



Report To: South Holland District Council

Date: Wednesday, 23 July 2025

Subject: Portfolio Holder updates

Purpose: To note Portfolio Holder updates on work being undertaken within each of their Portfolios

Key Decision: No

Portfolio Holder: All Portfolio Holders

Report Of: Councillor Nick Worth - Leader

Report Author: Christine Morgan, Democratic Services Team Leader

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

Mayoral Combined County Authority

We have now had the first meeting where we appointed members to boards and committees and elected chairs of those boards (upper tier Councils), noted the appointment of the Deputy Mayor and allocated funding for projects under the UKSPF programme, where I noted that all the projects were either in Lincoln or further north. The mayor confirmed she wanted future funding to be spread more equitably around the whole County. The initial meeting of the Business and Infrastructure Board has been held and the Education & Skills Board will be held shortly. Both are very much in their infancy.

Local Government Re-organisation

The launch of our detailed bid for two unitary councils (North / South split) took place at The Assembly Rooms in Lincoln on July 10th and there will now be an intense round of consultations and workshops across the county to support our bid over the next 2 / 3 months. This will include regular updates to our members, LALC and two virtual sessions with Parish Councils. We hope you can all be heavily involved in feeding information to and from Parish Councils in particular.

Markets

Market occupancy across Spalding, Holbeach, Long Sutton and Crowland as a whole has increased compared to last year. In May 2024 we had 242 stalls compared to 339 this year and in June 2024 we had 261 stalls compared to 274 this year, so we are seeing a gradual upturn. We have 16 new traders in the last 3 months. We have a new Facebook page that the traders are finding very useful for marketing and promotion. We are also having our first 'Makers' market in Spalding in August, where we already have a number of stands booked.

BID

There has been some noise around the BID, so I wanted to clarify that The Business Improvement District ballot and levy collection was carried out alongside national guidelines to ensure a fair and transparent process which was clearly communicated throughout.

We have every confidence that the BID ballot and levy collection have been carried out in the correct and proper manner with clear and documented communication throughout. The ballot took place in 2024, with plans to explore a BID first made public in 2022.

The ballot was managed to the same high level as any other election, with verified data being provided to a recognised electoral services provider, and the council's returning officer overseeing the process with the usual checks, proofing and sign-off taking place.

The collection of the levy on behalf of the BID has been carried out in the same manner as it would be with council tax and all other council managed collection processes, and all recovery actions undertaken have been done in line with the relevant national regulations.

We need to make a clear distinction between SHDC's role and that of the BID: South Holland District Council collects the money, the BID is controlled by local businesses who spend the money. It is worth noting also that all businesses who fund the BID have the opportunity to influence how the funds collected through the levy are spent.

Spalding Town Board

The Board is currently drawing together a detailed master plan for the town so that we are ready to use the funding on projects that will make a difference to the town when the main funding finally comes in 2026. Included in that will be a report on the health of retail, leisure and hospitality in the town and how we might use some of the funding to support struggling and new businesses. We are also expecting a report on the Hot Spot Policing project in Spalding to see how it is reducing anti-social behaviour, reducing drinking and making people feel safe when in and around the town, before we consider whether to extend the funding for a further 3 months.

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

Finance

The Finance Team at South Holland District Council has worked diligently to prepare and publish the 2024/25 unaudited draft Statement of Accounts by the statutory deadline of 30 June. Their professionalism and commitment are commendable, especially in light of the national challenges around delayed accounts. The external audit will commence on Monday 7 July. This timely achievement supports the wider effort to clear the national backlog, with 28% of District Councils having missed the deadline.

UKSPF

The Programme is progressing as expected. The two delegated Schemes (LCF GRASSroots and Grants4Growth) are up and running, with Grants4Growth agreeing its first four grants in South Holland and LCF closing its first Round on 30th June. On the latter, demand has been so substantial that it is my expectation that the entire allocation will be committed in a single Round and it is likely that the standard for approval will be very high. On the other projects, we are proceeding through the contracting process, with the vast majority targeted to be under contract by 11th July (leading to us being just shy of 90% under contract by the end of this month). 'On the ground' delivery has started again for a couple of the continuation projects now under contract (e.g. LCVS Community Transport, Pride in Place).

IDBs

We received the confirmation of the distribution of the £5m settlement from the Government. We have seen a sum of £578,000 allocated to SHDC. This is welcomed and we are thankful for this sum of money. We continue to campaign for a long term funding solution for authorities and this remains paramount to the safeguard in both the short term for council while we go through LGR. We are pushing the Government through numerous channels in order to keep our narrative ongoing and want to ensure that this is factored into any dialogue taking place.

