendations

1. That the content of this report in respect of the progress of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership be noted.
2. That subject to agreement by the other Partnership Councils, Council approves the updated Memorandum of Agreement for the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (Appendix A) and delegates authority to Executive Director (Finance) to sign the revised Agreement on behalf of this Council. The new Agreement, upon signing, will replace the previous Agreement.

## Reasons for Recommendations

- To monitor and report on the progress of the Partnership.
- To update the Memorandum of Agreement to reflect the Partnership is now embedded and in response to feedback from the Partnership Scrutiny undertaken in 2024.

## Other Options Considered

- To not update the Memorandum of Agreement – discounted. A review and updating of the Agreement were considered necessary following the 2024 annual Partnership scrutiny.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council) launched on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.
- 1.2 This report sets out the progress of the Partnership since the last update in Autumn 2025.

## 2. Alignment and Delivery Plan (ADP)

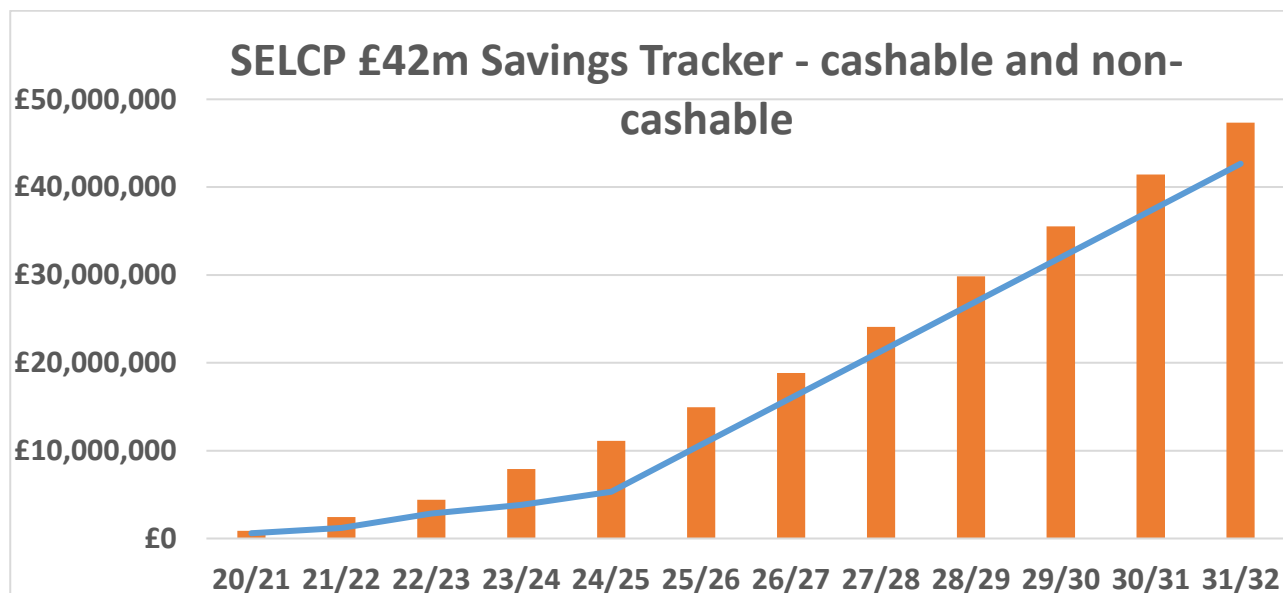
- 2.1 Progress of Alignment and Delivery Plan activity is being monitored by Joint Strategy Board to support the Partnership in delivering on its priorities, as well as sovereign Council ambitions.
- 2.2 For the year 2025/26, of the 102 activities in the ADP for the year, 81% were completed, or on track if a multi-year action. Delivery is being managed by Service Directors and corporate monitoring.

Funding secured since August 2020	BBC	ELDC	SHDC	COMBINED
2020/21	£22,200,000	£48,718,578	£8,300,000	£79,218,578
2021/22	£3,395,318	£5,068,169	£2,397,892	£10,861,379
2022/23	£17,704,882	£13,766,960	£22,234,304	£53,706,146
2023/24	£7,386,953	£24,368,636	£13,455,393	£45,210,982
2024/25	£20,680,797	£28,505,595	£3,581,838	£52,432,508
2025/26	£2,811,466	£25,833,400	£7,402,429	£36,465,294
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£74,179,415</b>	<b>£146,261,338</b>	<b>£57,371,856</b>	<b>£277,894,888</b>

- 2.3 A key element of the plan is securing external funding. The table below sets out external funding secured since August 2020 by sovereign Council and in total for the

Partnership. Recent grant awards cover a range of initiatives, including funding for Pride in Place, Extended Producer Responsibility and Household Support Fund.

2.4 The Partnership Business Case identified that £42m in financial efficiencies could be derived from the 3 Councils working together. The graph shows the financial efficiencies - both cashable and non-cashable - that have been identified so far (to the end of March 2026).



2.5 The blue line on the graph shows the target in the Partnership’s Business Case. The orange bars show where the Partnership is against that target. This shows that the Partnership is already on track to achieve the efficiency savings up to £47,333,486. Additional efficiencies for future years will be added as they are identified through matters such as contract reviews and service reviews.

SAVINGS PROFILE – CASHABLE AND NON-CASHABLE			
		TARGET	TOTAL
ALLIANCE	20/21	£600,000	£872,415
SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP	21/22	£1,200,000	£2,440,787
	22/23	£2,838,000	£4,420,112
	23/24	£3,833,000	£7,913,591
	24/25	£5,334,000	£11,105,001
	25/26	£10,668,000	£14,925,731
	26/27	£16,002,000	£18,832,186
	27/28	£21,335,000	£24,096,400
	28/29	£26,669,000	£29,840,230
	29/30	£32,003,000	£35,526,566
	30/31	£37,337,000	£41,421,180
	31/32	£42,671,000	£47,333,486

2.6 Council is being asked to note the progress of the Alignment and Delivery Plans as well as the progress in securing external funding and achieving the efficiency target for the Partnership.

### 3 Priority Partnerships Update

3.1 A number of key Partnerships are established as mechanisms for delivering the strategic priorities of the Partnership are set out in the table below:

Priority Partnership	Subject areas	Sub-regional partners	Initial priorities	Lead
Growth and Prosperity Priority Partnership	Skills, Training/Education, Business Support Employment, Utilities, Economic Development, Transport Infrastructure, Flood Risk	Executive Director of Economic Development, Education providers, Lincolnshire County Council, Utility companies, Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce, Greater Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership, Department for Work and Pensions, Environment Agency.	Transport infrastructure; Skills Development; Inward investment	Economic Development
Healthy Lives Priority Partnership	Leisure, Culture, Wellbeing, Housing and Homelessness, Access to Health Services, Health Inequalities.	Executive Director of Communities, Lincolnshire CCG, NHS, Mental Health Services, Leisure providers, Housing providers.	Access to health services; Obesity	Communities
Safer Communities Priority Partnership	Crime and Disorder, Anti-Social Behaviour, Licensing	Executive Director of Communities, Lincolnshire Police, Probation Service.	Fear of crime; Anti-social behaviour; Domestic abuse	Communities
Environment Priority Partnership	Climate Change, Biodiversity, Air Quality, Transport Emissions, Water Resources, Carbon Reduction, Alternative Energy, Sustainability	Executive Director of Communities, Natural England, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire County Council, Environment Agency.	Climate Change Agenda, Carbon foot printing, Asset carbon reduction, Sustainable businesses, Biodiversity and Habitat management	Communities

#### 3.2 Growth and Prosperity Priority Partnership (Economic Development):

3.2.1 Boston Town Deal's flagship project, The Mayflower learning centre, was officially opened by Boston College in March 2026. The project has been designed to tackle skills gaps and support Boston's economic revitalisation and provide inclusive education within a community hub environment for local students, businesses and voluntary services.

3.2.2 This investment has been complemented in Skegness, with the completion of a new £14million TEC College in September 2025. The new campus is making a significant impact on the local community by providing accessible education

opportunities in critical areas such as construction, engineering, hospitality, tourism, digital skills training, and adult learning and was officially opened in January 2026.

- 3.2.3 Our UKSPF-funded 'People and Skills' programme has delivered investment in a number of priority initiatives.
- 3.2.4 Steadfast Connect2Grow - Supporting the continuation of the successful 'Connect2Grow' project offered by Steadfast Training in Boston and South Holland, specifically targeting those in the community who are economically inactive with support in terms of employability skills, an accredited or industry-recognised qualification or a guaranteed interview with an employer.
- 3.2.5 Boston College – Restart, Reskill, Upskill. A continuation of Boston College's Restart, Reskill, Upskill project delivered across the SELCP area. Targeted at supporting those who are economically inactive to receive both a qualification and a guaranteed interview with a local employer.
- 3.2.6 Heritage Lincolnshire Heritage Skills – Continuing support for Heritage Lincolnshire to hold heritage skills sessions for learners interested in learning shortage 'in demand' historic environment skills and exploring careers in the sector. The is supporting the development of a Sub-Regional Heritage Skills strategy in concert with Historic England.
- 3.2.7 University of Lincoln – Higher Level Engineering Skills. Continuing the successful project targeted at supporting learners of all ages to undertake short accredited courses and insight days in the food and agricultural sector, as well as exploring career opportunities in the sector and AI/robotics skills for local residents.
- 3.2.8 The SELCP-led Future Fest was held at Peter Paine Centre in Boston. Attracting young people from schools across the SELCP area, including a large number of businesses from the sub-region, the event showcased local career opportunities to young people.

### 3.3 Healthy Lives Priority Partnership

- 3.3.1 The Healthy Living Board (HLB) continues to provide strategic oversight and a collaborative partnership forum to address health inequalities and improve health outcomes across South and East Lincolnshire. Partners from local government, health, and the voluntary and community sector are working collectively to align activity, share intelligence and target resources effectively.
- 3.3.2 HLB have recently reviewed Terms of Reference & membership to ensure wider representation and reflection of current partnership work across the 3 Councils. New members include representatives from Public Health, Primary Care Networks & NHS Neighbourhood Leads.
- 3.3.3 East Lindsey District Council's Portfolio holder for Partnerships is now attending the Lincolnshire Health & Wellbeing board on behalf of Lincolnshire District Councils. This will ensure place-based partnership and local needs are considered in the development of NHS Neighbourhood Health Plans.

- 3.3.4 Sport England Place Partnership programme with Active Lincolnshire continues to evolve, with local stakeholder and community engagement and ‘theory of change’ developed to identify local priorities. Bids will be submitted to Sport England for each Council area over the next 6 months, with funding intended to ‘facilitate and enable’ physical activity across the system.
- 3.3.5 Healthy Communities Team now in place following service review. The new SELCP team will work across 3 key strands – Health inequalities, Ageing Well & Prevention & Resilience (including financial and digital inclusion) and can be contacted at [healthycommunities@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:healthycommunities@e-lindsey.gov.uk)
- 3.3.6 There are 2 ongoing Leisure Centre refurbishment projects, one in Boston and one in South Holland, which will have a significant benefit once completed, progress is reported through the Major projects working group. There was a new Agency Agreement starting on the 1st April with Parkwood, which currently incorporates the South Holland exiting/temporary facilities as well as the PRSA in Boston, the GMLC/refurbished Boston Leisure Centre is also coming on line this December. ELDC Leisure facilities will follow suit from October 27.

#### 3.4 Safer Communities Priority Partnership

- 3.4.1 There has been one meeting of the South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership since the last update, this was held in February 2026.
- 3.4.2 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue gave a presentation on the work of the Arson Task Force and their ‘FireStoppers’ campaign which is promoted for anonymous reporting. Partners were encouraged to help promote this to the public
- 3.4.3 Boston’s Community Safety Officers delivered an overview of their activity, highlighting over 750 hours of patrols, multiple ASB interventions, and strong partnership work with police and the CCTV team.
- 3.4.4 Updates were provided on two of the projects within the action plan:
  - Fear of Crime Task & Finish Group: Initial actions underway including new “See it, Report it, Change it” comms approach and expanded reporting guidance.
  - Skegness Place Based Project: Hotspot area identified; engagement and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) workstreams established; strong links with Caravan Park Watch. Next steps - Deep dive on Skegness hotspot data; establish community reference group.
- 3.4.5 The group were updated that the Community Safety Strategy has been refreshed and the action plan reorganised and expanded for the year ahead.
- 3.4.6 An update was provided on the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership. Preparations are underway for the abolition of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### 3.5 Environment Priority Partnership/SELCAN

- 3.5.2 An advert has also been developed by the network to promote SELCAN to potential new members and the network are also working with a PHD student on a research project around Regenerative Futures.

- 3.5.3 The Nature Based Solutions sub-group are working towards the Nature Challenge for Schools and have been reviewing their delivery plan as well as the newly adopted tree and hedgerow strategy to see where potential links are and opportunities to support community objectives.
- 3.5.4 The Built Environment, Agriculture & Food sub-group have been developing web content around eating seasonal and local food and are looking at attending the Lincs Food Partnership Food Summit which is themed around resilience.
- 3.5.5 The Transport & Energy sub-group have continued delivery of their cycle project to community groups, bike hubs, residents, and education settings throughout the year, and have now got sign-ups for all 300 of the packs we had made up. Members recently attended events including Boston College Road Safety Day where one of our members gave students a visibility demonstration and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School's Environment & Sustainability week. The group are also now exploring the potential to roll out a second phase of the project as take-up has been very good and seems to be growing, with the YMCA having also shown an interest in receiving packs.
- 3.5.6 The Business, Marketing Education sub-group have been working towards the delivery of the Sustainability Stars project, which provides subsidised sustainability training to businesses in the sub-region.

