



**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:

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Signed off by:

Councillor Nick Worth – Leader of the Council