NORTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Kesteven Street on Thursday, 11 July 2019 (5.00 - 6.10 pm).

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Susan Waring (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Susannah Barker-Milan (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Mrs B Allan  Councillor Mrs C Goodwin  Councillor Ms L Pearson  
Councillor Mrs S J Appleby  Councillor Mrs M L Green  Councillor S Roe  
Councillor A Brand  Councillor Mrs L Hagues  Cllr Mrs A Sanderson  
Councillor P R Burley  Councillor M Head  Councillor Mrs M S Shanahan-Kluth  
Councillor N E Byatt  Councillor M Kent  
Councillor I D Carrington  Councillor P C Lundgren  Councillor C R Spray  
Councillor L Cawrey  Councillor J B Moran  Councillor D Suiter  
Councillor J J Clarke  Councillor R A Oates  Councillor Mrs S Tarry  
Councillor S W Clegg  Councillor Mrs G Ogden  Councillor G N Tinsley  
Councillor R Cucksey  Councillor S D Ogden  Councillor Mrs P L Whittaker  
Councillor Mrs N A Dillon  Councillor Mrs M J Overton MBE  Councillor R A Wright  
Councillor C W Goldson  Councillor C P Overton

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ian Fytche - Chief Executive  
Philip Roberts - Deputy Chief Executive  
Kim Robertson - Monitoring Officer  
Andrew McDonough - Economy and Place Director  
Jason Jarvis - Head of Finance  
Jenni Swift - Democratic Services Team Leader

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boston, Mrs Gilliland, Jackson, Johnston, Little, Pennell and Mrs Sandy.

18. ONE MINUTE SILENCE - TRIBUTE TO JULIE LEA

Members observed a One Minute Silence in tribute to Julie Lea from the Council’s Communications Team, who died on the 20th June after a short battle with cancer.

The Chairman spoke of Julie as an exceptional colleague who was greatly respected by officers and members alike. She brought a genuine sense of happiness and positvity to working life at NKDC and was a joy to be around. Work within with communications team is often unseen and Julie spent a lot of time outside of normal office hours keeping an eye on social media and ensuring that the Council’s response was both prompt and accurate. She was involved in many of our publications, press announcements and major projects. Indeed Julie had worked on the latest capital scheme to complete at Newfield Road in Sleaford which was officially opened only the day after her untimely death which made the event an especially poignant occasion.
Julie’s funeral had taken place in Northamptonshire on Monday, with the Chairman, the Leader and many officers representing the Council to pay their respects.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)

No interests were declared.

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2019 were received. It was proposed and seconded that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

Vote: 35 For; 0 Against; 1 Abstentions

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman noted that in previous years, the Chairman had announced a list of civic and other engagements attended between each Council Meeting. She noted that going forward this would be listed as an appendix to the council agenda "for information only", to enable agenda decisions to take priority.

The Chairman announced that she was launching a £10 challenge for her nominated charity Lincs/Notts Air Ambulance who were celebrating their 25th year of service. Every Member would receive £10.00 from the Chairman, and then maximise this in any legal way to raise money for the charity. The closing date for the challenge was April 2020. The Chairman had yet to decide how to maximise her own £10, and was open to suggestions.

The Council’s Civic Service was to be held on Sunday 29th September 3.00 pm at St Andrews Church, Leasingham. The Chairman advised that this was an opportunity for all Councillors to reaffirm their commitment to service to the community and she would be deeply honoured to be accompanied by any Members who could attend.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Council’s Local Democracy Week events were due to take place in October, and if any Member wished to be involved they should contact Democratic Services.