3.6 Council is being asked to note the updates from the Priority Partnerships.

#### **4 Local Government Reorganisation**

- 4.1 The Councils are collectively working with other Councils in Greater Lincolnshire to undertake early preparatory work to lay the foundations for Local Government Reorganisation.
- 4.2 Work is being undertaken, led by Chief Executives, in respect of legal/governance, HR, ICT/data, finance and assets.
- 4.3 It is likely the Government's chosen model for Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire will be known before the summer Parliamentary recess.
- 4.4 At the present time, indications suggest that Reorganisation will still take place in early 2028.

#### **5 Partnership Memorandum of Agreement**

- 5.1 In late September 2021, prior to the inception of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, each partner Council signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to underpin the arrangements in which the Councils would work together to support one another.
- 5.2 In 2024, the Partnership Councils joint scrutiny report made the following recommendation as previously reported to Council.

***Review the MOA for the Partnership to ensure it remains relevant and builds in flexibility to allow the Partnership to develop (for example to improve the way the annual partnership scrutiny works).***

Appendix A presents a revised MOA with the key changes as follows:

<b>Key changes</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Amendments to the Terms of Reference for Joint Strategy Board to remove the need for their approval on Partnership service reviews. Sign off would be via Stakeholder Board and relevant Portfolio Holders (plus sovereign Council governance).	Most major service reviews are now completed and changes in the future are likely to be light touch. Given Joint Strategy Board meets twice-yearly this builds in greater flexibility.
Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel. Change to Terms of Reference for this advisory Panel.	Would meet for Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer employment matters only. Previously it also covered the tier below.
Partnership Performance Reports to Council to move from six monthly to annually.	To reflect the Partnership is now well embedded.
Flexibility around Partnership scrutiny	Feedback was that the previous MOA was too ridged (for example, included the requirement for an annual scrutiny of the Partnership). The revised MOA provides the ability for the Councils to jointly agree a programme of scrutiny focused on the issues they consider most relevant.
Termination and withdrawal period extended from 12 to 18 months	Whilst potentially a moot point due to Local Government Reorganisation, this is amended in recognition that the extent of the shared working between the Councils would require a longer period to un-do.
New clause at 10.8 to reflect Local Government Reorganisation.	Should the Councils cease to exist as legal entities, this clause makes clear the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership will also cease to exist and this agreement will expire.

## **6 Conclusion**

6.1 Significant progress continues to be made by the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

### **Implications**

#### **South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership**

This report updates on the progress of the Partnership to date.

#### **Corporate Priorities**

The formation of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership supports the corporate priorities of the sovereign Councils in the Sub-Regional Strategy. This is reflected in the agreed Delivery Plans and performance measures.

#### **Staffing**

No implications specific to staffing in this report.

### **Workforce Capacity Implications**

No implications specific to workforce capacity in this report.

### **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

The constitutional and legal arrangements for the successful implementation of Partnership have been approved by all three partner Councils.

### **Data Protection**

No implications specific to data protection in this report.

### **Financial**

No implications specific to finances in this report.

### **Risk Management**

No implications specific to risk management in this report.

### **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

None specific to this report.

### **Reputation**

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership has established a positive reputation through the progress it has achieved to date as contained in the main body of the report.

### **Contracts**

No implications specific to contracts in this report.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Section 3 of this report sets out details of the Safer Communities Priority Partnership.

### **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding**

No implications specific to this report.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Section 3 of this report sets out details of the Healthy Lives Priority Partnership.

### **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

Section 3 of this report sets out details of the Environment Priority Partnership.

## Acronyms

ADP: Alignment and Delivery Plan  
CCG: Clinical Commissioning Group  
EA: Environment Agency  
HLB: Healthy Living Board  
LCC: Lincolnshire County Council  
LGA: Local Government Association  
LGR: Local Government Reorganisation  
MOA: Memorandum of Agreement  
SELCAN: South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network  
SELCP: South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership  
SELCSP: South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership  
SLP: Safer Lincolnshire Partnership  
SLT: Senior Leadership Team  
UKSPF: UK Shared Prosperity Fund

## Appendices

Appendix A – revised Memorandum of Agreement

## Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

<b>Document title</b>	<b>Where the document can be viewed</b>
S&ELCP Business Case	<a href="http://www.selcp.co.uk/ourpartnership">www.selcp.co.uk/ourpartnership</a>

## Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body. This is being reported directly to Council to engage all Members.

## Report Approval

Report author:	Richard Baldwin, Strategic Performance Analyst <a href="mailto:richard.baldwin@e-lindsey.gov.uk">richard.baldwin@e-lindsey.gov.uk</a>
Signed off by:	James Gilbert, Service Director – Corporate Services <a href="mailto:james.gilbert@e-lindsey.gov.uk">james.gilbert@e-lindsey.gov.uk</a>
Approved for publication:	Cllr Nick Worth, Leader of the Council <a href="mailto:nickworth@sholland.gov.uk">nickworth@sholland.gov.uk</a>

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

AND

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

AND

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

REVISED XXXXX 2026 (VERSION 2)

RELATING TO AN INTEGRATED SHARED WORKFORCE STRUCTURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A  
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE THREE COUNCILS  
(KNOWN AS THE SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP)

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## Memorandum of Agreement

Dated: **INSERT**

### The Parties

(1) **East Lindsey District Council** whose principal office is at The Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH.

**and**

(2) **Boston Borough Council** whose principal office is at The Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8QR.

**and**

(3) **South Holland District Council** whose principal office is at Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding PE11 2XE.

### 1. Introduction

1.1 This Memorandum of Agreement between the Councils sets out:

- a) The purpose and aims of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.
- b) The purpose and aims of the shared workforce structure and agreed areas of joint working; and
- c) The basis on which the Councils shall operate.

### 2. Background and Overview

- 2.1 Section 113 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a local authority may enter into an agreement with another local authority for the placing at the disposal of the latter for the purposes of their functions, on such terms as may be provided by the agreement, the services and officers employed by the former. An officer placed by one local authority at the disposal of another remains employed by the first local authority.
- 2.2 East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council entered into a strategic alliance on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 and that alliance was superseded by the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership. Those councils placed certain members of their staff at the disposal of the other pursuant to an agreement under s113 of the Local Government Act 1972 dated 1 July 2021.
- 2.3 East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council acknowledge and confirm that their agreement dated 1 July, 2020 has been terminated and superseded by the initial agreement signed to form the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership which was signed on 29 September, 2021.
- 2.4 South Holland District Council was formerly part of a shared management arrangement with Breckland District Council. Those arrangements came to an end on 30 April, 2021. All residual shared services under that shared management agreement have now ceased.

- 2.5 The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership between Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland Councils commenced on 1 October 2021.
- 2.6 The Councils are desirous of securing further benefit to their communities through their established three-council strategic partnership and of sharing the costs and benefit from the efficiency savings that are secured through their strategic partnership.
- 2.7 In December 2023, the three Councils agreed a Sub-Regional Strategy that sets out the Strategic, Corporate and Local Priorities for the Partnership and individual Councils, replacing each Council's individual Corporate Strategy. This was a significant step in cementing the Partnership's commitment to future joint working on priority areas.

### **3. The decision making to form the Partnership**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 1 July 2021, South Holland District Council approved the designation of East Lindsey District Council's Head of Paid Service as South Holland District Council's Head of Paid Service and Chief Executive for an interim period being the period necessary to prepare and submit to the Council a business case, draft Memorandum of Agreement and proposed Senior Management Team structure for the formation of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.
- 3.2 At their respective meetings on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021, East Lindsey District Council and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021, Boston Borough Council and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021, South Holland District Council resolved to enter into the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership supported by the Shared Management Team but with the potential for the Councils to share additional posts. The shared Management Team includes a range of senior roles, including Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

### **4. Objectives of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership**

- 4.1 The objectives of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership **facilitated by a Shared Workforce Structure** are:
  - To provide adequate capacity and resilience to the three Councils so that they are individually and collectively better able to deliver on their priorities to local people.
  - Acting together to develop, promote jointly and secure investment in strategic infrastructure that will benefit the three Council areas by assisting economic growth and regeneration.
  - For each council individually to continue to exercise democratically accountable local government in their respective areas and have their own governance arrangements whilst sharing management of agreed internal and external services.
  - To provide opportunities for the joint commissioning of services and sharing resources, including ICT systems, where a business case supports such a decision.
  - To provide more efficient and economical services to local people whilst maintaining or improving the quality of the services that are provided to them.
  - To make financial savings to the combined staffing.

- To create greater opportunities for the Partnership’s workforce to develop their careers.

Although a Shared Workforce Structure may provide opportunities and ease the transition to joint commissioning of services, this agreement does not commit any Council to the commissioning of joint services.

#### 4.2

Whilst many services are now shared following service reviews, in the absence of the formal sharing of officers in any given service area, it is the intention of the Councils to offer each other mutual assistance and support informally and on an ad-hoc basis by adopting a ‘one team’ ethos.

Each year Council will receive a report updating on the work of the Partnership.

### 5. Definitions

In this Agreement the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Term	Meaning
Chief Executive	the officer for the time being appointed as Chief Executive of the Councils
Clause	a Clause in this Agreement
Commencement Date	INSERT
Council	East Lindsey District Council or Boston Borough Council or South Holland District Council (as the case may be)
Councils	Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council
Cabinet	The Executive of East Lindsey District Council or the Cabinet of Boston Borough Council or South Holland District Council as the case may be, appointed in accordance with Part IA Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000
Executive Arrangements	Construed in accordance with Part IA Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000
Expenses	Shall be interpreted in accordance with Clause 9
Head of Paid Service	The officer for the time being appointed under Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (currently the Chief Executive)
Intellectual Property Rights	All patents, rights to inventions, copyright and related rights, trademarks and service marks, business names and domain names, rights in get-up, goodwill, rights in designs, rights in computer software, database rights, rights to use, and protect the confidentiality of, confidential information (including know-how) and all other intellectual property rights, in each case whether registered or unregistered and including all applications and rights to apply for and be granted, renewals or extensions of, and rights to claim priority from, such rights and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which subsist or will subsist now or in the future in any part of the world.
Leader of the Council	Leader of East Lindsey District Council or Leader of Boston Borough Council or Leader of South Holland District Council for the time being as the case may be.
The Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel	The advisory body established with the terms of reference set out at Schedule 1

Joint Strategy Board	The advisory body established with the terms of reference set out at Schedule 3
Legal Adviser	The person for the time being appointed by East Lindsey District Council or Boston Borough Council or South Holland District Council to provide legal advice to the Council or Councils and may be an officer of the Council or Councils or an external person who is legally qualified.
Monitoring Officer	The officer for the time being appointed under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
Shared Workforce Structure	The Shared Management Team together with such other officers as the Councils may agree in writing from time to time all of whom shall be appointed by one Council and placed at the disposal of the other Councils or one of them.
Shared Management Team	The top three tiers of the Partnership's Management Structure.
Section 151 Officer	The officer for the time being appointed under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972
South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership	A strategic Partnership established under the terms of this Memorandum of Agreement comprising Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council
Joint Stakeholder Group	The advisory body established with the term of reference at Schedule 2

## 6. Preliminary

6.1 This Agreement is made pursuant to

- (a) Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 (delegation to joint committees);
- (b) Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972 (duty to appoint officers);
- (c) Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 (power to place staff at the disposal of other local authorities);
- (d) Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (local authorities' general power of competence);
- (e) Sections 9EA and 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and The Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012/1019 (joint arrangements for the exercise of executive functions) and all other enabling powers.

6.2 This Agreement has been entered into by the Councils by virtue of the resolutions of the Councils at their respective meetings on **INSERT**; and supersedes the previous agreement approved by Council: East Lindsey District Council on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Boston Borough Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 and South Holland District Council on and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

6.3 This Agreement shall commence on the Commencement Date and subject to Clause 10 (Termination and Review) shall continue in full force and effect unless and until the Councils agree to terminate it.

6.4 The Councils shall at all times co-operate with each other and shall observe the following key principles:

- trust, transparency, integrity, and respect
- effective working relationships, co-operation, collaboration, and information-sharing whilst respecting the confidentiality of the other Council.
- accountability to their council taxpayers and each other
- openness to change, including the addition of further partners.
- to recognise the values and behaviours of each partner's culture, and promote the Partnership's agreed Values and Behaviours
- systematic and outcome focused in their approach to working together.
- sensitivity to the fact each council operates in a political environment.

6.5 The Councils shall each use their best endeavours to ensure that their contractors and other partners operate and provide their services and service-related information and data to the relevant Council in such a manner as to support the aims of this Agreement generally and in a manner which observes and supports the principles set out in sub-clause 6.4 above.

## **7. Joint Officer Employment Panel, Joint Strategy Board and Joint Stakeholder Group**

7.1 The Councils have established a Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel which shall not be a formal shared committee within the meaning of the Local Government Acts unless and until otherwise resolved. It shall meet, operate, and be serviced in accordance with its terms of reference at Schedule 1. In practical terms this means that the Panel will be advisory in nature and that any decisions affecting any of the Councils will be made by their respective Employment Panel/Committee or Full Council, as appropriate.

7.2 The Councils have established a Joint Stakeholder Group which shall not be a formal shared committee within the meaning of the Local Government Acts. The role of the Stakeholder Group is to oversee strategic direction, assurance, and monitoring. It shall meet, operate, and be serviced in accordance with its terms of reference at Schedule 2.

7.3 The Councils have established a Joint Strategy Board which shall not be a formal shared committee within the meaning of the Local Government Acts unless and until resolved otherwise. It shall meet, operate, and be serviced in accordance with its terms of reference at Schedule 3. In practical terms this means that in the first instance the Board will be advisory in nature and that any decisions affecting any of the Councils will be made by their respective Executives or Full Council, as appropriate.

