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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

17th December 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

Present

Councillor Hasthorpe (in the Chair)

Councillors Abel, Barber, Barfield, Beasant, Bramley, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Fenty, Freeston, Furneaux, Goodwin, Green, Harness, Hudson, Hyldon-King, Jackson, James, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Nichols, Nici, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Procter, Rodwell, Rogers, Rudd, Shepherd, Sheridan, Shreeve, Silvester, S Swinburn, Watson, Wheatley, Wilson and Woodward.

Officers in Attendance:

- Rob Walsh (Chief Executive)
- Joanne Hewson (Deputy Chief Executive)
- Simon Jones (Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer)
- Sharon Wroot (Director of Resources and Governance)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)
- Paul Wisken (Civic and Mayoral Officer)

NEL.66 MR. JIM MOY

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect for Mr Jim Moy, former Member of North East Lincolnshire Council, who passed away recently.

NEL.67 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor welcomed all those present to this meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council with all Members in virtual attendance, except for himself who was situated in Grimsby Town Hall with the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer.

The Deputy Mayor noted that his thoughts were with each and every family affected by Covid-19 and, though there was light at the end of the tunnel thanks to the development of a vaccine, it remained imperative for everyone to continue

to follow safety measures in order to see our communities come back to any normality.

The Deputy Mayor took the opportunity to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable festive period and a peaceful and happy new year.

He invited the Monitoring Officer to advise on protocols to be followed at this meeting.

NEL.68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillor K Swinburn.

NEL.69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members in respect of any items on the agenda for this meeting.

NEL.70 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 17th September, 2020 were approved as a correct record.

NEL.71 THE LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Council received a statement from the Leader of the Council.

The Leader commented that, as the year drew to a close, Covid-19 remained the dominant issue both locally and nationally. Following today's Government announcement, North East Lincolnshire remained in tier 3 along with our neighbours. This was an unfortunate consequence of the current rates and hospital pressures. The Leader noted that the administration would continue to lobby for additional support, particularly for the hospitality sector. He updated Council on targeted testing which would form a key plank of the local outbreak management plan, along with contact tracing and isolation this would provide an entire package of measures. Vaccinations were a major step forward in the battle against the virus and the Leader thanked the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and primary care networks for all they were doing to administer the vaccine locally. Vaccinations had commenced this week from four locations in the Borough. The Leader also thanked the Diana Princess of Wales hospital and all NHS staff for continuing to manage Covid-19 and winter pressures. The Leader also urged caution and restraint with the reduced restrictions over the Christmas period.

The Leader confirmed changes to his Cabinet. He would be taking on the regeneration, skills and housing portfolio, and he had appointed Councillor Shreeve as the new Deputy Leader of the Council.

With the EU exit almost upon us, the Leader was pleased that the Government had announced a major cash allocation through the Ports Infrastructure Fund for a new border inspection post, which would include Immingham and Killingholme. This extra funding, with a combined total of over £36m would be a major boost for Northern Lincolnshire and we were working closely with partners to develop the new facilities.

The Leader noted that regeneration of the area continued at a pace, despite the pandemic. He optimistically awaited the government's response to our Future High Street and Towns Fund bids. Progress continued with the Onside Youth Zone and he congratulated young people for their involvement in the project and their choice of Horizon as the name for the youth zone.

The Leader reported excellent progress with major highways schemes across the Borough. Toll Bar roundabout improvement works were on schedule for completion next month and within budget. The new roundabout at the junction of Littlecoates Road and Cambridge Road, Grimsby had opened earlier today, ahead of schedule, and would address a long standing traffic bottle-neck. Work on The A1173 was now complete and will reopen tomorrow providing enhanced access to the South Humber Inward Investment Programme site.

The rollout of recycling bins to all households that can use them had now been completed. The new bins had proved to be popular and recycling rates were on the increase.

The Leader welcomed the robust and high profile support from the courts through the recent convictions for cycling in the pedestrianised area in Victoria Street, Grimsby. He felt that this sent a clear message that this administration was serious about enforcement and protecting the residents of North East Lincolnshire.

On health, the Leader noted that a major NHS reorganisation was signalled recently, proposing further development of integrated care systems and the introduction locally of Integrated Care Partnerships. This would have potential implications for our integrated health and social care arrangements with the CCG and we were working together to develop an appropriate response and to consider how our arrangements would need to alter to meet the proposed changes.

A Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee had been established to enable North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire County councils to work together on projects to enable funding to be better utilised, service quality improved and greater outcomes provided. The Leader felt that this would also send a powerful message to the Government on our desire to move to a devolved Greater Lincolnshire.

In conclusion, the Leader referred to the unprecedented events of 2020 and paid tribute to the immense effort, commitment and dedication of all council staff in

meeting the challenges of the pandemic, adapting to rapid change and working tirelessly to support communities, residents, businesses and partners. He thanked all Elected Members for their efforts too and offered his condolences to all those who had lost loved ones as a result of the pandemic. He wished all Elected Members, officers and residents a Christmas as merry as it can be under the current circumstances and a sincere hope that 2021 would be better than 2020.

It was noted that details of special urgency decisions taken in accordance with the Constitution and an update on the implementation of Motions previously resolved at the preceding Council meetings, had been circulated to Elected Members prior to this meeting.

Note - Items NEL.72 - NEL.80 were considered as business remaining from the adjourned meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 17th September, 2020.

NEL.72 MINUTES OF THE ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 30th JUNE, 2020

At SPE.7, Empty Property Strategy, Councillor Wilson noted the proposed disposal of Lincolnshire Housing Partnership properties, with preference being given to community and voluntary sectors, and enquired whether this would make a difference to the number of empty properties in Elsenham Road, Grimsby and the proposed timeline for the disposal.

Councillor Furneaux, Chair of the Economy Scrutiny Panel, felt that there was a need to implement the strategy first but he hoped it would be effective. He agreed to provide a written response on the timeline.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Wilson asked how the panel would monitor this issue and how success would be measured.

Councillor Furneaux responded that he hoped it would bring a reduction in the number of empty properties. He felt this matter was important to the Borough as a whole, so he did intend for the panel to follow this up.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Furneaux and seconded by Councillor Harness.

RESOLVED –

1. That the minutes of the Economy Scrutiny meeting held on 30th June, 2020 be approved and adopted.
2. That a written response be provided to Councillor Wilson on the timeline for disposal of Lincolnshire Housing Partnership properties.

NEL.73 MINUTES OF THE ECONOMY SCRUTINY MEETING HELD ON 7th JULY, 2020

At SPE.18, Future High Street Funding Application, Councillor Wilson asked if the Chair agreed that, if this speculative bid was granted by the government, it would enhance the value of businesses and properties in the surrounding area.

Councillor Furneaux felt that this was not something that he could comment on. While he hoped that it would, he could not confirm this definitively.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Wilson enquired whether this was a question that should be asked when scrutinising such bids.

Councillor Furneaux felt that there were many parameters which needed to be looked at when scrutinising such bids.

On the same minute, Councillor Wheatley enquired how the funding would fit in with the requirements of the Local Plan.

Councillor Furneaux noted that the Local Plan was currently under review and agreed to provide a written response.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Wheatley noted the requirement to increase retail units in the Local Plan and was interested in how this sat with this proposal, which would reduce the number of retail units.

Councillor Furneaux noted that the retail space in question was currently under-utilised and this proposal would result in increased new retail space, which would hopefully attract inward investment and additional employment.

On the same minute, Councillor Rogers referred to the anticipated outcome of increased footfall into the town centre and enquired how the pandemic and the negative impact on the hospitality sector would affect this ambition.

Councillor Furneaux hoped, as a forward thinking council, that we could look beyond the pandemic and towards a time when things return back to normal.

On the same minute, Councillor Patrick referred to the loss of the Market Hall car park and enquired whether the Chair was concerned about the potential negative impact on the council's income.

Councillor Furneaux responded that this was raised at the meeting and reassurance was given that this had been considered as part of the scheme.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick sought clarification of that reassurance.

Councillor Furneaux responded that, from memory, it was considered that utilisation would spread to other car parks and there was also the potential for a further car park as part of the funding bid to provide parking for the proposed cinema, leisure and food retail outlet.

On the same minute, Councillor Wilson asked if the Chair would support a proposal for nearby residents to have free resident parking schemes due to the impact of the loss of the Market Hall car park.

Councillor Furneaux responded that such a proposal would be something for the panel as a whole to review.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Furneaux and seconded by Councillor Harness.