22. QUESTIONS

No questions were received.
Councillor Mrs Overton MBE had submitted a motion under Council Procedure Rule 13.1:

*This Council values the importance of the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that address the global challenges we face including equality of opportunity, protection of our environment and prosperity. The UK’s Programmes are undergoing Voluntary National Review (VNR) in July to consider how the UK’s programmes and policies are contributing to achieving these Global Goals.*

*Much of the work has to be implemented by local Councils like ours, and we welcome the importance placed by HM Government that all levels of government work together and the partnership with Local Government is vital to successful implementation of the shared goals in North Kesteven.*

*Our Council has a vital role to play in terms of the planning, implementation and monitoring in local areas. We are also perfectly placed to raise awareness of these challenges through local partnerships and with our citizens.*

*This Council recognises that a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed ‘Climate Emergency’ motions with cross-party support, in recognition of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warning that urgent action is required on climate change in order to avoid runaway global warming and climate breakdown.*

*This Council therefore:*  
- Calls upon Her Majesty’s Government to explore supporting our Council in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through a funded partnership role;  
- Will consider how our local priorities link with the overall ambitions of the Sustainable development goals; and  
- Declares a ‘Climate Emergency’, and works with residents, businesses and other partners to tackle climate change, lobbying for support to address this emergency by 2030.

In presenting her motion, Councillor Mrs Overton MBE noted that climate change was a huge challenge for residents of the district, and indeed the whole planet. She felt it was important to make small changes where possible, and so starting locally seemed sensible. Councillor Mrs Overton MBE noted that a similar motion had been presented to the Local Government Association, which was passed unanimously; so if the motion was supported today then Council would be part of a wider movement and made an important statement. She noted the need for Members to work together across political lines, for the benefit of residents.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Oates noted the Council had already taken laudable action with regards to the Council Priority ‘Our Environment’, and now was the time to build on this. He suggested that the Council should continue to lead by example, encouraging others to do more to fight climate change. He noted there was no financial implication to the motion, but if Council supported it, it would send a very clear message in relation to NKDC’s stance and commitment to fighting climate change.
Councillor Wright then proposed an amendment to the motion, to include the following wording:

*This Council therefore.*

- Recognises the progress already achieved in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from North Kesteven District Council operations by 67.05% in ten years and the 25% per capita reduction across the district.
- Supports the development of a new policy and strategy for the ‘Our Environment’ priority within the NK Plan following scrutiny review and Executive Board consideration.
- Supports the development of pilot programmes designed to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, focused on cost effective innovation to enable the district to reduce reliance on fossil fuel technology.

In introducing this amendment, Councillor Wright advised that he supported the principle of the motion, but felt that it could be more specific to NKDC, and commit the Council to firm change instead of just aspirations. He also felt it was important to note the great work and successes the Council had already achieved in this area. Councillor Wright noted that a report on the Emissions Policy had been due to go to the July Executive Board meeting, but had specifically been delayed to the September meeting in order that it could first go to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel for review.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Cawrey. Councillor Mrs Overton MBE, as proposer of the original motion, confirmed she was very happy to accept the alteration to her motion. Councillor Oates as seconder to the original motion, also confirmed his consent. Therefore no vote was required on this amendment.

Members then discussed the substantive motion, welcoming the proposals and speaking in support of the motion. Members noted that as an authority, NKDC had already made significant headway in reducing carbon emissions, with projects such as ensuring all council houses were double glazed and had secondary insulation, and with the new build programme requiring a higher specification than national guidelines. Members noted there were plenty of areas to still tackle, and challenges ahead, and were keen for the motion to be more than aspirations, and to be carried forward and embraced across the Council in every day work.

It was noted that young people were leading the way with tackling climate change. It was suggested that by supporting the motion, the Council would send a clear message and there was the potential to increase public engagement in democracy.

Councillor Mrs Overton MBE, speaking with her right to reply, noted the support across the political spectrum within the Chamber. She thanked Councillor Wright for his meaningful amendment and emphasised it was important for the Council to translate the motion into real action, for the benefit of local residents.