7.4 Notwithstanding Clause 9 (Finance) below each Council shall meet any cost that they incur arising from meetings of the Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel, Joint Stakeholder Group, and the Joint Strategy Board.

## **8. The Shared Workforce Structure**

8.1 The Councils agreed at their respective meetings on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (East Lindsey District Council) and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 (Boston Borough Council) and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (South Holland District Council) to enter into the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership supported by the Shared Management Team together with such other officers as the Councils may agree in writing from

time to time will form part of the Shared Workforce Structure.

- 8.2 If the Councils (or any two of them) propose to share any services they shall prior to any such arrangements being implemented:
- a) Prepare a draft business case in respect of the service to be shared setting out inter alia the proposed legal and financial arrangements.
  - b) Refer the draft business case to the relevant Portfolio Holders for consideration.
  - c) Prepare a final business case taking account of any feedback from the Portfolio Holders and seek approval through each Council's own decision-making governance arrangements.
  - d) Comply with all employment law requirements including but not limited to consultation with officers proposed to be shared.
- 8.3 Notwithstanding clause 8.2 above, individual officers may be shared on a long term or short-term basis via the Council's relevant governance arrangements.
- 8.4 The development of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership and the Shared Workforce Structure is to be overseen and implemented by the Joint Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.
- 8.5 The expectation is that the balance of staff employed by each Council within the Shared Workforce will remain broadly proportionate to the balance when the Partnership formed.
- 8.6 Staff within the Shared Workforce Structure may be employed by any one of the Councils and having been so employed shall forthwith be placed at the disposal of the Councils (or one of them) who are not their employer.
- 8.7 For superannuation purposes, service rendered by an officer of one of the Councils whose services are placed at the disposal of the other in pursuance of section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 and hence in pursuance of this Agreement is service rendered to the Council by whom he/she is employed.
- 8.8 Any member of the Shared Workforce Structure shall be treated for the purposes of any enactment relating to the discharge of functions of a local authority as an officer of the other Council or Councils and members of the Shared Workforce Structure may act and shall have powers to act under the constitutions of the other Councils.
- 8.9 The members of the Shared Workforce Structure shall divide their time fairly and reasonably between the Councils and shall not show bias towards one Council vis-à-vis another. This is important to ensure the precepts on each Council's taxpayers do not cause gain or loss for the other Councils' taxpayers.
- 8.10 The Chief Executive shall be the shared Head of Paid Service in respect of the workforce of the Councils. The Chief Executive shall lead the Shared Management Team. Attendance at and frequency of meetings, terms of reference and other matters relating to the Shared Management Team shall be at the discretion of the Chief Executive.
- 8.11 The Councils shall agree in writing financial arrangements as to the allocation of pension contributions including those relating to payments due in respect of the pension deficits of the Councils upon the transfer, appointment to or employment of staff within the Shared Workforce Structure.

## **9. Finance**

9.1 The costs arising from the creation of the Shared Workforce Structure shall, unless agreed otherwise in writing in accordance with clause 9.1.3, be apportioned as follows:

9.1.1 East Lindsey District Council shall meet 46% per cent and Boston Borough Council 23% per cent and South Holland District Council 31% percent of any redundancy and associated pension strain costs and subsequent redundancy, Employment Tribunal or other dismissal claim costs arising from the creation or ongoing operation of the Shared Workforce Team after the commencement of this Agreement;

9.1.2 East Lindsey District Council shall meet 46% per cent and Boston Borough Council 23% per cent and South Holland District Council 31% percent of the ongoing salary and on-costs, superannuation, national insurance, training, travel, and incidental costs of the Shared Workforce Structure;

9.1.3 The Section 151 Officer may adjust where necessary the apportionment of any on-going costs set out in this clause 9.1 in order to appropriately reflect the use of resources by the Councils, however, in the main the above methodology will be adopted. This may of necessity be required where for example interim or project support requirements significantly vary over the short and medium term. All of these approvals will be captured as part of a regular review process by the Section 151 Officer to ensure that the inter-council charging is appropriate.

9.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 9.1.1 above, the Councils agree to review the apportionment of costs at such time as new population data is released by the Office for National Statistics.

9.3 The Councils shall account for the costs of and savings to each of the Councils in accordance with the budget and accounting systems of each of the Councils and in accordance with all relevant law and guidance including all relevant CIPFA Guidance and to the satisfaction of the Section 151 Officer.

9.4 The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer collectively shall keep the arrangements under review to ensure that the legal basis for the arrangements remains appropriate and that the financial arrangements are a fair and reasonable reflection of the time spent by officers of the Shared Workforce Structure on the business and functions of each Council.

9.5 The Section 151 Officer shall confirm as part of the annual budget report in consultation with the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer that the legal basis and financial arrangements for the Shared Workforce Structure remain appropriate. Any particular financial matters of concern will be raised through the regular financial reports to Members or through separate reports as required.

9.6 Costs incurred upon termination shall be apportioned in accordance with clause 10 below.

## **10. Termination and Review**

10.1 This Agreement shall continue unless terminated in accordance with this Clause 10 PROVIDED

ALWAYS THAT the provisions of this Clause 10 shall be subject to any other provision of this Agreement extending financial liability beyond termination.

- 10.2 Any of the Councils may withdraw from the Agreement wholly or in relation to part of the shared services in accordance with the following procedure:
- a. Any decision to withdraw from or terminate this Agreement may only be approved by the respective Full Council.
  - b. A Council which wishes to withdraw from this Agreement shall give not less than 18 months written notice to the other Councils and to the Joint Chief Executive of its intention to do so.
  - c. The Joint Chief Executive shall prepare a report to the Joint Strategy Board about the implications of any withdrawal or termination of the arrangements. The Joint Strategy Board will have ongoing oversight of the arrangements.
  - d. The Joint Chief Executive shall liaise with the withdrawing Council(s) in respect of the plans for an orderly withdrawal from the Partnership and agreement in respect of allocation of assets, resources, staffing implications and the implementation of the exit plan prepared pursuant to sub-clause e.
  - e. The Joint Chief Executive shall consult the Councils upon which notice has been served giving consideration to:
    - i. any financial consequences of the withdrawal to include for example, loss of funding, clawback of funding, potential liability, damage claim or expense;
    - ii. potential service delivery implications and implications for staff and reputational damage. The preparation, agreement and implementation of an exit plan to deal with allocation of resources, assets and staff and appropriate consultation and communication with staff and other relevant parties.
  - f. A Council wishing to withdraw from this Agreement undertakes as a condition of such withdrawal, to agree to such reasonable payment or payments which fairly reflect the actual losses caused by or anticipated as a result of the withdrawal, as shall be determined by the other Council or Councils and can be established at that point in time. No notice of withdrawal shall take effect until such an agreement has been made.
  - g. A Council which has given written notice of its intention to withdraw from this Agreement shall between the date of that notice and the date of withdrawal, provide reasonable assistance to the other Councils to enable the transfer of functions to the other Councils. The Councils shall take all steps as may be reasonably necessary to agree in good faith and effect handover arrangements with the withdrawing Council(s) to enable the continuation of activities and functions with minimum interference and inconvenience to the other Council(s) or service users.
  - h. Each Council reserves the right to recover from every other Council the costs of any claims, costs, expenses, losses or liabilities of any nature which have been caused by any act or omission of a Council and which are discovered following withdrawal of a Council or Councils from this Agreement.
- 10.3 Where all the Councils jointly agree to terminate or withdraw from this Agreement, they shall do so by each giving the other not less than 18 months' prior written notice and such a decision to

terminate or withdraw may only be made by all the Councils acting by their full Council.

10.4 In the event of a termination for any reason the Councils shall:

- (a) co-operate in terminating, modifying, restructuring, assigning, or novating contractual arrangements entered into to mutual advantage and properly and timeously execute any documents necessary;
- (b) use best endeavours to secure an amicable and equitable financial settlement;
- (c) as soon as possible and in any event within three months transfer or return any property including data belonging to the other Councils;
- (d) to the extent that any of the Councils has a materially disproportionate number of shared officers compared to the proportions at the Commencement Date, ensure that each Council is allocated a fair and reasonable proportion of the members of the Shared Workforce Team subject to any necessary actions being taken as required by employment law or by the policies of the transferring council so that (1) each Council can maintain continuity in the provision of its services at a reasonable level of effectiveness and efficiency and (2) they become employed by the Council to which they are transferred.

10.5 In the event of any dispute which cannot be resolved in respect of any matter referred to under Clause 10.4, Clause 13 shall apply.

10.6 In the event of a termination however and whenever occurring the costs consequential upon such termination including costs of recruitment selection, termination costs, administration but not salary costs, after the date of termination shall be subject always to clauses 9.1.1 and 9.1.3 be apportioned between the Councils and each Council shall indemnify and keep indemnified the other Councils in respect of that Council's share from and against any actions and causes of action, claims, demands, proceedings, damages, losses, costs, charges and expenses whatsoever arising from or in connection with such termination or withdrawal and such indemnity shall continue after the termination of this Agreement.

10.7 The Councils will, through a shared scrutiny process, review and monitor areas of significance for the Partnership, including understanding its effectiveness and opportunities for further development. The areas to be scrutinised will be agreed collectively by the Chairs of the 3 Councils scrutiny committees.

Membership of Partnership Scrutiny Task Groups will be decided through the agreed process at each Council's relevant parent scrutiny committee, unless subsequent constitutional updates require otherwise.

10.8 Should the Councils cease to exist as legal entities, the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership will also cease to exist and this agreement will expire.

10.9 No deletion, addition, or modification to this Agreement shall be valid unless agreed in writing and sealed by the Councils.

## **11. Head of Paid Service: Application of section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989**

11.1 The Chief Executive has been appointed Head of Paid Service by the Councils.

- 11.2 The Councils shall provide that officer with such staff accommodation and other resources as are in his/her opinion sufficient to allow his/her duties to be performed.
- 11.3 It shall be the duty of the Head of Paid Service where he/she considers it appropriate to do so in respect of any proposals of his/hers with respect to any of the matters specified below to prepare a report to either one or each of the Councils setting out his/her proposals. The matters are:
- 11.3.1 the manner in which the discharge by the Councils of their different functions is coordinated;
- 11.3.2 the number and grades of staff required by the Councils for the discharge of their functions;
- 11.3.3 the organisation of the staff of the Councils; and
- 11.3.4 the appointment and proper management of the staff of the Councils.
- 11.4 It shall be the duty of the Head of Paid Service, as soon as practicable after he/she has prepared such a report, to arrange for a copy of it to be sent to each member of the three Councils as the case may be.
- 11.5 It shall be the duty of each of the Councils separately to consider any such report by the Head of Paid Service at a meeting held not more than three months after copies of the report are first sent to councillors at each Council.

## **12. Head of Paid Service: Supplementary**

- 12.1 Without prejudice to Clause 11 above it shall be the duty of the Head of Paid Service to ensure that all Councillors have such access to and support from all officers of their Council and to the Head of Paid Service and Shared Workforce Team as they may reasonably expect.
- 12.2 Without prejudice to Clause 11 above the duties of the Head of Paid Service shall include advising the Executive/Cabinet of each Council in respect of executive functions within the meaning of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000 (as amended) and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 or the full Council or relevant committee of each Council in respect of non-executive functions within the meaning of the said regulations and the duty of the Head of Paid Service to advise the Councils shall include but not be limited to providing advice on:
- (a) The structure of the Shared Workforce Structure of the Councils;
- (b) The host employer for each post; and
- (c) Performance management of the Shared Workforce Structure.

## **13. Dispute Resolution**

- 13.1 In the event of a dispute concerning the construction or effect of this Agreement it should first be discussed for resolution by the Joint Strategy Board. The Joint Strategy Board shall take all

reasonable steps to conciliate and resolve such dispute or difference whether by negotiation, mediation, or any other form of dispute resolution procedures (with a view to resolution by discussion and negotiation).

13.2 In the event that a matter in dispute cannot be resolved under Clause 13.1 above the matter shall (unless the Councils agree otherwise in writing) be referred to an arbitrator under Clause 13.3 below.

13.3 The arbitrator shall be appointed with the agreement of the Councils or in the event that agreement cannot be reached, by the President or other chief officer of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators or such other professional body appropriate to the matter in dispute (such body to be determined by the Chief Executive). The costs of arbitration shall be borne by the Councils in the following proportions: East Lindsey District Council shall meet 46% per cent and Boston Borough Council 23% per cent and South Holland District Council 31%.

13.4 For the avoidance of doubt this Clause shall remain in effect after the termination or expiry of this Agreement to confer powers on the Councils to resolve matters remaining in dispute.

#### **14. No Fetter of Discretion**

14.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall fetter the discretion of the Councils.

#### **15. Liabilities**

15.1 The Councils shall be jointly and severally liable to any third parties in respect of all actions and causes of action, claims, demands, proceedings, damages, losses, costs, charges, and expenses directly arising from this Agreement. Each council shall indemnify and keep indemnified the other Council(s) from and against the extent of the indemnifying Council's liability for any actions and causes of action, claims, demands, proceedings, damages, losses, costs, charges, and expenses directly arising from or in connection with this Agreement and such liability and indemnity shall continue after the termination of this Agreement.

15.2 East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council shall indemnify South Holland District Council in respect of any liability, loss, claim, costs, damage or proceedings arising from actions between 1 July 2020 and 30 September 2021 as a result of the defaulting Council's negligence, acts, or omissions or breach of its obligations under their Agreement dated 1 July 2020.

15.3 Each Council shall ensure that it has all appropriate insurances relating to public liability, employee liability, professional indemnity, and Member indemnity to cover any liabilities arising under this Agreement.

15.4 Each Council shall ensure that officers placed at its disposal shall when acting on its behalf be insured under that Council's public liability, employee liability and professional indemnity insurances notwithstanding the fact that such officers may be employed by one of the other Councils.