RESOLVED –

1. That the minutes of the Economy Scrutiny meeting held on 7th July, 2020 be approved and adopted.
2. That a written response be provided to Councillor Wheatley confirming how the Future High Street Fund would fit in with the requirements of the Local Plan.

NEL.74 MINUTES OF THE ECONOMY SCRUTINY MEETING HELD ON 11th AUGUST, 2020

At SPE.23, Call In – Local Enterprise Partnerships, Councillor Wilson asked the Chair if he signed the Special Urgency form allowing this matter to be considered by Cabinet.

Councillor Furneaux agreed to provide a written response.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Wilson asked for the reasons why he signed the form, if he did, given that there appeared to be no urgency.

Councillor Furneaux agreed to include this in his written response.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Furneaux and seconded by Councillor Harness.

RESOLVED –

1. That the minutes of the Economy Scrutiny meeting held on 11th August, 2020 be approved and adopted.

2. That a written a response be provided to Councillor Wilson confirming if the Chair had signed the Special Urgency form to allow the matter to be considered by Cabinet, and the reasons for urgency.

NEL.75 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY MEETING HELD ON 15th JULY, 2020

At SPH.7, Haematology Service Update, Councillor Wilson enquired how the shortage of consultants could be addressed.

Councillor Hudson, Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel, acknowledged that this was a concern and that was why the trust was making changes to the pathway and training up nurses rapidly. Given that it was not possible to recruit consultants quickly, it was vital to make best use of existing consultants' time.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Wilson enquired whether the Chair agreed that the Government should provide more investment.

Councillor Hudson responded that it wasn't an issue of funding.

On the same minute, Councillor Wheatley asked if the Chair agreed that the planned changes represented a further leeching of services away from North East Lincolnshire.

Councillor Hudson agreed that there was a leeching of services but this did not mean the potential downgrading of the local hospital. He hoped that some travel could be mitigated and noted that the change was reversible.

At SPH.8, Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan, Councillor Wilson asked if the Chair could explain what concerns he had with the promotion of Cleethorpes as a resort over the summer months.

Councillor Hudson confirmed he had concerns, including for the traders. He added that it was a difficult issue to balance but he felt that the council had got it right.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Wilson enquired whether the Chair took into account the economy above the health of local residents when chairing this meeting.

Councillor Hudson responded that he did not think in that way. He realised that everyone involved had a difficult job to do but he trusted the leadership team and was happy with the steps taken.

On the same minute, Councillor Jackson enquired whether, given the incubation period for the virus was only two weeks and the infection rate had not risen locally until November, that this would indicate that the right steps were taken.

Councillor Hudson agreed with Councillor Jackson's point.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Hudson and seconded by Councillor Furneaux.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny meeting held on 15th July, 2020 be approved and adopted.

NEL.76 MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND VISITOR ECONOMY MEETING HELD ON 29th JULY, 2020

At SPTVE.7, Historic Vessels' Conservation, Councillor Wheatley enquired whether there had been any discussions around the fate of the Esther.

Councillor Brookes, Chair of the Tourism and Visitor Economy, responded that there were ongoing discussions but there was no certainty over the amount of grant available.

At SPTVE.8, Public Conveniences Update, Councillor Wilson asked the Chair whether he believed the proposed White Palm Tree was a good use of public money.

Councillor Brookes felt that it was and noted that it was to be funded via an external grant.

At SPTVE.7, Historic Vessels' Conservation, Councillor Patrick enquired if the Chair had any concerns over the conservation of the Ross Tiger.

Councillor Brookes responded that he, like others, had concerns but he believed that things appeared to be going well.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick asked if the Chair could confirm whether the Ross Tiger would remain open to the public for the foreseeable future.

Councillor Brookes confirmed that the vessel would be open to the public dependent on health and safety regulations relating to the conservation work being undertaken.

At SPTVE.8, Public Conveniences Update, Councillor Wilson asked if the Chair had been updated by the portfolio holder on reconsideration of the charging policy for the public toilets in Grimsby Town Centre.

Councillor Brookes responded that he was aware that the portfolio holder was looking at it and, in response to a supplementary question agreed to provide a written update to Councillor Wilson when he had heard back from the portfolio holder.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Brookes and seconded by Councillor Parkinson.

RESOLVED –

1. That the minutes of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny meeting held on 29th July, 2020 be approved and adopted.
2. That a written response be provided to Councillor Wilson regarding the Public Conveniences Update once he had sought clarification from the Portfolio Holder.