Vote: Unanimous

**RESOLVED:**

*This Council therefore:*

1. Calls upon Her Majesty’s Government to explore supporting our Council in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through a funded partnership role;
2. Will consider how our local priorities link with the overall ambitions of the Sustainable development goals; and
3. Declares a ‘Climate Emergency’, and works with residents, businesses and other partners to tackle climate change, lobbying for support to address this emergency by 2030.
4. Recognises the progress already achieved in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from North Kesteven District Council operations by 67.05% in ten years and the 25% per capita reduction across the district.
5. Supports the development of a new policy and strategy for the ‘Our Environment’ priority within the NK Plan following scrutiny review and Executive Board consideration.
6. Supports the development of pilot programmes designed to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, focused on cost effective innovation to enable the district to reduce reliance on fossil fuel technology.

24. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Metheringham Airfield

The Leader presented the recommendations of the Executive Board relating to the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) at Metheringham Airfield, which were seconded by the Deputy Leader.

A PSPO had been introduced at Metheringham Airfield in October 2016, with the intention of stopping anti-social behaviour and affecting the quality of life for those in the locality. The maximum duration for a PSPO to be in place was three years, and the Order was due to expire in October 2019. The Council therefore had to formally decide whether to let the Order expire, or extend the Order for a maximum of 3 years.

The statutory guidance stated that before the time a PSPO was due to expire, the local authority that made the order could extend the Order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent –

- occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order; or
- an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

Lincolnshire Police, and partner agencies had been fully consulted throughout the process and were in agreement that the current Order should not be extended for a further three year period, as the legal requirements could not be met.

Since the implementation of the PSPO the number of complaints had reduced significantly from local residents, to the Council and to Lincolnshire Police. In conjunction with the PSPO, a significant amount of work had been done by the landowners in the area to design out opportunities for vehicles and people gathering and causing a nuisance. This work had significantly mitigated the risks of further anti-social behaviour (ASB) occurring at this location, and therefore negated the need for a PSPO to be in place.

Members discussed the report. Some concerns were raised in relation to the public perception of the Order being lifted. It was clarified that the Order was not being
removed, but it was due to expire. In order to extend the Order, clear evidence was required of ongoing and consistent complaints.

In response to a question, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that isolated incidents could be dealt with by Lincolnshire Police; these could be dealt with through the existing legislation and powers that the police had available. The Deputy Chief Executive also confirmed that if there were persistent issues in the future, a new PSPO could be applied for, and this would need to go through the formal consultation process again.

Members noted the decrease in ASB complaints and lack of evidence to support an extension to the PSPO.

Vote: Unanimous

RESOLVED:

1. That the Public Space Protection Order at Metheringham Airfield is not extended beyond its expiration of October 2019.

25. NKDC ELECTORAL REVIEW 2019

The Chief Executive presented the report, which detailed proposals in relation to establishing an Electoral Review Working Group. He noted a slight amendment to recommendation 1 to read:

“That the Council establishes an Electoral Review Working Group to work with officers to develop proposals for the submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the Electoral Review relating to council size and revised warding arrangements”.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) had notified the Council that they were conducting a review of the electoral arrangements for North Kesteven. The review had been triggered by changes in the levels of electoral representation since the last review was completed in 2006. There was electoral inequality, with 34% of wards having a variance +/-10% from the average electorate for the authority, and one ward currently had a variance of -30% which met the Commission’s criteria for an electoral review. The timing of the review would ensure that revised electoral arrangements would be introduced in time for the next ordinary District Council elections in May 2023.

It was suggested that a Member Working Group be established to work with officers on the Electoral Review. The proposals of the Working Group would need to be reported to and approved by Council before being submitted to the LGBCE. In the first stage the Council was only required to present a ‘submission of council size proposals’ to the LGBCE by 22 November 2019. Ward boundaries would not be considered until the ‘council size’ phase had been completed.