15.5 Where a claim is brought against any of the Councils that is or may be or may become a liability under this Agreement that Council shall notify the other Councils forthwith and shall ensure that it notifies its insurers in accordance with any relevant insurance policy.

- 15.6 The cost of any claim arising from or in connection with this Agreement shall be shared except where only one or two of the Councils is at fault in which case that Council or those Councils shall bear the cost and shall indemnify and keep indemnified the other Council or Councils from and against the extent of the indemnifying Council's liability.
- 15.7 None of the Councils shall take any action which would result in any claim being refused by its insurers or either of the other Councils' insurers in respect of any liability arising in connection with this Agreement.

## **16. Intellectual Property Rights**

- 16.1 Each Council shall retain the ownership of all Intellectual Property Rights it owns as at the Commencement Date in any materials which it has created or the creation of which was undertaken by a third party which it commissioned to create those materials.
- 16.2 Any new material created jointly by the Councils in the course of provision of the Shared Workforce Team shall belong to the Councils jointly unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- 16.3 Each Council hereby grants a licence to the other to use its Intellectual Property Rights incorporated in or appearing from the materials referred to in clauses 16.1 and 16.2 for the purposes of the performance of this Agreement and the delivery of all services by the Councils.

## **17. Notices**

- 17.1 Any notice to be served under this Agreement shall be valid and effective if it is addressed to the Chief Executive and delivered by email, prepaid recorded delivery post, or delivered by hand to the other Councils' principal office.

## **18. Rights and Duties Reserved**

- 18.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice or fetter the proper exercise of any function by the Councils or their officers.

## **19. Legal and other Fees**

- 19.1 Each Council shall bear its own legal and other fees in relation to the preparation and completion of this Agreement.

## **20. Provision of Statistical Information Accounts and other Documents etc.**

- 20.1 Each Council shall make available to the other such statistical information which each Council may from time to time reasonably require.
- 20.2 Without prejudice to any provision in this Agreement requiring the keeping of records the supply of statistics or the provision of information the Councils shall keep such other records and details of or concerning the Shared Workforce Team or their performance as the Councils may require and shall produce or provide to the other copies whether kept electronically or in paper format of such accounts, invoices, orders, contracts, receipts, statistics and other information or documents touching or concerning or arising from this Agreement or their performance of this Agreement as and when and in such form as each Council may reasonably require.

20.3 Without prejudice to any provision in this Agreement the Councils shall keep and maintain all necessary information and shall provide all necessary assistance to enable each Council to complete all necessary official returns or statistics related to this Agreement.

20.4 The Councils shall supply each other with such assistance and information as each Council may require to enable it to allocate such expenditure as each Council may incur under this Agreement.

## **21. Audit**

21.1 Each Council's external and internal auditors shall have the powers set out in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and any subsequent amending repealing and superseding legislation. Each Council shall at all reasonable times (including following the termination for whatever reason of this Agreement) allow or procure for any auditor for the purposes of an external or internal audit immediate access to and permission to copy and remove any copies of and permission to remove the originals of any books records and information in the possession or control of the Councils which in any way relates to or are or were used in connection with this Agreement including (but without limitation) any of each Council's data and any such information stored on a computer system operated by a contractor servant or agent of the other Council.

21.2 Each Council will provide all practicable co-operation and afford all appropriate access to personnel and records in order to assist the requesting Council in carrying out any investigations which are already under way at the Commencement Date and any investigations which are carried out after the termination or expiry of this Agreement, but which relate to any period during which the Shared Workforce Structure was in effect.

## **22. No Legal Partnership**

22.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as establishing or implying any legal partnership or joint venture between the Councils although the parties may decide to form partnerships and joint ventures as they develop closer collaborative working arrangements. Any such partnership or joint venture shall only be effective if approved by the Council meeting of each authority and set out in a deed sealed by each authority.

## **23. Anti-Corruption**

23.1 Any of the Councils may cancel this Agreement at any time and recover from such other Council(s) as may be at fault the amount of any loss resulting from such cancellation if any of the following apply:

- (a) One or both of the other Councils has offered or given or agreed to give to any person any gift or consideration as an inducement or reward (1) for doing or forbearing to do or for having done or forborne to do any action in relation to the obtaining or execution of the Agreement or any other contract with the Council (2) for showing or forbearing to show favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the Agreement or any other contract with the Council;
- (b) any person employed by or acting on behalf of one of the other Councils (whether with or without the other Councils' knowledge or consent) acts in similar manner to that set

out in sub-Clause (a) above;

- (c) in relation to any contract or potential contract with the Council one or both of the other Councils or any person employed by or acting on behalf of one or both of the other Councils shall have committed any offence under the Prevention of Corruption Acts 1889 to 1916 or any amendment or replacement of them or shall have given any fee or reward the receipt of which is an offence under Sub Section (2) of Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **24. Discrimination**

- 24.1 The Councils shall not unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and any other legislation prohibiting discrimination on any grounds whatsoever. The Councils shall take all reasonable steps to secure the observance of these provisions and any statutory provisions amending or replacing the same by its employees in the performance of the Agreement.

## **25. Human Rights**

- 25.1 The Councils in the performance of this Agreement shall comply with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. The Councils shall indemnify and keep indemnified one another against all actions and causes of action claims, demands, proceedings, damages, losses, costs, charges, and expenses whatsoever in respect of any breach of this Clause and such indemnity shall continue after the termination of this Agreement.

## **26. Freedom of Information**

- 26.1 It is agreed that the Councils are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any release of or exemption applicable to this Agreement shall be considered under that Act.

## **27. Survival of this Agreement**

- 27.1 In so far as any of the rights and powers of the Councils provided for in this Agreement shall or may be exercised or exercisable after the termination or expiry of this Agreement the provisions of this Agreement conferring such rights and powers shall survive and remain in full force and effect notwithstanding such termination or expiry.
- 27.2 In so far as any of the obligations of the Councils provided for in this Agreement remain to be discharged after the termination or expiry of this Agreement the provisions of this Agreement imposing such obligations shall survive and remain in full force and effect notwithstanding such termination or expiry.

## **28. Whole Agreement**

- 28.1 This Agreement constitutes the whole agreement and understanding of the Councils as to its subject matter.
- 28.2 This agreement expressly acknowledges any prior agreements each Council has with any one or more other Council in respect of any matters that shall continue under those prior

agreements. Unless the contrary is specifically indicated, this agreement is not intended to supersede those prior agreements or amend or replace any matters existing or agreed within them.

## **29. Waiver**

29.1 Failure by any of the Councils at any time to enforce any provision of this Agreement or to require performance by the other or others of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provisions and shall not affect the validity of this Agreement or any part or the right of that party to enforce any terms and provision of this Agreement.

## **30. Severance**

30.1 If any term or provision of this Agreement shall in whole or in part become or shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable in any way, such invalidity or unenforceability shall in no way impair or affect any other term or provision all of which shall remain in full force and effect.

## **31. Headings**

31.1 Headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect the validity or construction of this Agreement.

## **32. Governing Law**

32.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law and the Councils submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

## **33. Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999**

33.1 The Councils do not intend that any term of this Agreement should be enforceable by any third party as provided by the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

## **34. Non-assignment**

34.1 None of the Councils shall be entitled to assign this Agreement or any of its rights and obligations under it without the written consent of the others (which consent the other Councils may in their absolute discretion withhold).

## **35. Disruption**

35.1 The Councils shall take reasonable care to ensure that in the execution of this Agreement it does not disrupt the operations of the other Councils, their employees or any other third party.

## **36. Health and Safety**

36.1 Each Council shall promptly notify the others of any health and safety hazards which may arise in connection with the performance of this Agreement and shall promptly notify each of the others

of any health and safety hazards which may exist or arise at a Council's premises, and which may affect the performance of this Agreement.

36.2 While on Councils premises, the Shared Workforce Team shall comply with any health and safety measures implemented by the Council in respect of employees and other persons working on those premises.

36.3 Each Council shall notify the others immediately in the event of any incident occurring in the performance of this Agreement on the Council's premises where that incident causes any personal injury or damage to property which could give rise to personal injury.

36.4 The Councils shall comply with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and any other acts, orders, regulations, and codes of practice relating to health and safety, which may apply to employees and other persons working on Council premises in the performance of this Agreement.

36.5 The Councils shall ensure that their health and safety policy statements (as required by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974) are made available to each other on request.

**IN WITNESS** of which this Agreement has been executed as a Deed on the first day before written

**The Common Seal of East Lindsey  
District Council was fixed here in the  
presence of:**

**Authorised Officer**

**The Common Seal of Boston Borough Council  
was fixed here in the presence of:**

**Authorised Officer**

**The Common Seal of South Holland District  
Council was fixed here in the presence of:**

**Authorised Officer**

## SCHEDULE 1

### JOINT CHIEF OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PANEL

**Quorum** 6

**Composition**

- 3 members appointed by East Lindsey District Council and
- 3 members appointed by Boston Borough Council and
- 3 members appointed by South Holland District Council;
- Appointments shall be made in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990/1553;
- At least one member of the Panel shall be a member of East Lindsey District Council's Executive Board and at least one member shall be a member of Boston Borough Council's Cabinet and at least one member shall be a member of South Holland District Council's Cabinet.

**Note:** A quorum of 6 which must include at least two members (including at least one Cabinet member) from each Council

#### **Terms of Reference:**

**The Panel's terms of reference will be as follows:**

- (a) The arrangements for the Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel are for permanent staffing appointments to Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer posts only and will not include appointments made on a temporary basis.
- (b) Providing feedback and representations to the employing Council in respect of the appointment of the Head of the Paid Service/Chief Executive.
- (c) Providing feedback and representations to the employing Council in respect of the appointment to those positions at sub-clause (a).
- (d) Providing feedback and representations to the employing Council on the dismissal of, or the taking of any disciplinary or performance action against those positions at sub-clause (a).

Note 1: The role of the Panel is to provide feedback, given that any officer recruited (or disciplined) will have provided or will in the future provide services to the two non-employing Councils and it is understood and accepted that the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of shared officers will have a direct impact on all of the Councils.

The Panel's role, however, is limited to the provision of feedback and representations to the

employing Council as decisions on recruitment and discipline may only be taken by the Council which employs the officer in question.

Note 2: Disciplinary and performance action against a statutory Chief Officer is subject to certain statutory and procedural requirements, including the appointment of an Independent Investigator. Any Independent Investigator will be informed of the shared management arrangements and will be invited to seek comments from each of the non-employing councils as part of any investigation.

**Place of Meeting:**

Meetings of the Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel may be held wherever it is considered to be most appropriate (including remotely) depending on the agenda for the particular meeting. The Chairman of the Joint Panel may give directions.

**Training:**

Members of the Joint Panel may be required to undertake appropriate training associated with recruitment.

**Chairing Joint Chief Officers Employment Panel:**

Chairmanship of the Joint Panel alternates between the three Councils for each meeting.

**Servicing the Joint Panel:**

The Joint Panel may be serviced by staff from any of the Councils.

## SCHEDULE 2

### STAKEHOLDER GROUP

#### Quorum

3 Members (to include a Member from each Council)

#### Membership

- 3 Council Leaders
- 3 Council Deputy Leaders
- Joint Chief Executive
- Joint Section 151 Officer
- Joint Monitoring Officer

Based on the work programme of the Group, other Members and Officers may be invited to join the meeting at the invitation of the Leaders, Statutory Officers or Service Director – Corporate.

#### Substitutions

Leaders may appoint another member of their Executive/Cabinet to act as substitute.

#### Terms of Reference

To be responsible for overseeing strategic direction and assurance and monitoring of the programme across organisations (including service reviews), ensuring the programme delivers to agreed strategic objectives as set by the Joint Strategy Board.

#### Frequency of Meetings

A minimum of twice a year but at the discretion of Leaders and Joint Chief Executive based on the work programme of the Group.

#### Place of Meetings

Meetings of Stakeholder Group may be held wherever/however it is considered to be most appropriate, including remotely.

#### Chairing Joint Appointment Appeals Committees

Chairmanship alternates between the three Council Leaders at each meeting.

#### Servicing the Stakeholder Group

The Group may be serviced by staff from any of the Councils.

## SCHEDULE 3

### East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council Joint Strategy Board

#### Terms of Reference

#### Background

East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council entered into a shared workforce arrangement from the Commencement Date. The Agreement remains in force until terminated by any of the three Councils. To support the shared workforce structure and joint working of the councils, it has been agreed that meetings of the Joint Strategy Board will be held to consider matters of interest, opportunities for joint working and any potential further joint working of the three councils.

#### Role and function

The Shared Strategy Board is an informal non-decision-making group.

The Shared Strategy Board will have the following roles and functions:

1. Monitoring the Partnership and shared workforce arrangements
2. Considering proposals to withdraw from the arrangements (clause 10) and disputes (clause 13) referred to by any of the Councils.
3. To identify, develop and oversee the implementation of opportunities for the joint and mutually advantageous promotion of, and investment in, each of the authorities' areas by central and local government, other bodies, and agencies (including, but not limited to the Environment Agency, the Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership, Historic England, Highways England, The Arts Council, Sport England and Homes England, Lincolnshire County Council)
4. To consider and develop (if so minded) proposals for the expansion of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership insofar as that would be consistent with the purposes of this Agreement.
5. To identify those issues which arise and are likely to affect the future prosperity and democratic arrangements in both areas and project a joint voice in respect of such matters with the object of ensuring any change benefits to the greatest extent the Councils and their inhabitants.
6. To explore areas of Corporate Planning that are of mutual interest.
7. To consider areas of innovation and budget efficiencies across both Councils
8. To submit proposals arising from 2 to 7 above through formal decision-making process at each council.

