

## **District Councillors report - February 2018**

### **Consultation on target budget**

A target budget has been approved for consultation by North Kesteven District Council's Executive Board.

The general fund net figure of £13,223,300 covers the highly-efficient, well-regarded services delivered by the authority for the District, including refuse and recycling, planning control, economic development and tourism initiatives, public protection, food hygiene inspections, leisure, sports, arts and more.

Part of the consultation will include the proposal to increase Council Tax by £5 at Band D. As around 75 per cent of properties in NK are in Bands A-C, this would, if approved, equate to a rise of between six and eight pence per week for these households.

Only last year, the Council approved the next phase of an ambitious ten-year £130 million investment programme in support of its vision for flourishing communities.

The investment across the five priority areas – Our Homes, Our Communities, Our Economy, Our Council and the emerging Our Environment – helps to create jobs, build homes, provide infrastructure, create better leisure opportunities and secure public services.

Some of this is completed and bearing fruit while other investment is under way and planned.

Although the District Council collects Council Tax it ultimately takes only nine per cent of the overall sum, with Lincolnshire County Council responsible for around three quarters and the Lincolnshire Police & Crime Commissioner and parish and town councils sharing the remainder.

A final decision on budgets and Council Tax will be taken by Full Council on Tuesday, March 6.

### **£2m for infrastructure in North Kesteven**

Funding of £2 million has been allocated towards accelerating the delivery of the Sleaford West Sustainable Urban Extension.

The money will help to provide a new roundabout to provide access for a school and housing on the site between The Drove and the A15.

The award is part of an £866 million investment by the Government to help unlock around 200,000 new homes around the country. Around 130 council-led projects will receive funding to support local work that will make housing developments viable and get much-needed homes built quicker.

The Sleaford West Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) is one of the key sites for growth identified in the recently-adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

Only last year, North Kesteven District Council approved a Section 106 agreement for the SUE, which would result in a minimum of £8.6 million of developer contributions going towards the infrastructure needed for the development, including local facilities, such as health care and a community centre.

Other sites in Central Lincolnshire have also been allocated money from the fund. The Spa Road development in Lincoln could receive £2.8m to unlock 312 homes and The Gainsborough South SUE could be in line for £2.1m for road infrastructure.

The announcement adds to the £2m allocated to NKDC last year through the The Single Local Growth Fund administered through the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership which will go towards improving the Sleaford road network to allow new housing, employment land and jobs to be delivered

## **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

There's lots of work going on at the Council in readiness for the GDPR regulations coming into force in May.

GDPR supersedes previous EU Data Protection regulations. It has tougher fines for non-compliance and gives people more say over what happens to their data. It is very important that you carefully manage this information in accordance with the rules that apply to Data Protection.

The Data Protection Act gives people specific rights in relation to their personal information and places certain obligations on those organisations that are responsible for processing it. All Councillors at NKDC are registered with Information Commissioner's Office in relation to data protection

However, there are eight supporting principles that must be complied with:

- **Fairly and lawfully processed**
- **Processed for specific purpose**
- **Adequate, relevant and not excessive**
- **Accurate and kept up to date**
- **Not kept longer than necessary**
- **Processed in accordance with data subject's rights**
- **Secure**
- **Not be transferred outside European Economic Area (or at least without adequate protection)**

If you have any questions about GDPR, please contact Esther Watt at NKDC.

**Data Protection Officer role within public authorities.**

Public authorities regardless of size will be required to have a data protection officer in place. A public authority is defined in accordance with the freedom of information act 2000.

The DPO cannot be a councillor or the parish clerk as they will be holding a position that leads them to determine the purposes of the processing of the personal data. This also includes the authorising or commissioning of IT or manual records management systems that would determine the purposes of the processing. This clearly sets out that it would have to be an external or specifically employed person to carry out the role.

The guidance also states that it can be a single DPO for multiple organisations either employed or by contract.

LALC are still waiting for guidance as to what NALC are doing with regard to a DPO. At a recent County Officers meeting, Jonathan Owen informed of the following:

- Not to panic because smaller PCs were unlikely to be fined if they could show that they had commenced the journey towards compliance.
- NALC was seeking Government funding to set up a body to provide a service for PCs on GDPR similar to that of the SAAA for audit purposes.
- It was NALC's view that neither the clerk nor a councillor could be the DPO for their own PC because of a conflict of interests. However, it was noted that SLCC had not concurred with that view and was offering training to clerks.
- NALC had commissioned solicitors Winckworth Sherwood to produce a suite of model documents for use by member PCs. The meeting stressed the importance of such documents being available as soon as possible. (Now received and sent to councils and available on the website)
- NALC was exploring the possibility of a nationally appointed DPO for the benefit of NALC/CALC member PCs but it was noted that several individual CALCs were pursuing local offers, some from principal authorities.