Update from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Governance, Communications and Environmental Services – Councillor Jim Astill

Governance:

- Annual Canvass commenced on 4th July, more information can be found in the email sent to all Councillors by the Communications Team on 3rd July.
- Risk Reports now have oversight from Cabinet in addition to Governance and Audit Committee.

Corporate:

- Since the formation of the Partnership in 2021, work has been ongoing to identify a mechanism for job evaluation and a suitable scheme for remuneration for those officers who are shared.

Following extensive work by the team which involved consultation with staff and associated unions, we have reached a point where this is now ready for Full Council approval and reports for this are featured on this agenda.

- Work has been ongoing to create an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for the Partnership. A draft policy went to the last meeting of the Policy Development Panel and is expected to be approved at the September Cabinet meeting.

Environmental Services:

- Work is ongoing within the service on the expansion of the garden waste scheme, it is anticipated that I will be able to update Councillors on the progress around the end of July.
- Cabinet approved the model for the delivery of waste collections at a Special Meeting in June. Approval of the associated elements of the Capital Programme are featured on tonight's agenda.

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

Planning

- Performance of the Development Management Team remains strong, with both minor and major applications being determined over 90% in time.

- The National Grid Grimsby to Walpole NSIP Stage 2 consultation is currently open and runs until 6th August - a response is being compiled
- A further early-stage consultation on electricity transmission infrastructure from Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire also runs until 6th August - a response is being compiled.
- Nationally, the Government continues to move forward with planning reform and is consulting on several matters, including the future of Planning Committees. The Planning & Infrastructure Bill continues its path through Parliament.
- The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Alcock, Councillor Hutchinson and myself met with officers to discuss and compile comments regarding the above bill.
- Comments have been submitted regarding meridian solar, egl3 and 4 nsip projects, putting forward concerns and objections.

Building Control

- Building Control has seen huge changes in the last 12/18 months. Building Control Inspectors must now be registered to operate and Building Control bodies must demonstrate that they comply with Operational standards rules as set by the Building Safety Regulator. This has resulted in significant changes to the way Building Control operates as well as the industry. SHDC Building Control have a full team of registered Inspectors.
- Building Control also operate a 24/7 365 day a year dangerous structure service, ensuring that any building that poses an immediate danger to the public is made safe.
- SHDC is still retaining the major share of work in the area.

Cultural Facilities

South Holland Centre

- Attendance across Q1 is up from last year: Q1 24/25 6811 attended a show or film compared to Q1 25/26 7425 attended a show or a film;
- Ticket sales for panto are also up on this time last year – by 2nd July 2024 we had sold 2968 tickets and by 2nd July 2025 we have sold 3498 tickets which is very encouraging. There is limited capacity to improve on the overall number of tickets sold in terms of number of performances;
- July is a busy month for community hires with Spalding School of Dance, Bourne to Dance, Polka Dance and Act II all hiring the venue for their end of year shows.
- Further funding has been secured from Storytellers NPO to enable the continuation of the successful AV Club. The group will be working with Spalding Gentlemans Society and Act II on two projects over summer and autumn using some of the skills they have learnt over the last six months;
- The South Holland Centre also hosted the Storytellers NPO Cultural Conference in June, where spaces across the whole building were utilised for breakout sessions and keynote speeches. It was fantastic to see the whole building buzzing with activity;
- A Function Hall Open Day is planned for later in the year, with a date to be confirmed in partnership with an outside company. A room decorator will come and “stage” the room for a function. The aim is for this to be a relaunch to

promote this as a space for functions and the intention to link in with Ayscoughfee to promote and increase use;

- A round of auditorium seat refurbishments took place in June, with further seat repairs planned for August along with other planned maintenance.