#### Membership/Attendance

The Joint Strategy Board will comprise:

- All Cabinet members of each Council
- The Chief Executive
  
- No substitutions to be

allowed.

Other officers and/or members may be invited to attend meetings of the Joint Strategy Board by the Chief Executive or by the Leaders of the three Councils (who must agree any such an invitation in advance of the meeting)

### **Meetings**

The Joint Strategy Board will meet on at least two occasions in each year normally in March, and September.

The meetings will be chaired alternately by the Leader of each Council.

Administration for the meeting will be undertaken by the Democratic Services Team at each Council.

Action points will be prepared by the Chief Executive and will be circulated to the Executive/Cabinet Members and the Partnership's Corporate Management Team.

Shared staff shall undertake all actions allocated to them or shall allocate and disseminate those actions to staff for whom they are responsible. Shared staff shall report back to the Joint Strategy Board as required by the Board.



<b>Report To:</b>	South Holland District Council
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 13 May 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Spalding Community Governance Review - Stage 1 Consultation Outcomes and Draft Recommendations
<b>Purpose:</b>	To present the draft recommendations of the Community Governance Review (CGR) Working Group following the Stage 1 consultation and seek approval to publish these for Phase 2 consultation
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	N/A
<b>Report Of:</b>	John Medler, Assistant Director - Governance (Monitoring Officer)
<b>Report Author:</b>	Forrest White, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	Spalding Castle, Spalding Monkshouse, Spalding St Johns, Spalding St Marys, Spalding St Pauls and Spalding Wygate
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	No

## Summary

This report provides an update on the Community Governance Review (CGR) for the unparished area of Spalding following the completion of Stage 1 of the consultation. It outlines the outcome of the Stage 1 consultation, presents the draft recommendations agreed by the CGR Working Group, and seeks approval to publish these recommendations for a second stage of consultation.

The review seeks to ensure that Spalding residents continue to benefit from strong, accountable, and locally representative governance arrangements. The consultation explored whether a new Parish Council should be established for the unparished area of Spalding, in what form any new Parish Council should be, namely whether there should be one Parish Council or multiple within the currently unparished area, and whether any changes should be made to existing Parish boundaries to incorporate unparished areas.

## Recommendations

Council is asked to:

1. Note the outcomes of the Stage 1 Consultation
2. Approve the draft recommendations of the CGR Working Group for publication and Stage 2 consultation as listed below:
  - Establish a single parish of Spalding for the unparished area of Spalding
  - That the Council size for the Parish of Spalding be 19 Councillors, based on national guidance and proportional representation for an electorate of approximately 22,000 (forecast to rise to 23,500 by 2031).
  - That the Parish of Spalding be warded into six wards, aligned with the existing district ward boundaries to ensure clarity and coterminosity, as follows:

<b>Name of Parish Ward</b>	<b>Number of Councillors to be elected to the Parish Ward</b>
Castle	2
Monkshouse	4
St Johns	3
St Marys	3
St Pauls	3
Wygate	4

- That the first elections for the proposed new electoral arrangements be in May 2027, aligning with ordinary parish council electoral cycles.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

The recommendations are necessary to progress the Community Governance Review. They reflect the preferences expressed during the first stage of consultation, support effective community governance, and align with statutory guidance.

### **Other Options Considered**

- Do nothing – rejected as inconsistent with the Council’s duty to keep governance arrangements under review and with public support for parishing would leave the unparished area without a locally elected tier post-Local Government Reorganisation; or
- Alternative governance models – discounted due to weaker alignment with community identity (Stage 1 showed clear support for one council), increased complexity and cost, and greater risk of fragmented governance.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 On 26 November 2025, Full Council resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review under Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The review was prompted by the Government’s Local Government

Reorganisation programme, which will abolish South Holland District Council and create a new unitary authority.

- 1.2 The Terms of Reference for the review were approved and published on 16 February 2026, marking the formal start of the process. The scope includes whether a new parish council should be created for the unparished area of Spalding, whether any changes should be made to existing parish boundaries, and what electoral arrangements should apply. A copy of the Terms of Reference is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 To oversee the process, a CGR Working Group was established in November 2025. The Working Group met on 20 January 2026 and 14 April 2026 to agree the stage 1 consultation document and develop the draft recommendations. The membership comprises of Councillors Ashby, Hasan, J Le Sage, M Le Sage, Sheard, Taylor and Whitbourn. At the CGR Working Group meeting on 20 January 2026, Councillor Dave Ashby was appointed as Chairman.
- 1.4 The Stage 1 consultation ran from 16 February to 30 March 2025 and invited views from residents and stakeholders on future governance arrangements for Spalding. A total of 173 responses were received, with strong support expressed for the creation of a Parish Council for Spalding.

## **2. Report**

### **2.1 Stage 1 Consultation**

- 2.1.1 The consultation received 173 responses (166 online and 7 paper). Of these, 146 supported the creation of a Parish Council for Spalding, and 126 preferred one council covering the whole town. Views on boundary changes showed 68% support for keeping the boundaries the same. The full results of the Stage 1 consultation are attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.1.2 Postcode analysis confirmed responses were received from across the town and surrounding areas, including PE11 and PE12 postcode areas, demonstrating a Spalding-centre footprint with satellite reach into neighbouring areas.

### **2.2 Draft Recommendations and Methodology**

#### **2.2.1 Recommendation 1: Establish a single parish of Spalding for the unparished area of Spalding.**

The recommendation to establish a single parish of Spalding for the unparished area of Spalding is based on clear evidence from the Stage 1 consultation, which demonstrated strong public support for parishing and a preference for one council covering the whole town. This approach meets the statutory tests under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by reflecting community identity and providing effective and convenient governance. A single council will ensure that Spalding residents have a unified voice and avoid the complexity and duplication that would arise from multiple smaller councils.

**2.2.2 Recommendation 2: That the Council size for the parish of Spalding be 19 Councillors, based on national guidance and proportional representation for an electorate of approximately 22,000 (forecast to rise to 23,500 by 2031).**

The proposed council size of 19 members is based on national guidance from the National Association of Local Councils and research by Aston Business School, which recommend between 13 and 31 councillors for towns with an electorate of over 20,000. Spalding's current electorate is approximately 22,000, with forecasts indicating growth to 23,500 by 2031.

Detailed modelling of elector-to-councillor ratios across proposed wards demonstrates that this number provides reasonably balanced representation while maintaining manageable workloads for councillors. A council of this size will also ensure sufficient capacity for committee structures, effective governance without creating an unnecessarily large body and realistic numbers to enable meaningful elections to take place in each ward.

In developing this recommendation, the Working Group explored a range of options from 18 to 24 councillors, modelling allocations across wards to ensure proportional representation as far as practical. This analysis considered both the current electorate figures and forecasts for 2031, with adjustments made to maintain fairness and practicality. The final proposal of 19 councillors reflects national guidance and benchmarking while balancing effective governance with manageable council size.

**2.2.3 Recommendation 3: That the Parish of Spalding be warded into six wards (see appendix 4), aligned with the existing district ward boundaries to ensure clarity and coterminosity, as follows:**

Name of Parish Ward	Number of Councillors to be elected to the Parish Ward
Castle	2
Monkshouse	4
St Johns	3
St Marys	3
St Pauls	3
Wygate	4

In line with paragraphs 163 and 166 of the government's guidance on community governance reviews (DCLG & LGBCE, 2010), the Council has considered the implications of electoral representation and warding arrangements. The guidance recognises that achieving perfect equality may not be possible without breaking established boundaries; therefore, the proposed model priorities clarity and consistency with existing Ward boundaries while ensuring fair representation.

The Working Group proposes dividing the new parish into six wards aligned to existing district ward boundaries: Castle, Monkshouse, St Johns, St Marys, St Pauls and Wygate. This approach maintains clarity for voters, simplifies electoral administration, and respects established community identities. Aligning parish

wards with district wards achieves coterminosity, meaning the boundaries of the new parish wards match the existing district wards. This is considered best practice because it reduces confusion for electors, avoids creating polling districts that cross multiple boundaries, and supports efficient electoral management. It also provides a strong foundation for future reviews by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, as coterminous boundaries are easier to maintain and use as building blocks for district and parliamentary boundaries. A map detailing the proposed Spalding parish warding and electorate is attached at Appendix 3.

**2.2.4 Recommendation 4: That the first elections for the proposed new and revised electoral arrangements be in May 2027, aligning with the ordinary parish council electoral cycle.**

The recommendation that the first elections for the proposed new and revised electoral arrangements be held in May 2027 ensures alignment with the ordinary parish council electoral cycle. Holding the elections in May 2027 as part of the standard cycle will minimise disruption and costs while providing clarity and certainty for residents and electoral administrators. This approach reflects best practice adopted in other areas undertaking similar governance reviews.

**3. Second Consultation Proposal**

4.1 The second stage will seek views on the draft recommendations, including the proposed parish boundary, council size, and warding arrangements. The consultation will run between June and July 2026 and will include a variety of approaches.

**4. Conclusions**

5.1 The Stage 1 consultation demonstrates clear support for creating a parish council for Spalding. The draft recommendations meet statutory requirements, reflect community identity, and propose practical arrangements that can be delivered within the published timetable.

**Implications**

**South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership**

None.

**Corporate Priorities**

The Community Governance Review will support wider corporate plan objectives by ensuring that community governance is appropriate within the District.

**Staffing**

Dedicated resources are in place to manage the delivery of this review.

**Workforce Capacity Implications**

Community governance reviews are resource intensive and require significant input from a range of services such as Legal, Democratic, Elections, Communications and Consultation.

Community Governance Reviews are ordinarily scheduled to be undertaken between major election periods as this provides the necessary time to concentrate on the CGR process which can be complex and require significant officer resource. The Council is also having to consider proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Lincolnshire.

Dedicated resources are in place to manage the delivery of this review.

### **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

These proposals have been developed in accordance with Section 93 of the LGPIHA 2007 and meet the three legal tests:

1. Community identity and interests – The proposals reflect the distinct identity of Spalding, and the views expressed during consultation.
2. Effective and convenient governance – A single council for Spalding will streamline decision-making.
3. Consideration of other arrangements – Existing structures such as STF have been considered and will be transitioned appropriately.

The Council has had regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the LGBCE, including the importance of transparency, consultation, and the use of parish boundaries as building blocks for future electoral arrangements.

### **Data Protection**

There are no specific data protection implications relating to the consultation as no personal data was requested. The postcode data was requested in short form to avoid unnecessary identification of personal addresses. Consultation responses are kept for a maximum of three years in line with the Council's retention policy. Where consultees have concerns, they are directed to the Data Protection policy on the website and the Data Protection Officer.

### **Financial**

The Community Governance Review will incur resourcing, professional advice and consultation related costs which will be funded through drawdowns from the reserve, as agreed by the S151 Officer.

### **Risk Management**

The following key risks have been identified:

- Resourcing and timing of the review – As set out in the workforce capacity implications section of the report there are identified resourcing challenges in undertaking this Community Governance Review. The aim will be to mitigate these through the use of additional dedicated resources and careful timetabling within the review.

- Non-compliance with Government policy and legislation – This will be mitigated through review of legislation, statutory guidance and acquiring legal and other professional advice during the review.
- Local Government Reorganisation – Decisions taken through the Local Government Reorganisation process could impact on the delivery of the Community Governance Review. Ongoing monitoring will be undertaken and options identified to mitigate potential impacts of the LGR process.
- Transitional arrangements – Should the outcome of the review be the creation of a new Parish Council then transitional arrangements will require considering, for example precept arrangements. These will be further explored as plans develop as part of the Review.

### **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

Public consultation is taking place in accordance with the Terms of Reference, Legislation, Statutory Guidance and the principles of consultation.

### **Reputation**

None.

### **Contracts**

None.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None.

### **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding**

The review will invite communities to input into the governance arrangements that affect them. Equality and Diversity implications will be considered throughout the Community Governance Review, particularly in relation to the consultation process to ensure that all residents and stakeholders are able to participate and submit their views.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

None.

### **Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment**

None.

### **Acronyms**

CGR – Community Governance Review

LGR – Local Government Re-Organisation

LGBCE – Local Government Boundary Commission for England

LGPIHA – Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

## Appendices

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

Appendix 1	Terms of Reference
Appendix 2	Stage One Consultation Feedback
Appendix 3	Map of proposed Spalding Parish Warding

## Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

<b>Document title</b>	<b>Where the document can be viewed</b>
Guidance on community governance reviews (DCLG and LGBCE) 2010	<a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78e983ed915d0422066530/1527635.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78e983ed915d0422066530/1527635.pdf</a>

## Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body

## Report Approval

Report author:	Forrest White, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer <a href="mailto:FWhite@sholland.gov.uk">FWhite@sholland.gov.uk</a>
Signed off by:	John Medler, Assistant Director - Governance (Monitoring Officer) <a href="mailto:John.Medler@e-lindsey.gov.uk">John.Medler@e-lindsey.gov.uk</a>
Approved for publication:	N/A

**SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007  
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE UNPARISHED AREA WITHIN SOUTH HOLLAND  
DISTRICT  
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 South Holland District Council ('the Council') has resolved to undertake a community governance review ('the review') of the unparished area of Spalding with a view to the creation of a parish or parishes and council(s) to serve all or part of that area.

1.2 The review will consider:

- I. Whether any changes should be made to community governance arrangements within the area under review, including whether any new parish(es) should be created and whether any new parish council(s) should cover only some or all of the currently unparished area
- II. Whether any existing parish boundaries should be amended to include areas within the unparished area
- III. The electoral arrangements for any proposed parish council(s) or existing Parish Councils impacted by the review
- IV. Any other relevant issues that are submitted in response to the review consultation process.

1.3 In undertaking this review the Council will have regard to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in March 2010 by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and will comply with Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ('the 2007 Act') as amended, the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972 and regulations issued under those acts.