Given the relatively short period for this stage of the review it was suggested that a small working group be established to work with officers in developing detailed proposals for consideration by Council. The Chief Executive advised that it was an intense process and due to the tight deadlines at each stage of the review, Members appointed to the working group would need to be reasonably flexible as meetings would
need to be arranged at relatively short notice. Officer recommendation was for the membership of the working group be five Members, reflecting the overall political composition of the Council; with three members from the NK Administration Group and two members from the NK Independents Group (Lincolnshire Independents and Independents).

It was proposed by Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor Cawrey that the recommendations set out in the report and as amended by the Chief Executive, be approved.

Members discussed the report. In response to a question, the Chief Executive provided assurance that all Members would be able to feed into the review, not just those Members on the working group. It was a case of necessity however, due to timescales involved, to have a small working group to lead the review. It was questioned why the unaligned Members had not been represented. In response, the Chief Executive advised that Constitutional requirements had been met in terms of political balance.

It was proposed by Councillor Lundgren and seconded by Councillor Pearson that the motion be amended so that membership of the Working Group be increased to six Members, to comprise:

- 3 Members of the NK Administration Group
- 2 Members of the NK Independents (Lincolnshire Independents and Independents)
- 1 unaligned Member

In proposing this amendment, Councillor Lundgren advised he felt this would provide greater parity and inclusion. Members discussed the proposed amendment. It was noted that a small working group had been proposed due to the timescales involved and the difficulties in trying to schedule meetings at short notice etc. It was also noted that unaligned Members had no automatic right to seats under political balance rules; only political groups. Other Members voiced that the political balance rules could be overruled in the spirit of being inclusive and to provide everyone a front seat at the table.

The amendment was then put to the vote:

For: 15 
Against: 19 
Abstain: 1

The amendment therefore fell, and Members returned to the original motion.

It having been proposed and seconded, the motion was then put to the vote.

For: 22 
Against: 10 
Abstain: 2

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council establishes an Electoral Review Working Group to work with officers to develop proposals for the submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on the Electoral Review relating to council size and revised warding arrangements;
2. That membership of the Working Group be five Members;
3. That Council make appointments to the Working Group that reflect the overall political composition of the Council, consisting of three members from the NK Administration Group and two members from the NK Independents Group (Lincolnshire Independents and Independents).

26. **POLITICAL BALANCE AND REALLOCATION OF SEATS**

The Chief Executive presented the report, which set out changes to the political balance and allocation of seats as a result of the Billinghay, Martin and North Kyme Ward By Election held on 13 June 2019.

Following the local elections on 2nd May 2019, there remained one vacancy for the ward of Billinghay, Martin and North Kyme, and the By Election was subsequently held on 13th June 2019. Councillor Amanda Sanderson, the Local Conservative candidate, was elected as the second ward Member for Billinghay, Martin and North Kyme. She has subsequently notified the Chief Executive that she has joined the NK Administration Group.

The current political composition of the Council was as follows:
- NK Administration Group (21)
- NK Independents (Lincolnshire Independents and Independents) (19)
- Unaligned Members (3)

In summary, the following amendments to the memberships of the following affected Committees were proposed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>NK Administration Group</th>
<th>NK Independents</th>
<th>Unaligned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastgate Planning Sub Committee</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafford Planning Sub Committee</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance and Resources OSP</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Overton MBE and seconded by Councillor Wright that the recommendations be approved as per the officer report.

Vote: Unanimous

RESOLVED:

1. That the result of the Billinghay, Martin and North Kyme Ward By Election held on 13 June 2019 be noted.
2. That Council approves the changes to the political balance arrangements in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, as set out in Appendix 1;
3. That, changes to the membership of the Council’s Committees affected by the political balance arrangements be made for the remainder of the 2019/20
Municipal Year in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political groups which will be put in writing to the Chief Executive.

27. **EXECUTIVE BOARD AREAS OF INTEREST**

The Executive Board areas of special interest were noted.

28. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

The Chairman moved:

That under Section 100 (A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that it is likely, that if they were present, there could be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

29. **EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

a. **Heart of Sleaford**

The Leader presented the recommendations of the Executive Board and these were seconded by the Deputy Leader. As Councillor Wright spoke, images of the proposed development were displayed on the projector screen for Members to view.