NEL.77 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JULY, 2020

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Harness and seconded by Councillor Patrick.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 23rd July, 2020 be approved and adopted.

NEL.78 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24th JUNE, 2020

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Harness and seconded by Councillor Pettigrew.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 24th June, 2020 be approved and adopted.

NEL.79 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22nd JULY, 2020

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Harness and seconded by Councillor Pettigrew.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22nd July, 2020 be approved and adopted.

NEL.80 MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

There being no further questions, it was proposed by Councillor Hasthorpe and seconded by Councillor Pettigrew, that the Council receive en bloc the minutes of the remaining meetings of the Committees of the Council, as set out in the Minute Book considered as business remaining from the previous meeting of Council. This was agreed by Council.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the following meetings of the Committees of the Council be approved and adopted:

Planning Committee	12 th August, 2020
Standards and Adjudication Committee	13 th August, 2020
Appointments Committee	20 th July, 2020

NEL.81 QUESTION TIME

There had been no questions submitted by members of the public for this meeting.

NEL.82 YOUNG PEOPLE'S UPDATE

The Council received an update from Brandon Lees, the Speaker for Youth Action, on current issues affecting children and young people.

Brandon reported on the impact of the pandemic on children and young people with the closure of education establishments, the cancellation of exams and the stressful wait for results to be finalised. However, he noted that there had been positives and he welcomed the sense of community that had developed. Brandon reported on how 50 young people had come together over the spring and summer to send postcards, artwork and, in some cases, cakes to care homes in the area so that residents knew that there were people out there who cared about them. This community service and kindness was recognised by the Lions East Midlands Phoenix Internet Club, leading to the award of best community project at the national Young Advisors' Awards in November.

There had been a lot of rapid change and creativity in how young people did things. This involved wider use of the internet and often provided better choice in way that young people connect. 'Our Voice, Listen Up' had continued to be involved in the recruitment of key staff across children's services. They had also worked hard on service improvements, including the design of a feedback form to share their views on the Independent Reviewing Officers, as part of their appraisal process.

The annual consultation 'Your Voice, Your Vote' had been delivered online this year, which had provided interesting learning for future consultations. 3,676 votes had been cast, which was only slightly less than last year and was to be expected given other pressures. The top three issues remained the same – access to mental health services, knife crime and violent crime.

A Youth Voice Matters event was held in January to set priority actions against the issues identified. This resulted in an idea to ensure young people had, and were aware of, safe places in our area. It had also led to work on the Youth Zone development group, help with the design for the branding of the young people's mental health support team Compass GO, and assisting young people and carers

through lockdown. In conjunction with the Safeguarding Children Partnership, a young advisors inspection team had been developed to provide unique insight from young people on the quality of services being provided. The first inspection, of Young Minds Matter, was now underway and was expected to report back in February, 2021.

In terms of future plans, a virtual event was being scheduled to engage young people and managers in decision making around priority issues, lottery funding was being utilised to support young people on mental health and this would involve creating resources and podcasts to be shared through schools and social media. Best practice examples from young advisors from other areas around tackling violent crime were also being explored and shared.

Brandon concluded by wishing Elected Members a happy festive period.

Note – Due to ill health, Councillor S Swinburn left the meeting at this point.

NEL.83 CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2021/22

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources on the setting of the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 and outlining the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for the forthcoming year. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 9th December, 2020 and was referred to Council for approval.

Following a debate, a recorded vote was requested in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and the votes cast were as follows:

For the motion:

Councillors Abel, Bramley, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Fenty, Freeston, Furneaux, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Nici, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Procter, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester and Woodward (22 votes).

Against the motion:

Councillors Barber, Barfield, Beasant, Goodwin, Green, Hyldon-King, James, Mickleburgh, Nichols, Patrick, Rodwell, Rogers, Rudd, Sheridan, Watson, Wheatley and Wilson (17 votes).

RESOLVED –

1. That the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/2022 which maintains the discount of 65% for all working age customers be approved.
2. That the discretionary adjustments for properties empty for more than ten years be approved.

3. That the Council Tax Base for the Council and other precepting bodies in 2021/22 be set at 44405.4 Band D equivalents (as detailed in Appendix A of the report now submitted).

NEL.84 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2020/21

The Council received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources presenting details of treasury management arrangements, activity and performance during the first six months of 2020/21. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 9th December, 2020 and was referred to Council for noting.