1.4 Section 81 of the 2007 Act requires the Council to publish its terms of reference for a review, clearly setting out the focus of the review. These terms of reference fulfil this requirement by setting out the reasons for the review, its projected process and timescale, the matters that it will address and principles that the Council considers should guide the review. The terms of reference will be published on the Council's website and in hard copy and will be made available at the Council offices. The Chief Executive will have delegated powers to modify and republish the Terms of Reference.

**Why undertake a Community Governance Review?**

1.5 Town and parish councils are the most local tier of government in England. They are democratically elected and can play an important role in representing their local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and promoting community wellbeing. They may

exercise a variety of powers and duties including the delivery of some local services and may also enter into discussions with the principal councils (e.g. South Holland District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and any future unitary authority) about the transfer of services, budgets and assets subject to mutual agreement, Town and Parish Councils are principally through an annual precept – an additional amount added to the Council Tax in their area. A Parish Council may resolve to be called a Town Council, There is no difference between a Parish Council or Town Council in terms of powers or duties.

- 1.6 The Council is undertaking the review as currently there is an unparished area within South Holland District. Any new Councils established could play a full and proper part, alongside existing parish councils representing all other areas in South Holland, in future negotiations with any proposed Unitary Authority (established in accordance with the Government's English Devolution White Paper) on any local devolution framework plans.
- 1.7 Town or Parish Councils may promote community engagement and effective local government. Government guidance states that it is good practice for principal councils to conduct a community governance review every 10–15 years, except in areas with very low populations.

### **Community Governance Reviews**

- 1.8 A community governance review is a review of the whole or part of a principal council's area to consider one or more of the following:
- i. Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
  - ii. The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
  - iii. Whether a parish council should be established for a new parish area;
  - iv. The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and any parish warding); and/or
  - v. Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.
- 1.9 In accordance with the 2007 Act, the Council will have regard to the need to secure community governance within the area under review which:
- i. Is reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area;
  - ii. Provides for effective and convenient local government; and
  - iii. Considers any other arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area.
- 1.10 In accordance with Government guidance, when considering the above criteria, the Council will also take into account the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish; and will seek to make recommendations that bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

### **Responsibility for the Review**

- 1.11 As the relevant principal council, South Holland District Council is responsible for conducting any community governance review within its electoral area and for deciding whether to give effect to the recommendations of the review.
- 1.12 In accordance with regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2000, functions relating to Community Governance Reviews are not to be the responsibility of an authority's executive.
- 1.13 The management of the review will be the responsibility of officers. The Chief Executive will have delegated powers to undertake the review including authority to modify and republish the Terms of Reference.
- 1.14 The review will be overseen by the Community Governance Review Working Group, who will prepare draft proposals for consultation and propose final recommendations. The Council itself will agree the draft proposals for consultation, final recommendations and make any Reorganisation of Community Governance Order required to implement the outcome of the review.

## **2. CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 In coming to its recommendations in the review, the Council will take account of the views of local people and stakeholders. Legislation requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review, and to take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the 2007 Act.
- 2.2 In order to promote community engagement and transparency in the community governance review, the Council will:
- i. Publish these terms of reference;
  - ii. Publicise the review as widely as possible including using electronic means and social media and seek to engage the local media in reporting the issues under review;
  - iii. Consult local electors and other residents, business organisations, community groups, other local organisations, political parties, and elected representatives for the areas under review, Lincolnshire County Council and parish councils which neighbour the unparished area;
  - iv. Make key documents available at the Council offices;
  - v. Accept submissions by post or via e-mail or the Council's website;
  - vi. Consider representations received in connection with the review; and
  - vii. Publicise the recommendations and outcome of the review.
- 2.3 The Council will consider each matter under review on its merits and based on the information and evidence provided during the course of the review.

## **3. THE TIMETABLE FOR THE REVIEW**

- 3.1 The review begins when the Council publishes its Terms of Reference and concludes when it publishes the recommendations made in the review. These Terms of Reference will be published formally (following approval by Council) prior to the first meeting of the

Community Governance Review Working Group at which review business is to be considered.

- 3.2 Information about the stages of the review will be published on the Council's website, with key documents available to view at South Holland District Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, PE11 2XE (by appointment).

#### **4. THE AREA TO BE COVERED BY THE REVIEW**

- 4.1 The review will cover the currently unparished area in Spalding.
- 4.2 A map will be published as Appendix A, showing the area under review including the existing parish and district ward boundaries within that area.

#### **5. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE REVIEW**

##### **Parish areas and parish councils**

- 5.1 The review will consider whether any changes should be made to the community governance (parish) arrangements within the area under review, including:
- i. Whether or not a new parish or parishes should be created in areas that are currently unparished, or any other arrangements for some or all of those areas;
  - ii. In the event that a new parish or parishes are created, whether they should have a council or councils;
  - iii. Whether any new parish council for South Holland should cover only some or all of the currently unparished area; and
  - iv. Whether any changes should be made to the boundaries of any existing parish(es).
- 5.2 In considering the above, the review will have regard to current and projected patterns of population, development, community identity and linkages in the area under review; to the viability of existing and any potential parish areas and the delivery of local services.
- 5.3 The 2007 Act provides that where a new parish is created which has 1,000 or more electors, the principal council must recommend that the parish has a council. Where a new parish is created that has between 151 and 999 electors, the principal council may decide whether or not it should have a council.
- 5.4 In relation to previously unparished areas, the 2007 Act requires a principal council in undertaking a review to take into account other (non-parish) forms of community governance that have been, or could be, made for the purpose of community representation or engagement in the area under review. These might include community partnerships/forums, area committees, residents' and tenants' associations, neighbourhood management programmes or community associations. In accordance with Government guidance, the review will consider whether such arrangements could be alternatives to, or stages towards, the establishment of parish councils. The Council notes, however, that the guidance also states: What sets parish councils apart from other kinds of governance is the fact they are a democratically elected tier of local government, independent of other council tiers and budgets, and possess specific powers," and "Their directly elected parish councillors

represent local communities in a way that other bodies, however worthy, cannot since such organisations do not have representatives directly elected to those bodies.”

### **Names and Style of Parishes**

- 5.5 In the event that a new parish is proposed to be created, the review will make recommendations as to the name of the new parish and as to whether or not any council should be a parish council or have one of the alternative styles (community, neighbourhood, or village). A council that is created as a parish council may decide that it shall have the status of a town council.

### **Electoral Arrangements**

- 5.6 The review will consider what electoral arrangements should apply to any new parish council that is created and whether any changes should be made to the electoral arrangements of any existing parish council. “Electoral arrangements” means:

- i. The ordinary year in which elections are held;
- ii. The number of councillors to be elected to the council;
- iii. The division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors;
- iv. The number and boundaries of any such wards;
- v. The number of councillors to be elected for any such ward; and
- vi. The name of any such ward.

- 5.7 In relation to the year of election, the ordinary election of parish councillors takes place in 2027 and at four-yearly intervals thereafter. However, a principal council may decide, following a community governance review, that the first elections to any new parish council shall take place in another year, with the councillors elected serving an adjusted term of office to bring future elections back into line with the normal cycle.

- 5.8 In relation to the number of parish councillors, legislation provides that the number of councillors for each council shall not be fewer than five. There is no maximum number. Government guidance is that “each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities.”

- 5.9 In relation to warding of a parish, the 2007 Act requires that in considering whether a parish should be divided into wards the Council should consider:
- i. Whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and
  - ii. Whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council.

### **Electorate Forecasts**

- 5.10 When the Council comes to consider the electoral arrangements of the town or parish councils in its area, it is required to consider the number of local government electors in the area under review, and any change in that number or the distribution of the electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts.

- 5.11 Current electorate figures for each of the parishes and polling districts in both the parished and unparished parts of the area under review will be published as soon as possible after the launch of the review.
- 5.12 Electorate forecasts, taking into account information on developments underway or planned based on extant planning permissions and the local development framework, will also be published to inform the consultation process as early as possible during the review.
- 5.13 In accordance with legislation, population estimates will be used to apportion assets where significant changes, including the creation of new parishes, are recommended.

#### **Other Matters**

- 5.14 The review will consider any other issues raised during the consultation process which are relevant to the review.
- 5.15 In the event that the review recommends the creation of any new council(s), the review will also consider what preparatory and transitional arrangements should apply to the establishment of that council or councils.

### **6. PRINCIPLES THAT WILL GUIDE THE REVIEW**

#### **Parishes**

- 6.1 There is an evidence base which demonstrates that town or parish councils can play an important role in empowering and representing communities.
- 6.2 The Council notes the Government's continued commitment to town and parish councils and its guidance that it "expects to see a trend in the creation, rather than the abolition, of parishes."
- 6.3 It is important that the creation of any parish(es) should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity, and that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident. This information will therefore need to be gathered as part of the review.
- 6.4 The Council will wish to carefully balance the consideration of changes that have happened over time, for example through population shifts or additional development that may have led to a different community identity, with historic traditions in the area.
- 6.5 The Council wishes to ensure that parishes should be viable as an administrative unit and should possess a precept that enables them effectively to promote the well-being of their residents and contribute to the provision of services in their area in an economic and efficient manner. Nevertheless, it is recognised that in a rural area a strong sense of community can prevail over a sparsely populated area.

#### **Boundaries**

- 6.6 The Council notes that the boundaries between parishes will often reflect the "no-man's land" between communities represented by areas of low population or pronounced physical

barriers, either natural or man-made; and that ideally boundaries should be, and be likely to remain, easily identifiable.

### **Names**

6.7 With regard to the names of any parish councils or parish wards established, the Council believes that these should reflect existing local or historic place names and there will be a presumption in favour of names proposed by local interested parties.

### **The Number of Parish Councillors**

6.8 When considering the number of councillors to be elected for any parish council, in addition to applying the statutory rules described above, the Council will have regard to:

- i. The recommended guidance issued by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and indicative national data on representation;
- ii. Existing levels of representation, the pattern of existing council sizes which have stood the test of time and the take-up of seats at elections; and
- iii. The desirability of a broadly equitable allocation of councillors to parish councils across South Holland, whilst acknowledging that local circumstances may merit variation.

### **Warding**

6.9 The Council will give careful consideration both to traditional community identities and to any changes that have happened over time, for example population movements or new development, that may have led to a different community identity in any part of the area under review.

6.10 The Council notes Government guidance that “there is likely to be a stronger case for the warding of urban parishes... [where]... community identity tends to focus on a locality... [and]... each locality is likely to have its own sense of identity.” The Council will seek to secure that any warding arrangements should have relevance for the electorate, be in the interests of effective and convenient local government and not be wasteful of a town or parish council’s resources.

6.11 In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between any wards, the Council will have regard to community identity and interests and will consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries. The Council will also have regard to guidance by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) that the principal council ward boundaries should not split an unwarded parish and that no parish ward should be split by such a boundary.

6.12 When deciding the number of councillors to be elected for any ward, the Council will take into account the view of the LGBCE that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation.

## **7. COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY DECISIONS**

- 7.1 The review will be completed when the Council publishes its final recommendations. The Council will take steps to inform interested parties of the recommendations and outcome of the review. In accordance with Government guidance, the Council will issue maps to illustrate each recommendation at an appropriate scale wherever possible.
- 7.2 If the review results in any changes to community governance, at the conclusion of the review the Council will make a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. Copies of this order, the map(s) that show the effects of the order in detail, and the document(s) which set out the reasons for the Council's decisions (including where it has decided to make no change following the review) will be deposited at the Council's offices, published on its website, and provided to the clerk of any council affected.
- 7.3 In accordance with legislation, copies of any order and associated maps will be deposited with the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). Prints of the maps will also be supplied to Ordnance Survey, the Registrar General, the Land Registry, the Valuation Office Agency, and the Boundary Commission for England.
- 7.4 Subject to the final recommendations of the review, the provisions of any order will take effect for financial and administrative purposes no later than 1 April following the adoption of the order. Any revised electoral arrangements for a new or existing parish council will come into effect in accordance with the provisions of any Reorganisation Order. The Order can be made at any time following a review.

## **8. CONSEQUENTIAL MATTERS**

- 8.1 A Reorganisation Order may cover any consequential matters that appear to the Council to be necessary or proper to give effect to the Order. These may include the transfer and management or custody of property, the setting of precepts for new parishes, provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights, and liabilities and/or provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters.
- 8.2 In these matters, the Council will be guided by the relevant regulations issued following the 2007 Act. In particular, the Council notes that the regulations regarding the transfer of property, rights and liabilities require that any apportionments shall use the population of the area as estimated by the proper officer of the Council as an appropriate proportion.
- 8.3 In relation to the establishment of a precept for any new parish council, the Council will comply with the requirements of the Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008.

### **Principal Area Boundaries**

- 8.4 Any changes to parish or parish ward boundaries as a result of this review will not automatically change the corresponding principal council ward or division boundaries.
- 8.5 In the event of a Reorganisation Order making such a change, the Council may recommend to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) that the principal council ward/division boundaries are realigned to coincide with the revised parish or parish ward boundaries. It would be for the LGBCE to decide if and when these related alterations should be made.

8.6 The LGBCE would require evidence that the Council has consulted on the recommendations as part of the review. The Council will therefore seek to include any such draft recommendations for consultation at the earliest possible opportunity should they appear desirable.

#### **Contact Details for the Review**

Enquiries regarding the review process and/or comments on the matters set out in these Terms of Reference should be directed to:

#### **Community Governance Review**

c/o Electoral Services Team

South Holland District Council

Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2XE

**Email:** [elections@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:elections@sholland.gov.uk)

#### **APPENDIX A**

The map overleaf shows the existing unparished area boundaries in the scope of the review area together with the South Holland District Council Wards and surrounding parishes.

