

North Lincolnshire Council



Annual Report



2007/8



CONTENTS

Introduction

By the Leader and Chief Executive	3
Events and achievements 2007/8	
An area that is thriving	4
Communities that are confident and caring	6
Individuals can see the difference	8
Everyone works for the benefit of the area	10
A shared vision for the area, communities and individuals	12
Who makes the decisions?	14
The council's financial position - revenue	15
The council's financial position - capital	16
What the council is worth	17
How the council compares	18

What did you think?

The style of this annual report has been influenced by the suggestions of local council tax payers. But we'd still like to make sure that we are giving you the sort of information you need, in a form that you prefer. So please give us your thoughts, positive or negative, on this annual report so that we can continue to improve. Simply write to:

Annual Report Feedback, FREEPOST NEA10154, Publications Unit,
Pittwood House, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe, DN16 1BR (no stamp required)

Or email: publications.admin@northlincs.gov.uk



Mark Kirk



Simon Driver

Introduction

The council is ambitious for North Lincolnshire. It wants no less than a better future for all who live and work here. Together with our partners, we are working towards this challenging objective.

During 2007-8 we put in place some of the major building blocks which will turn our ambitions into reality. These included improvements to the capacity of the council's own management. Complementing this, we reviewed and refreshed the way we work with partners. Add to that the measurable progress in realising our shared ambitions, and there is much to celebrate.

This report gives a flavour of the significant events and achievements in 2007/8. It also sets out the council's financial position for the year. Its format reflects suggestions by local people about how they wanted the council to present its financial information.

As mentioned in these pages, our own challenges were augmented by a further major

development. Flooding in June 2007 caused disruption as you might expect. But uniquely among councils, we suffered flood damage to our own headquarters, telecommunications and IT infrastructure.

It is testament to the calibre of our staff, and the soundness of our contingency planning that we overcame this substantial obstacle without significant harm to our overall achievements.

That's not to say our own performance has been perfect. Our assessment by external inspectors highlighted several areas in which we must do better. We need to focus more closely on our ambitions and work more effectively with our partners. Public satisfaction with the council is mixed.

But plans are in place to address these issues, making sure the council's own services work in a more co-ordinated way, giving us a clear sense of purpose, a reputation for doing things well and public confidence that we will deliver on our promises.

Clr Mark Kirk, Leader

Simon Driver, Chief Executive

FRONT COVER PICTURE Brigg Tourist Information Centre: Annual visitor numbers rose above the regional target by 200,000, bringing £141m into the local economy.

Working towards a diverse, dynamic & competitive economy:

The number of people not in education, employment or training fell by 2.3 per cent ● There was £350m in major inward investment ● A facility for handling perishable goods was opened at Humberside Airport ● Market Place in Crowle is being regenerated ● Significant progress was made on redeveloping the South Humber Bank ● Plans are under way to raise skills and aspirations with an international business centre ● New business links were made with Sweden and China.

A Master Plan for the redevelopment of Scunthorpe town centre was approved, and funding secured.



An area that is thriving



The number of people employed rose by 6.5 per cent. Job clubs like this helped unemployed people back into work



Consultants were appointed in July 2007 to undertake a feasibility study into the development of a series of lakes on the western edge of Scunthorpe. Phase 2 of the Lincolnshire Lakes Feasibility Study has been completed and we are awaiting the final report.

The proportion of school leavers going on the further education and training is better than ever, at 92.6 per cent

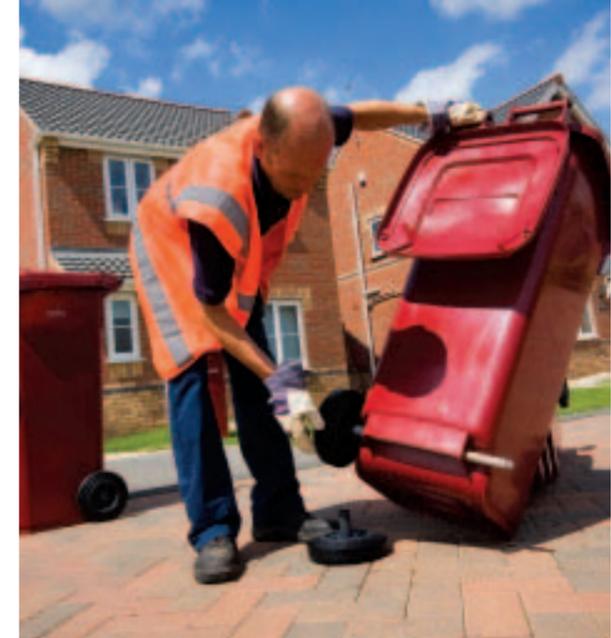


Annual visitor numbers rose above the regional target by 200,000, bringing £141m into the local economy.