RESOLVED – That the content of the report, in respect of treasury management activity during 2020/21 be noted.

NEL.85 AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

This item was deferred to the next ordinary meeting of Council to allow further consideration of the proposal at the next scheduled meeting of the Standards and Adjudication Committee.

NEL.86 BARNOLDBY LE BECK COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources on a request from Barnoldby le Beck Parish Council for North East Lincolnshire Council to conduct a community governance review with regard to increasing the number of councillors on the parish council from five to six.

RESOLVED –

1. That the request to undertake a community governance review of Barnoldby le Beck Parish Council be approved.
2. That the terms of reference and timetable for the review, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Electoral Registration Officer to consult on the proposals in accordance with legislation.
4. That the final decision on the outcome of the review be reserved for Full Council in accordance with legislation.

NEL. 87 AMENDMENTS TO PLACES ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council considered a report advising of proposed changes to places on Committees and Panels of the Council.

RESOLVED - That Councillor Goodwin replace Councillor Sheridan as a full member of the Communities Scrutiny Panel.

NEL.88 NOTICE OF MOTION 1

The Council considered a Notice of Motion, proposed by Councillor Rogers and seconded by Councillor Green, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders as set out below:

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation agrees that the Government did the right thing by giving a welcome uplift of £20 per week to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit in April 2020. This went some way to offsetting the impact of cuts to social security over the last decade. It put money in people's pockets that has helped to boost spending over the last few months, both allowing families to put food on the table, pay their rent, and support the economy. However, this increase is due to be cut in April 2021, when the downturn will be far from over.

The Citizens' Advice Bureau in North East Lincolnshire is finding that their clients have more problems with Universal Credit than any other benefit and this reduction will only add to the workload.

This Council therefore calls upon the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, and the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People, and our two local MPs to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to lobby for the continuation of the £20 weekly uplift in Universal Credit beyond April 2021.

Following a debate, a recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders, the votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the motion

Councillors Abel, Barber, Barfield, Beasant, Bramley, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Fenty, Freeston, Furneaux, Goodwin, Green, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Hyldon-King, Jackson, James, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Nichols, Nici, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Procter, Rodwell, Rogers, Rudd, Shepherd, Sheridan, Shreeve, Silvester, Watson, Wheatley, Wilson and Woodward (39 votes).

The motion was therefore carried unanimously and it was

RESOLVED – That this Council calls upon the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, and the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People, and our two local MPs to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to lobby for the continuation of the £20 weekly uplift in Universal Credit beyond April 2021.

NEL.89 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Rodwell to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

"What is the current waiting time for someone wanting to take their mattress to the Grimsby recycling centre?"

In the absence of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, Councillor Jackson responded that restrictions were currently in place in respect of mattresses at both our Community Recycling Centres and residents were being asked to pre-book disposal. The reason for the restriction was a national shortage of disposal options for soft furnishing due to the pandemic and the Council had only been able to secure disposal of a set number of mattresses each week. The current waiting time for a disposal slot was 14 days.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Rodwell asked for a guarantee that the waiting time would be no longer than 14 days.

Councillor Jackson responded that he could not guarantee this as it was dependent on national demand but he agreed to feedback Councillor Rodwell's concerns and request that every effort be made to keep waiting times as short as possible.

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Rodwell to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

"Please can you guarantee every young person who wants to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh ward scheme can continue to have affordable access to it?"

Councillor Lindley responded that following a recent review, the locally delivered Duke of Edinburgh scheme had recently transferred to the regional Duke of Edinburgh office who would work with schools directly to develop and provide the universal offer around the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards. Whilst it would be up to the individual school/academy to work with the regional team to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh award, in principle, the new Duke of Edinburgh offer would not change, just who was delivering it.

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Rodwell to present her third question to the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

"Please can you explain why local care homes have had such a high death rate during the second Covid pandemic wave?"

Councillor Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, responded that North East Lincolnshire had experienced lower than expected

number of deaths in the year leading up to the Covid-19 pandemic. This in turn was reflected in the profile of residents in our care homes with higher numbers of very elderly/frail and very poorly people living in our care homes. When the rate of infection in the community reached the very high levels it did in the second wave this soon reached our care homes and because of the characteristics of many of the residents, there was a time lag before it resulted in the high number of deaths that we sadly recorded in the care home population. In nearly all of these cases they had other life limiting or terminal conditions and the average age at the peak of the second wave was 87 years. Councillor Cracknell sent her condolences to all families affected by this.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Rodwell enquired where was the protective ring around care homes that had been promised by the Government.