The area for review includes the South Holland District Council Wards of Spalding Castle, Spalding Monkshouse, Spalding St John's, Spalding St Mary's, Spalding St Paul's and Spalding Wygate.

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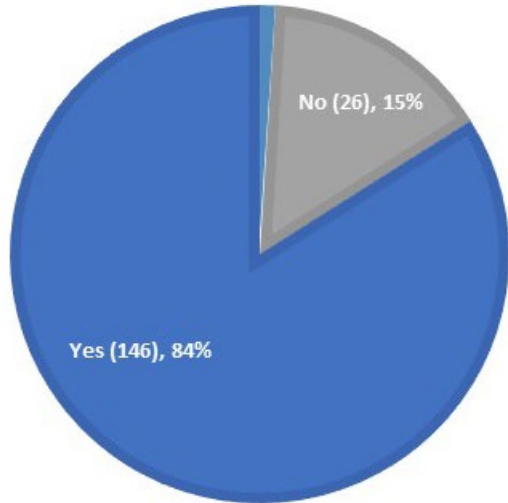
# Spalding Community Governance Review

## Stage 1 Consultation Results

# Summary

- 173 responses
- 84% in favour of Spalding having its own Town or Parish Council
- Of those, 86% in favour of one council
- 68% not in favour of boundary changes for neighbouring parishes

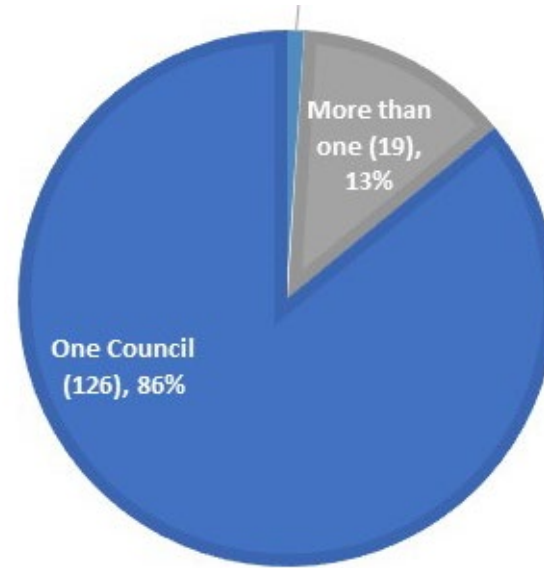
# Do you think that Spalding should have its own Town or Parish Council?



- Yes: 146 (84%)
- No: 26 (15%)
- Not sure: 1 (1%)

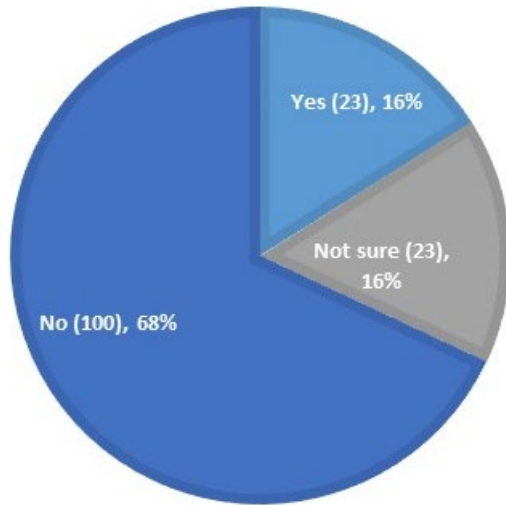
# If a Town or Parish Council were to be created, how should it be set up?

- One Council to cover the whole of Spalding: 126 (86%)
- More than one Council covering different parts of Spalding: 19 (13%)
- No preference: 1 (1%)



# Should the boundaries for neighbouring parishes be changed?

Cowbit, Deeping St Nicholas, Pinchbeck, Weston



- No: 100 (68%)
- Not sure: 23 (16%)
- Yes: 23 (16%)

# Should the boundaries for neighbouring parishes be changed?

- Believe it would be beneficial to include these villages under say **Greater Spalding** if a parish/Town Council was established. Gives the whole area better identity rather than being lost under South Holland.

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Potential to extend other PCs to incorporate parts of Spalding should be considered as well eg, extending **Pinchbeck**.

Should include **Pinchbeck** as well, they are so similar and connected so isn't much different from Spalding anyway.

- The area around **Wardentree Lane and Enterprise Way** should be incorporated into Spalding as well as any areas within the line of the **Spalding by-pass** and **Western Relief Road**.

# In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

- A resident of Spalding: 121 (70%)
- A resident of a neighbouring parish: 33 (19%)
- A parish, district or county councillor: 5 (3%)
- A Spalding business owner: 3 (2%)
- Representing a group/organisation: 2 (1%)
- Other: 9 (5%)

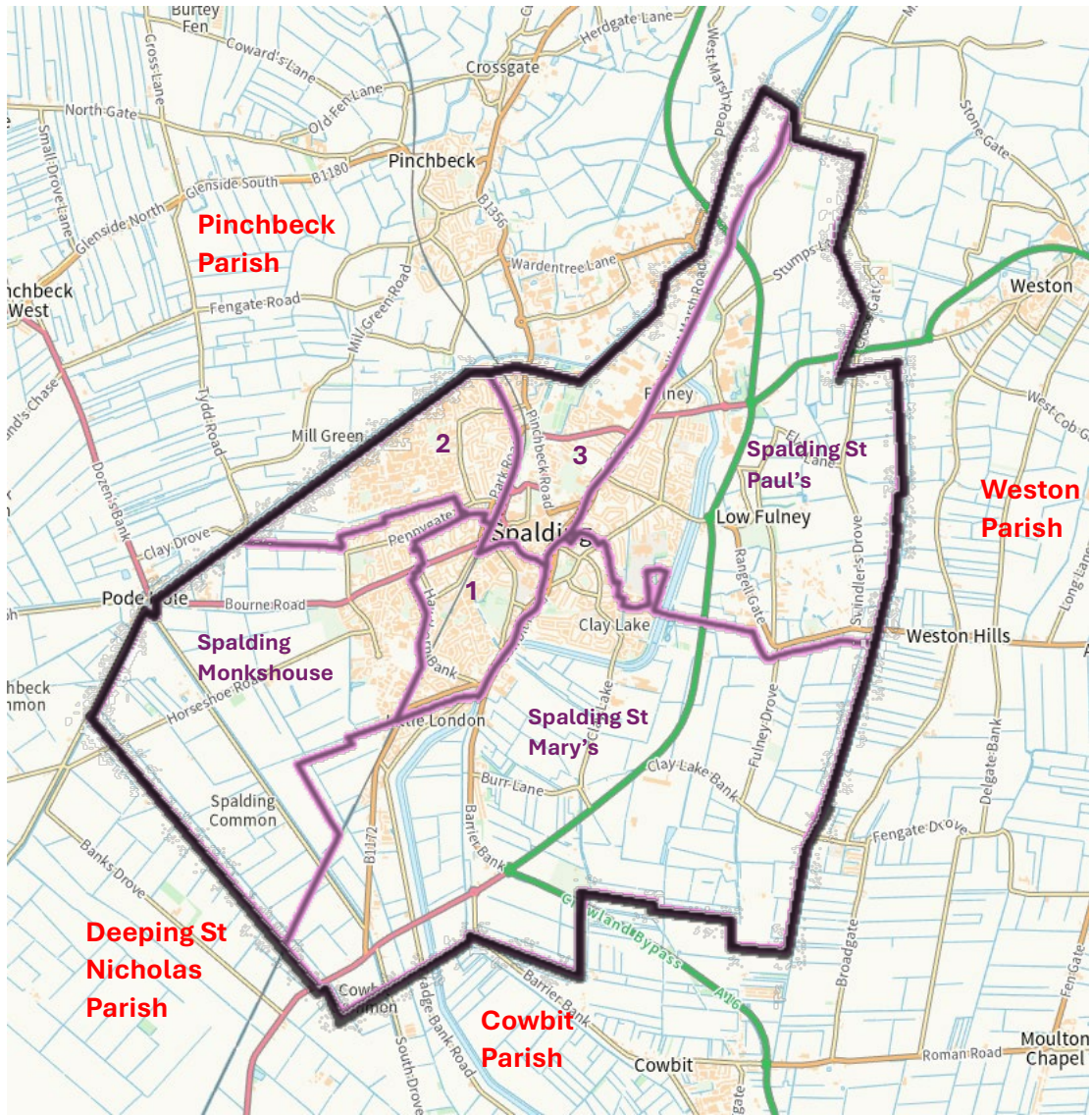
# Postcode analysis / reach

- PE11 (Spalding): 133 (77%)
- PE12 (Holbeach): 32 (18%)
- Other (PE6/IP28/PE10/PE1/LN11/PE13): 8 (5%)

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This shows a Spalding-centred footprint with satellite reach into neighbouring areas

- 1 – Spalding St John’s
- 2 – Spalding Wygate
- 3 – Spalding Castle



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**Report To:** South Holland District Council

**Date:** Wednesday, 13 May 2026

**Subject:** Democratic Arrangements 2026/27

**Purpose:**

- a) To establish, allocate seats and appoint members to the Council's Committees and Panels for 2026/27
- b) To receive nominations and appoint to any vacancies on outside bodies
- c) To approve the 2026/27 Schedule of Meetings
- d) To reappoint members of the Independent Remuneration Panel until May 2028

**Report Of:** John Medler, Service Director – Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

**Report Author:** Rhonda Booth, Democratic Services Manager

**Ward(s) Affected:** None

**Exempt Report:** No

## Summary

This report sets out recommendations for the Council to establish the democratic arrangements for the Council's Committees and Panels for the municipal year 2026/27 and make appointments to outside bodies where there are vacancies. It also seeks agreement for the schedule of meetings and the reappointment of the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## Recommendations

That the Council

1. Approves the establishment of Committees and Panels for the Municipal Year 2026/27, including the allocation of seats to political groups and appointments (and substitutes) as nominated by Political Group Leaders, as set out in **Appendix A** to this report, including an increase in the size of the Planning Committee from 11 members to 13 members.

2. Notes the current appointments to Outside Bodies as detailed in **Appendix B** and receives nominations and makes appointments to any vacancies.
3. Approves the Council meeting dates and its committee meeting dates and notes the proposed dates for Cabinet meetings for the Council Municipal Year 2026/27 (**Appendix C**).
4. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Chairman to amend or cancel meeting dates as necessary, subject to compliance with any constitutional requirements where an agenda has already been published.
5. To re-appoint the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel until May 2028.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

To establish the Council's democratic decision-making arrangements and appointments to outside bodies for the municipal year 2026/27

### **Other Options Considered**

Do nothing – this is not a viable option as the Council would not be in compliance with the law or be able to undertake its business

To maintain the current Planning Committee size – whilst this is an option it is considered that the proposed change from 11 to 13 members will support effective decision-making and is compliant with proposed draft regulations.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Annual Council on 17 May 2023 (the Annual Meeting after the last District Council elections), the Council (i) approved committee membership for the four-year period ending at the next ordinary election in 2027; (ii) appointed committee chairmen and vice-chairmen for the same period; and (iii) made appointments to outside bodies for the same period.
- 1.2 Changes to committees, sub-committees and outside body appointments can be made (when necessary) at any Council meeting.
- 1.3 In addition, there have been a number of changes to political group membership, and this has resulted in the need for a review of the allocation of committee seats to political groups.

## **2. Report**

- 2.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the Act) provides that the default position for appointments to committees is on a politically proportionate basis. At each Annual Council meeting the Council must consider whether any changes to committee seat allocations are required in order to maintain political proportionality.
- 2.2 In addition Section 15 of the Act and Regulation 17 of the Local Government (Committees and Political group) regulations 1990 together also require a review of seat allocation to different political groups as soon as is practicable after there is delivered to the proper officer a notice under Regulation 9(b) of the Regulations stating that a member wishes to join a political group and requests a review.
- 2.3 The following changes have taken place which have necessitated a review of committee seat allocations to be undertaken:
- Councillors Harrison and Chauhan have joined the South Holland Independent Group
- 2.4 Under Regulation 16 of the 1990 Regulations, where some of the members of the relevant authority are members of one or more political groups and the others are not, the Council's obligations are as follows:
- i) To determine the proportion of the total membership of the Council who are members of one or more political groups and ensure that the same proportion of the total number of seats to be filled is allocated to each of the political groups in the proportion that the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the authority; and
  - ii) To secure that persons appointed to any seats that do not fall to be allocated to a political group under the above requirement are not allocated to a person who is a member of a political group.
- 2.5 Having determined the overall seat allocations, the next step is to allocate the seat allocations to individual committees. The 1989 Act requires the Council to apply the following principles in sequential order and as far as reasonably practicable when determining seat allocations:
- a) That not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group.
  - b) That the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership.
  - c) Subject to (a) and (b) above, that the total number of seats each political group has on all ordinary committees is in proportion to that group's share of the total council elected membership.
  - d) Subject to (a) and (c) above that each political group has the same proportion of seats on a body as it holds on the Council as a whole.
- 2.6 Once the allocation of seats has been determined, there is a duty on the Council to give effect to the allocation by making appointments to seats in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.
- 2.7. The proposed allocation of seats and appointments which Council is being asked to approve includes the continuation of a gifting of one seat on the Planning Committee

to the South Holland Independent Group from the Reform Group. This alternative arrangement is permissible as long as no member of the Council votes against the proposal.

### **Review of Planning Committee Size**

2.8 The Council is asked to consider increasing the size of the Planning Committee from 11 to 13 Members. The Committee's membership was reduced in July 2025 from 15 to 11 as part of wider governance changes. Since that time, the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 has introduced powers for national planning committee reforms, including regulations relating to the size and composition of planning committees, which are expected to come into force later in 2026 following statutory consultation. The draft regulations stipulate that a planning committee may have a maximum size of 13 members. Increasing the Committee to 13 Members would provide additional capacity and resilience in anticipation of these changes, while representing a modest and proportionate adjustment to support effective decision-making under the new regulatory framework.