In April 2018, the Council approved a scheme of investment for the Heart of Sleaford regeneration project, incorporating a new cinema development and public realm. An enhanced project proposal had evolved since then, following detailed consideration of the commercial opportunities available to support the regeneration objectives of the wider Sleaford Masterplan. The report set out details of a new scheme for the Heart of Sleaford project that would secure a new cinema development, food court/bar, public footpath connection between Market Place and Money’s Yard, and new public realm including a footpath crossing of the River Slea. The new scheme would fulfil one of the key long-term aspirations of the Sleaford Masterplan, by opening up to public access and redeveloping this central core of the historic town centre.

There had been much public support for a new cinema for the town, particularly by younger residents, and the revised scheme incorporating 3 screens would generate sufficient footfall to allow a commercially viable business to operate. An innovative feature of the new design was the ability to incorporate the new cinema building over the historic subterranean Buttermarket, and in so doing would create a new landmark building for Sleaford that would hopefully be the stimulus for further inward investment in the town.

In proposing the recommendations, Councillor Wright noted the proposals represented more than financial investment; it was an investment in the town and local businesses and would bring a lease of life to Sleaford.
Members welcomed the report and spoke in support of the recommendations. Members representing the Sleaford wards spoke in support of the application, noting that the development would bring people and trade to Sleaford, and would revitalise and re-energise the town. Other Members, representing a range of wards across the district, also spoke in support of the development, noting that significant investment in Sleaford would help to foster a strong and vibrant district as a whole.

A Member requested that updates on this project be reported to scrutiny on a regular basis, in order for Members to keep abreast of expenditure and timings, to ensure the project was delivered well and on time. The Chief Executive confirmed that any Member could request items to be considered by the relevant scrutiny panel.

Vote: Unanimous

RESOLVED:

1. That a scheme of investment towards the delivery of the Heart of Sleaford project be approved; seeking to regenerate an area in Sleaford Town Centre by developing a new cinema and food court, associated areas of public open space, including a pedestrian footbridge over the river Slea connecting Money’s Yard to Market Place. (The total cost of the scheme was estimated at £4.0m, of which £1.5m was already committed and £0.6m represented public realm works).

2. That a further budget of £2.5m be approved to fund the Heart of Sleaford regeneration scheme, funded from available reserves balances, specifically New Homes Bonus and Our Economy reserves.

b. Commercial Workspace Development Proposal

The Leader presented the recommendations of the Executive Board, and these were seconded by the Deputy Leader.

The report outlined the latest position with regards to the options for NKDC’s next commercial portfolio investment. It was recommended that an industrial scheme of 20,000 sq. ft. scheme at Discovery Park be pursued as it would complement the existing NKDC portfolio, provide starter and grow on space for business in the LN6 area, support the Our Economy priority and provide an investment to the authority.

The Council had a long and successful track record of developing and operating small workspace units to support small business enterprises. To date, the Council had a total of 111 units across 11 sites, and with occupancy rates in excess of 95%. The most recent workshop developments – Blackwood Court and Scoley Court, were developed on a financial model that ensured that the Council secured a financial return on its investment, and was thereby capable of investing in the delivery of Council services.

The report identified a new investment proposal for a further workshop development at Discovery Park in North Hykeham, which market research had indicated a demand for. The scheme was of a similar design and floor space compared with Blackwood Court and Scoley Court, and the financial appraisal indicated that the investment was capable of securing the Council a financial return.

It was estimated that planning permission would be submitted by the end September
2019, and subject to planning approval the work would start on site January 2020 with delivery end of 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

RESOLVED:

1. That an investment proposal for a new Commercial Workspace Development at Discovery Park be pursued with an indicative budget of £2.2m, funded from a blend of Borrowing and New Home Bonus / Our Economy Reserve.