LALC are trying to ensure that as soon as they receive any information, it is being relayed to the Councils.

The County Associations are pressing NALC who are also making the ICO aware of the impact to the smaller councils.

### **Universal Credit update**

People living in the LN4, LN5, LN6 and LN10 postcode areas will be next to have Universal Credit implemented.

Rolled out by Job Centre area, Lincoln will move to full service on March 8.

Sleaford will go live on November.

A dedicated Support Team has been set up in the NKDC Shared Revenues and Benefits team to help people with any queries they may have.

### **A17 works update**

Works to repair and protect the bank started last November and are still expected to be complete by the end of April 2018.

The embankment was built in the seventies to provide a safe route for road users wishing to cross the A153 and railway line. Over the years, other parts of it have been repaired but there is still some concern that there are some areas showing signs of distress.

Work over the past two months has included:

- Installing new road crossings, kerb drains and manholes
- Drainage works near the Old River Slea to the outfall, where much of the water from the A17 will ultimately flow to
- Installing steel sheet piles to both sides of the A153 underbridge and the A17 railway bridge to stabilise the existing embankment
- Road surfacing, road marking and re-installing areas of crash barrier

The A17 Sleaford Bypass embankment repair project will cost £2.4m and is being funded using part of the £5.4m allocated to the authority by the Department of Transport (DfT) from its National Productivity Investment Fund. The money

was awarded to LCC to help reduce congestion at key locations, upgrade or improve the maintenance of local highway assets, improve access to employment and housing, and develop economic and job creation opportunities.

For up-to-date information about this and other major highways projects, visit [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/majorprojects](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/majorprojects).

### **Official opening of first Lafford development**

The first residents are moving into new flats in North Hykeham which are the first homes developed by a new company set up expressly to respond to local housing need within North Kesteven.

Lafford Homes Ltd is a new housing company wholly-owned by North Kesteven District Council, marking a fresh approach towards meeting local housing demand and unlocking more housing choice by building more homes for private let at market-level rent.

Steam Court, off Station Road in North Hykeham is a well-designed, quality community of 33 two-bedroom flats comprising a range of layout options. Twenty seven of these are built for the private rental market, with four already let.

The other six are available to meet affordable housing need, with North Kesteven nominating tenants from the authority's social housing list.

In this way Lafford Homes is responding to need within both the private and affordable rental sectors

As shareholders of Lafford Homes, North Kesteven District Council's Executive Board joined Lafford directors, local councillors, construction partners Lindum

BMS and guests to mark the project's completion.

To find out more about Lafford Homes visit [www.laffordhomes.co.uk](http://www.laffordhomes.co.uk)

Letting of the 27 market-rental properties is being handled by Belvoir Lettings. [www.belvoir.co.uk](http://www.belvoir.co.uk)

### **Friends Against Scams**

NKDC have pledged to join the fight against scam artists who cause misery for their victims and signed up to be a Friends Against Scams Organisation – joining forces with the Police and Crime Commissioner's office and Lincolnshire Police to battle fraudsters.

Last year Deputy PCC Stuart Tweedale took on a role in the Friends Against Scams campaign as one of only 45 SCAMBassadors across the UK.

Then Lincolnshire Police joined the campaign as a Friends Against Scams Organisation – making Lincolnshire the first county in the UK to have both the PCC and local force signed up.

Now NKDC have become the first organisation outside the policing community to join the campaign, run by National Trading Standards.

We've been presented with a special certificate and front line staff have been given awareness training from Mr Tweedale and Lincolnshire Police on the risks posed to customers by scams of all types.

Each year cons cause cost UK residents between £5bn and £10bn. In addition to the financial impact, scams can have a severe emotional and psychological impact on victims.

## Wellbeing Service

NKDC is a partner in a new arrangement for the delivery of Wellbeing Services across the whole of Lincolnshire.

In readiness for a go-live date on April 1, there is significant work under way to ensure a seamless implementation and efficient mobilisation of Wellbeing Lincs, covering all manner of aspects.

Commissioned by the county council, it is delivered by North Kesteven, East Lindsey, West Lindsey and Lincoln councils working in partnership – with each taking responsibility for particular aspects. East Lindsey is leading the initiative. It will ensure a universal level of support across Lincolnshire irrespective of where clients live.

While arrangements are being finalised for transition, we must remain vigilant to local need and to continue to help residents to access the service by passing on details, contacting the NK team on 01529 414155 or email [NK\\_Wellbeing@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:NK_Wellbeing@n-kesteven.gov.uk)