People look after themselves, each other & take control of their own lives: The number of vacant private homes returned to use or demolished increased by 85 per cent ● Overall, crime is down 30 per cent against the 2003/4 figure ● The number of footways in need of maintenance fell by 25 per cent ● The number of children killed or seriously injured on the roads fell by 56.3 per cent ● Preparations for the £88m Building Schools for the Future programme are well under way.

There was an improvement in recycling rates of 25 per cent following the introduction of bi-weekly collections of plastic and cardboard from people's homes



Communities that are confident and caring



An eight-year, £23 million reclamation project at the former Normanby Park steelworks entered its final phase. Funded by Yorkshire Forward and the European Regional Development Fund, it has provided new industrial development land and habitats for wildlife.



A targeted programme of action on enviro-crime and anti-social behaviour has significantly improved levels of litter, vandalism and graffiti.



Since 2003/4:
 Domestic burglary fell by 53 per cent to its lowest level for many years
 Theft from a motor vehicle fell by 56 per cent
 There has been a 43 per cent reduction in theft from individuals.
 Criminal damage has reduced by 15 per cent.
 The number of recorded assaults fell by 19 per cent.

273 affordable homes were approved or built during 2007/2008. This included new affordable homes in Owston Ferry, Messingham, Crowle, Epworth, Scunthorpe and Barton.

Planning permission was secured for more affordable homes to be built in future



There were 200 new volunteers, with over 300 volunteers supporting adult services



People lead healthy, safe and fulfilling lives: Key Stage 2 - Level 4 English , now equal to the national average at 80 per cent ● Good performance continues on reducing absence from school ● Targeted work on drugs and alcohol has reduced sales by 29 per cent ● All schools now engaged in the Healthy Schools Programme ● Numbers of drug users in treatment has again risen ● New play areas in urban and rural communities ● Leisure centres achieved the Quest award for quality in sports and leisure ● Parks have retained their green flags with additional ones for Sheffield and Quibell Park.

Leisure facilities have been improved with a new sports facility at Barton and plans well under way for a sports academy in Scunthorpe

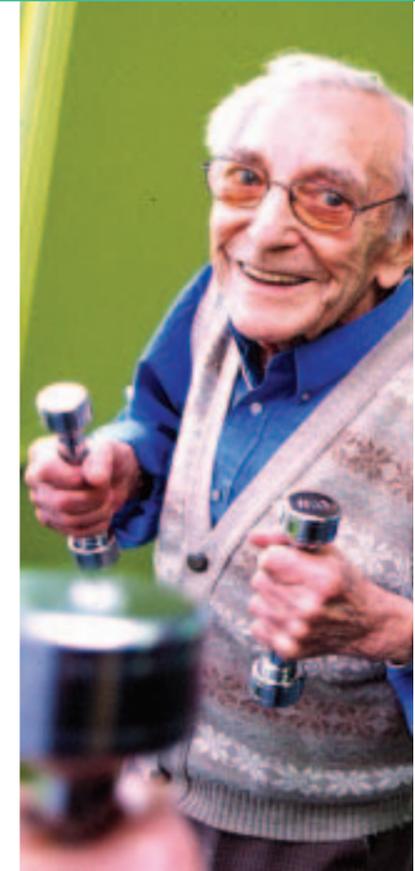


Individuals can see the difference

Our healthy ageing strategy has enhanced access for older adults to healthy living opportunities from 15 to 100 per cent



Attainment in the area's schools has been enhanced with the best ever results at GCSE



Plans for a new entertainment venue are well under way



Independence has improved with 91 per cent of older people now helped to live at home and an increase of 34 per cent in those with access to Telecare equipment



School menus meet the new nutritional standards