Ayscoughfee Hall Museum & Gardens

- Ayscoughfee welcomed 5069 visitors during Q1, an increase of nearly 2000 on the same period last year;
- Working with the Communications team, promotion of Ayscoughfest has started with a full plan in place for promotion activity over the coming month.
- The Lutyens interpretation boards are with the Graphics team and will be shared in the next week.
- Following a review of incidents and discussions with the Community Safety team, the asset protection hours have been changed to increase presence in the afternoons over the summer and increased patrols before locking up. There has been a drop in incidents so far this year which suggests the security presence is acting as a deterrent. A longer-term solution is being costed.
- Savings have been made internally allowing for extra manned hours during the summer months in the gardens.
- Gardens are in full bloom and looking spectacular and further work planned over the coming year
- The opening of the infinite museum at Ayscoughfee Hall went well and is definitely worth a look - the VR experience is not only interesting but informative

Assets

Lutyens memorial

- The project is progressing well and remains on schedule for a September finish with a bit of leeway allowed in case of any hidden issues that weren't apparent from the surveys. The rendering is going well and the roof has been stripped where it was discovered a structural beam had rotted away and that is now being replaced with the roofing tiles numbered ready for installation once all beams have been cleaned and treated for woodworm. This extensive expert restoration will allow the memorial to last for many years to come. A full picture and explanation log of the works will be retained and made available in the museum once the project is complete.
- We are currently in the process of transferring public open space to Sutton Bridge Parish Council as we have with Fleet and Quadring. Although these sites have little to no financial value they have massive community value and as such we believe are best suited in the control of the local parish councils so as to allow for a tailored approach to maintenance and upkeep. This will be expanded further in the near future.
- We continue with the disposals of a small number of sites (not open space) that are deemed surplus to requirements, not economic to repair etc such as derelict garage sites so as to invest back in to the assets.
- We continue to be in conversations with groups and organisations and businesses looking at uses for unused or under-utilised assets to create community value where economically possible and in a lot of cases commercial return

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

Housing Standards (Private Sector Housing)

Since the start of the year the Housing Standards Team has welcomed in 2 new members of staff, replacing 2 long serving officers who have retired. The 2 new officers are embracing their training and I am delighted to report that both have recently passed their Housing Health and Safety Rating System qualification and putting this into practice in their duties. In terms of workload, the team is currently dealing with a number of properties within the private sector with serious hazards presenting serious risks to the occupying tenants, resulting in the service of 4 Improvement Notices, 2 Emergency Prohibition Orders, 1 Prohibition Order and 5 Civil Penalty Notices. This reactive enforcement work is being carried out in conjunction with programmed inspection work of Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation, of which there are 89 in the district. The service is operating within the parameters of the budget, with any additional income looking to be reinvested within the service. Over the coming months the team will be bringing forward a number of policies for consideration, including; Housing Standards Enforcement (within the private sector), Empty Homes and Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Homelessness

The Homelessness Service is pleased to report significant progress in both the financial management of temporary accommodation and initiatives to house Rough Sleepers. Through disciplined budget control and strategic resource allocation, we have maintained financial stability while delivering impactful services. Notably, our efforts to support vulnerable populations have led to the successful placement of a substantial number of rough sleepers into interim accommodation and away from key town centre locations. This achievement reflects our commitment to inclusivity and demonstrates the effectiveness of our collaborative approach with local agencies and community partners. We are now striving to ensure we can find these individuals the correct housing placements to stop this cycle.

Developments across the Housing Landlord Services

Since the last Council meeting, the following key developments have taken place across Housing Landlord Services:

- A programmed inspection by the Regulator of Social Housing has been concluded. While the grading outcome is still pending at the time of writing, it is expected to be published by the end of July. Once received, the findings will be shared with Members and tenants.
- Cabinet has adopted a new Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Framework aimed at improving case management through early intervention, enhanced support for victims, and appropriate enforcement measures.
- Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs) have been scrutinised by the Performance Monitoring Panel and submitted to the Regulator of Social Housing. These will be published online and included in the annual report later this summer for tenant review.

- A consultation on disabled aids and adaptations is underway, involving both tenants and Members to ensure inclusive feedback. An All-Member briefing on the outcome of consultation is planned for 28 July.
- Preparations are underway to meet the requirements of new legislation related to repairs and the response to damp, condensation, and mould—commonly referred to as Awaab’s Law—which comes into effect in October 2025.
- The Tenant Engagement and Influence Strategy 2025–2027 has been adopted, and a new Tenant Forum has been launched. A series of events are planned across the district to encourage tenant involvement in shaping and improving housing services.
- A draft of the 2025/26 Housing Transformation Programme has been prepared for adoption by the Transformation Board, under the sponsorship of the Director of Communities. (Note adoption was postponed due to the regulatory inspection).
- Finally, ongoing financial modelling of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is supporting the development of a new HRA Business Plan and Asset Management Strategy. All Member briefings are scheduled for September.