Councillor Cracknell responded that an immense amount of work had been carried out locally to protect care home residents and staff. She added that a capacity tracker was in place to provide detailed information about residents and staff, as well as monitoring the provision of PPE. This had been such a difficult time but she was convinced that our professional staff and care home staff had done their best to ensure that our citizens had the best care they could possibly have.

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Furneaux to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

“The prevalence of unlicensed and uninsured motorcycles is becoming a blight on our local area. I'd be grateful if the Portfolio Holder for Stronger and Safer Communities could outline how he is proposing to tackle this?”

Councillor Shepherd, Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities, responded that the use of an unregistered uninsured motorcycle was a criminal matter and was predominantly enforced by Humberside Police. However, a full partnership approach was being developed linked to Operation Yellowfin, the police operation across the Humberside policing area to tackle off road motor bikes. Numerous partners had come together to tackle the issue and, as a result, reported incidents over the last three months have reduced considerably from 100 in September to 65 in November. It was accepted that the numbers were still too high and work continued to reduce it further.

The Council's ASB Team worked closely with Humberside Police and wider partners and had the ability to deploy a range of activity/interventions which included:-

- Police powers around seizure and destruction of motorbikes at identified locations/addresses.
- Deployment of the Council's rapid deployment cameras into hotspot areas to gather evidence, with four cameras currently deployed.

- An agreement with Humberside Police to utilise Community Protection Warnings/Notices where evidence exists, served by the Council on the owner leading to a fine if they continued to use the motorbike anti-socially.
- Where feasible, efforts were being made to design out the problem. For example, several access and egress points on Bradley pitches had been blocked off with specially designed barriers following concerns.
- An agreement with Lincolnshire Housing Partnership to enforce tenancy agreements, send out warning letters and serve notice on occupiers who continue to commit anti-social acts that affect the wider community.
- Work continued with petrol stations to raise awareness of issues in order to reduce access to fuel. Where a petrol station was deemed to be acting irresponsibly, warning would be given with the potential for the Council to review/revoke their licence.
- Encouragement of local communities to pass on information they may have that identifies perpetrators and/or where bikes are being stored.

Work would continue as part of the wider partnership approach to tackle anti-social behaviour and Councillor Shepherd urged any resident to pass information directly to the police or anonymously to Crimestoppers.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Furneaux enquired whether there was any information available to confirm how enforcement activity was progressing.

Councillor Shepherd responded that there were a wide range of statistics in place. The public wanted to see more robust enforcement and results were now being seen. He welcomed the support of the courts and the fines that had been issued.

At this point, Councillor Patrick moved that the Council's Standing Orders governing the length of meetings be suspended to permit this meeting to continue beyond 10.00 p.m. This was seconded by Councillor Sheridan. Upon a show of hands, the motion was lost.

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Patrick to present the following question to the Leader of the Council, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

“Does the Leader agree, that amongst others, there is no higher quality needed in a cabinet than that of selfless moral integrity, and moreover, the public to have full confidence in that integrity?”

Councillor Jackson responded that he did agree.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick asked whether the Leader would give his unequivocal support to an independent investigation into the facts surrounding the conduct of the previous Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing, with the full findings of the report made public at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Jackson responded that his comments on this issue were already in the public domain and he did not propose to make any further comment.

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Patrick to present his second question, which was to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

"The proposed town centre regeneration of Great Grimsby is a massive opportunity to give our area a new financial and cultural lease of life in the 21st century, but we as a local authority cannot do this alone, we need strong private sector investors, is the portfolio holder confident that such investors are eager to commit to such an enterprise?"