### **Outside body appointments**

2.9 Outside body appointments were made at the May 2023 Annual Council meeting for a four-year period. Changes to these appointments can be made at any Council meeting should the need arise, and a list of current outside body appointments is attached at Appendix B.

2.10 In the case of certain outside bodies specified in law political proportionality rules apply where three or more appointments are made by the Council. No changes to outside bodies are required on the basis of political proportionality rules. Any issues and over/under-representation to be addressed are highlighted in Appendix B. Nominations received for the vacancies will be confirmed at the meeting and members will be asked to make appointments to these vacancies

### **SHDC Schedule of Meeting 2026/27**

2.11 A draft Schedule of Meetings for the 2026/27 Municipal Year is attached at Appendix C to this report. This has been developed with relevant members and officers. The programme provides a clear timetable which supports the decision-making processes within the Council and takes account of the current District election timetable. Care has been taken to ensure that all the necessary business of the Council can be managed within the proposed programme. Extraordinary meetings can be called to deal with urgent business should the need arise.

2.12 Members are asked to approve the programme of Ordinary meetings of Council and its Committees, and to note the proposed dates of meetings of the Cabinet, for the Council Municipal Year 2026/27. The Council is also requested to grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Chairman to amend meeting dates or cancel meetings as and when required.

### **Independent Remuneration Panel**

2.12 Members are asked to approve the reappointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel, whose current term of office concludes on 30 September 2026. The Panel,

comprising Nicci Marzec, Chris Penney, Malcom Haddow and Terence York, has continued to provide independent, robust and effective advice to the Council on Members' allowances and related matters, in line with statutory requirements. To ensure continuity of expertise and support stability ahead of the next electoral cycle, it is proposed that the existing Panel members be reappointed for a further term from 1 October 2026 until May 2028.

## **Implications**

### **South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership**

None

### **Corporate Priorities**

None

### **Staffing**

None

### **Workforce Capacity Implications**

None

### **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

The operation of committees and sub-committees and the appointment of members to outside bodies are dealt with in the Constitution and in law (Local Government Act 1972, Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990).

### **Data Protection**

None

### **Financial**

The costs of delivering the Council's Committee structures are factored into the approved Council budget.

### **Risk Management**

None

### **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

Consultation on the Schedule of Meetings has been undertaken with Group leaders, relevant Portfolio Holders and Committee Chairmen, in addition to senior officers. Appointments to committees and sub-committees, and outside bodies, reflect the wishes of the relevant political group/group leader. Consultation on the size of the Planning Committee has taken place with Group Leaders and the Chairman of Planning.

## **Reputation**

None

## **Contracts**

None

## **Crime and Disorder**

None

## **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding**

None

## **Health and Wellbeing**

None

## **Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment**

None

## **Acronyms**

None

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1	Appointments to Committees and Panels (To Follow)
Appendix 2	Outside Body Appointments
Appendix 3	Schedule of Meetings 2026/27

## **Background Papers**

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

## **Chronological History of this Report**

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

## **Report Approval**

Report author: Rhonda Booth, Democratic Services Manager  
rbooth@sholland.gov.uk

Signed off by: John Medler, Service Director – Legal & Governance  
(Monitoring Officer)  
[John.Medler@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:John.Medler@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

## South Holland District Council - Appointments to Outside Bodies

Name of Outside Body	Appointments for 2023 -2027
Advisory and Liaison Committee to the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire	Councillor E Sneath – 17/05/2023
Air Training Corps – Civilian Welfare Committee (Spalding Squadron)	Councillor A Woolf – 17/05/2023
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	Councillor M Geaney – 17/05/2023
Citizens Advice Bureau – Board of Trustees	Councillor J Astill – 17/05/2023 Councillor N Chapman 27/11/2024
District Joint Committee	Councillor N Worth – 27/11/24
East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership	Councillor T Carter – 17/05/2023
East Midlands Councils	Councillor N Worth – 17/05/2023 ( Substitute ) Councillor P Redgate – 15/05/2024
Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire	Councillor G Scalese – 22/11/2023 Councillor M Geaney – Substitute from 22/11/2023
Lincolnshire County Council Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee	Councillor A Beal – 26/07/2023
Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel	Councillor A Beal - 27/09/2023
Lincolnshire Waste Partnership	Councillor J Astill – 14/05/2025
Local Government Association – General Assembly	Councillor N Worth – 17/05/2023
Local Government Association Special Interest Group on Internal Drainage Board Levies	Councillor P Redgate- 27/09/2023
North Level District Internal Drainage Board	Councillor A Harrison – 17/05/2023 Councillor A Beal – 17/05/2023 Councillor C Brewis – 17/05/2023
Patrol UK	Councillor P Barnes 15/05/2024
Rural Services Network – SPARSE Rural	Councillor E Sneath – 14/05/2025
Southeast Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee	Councillor J Avery – 17/05/2023 Councillor H Bingham – 17/05/2023 Councillor B Alcock – 17/05/2025 Councillor A Woolf – 15/05/2024 (Sub) Councillor A Beal – 15/05/2024 (Sub) Councillor S Hutchinson 15/05/2024 (Sub)

South Holland in Bloom Advisory Committee	Councillor J Whitbourn – 17/05/2023 Councillor E Sneath – 14/05/2025 With effect from AGM 2025, only 2 representatives required
South Holland Internal Drainage Board	Councillor A Beal – 17/05/2023 Councillor A Casson - 17/05/2023 Joint appointment Councillor N Chapman – 17/05/2023 Councillor P Redgate – 17/05/2023 Councillor J Tyrrell – 17/05/2023 Councillor D Wilkinson – 17/05/2023 Councillor T Sneath – 17/05/2023 Councillor E Sneath – 26/7/23 Paul Foyster – 26/7/23 Councillor M Geaney 27/11/2024 Councillor J Whitbourn 27/11/2024  One appointment to be a Joint appointment between Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council
South Holland Parish Voluntary Car Scheme	Councillor C Brewis – 15/05/2024
Spalding Town Husbands	Councillor E Sneath – 17/05/2023 Councillor J Whitbourn – 17/05/2023
Spalding Water Taxi Company Limited	1 Vacancy
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Group	Councillor D Wilkinson – 17/05/2023
Welland & Deepings Internal Drainage Board	Councillor J Avery – 17/05/2023 Councillor H Bingham – 17/05/2023 Councillor A Casson – 17/05/2023 Councillor E Sneath – 17/05/2023  Christine Lawton – 17/05/2023  Councillor A Harrison - 26/07/2023  Councillor P Redgate – 14/05/2025



## SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026/27

COMMITTEE & Usual Day	MEETING DATE												
	2026								2027				
	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
INFORMAL CABINET Mons 6.30 pm		15			14		16	14		1	2		
CABINET Tues 6.30 pm		30			29			1	12	16(E)	16		
COUNCIL Weds 6.30 pm	13 (AGM)		15			15		16		25 (B/CT)	(2) (reserve)		12 (AGM)
PLANNING COMMITTEE Weds 6.30 pm		17	22		16	21	25		6	10	17	21	
GOVERNANCE & AUDIT Thurs 6.30 pm			2		10		12		28		18		
PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANEL Tues/Weds 6.30 p.m	19 (Joint) 26				2		10			26 (Joint BS)	23		
POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL Tues/Weds 6.30 p.m	19 (Joint)	2			9		4		19 26 (Joint BS)		23		
LICENSING COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY Tues/Thurs 6.30 p.m			9			8					4		
STANDARDS Wed 6.30pm													
SPALDING TOWN FORUM Tues/Wed 6.30 p.m			7			20			27		11		

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### Key to Symbols :

AGM = Annual General Meeting  
E = Draft Estimates for 2026-27  
B = Budget setting for 2026-27  
CT = Council Tax setting 2026-27

### Bank & Public Holidays

2026 - 3 Apr, 6 Apr, 4 May, 25 May, 31 Aug,  
25 Dec, 28 Dec  
2027- 1 Jan, 26 Mar, 29 Mar

### Notable Dates

District/Parish elections 6 May 2027  
Pre-election period begins at the latest 30 March  
2027

### Key to Venues

All meetings take place at the Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11  
2XE unless stated otherwise on agenda TBC

### Please refer to published agenda for confirmation of meeting arrangements

Please take notice that there are likely to be items at the aforementioned meetings that will be taken in private session. The most common reasons for the press and public being excluded are: information relating to any individual, information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

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<b>Report To:</b>	South Holland District Council
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 13 May 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Report
<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide South Holland District Council with an update following the latest meeting of the health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Committee
<b>Key Decision:</b>	N
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing, Conservation & Heritage
<b>Report Of:</b>	Councillor Glynis Scalese
<b>Report Author:</b>	Samantha Bradley, Democratic and Electoral Services Support Officer
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	N/A
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	N

## Summary

This report is provided in accordance with Standing Order 5 of Part 4A (Procedural Standing Orders) of the Council's Constitution which states that written reports will be received from Councillors who represent the Council on outside bodies. Reports will normally be for information only, however, members may recommend that a matter be considered or investigated by officers and that the investigating officers be asked to submit a further detailed report. Councillor Scalese is SHDC's representative to the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire. This report is provided for information purposes only, and members are requested to note it.

## Recommendations

That the report be noted

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

To provide members with an update following the latest meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire, in line with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

## **Other Options Considered**

- Not to note the report; or
- To note the report and request that a matter be considered or investigated by officers, and that the investigating officer submit a further detailed report.

## **1. Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Report**

### **East Ambulance Service – Lincolnshire Division Response**

The East Ambulance Service outlined its graduated response model, which is designed to reflect the urgency and clinical severity of each incident.

- Immediate responses are reserved for life-threatening emergencies, including cardiac or respiratory arrest.
- Serious conditions, such as strokes or presentations involving chest pain, receive a rapid response to enable prompt clinical assessment and, where appropriate, urgent conveyance.
- Urgent cases, for example uncomplicated diabetic presentations, are supported through timely intervention and transfer to an acute care setting.
- Non-urgent cases involving stable clinical conditions are managed through planned transportation to a hospital ward or outpatient clinic.

### **Clinical Strategy**

The service's clinical strategy is underpinned by a commitment to providing safe, effective, and compassionate care. A key principle is ensuring patients receive the right care, in the right place, delivered by the right person. Emphasis is placed on coordinated working across services to improve patient outcomes. The strategy also seeks to strengthen preventative healthcare, address health inequalities, improve ambulance response times, and reduce the number of inappropriate ambulance dispatches, thereby supporting more efficient use of resources.

### **Clinical Priorities**

Through the 999-triage process, the service aims to rapidly identify patients experiencing critical cardiac events.

- Appropriate clinical resources are deployed to provide prompt specialist care and, where required, timely conveyance.
- Hospitals are pre-alerted to support swift intervention on arrival, with a clear focus on ensuring patients are conveyed to the most appropriate setting first time.

- Frontline staff have access to senior clinical advice 24 hours a day to support decision-making and risk management.
- Ongoing training ensures clinical teams are equipped to recognise and treat a range of cardiac conditions.

In addition, the service highlighted the importance of community education initiatives, including improving public awareness and confidence in the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

### **Pharmacy Services in Lincolnshire**

- The National Pharmacy Association, which represents independent pharmacies across the country, has published a report calling for the expansion of pharmacy services that support patients to use their medicines effectively.
- The report states that these services have the potential to save the National Health Service billions of pounds.
- It also warns that up to sixty-three per cent of pharmacies nationally could close within the next year.
- Approximately four in ten pharmacies are reported to be unable to fully meet the cost of prescription medicines for patients without additional financial support.
- In Lincolnshire, around one third of pharmacies are independent contractors.
- Many of these independent pharmacies are located in rural areas and operate as the only pharmacy within several miles.
- Closure of these pharmacies would have a serious and detrimental impact on patients across Lincolnshire, particularly those in rural communities.

### **Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework**

- The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework sets out three levels of pharmacy services:
  - Essential services
  - Advanced services
  - Enhanced or locally commissioned services.

#### **Essential Services**

- Essential services are negotiated nationally and commissioned by National Health Service England.
- They are provided by all community pharmacies.
- These services include:
  - Dispensing of medicines
  - Repeat dispensing.
  - Public health activity, including the promotion of healthy lifestyles.
  - Signposting to other services
  - Support for self-care.

#### **Advanced Services**

- Advanced services are negotiated nationally and commissioned by National Health Service England.
- These services are provided by pharmacies that choose to offer them.
- Advanced services include:
  - Vaccinations
  - Pharmacy First
  - Hypertension case-finding
  - Pharmacy contraception service

### **Enhanced or Locally Commissioned Services**

- Enhanced services are negotiated locally and commissioned by local authorities, the National Health Service Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board, or National Health Service England.
- These services are designed to meet specific local health needs.
- Provision depends on local commissioning arrangements and is not available from all pharmacies.
- Examples of enhanced services include substance misuse services.

### **Advanced Service: Pharmacy First**

- As of 31 January 2026, all community pharmacies in Lincolnshire were providing the Pharmacy First service.
- The Pharmacy First service was introduced on 31 January 2024.
- A key element of the service is the provision of advice and National Health Service funded treatment, where clinically appropriate.
- The service is available for seven common conditions, subject to age restrictions:
  - Sinusitis
  - Sore throat
  - Acute otitis media
  - Infected insect bites
  - Impetigo
  - Shingles
  - Uncomplicated urinary tract infections

### **Appendices**

None

### **Background Papers**

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

### **Chronological History of this Report**

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

**Report Approval**

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Signed off by: N/A

Approved for publication: N/A

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