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

Within the South Holland District, we currently have 19 CCTV locations within Spalding, 3 in Crowland and 4 in Holbeach. They are monitored by a control room at Boston Borough Council. Earlier this year a visit was offered to all Members to visit the monitoring suite to see how the CCTV is monitored and to ask any questions. Members were briefed on the work of the operators and the range of work that CCTV is involved with from crimes to assisting with missing persons. The quality of the images was seen by Members which assist with evidence packs provided to Lincolnshire Police. Within Spalding centre, we continue to have a Safer Streets zone which can be seen by the public through green signs within the area. The streets that are included are the main routes to and from pubs/bars and transport facilities, enabling both visitors and residents to feel safe as they travel around the town centre.

The Community Safety Team worked closely with the Homelessness Team following reports of anti-social behaviour incidents in Abbey Passage involving a group of homeless males. The area where the homeless individuals were sleeping, was in fact private and the Community Safety Team worked with the owner of Hills to discuss the steps required to move the homeless individuals from the land. Warnings were issued by the Community Safety team to those individuals identified as causing anti-social behaviour, including those that had been seen urinating or defecating in the area.

Air Quality Management – Annual Status Report

The Council has a duty to provide an Annual Status Report (ASR) each year to DEFRA, in connection with its local air quality management duty. This year’s report, covering the year 2024/5, has been submitted to DEFRA within the deadline and with sign-off from the Director of Public Health at Lincs County Council. The ASR follows a standard format and includes details of monitoring undertaken including results, compliance with national air quality objectives, details of large developments that might adversely affect local air quality, schemes that might positively affect local air

quality and plans to improve air quality. DEFRA will review the ASR and will normally approve it within a few weeks, with or without comments.

Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy

The Council, as Licensing Authority, has a legal duty to maintain a Statement of Licensing Policy and review it every five years. The current Statement runs until the end of December 2025 and the review process is underway in respect of the draft Statement for 2026 – 2030. A draft revised Statement was considered by the Committee of the Licensing Authority (CoLA) on 22nd May 2025 and was further considered by Policy Development Panel on 24th June 2025. A public consultation process was started on 27th May 2025 which runs to 27th July. Once the consultation is completed, the draft Statement will be amended as necessary before going back to the CoLA in September and then to full Council as the approval body in October. Whilst the bulk of the draft Statement remains broadly the same as the current version, the main revisions include new sections relating to Adult Safeguarding, Child Safeguarding, Counterterrorism, and the Public Space Protection Order, all of which support the licensing objectives set out in the Act.

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

Age Friendly Communities

Last year I supported SHDC becoming a member of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities to ensure we are an 'Age Friendly Community' where people of all ages can live healthy and active later lives. We want to support residents to stay living in their own homes, participate in the activities they value and contribute to their communities for as long as possible. An Age Friendly Community is a place where people can age well and live a fulfilling later life.

On the 11th June SHDC hosted three well supported 'Age Friendly' events in various locations around the District. People attending these events were able to discuss their issues and needs with professionals and get advice and support to enable them to live as well as they can as they age. Support was offered by Age Uk Digital Champions, Home Energy Advisors, Citizens Advice, Lincs Fire and Rescue, neighbourhood nurses, Age Uk, Bro Pro, YMCA and other groups.

Household Support Fund

We have been offered nearly £400,000 by the Government to deliver the Household Support fund to residents in need in South Holland. This will run from April 2024 to 31st March 2026. The primary objective is the provision of crisis support for the cost of household essentials (food and utilities). This year's funding also includes a 'prevention' strand to provide support which can have a longer term, sustainable impact. There will be digital inclusion drop-ins and help for people to maximise and manage household budgets. The Fund is intended to support a wide range of low-income households. It is not limited to those in receipt of benefits or intended to be focused on one specific vulnerable group.

Heritage

It is good to see the damaged wall of Spalding Cemetery being repaired and rebuilt using a mix of the original bricks and some carefully sourced reclaimed bricks.

The Lutyens Memorial renovation in Ayscoughfee Gardens is coming on well with some very experienced and talented heritage craftsmen and our dedicated officers all working hard to restore it to its former glory.

One of our Council officers opens a recent report to me by describing it as 'Our beloved Lutyens' and he is right to do so. We are perhaps all a little too used to seeing it sitting looking serenely beautiful at the top of the canal as it has done for so long without fully appreciating its deep national and international significance. In recent years repairs were done as and when the Council could afford to do so but now, we can undertake this major and thorough restoration which will ensure it stands for many more years as a proud memorial to those from Spalding who fell in the Great War 1914 - 1918.