Councillor Jackson responded that the Council adopted the strongly supported Masterplan in October of this year and shortly thereafter, submitted the Town Investment Plan to Government which sought to secure support from the Towns Fund initiative. As part of the development of the masterplan, we worked with experts who have substantial experience in both preparing but, moreover, delivering masterplans. Part of the brief therefore was to ensure that any potential projects put forward were reasonably capable of being deliverable and, also, that there was engagement with the private sector, including a number of developers. This offered confidence that, provided the public sector played its role, sought to address matters of market failure, continued to enhance the wider public realm and showed ambition, then it was likely the private sector would be keen to work with us. Indeed, this had been direct feedback from a number of large scale potential investors. In any regeneration focused development, it was key that the public sector create the right environment for investment and then seek to work in partnership with the private sector. Councillor Jackson was content that the Council was playing its role here and subject to receiving essential funding, he believe we would have the confidence of investors when the time was right to go to the market.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick sought an assurance that no investor or would be investor in Grimsby Town Centre in recent months had what could be considered to be a friendship with the previous Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing which could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

Councillor Jackson responded that, as he was not familiar with every investor who may or may not have expressed an interest in the town centre, it would be impossible for him to give such an undertaking.

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Patrick to present his question to the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

"As ever we pay thanks to our key workers and volunteers at this time of Covid crisis, their relentless hard work over this last year has brought so much relief and

comfort that we all might have struggled to do without, however, they doubtless share the view that it was shocking to see that we as a council passed up the chance whilst in tier two restrictions to be part of a programme of testing across the borough, and moreover, that despite our awful rate of Covid infection rates locally, we were not part of the first wave of much needed vaccination, why does the portfolio holder think that time and time again, North East Lincolnshire is at the back of the queue where the government is concerned?"

Councillor Cracknell supported the warm words of thanks to our key workers and volunteers and responded that, if the question refers to the decision about lateral flow testing, the Director of Public Health reviewed the evidence emerging from the national pilot site and the declining rates of infection in the community and decided that, on the balance of evidence, there was little benefit of early adoption in mass testing, given the resources needed and unlike the pilot area, no similar offer of military support was available. The Director of Public Health instead opted to work with Humber colleagues on an intelligence led targeted testing approach to identify both symptomatic and asymptomatic cases. Regarding the vaccination, it was remarkable the speed at which this had been implemented. However, the first available vaccine was fragile in terms of the number of times it could be moved and the temperature at which it was stored. A suitable hospital site was identified in our sub region and the vaccine was now being made available to identified primary care centres in North East Lincolnshire that were best equipped to deliver this vaccination programme. The initial target population of over 80 years age in North East Lincolnshire had not been treated any differently to any other part of the sub region.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick asked for a reassurance that, with regard to the response to the pandemic, we would not find ourselves in a future position where the residents of North East Lincolnshire would feel second best.

Councillor Cracknell gave that assurance. She reported that data was being closely looked at and further testing stations were soon to be opened in Cleethorpes and Immingham. She added that the Director of Public Health had looked very carefully at what was happening around the country and decisions had been made in the best interest of our region. Whilst noting that the vaccinations programme was being driven by NHS England, Councillor Cracknell provided a further assurance that she would put as much pressure on as possible to ensure that this area was not left behind.

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Patrick to present his question to the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

"Does the portfolio holder regret this summer past, publicly encouraging visitors to our area, as it was followed a few months later by a huge spike in Covid transmissions traveling from West to East and finally to North East Lincolnshire?"

Councillor Proctor responded that during the summer months it was vital to the local economy that business was able to resume whilst the number of covid

cases were very low. The council took a number of measures, including employing covid marshalls, closing car parks, installing hygiene stations in the resort and widespread signage encouraging safety and social distancing. Whilst the resort managed significant numbers of visitors, vital to the local economy and jobs, the risk of transmission of the virus was greatly reduced whilst out of doors. He had been assured that there was little or no evidence of any connection to a surge in cases during the busy months nor to the second wave that occurred many weeks after the end of the season. National analysis of the experience seen in Bournemouth during the summer also found little impact on cases resulting from that busy weekend of activity.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick respectfully asked whether, if there was any evidence that suggested his words encouraging people to come to our area did contribute to an increase in the Covid rate, he would resign his position as portfolio holder.

Councillor Procter responded that he would not resign his position.

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Patrick to present his final question, which was to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

"The public have welcomed the portfolio holder's decision to continue with Labour's policy to abolish recycling boxes in favour of bins, however, the planned reduction of more than half the number of the annual collections will bring the capacity for recycling of many households down to what they were when they had the boxes. Whilst most households will no doubt have the capacity they need, what reassurance can the portfolio holder give to larger households that might struggle with the reduced capacity?"