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

Volunteer Scheme

The Communities Team continues to work with a number of departments to develop Volunteering opportunities, these include:

- Good Homes Lincs volunteers (a partnership between Lincolnshire Councils to support people to stay safe, warm and well at home) – handyperson within the Spalding area, the Communities Team is currently following up on a number of expressions of interest.
- Supporting the South Holland Centre with advice on volunteering issues and recruitment, and have been in attendance at Long Sutton Community Market Event in recent weeks.
- Expanding the Ageing Well Ambassador scheme into South Holland.
- Recruitment and support continues for those who wish to pick litter within the community.

The Communities Team continues to have a presence at Spalding Market once a month to advertise opportunities, although take up has been slow, there have been some useful connections made, the Communities Team Leader will be in the market on the 22nd July. Attendance at various other open days including plans to attend Love Parks event at Deeping St Nicholas and Pinchbeck in July and InspireU Careers Day in Spalding.

Crowdfunding Scheme

The scheme has now supported 10 projects totalling £105,000 of which £59,000 was raised via the 'Crowd'. The Spring window is now open and we currently have 6 crowdfunding projects, 3 of which are in the South Holland Area.

Community Lottery

The scheme continues to raise funds for local good causes within the area. With 97 live causes and over 1600 tickets sold weekly. The total to good causes is over £83,000 since the start of the scheme.

Communities Team Update

Spring into Spalding was another successful event for the town centre, along with Easter Bunny hunts in the towns of Crowland and Holbeach for the Half term school holidays.

Mental Health Awareness week saw over 30 participants take part in a free Tai Chi class in the grounds of Ayscoughfee Gardens, promoting the site along with increasing social connectedness and physical activity. The team also ran a weeklong social media campaign to highlight mental health provision in the district.

The team supported on the launch of the South Holland Age Friendly pledge with 2 events taking place at Sheltered Housing settings in Fleet Hargate and St Matthews in Sutton Bridge. The Age without Limits events brought laughter and fun to the residents, learning new skills and connecting with other residents.

Tydd St Mary community enjoyed an activity day in the May half term including climbing wall, cookery, arts and crafts and lots of sports and garden games. Live and Local is continuing to bring Theatre, dance and music to some of our rural areas of the district. A yearly report will be available in September to highlight the impact these opportunities are having on our communities.

The team have been planning and delivering Veteran events including Armed Forces Day Parade and VJ Day celebrations taking place in August.

The team are collaborating with Ayscoughfee to bring Ayscoughfest this summer on Saturday 26th July. Communications have begun this week. More details can be found on the Council website.

The team have been working hard to collate information on local activities taking place over the school holidays. The online Summer Fun listings will launch next week, with all South Holland primary schools receiving a leaflet or digital leaflet to promote the website page. www.sholland.gov.uk/summerfun

Communities Team have a fun packed programme of activities over the Summer Holidays including Love Parks Week, taking place over the last week of July in Cowbit, Deeping St Nicholas, Pinchbeck and Sutton Bridge. These events promote our local green spaces and outdoor activities.

Give it a GO returns to Holbeach on Sunday 10th August with an array of local sports and community groups promoting healthy living in the district.

The team have been working with Lawn Tennis Association and On 2 Court to get the Park Tennis free sessions set up at Ayscoughfee. Park Activators are in place with training due to take place at the end of July. Ayscoughfee Park Tennis will launch in August with details and promotion to follow shortly.

Lastly, Socialise and Mobilise seated exercise sessions have been extended after an initial 6-week course at Trinity Court Sheltered housing in Crowland. A further 6 weeks have been part funded by the council to continue increasing our resident's mobility and general health and wellbeing.

Acronyms

IDB – Internal Drainage Board
UKSPF – UK Shared Prosperity Fund
LCF – Lincolnshire Community Foundation
LALC – Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils
BID – Business Improvement District
SHDC – South Holland District Council
LCVS – Lincolnshire Community Voluntary Service
LGR – Local Government Re-Organisation
NSIP – National Infrastructure Planning
EGL3 – Eastern Green Link 3
AV - Audiovisual
NPO – National Portfolio Organisation
VR – Virtual Reality
ASB – Anti-Social Behaviour
TSM – Tenant Satisfaction Measure
HRA – Housing Revenue Account
CCTV – Closed-Circuit Television
ASR – Annual Status Report
DEFRA – Department for Environment, Food & Cultural Affairs
CoLA – Committee of the Licensing Authority

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

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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