In the absence of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, Councillor Jackson responded that the policy being followed was not the one that the Labour Group had proposed. Councillor Jackson noted that our previous recycling offer, as introduced by the previous Labour administration, was designed to reliably collect three boxes from residents each fortnight, 38 litres of paper/card, 55 litres of cans/plastic and 38 litres of glass. In recent years some allowances were made for residents to increase this to up to 5 boxes. This was mostly used by residents to increase the paper/card capacity. When planning the new waste offer, the impact of other initiatives forming part of the governments waste strategy was considered as well as taking advice from WRAP on likely changes in local waste flows in the future. We expect to continue to experience increases in paper/card due to an increase in online shopping and a planned national scheme to reduce single use plastic. In comparison, we were expecting a longer term reduction in plastic, cans and glass presented. This was due to the planned tax on single use plastic as well as plans for a national bottle/can deposit return scheme. The new collection routine with monthly collections of a single 240 litre bins of paper/card would represent an increase of 57% compared to residents presenting two boxes of paper/card per fortnight. The bin also provided better options for residents to reduce the size of cardboard without risking it blowing away in the wind and

therefore further increase the amount that could be disposed. The monthly collection of plastic, cans and glass would provide 29% additional capacity per month compared to what the average resident previously presented on the kerb side, but it was recognised that some high recycling households may have previously presented a similar amount using multiple boxes. Plastic and cans were recycling materials where flattening bottles and cans could make a very large difference to collection capacity. Provision of bins made this easier for residents and a large scale education campaign was planned to help residents optimising the use of their bins. Trials had demonstrated effective compaction of plastic and cans were able to increase the amount stored in these bins up to two to four times. Similar collection routines were currently operating in Sheffield and Barnsley and had also recently been trialled in part of Lincolnshire. All these areas had higher recycling rates than North East Lincolnshire and had still managed to deliver sufficient recycling capacity for residents using a single bin for this recycling fraction. There were also additional plans for food waste recycling.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick enquired whether the Leader would commit to a suspension of the new recycling collections in favour of a direct consultation event with those directly affected by the change in order to better understand their needs and to avoid them falling short of the recycling capacity that they need.

Councillor Jackson responded that he would not commit to this but the portfolio holder would continue to monitor the situation as the new recycling regime was introduced and, if there were problems, they would be dealt with.

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Hudson to present his question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

“Could I please ask the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport how effective the current parking regulations are, particularly in relation to illegal parking outside schools throughout the borough.”

In the absence of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, Councillor Jackson responded that a boroughwide review of all 64 local school sites had recently been completed. There was one remaining site that required the road markings to be installed as per the Traffic Regulation Order and this would be completed as soon as possible in the new year. This school site review had ensured appropriate restrictions were in place at all remaining sites, which meant legal and enforceable Traffic Management Regulation Orders were agreed and appropriate signage and road markings were in place, improving the safety for pedestrians and road users. All enforcement / safety issues that were flagged were examined by the Parking Enforcement Team and scrutinised on a monthly basis and appropriate action was taken to reduce any on-going risk. The Council was also progressing with the procurement of new enforcement software providing the capability to introduce further tools which we expect to be introduced in the next financial year. This would be in the form of CCTV, including

Rapid Deployment Cameras, and a designated vehicle to enhance how we could enforce possible contraventions, including at schools.

NEL.90 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2020

At minute CB.42 (Accelerated Towns Fund), Councillor Patrick enquired whether, given recent revelations in the media, the Leader of the Council felt it appropriate for Councillor Fenty to have voted on this matter.

Councillor Jackson responded that he felt that it was appropriate for Councillor Fenty to have voted on this matter.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Shreeve.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 2nd September, 2020 be approved and adopted.

NEL.91 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

At minute CB.47 (Review of Public Space Protection Orders), Councillor Beasant asked if the portfolio holder was happy that the Public Space Protection Orders were working and had it improved dog fouling.

Councillor Shepherd was more than happy and reported that there had been an increase in the number of fines for dog fouling. Where caught on camera, fixed penalty notices were being issued. He felt that the system was working well.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Beasant noted that the previous day a member of the LA Support team had visited Grant Thorold park and commented that dog fouling in the park was as bad as he had seen, and asked if this was an indictment that the situation was getting worse.

Councillor Shepherd responded that this needed to be raised as an issue if it had only happened on the previous day and it would then be looked into.

At this point the meeting concluded with all remaining business deferred to a special meeting of Council to take place on 14th January, 2021.

There being no further business, the Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.