

aspiring | inspiring
people places

North Lincolnshire Council Annual Report 2013/14

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Foreword

Welcome to this 2013 -14 annual report which provides an overview of North Lincolnshire Council's achievements along with a summary of our financial accounts.

The vision driving the council is 'Aspiring People, Inspiring Places' - producing a dynamic, high-performing, customer focused council, giving the best possible value for money and changing outcomes for all people living and working in the area.

Our priorities are:

- Excellence in customer service
- Make our communities safer and stronger
- Provide value for taxpayers' money
- Regenerate our area and increase prosperity

Even though we have been working against a backdrop of recession we have risen to the challenge of not only working within continuing financial constraints, but also improving the services that we provide.

As in past years, our commitment to providing you with the best value for money has been the key driver for us. Despite tough

The council's vision...

Our organisational priorities will guide the work of the council and ensure our contribution to achieving our vision for North Lincolnshire of Aspiring People, Inspiring Places



economic conditions we have achieved many things:

- 86% of our 105 key performance indicators performed above target or within tolerance
- 68% of our key performance indicators showed improvement from 2012/13
- 95% of our strategic plan actions are on track to be delivered within timescale
- The council realised 96% of its planned financial efficiencies (over £5m)
- The council's revenue budget was underspent by £486,000

External inspection bodies and central government have acknowledged and praised the performance of our services,

including museums and children's homes. The council has also continued to deliver major projects to benefit local people and visitors to the area, from high-profile heritage schemes to new schools and care facilities.

There have been several council-led initiatives to improve employment prospects for people in the area and to strengthen the local economy as a whole, whether by creating apprenticeships or rolling out superfast broadband.

We know there is still plenty to do. We will build on our successes, and continue to provide services that give value for money, making North Lincolnshire a place that delivers a great future.

Excellence in customer service

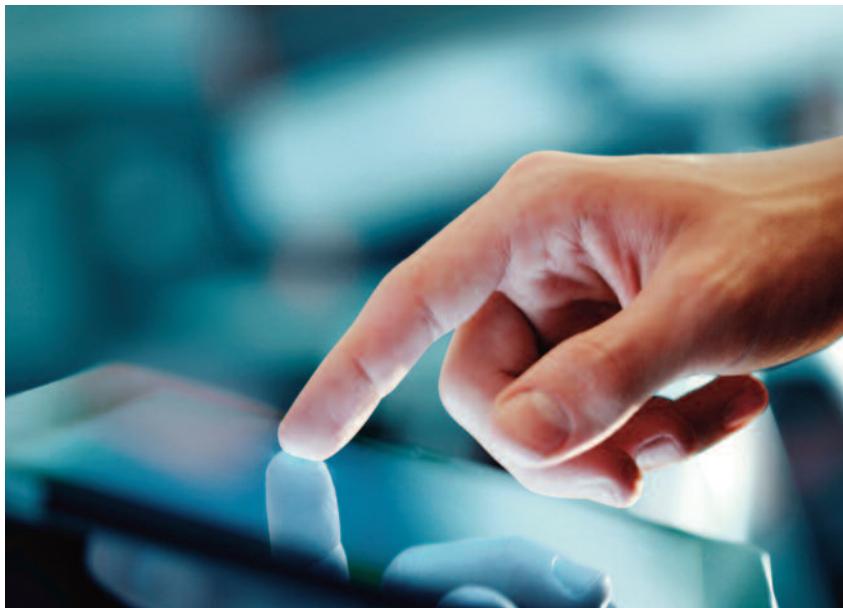
Highlights and successes from across the council:

- A new Crosby Local Link facility opened in the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) premises on Oswald Road. The facility provides 15 hours per week of Local Link service and the shared site with CAB enables local residents to access council and non-council services at one place
- Further free car parking was introduced in Scunthorpe and Ashby car parks, culminating in the provision of free parking after 2pm every day in the Parishes from the end of September 2013

- An extension at Willoughby Road Primary School to accommodate the Infant School was completed at a cost of £1.7 million
- The new Council website went live on 31 October 2013. It offers new functionality and customer centred design which is compatible with mobile devices
- A new tourist information centre opened at Waters' Edge in Barton in January 2014



- Woodlands Crematorium was awarded Green Flag status for the 5th year running and Kingsway Gardens was awarded Green Flag status for the 6th year running.
- The Careers Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) Team has been accredited with a nationally recognised quality mark for organisations providing IAG and support to individuals to make learning/work more accessible
- Department of Education data ranks North Lincolnshire as number one nationally for issuing statements of special educational need within timescale and reviewing child protection cases in timescale



Make our communities safer and stronger

- We have taken a partnership approach to enable people with complex health and social care needs to return to the area by building new homes in Scunthorpe. This has been funded in part by the Homes and Communities Agency, who felt the approach could be held up as good practice
- Teams from across the council successfully managed a phased rollout of the Imagination Library across localities. By the year end, a total of 6,065 children between birth and aged 5 had been registered for their monthly free book
- Adult social care provides positive outcomes to the people they serve. The Care Quality Commission noted excellent feedback from people who use the service, their carers and staff

- Within secondary education, North Lincolnshire is within the top 3 most improved local authority areas in England (over the last 3 years) for the measures of 5 A*- G, including English and Mathematics; and expected progress in mathematics
- A contract was secured to lead regional and sub regional work to increase the availability of adopters
- The Adoption team surpassed their target milestone of recruiting and approving 20 new potential adopters
- During Fostering Fortnight more enquiries were received than ever before. The fostering service assessed and approved a number of new foster carers over the year
- Both of our children's homes have been judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted
- The proportion of children attending good and outstanding schools has risen to 72%, a rise of 17 percentage points since August 2012



- The newly designed single access point for children's services was launched and available to the public if they have any concerns about a child. "The SAP offers members of the public and professionals the opportunity to talk directly to a children's social worker about any concern and be assisted to find a positive solution"



Provide value for taxpayers' money

- The council accounts were signed off by external auditors KPMG as true and fair; and the council's value for money arrangements were confirmed as effective
- Funding was secured through the Health Outcomes fund for additional Debt/Benefits Workers. The project will operate in partnership with North Lincolnshire Homes
- The outcome of the Audit Commission's annual survey of fraud experienced by local government during 2012/13 was reported in Protecting the Public Purse 2013. The report incorporated a checklist of best practice and an evaluation which showed the council has good arrangements in place to reduce the risk of fraud
- The procurement team's successful implementation and use of Dynamic Purchasing Systems was noted by Francis Maude Minister for the Cabinet Office as an example for other councils to follow at a Ministers Questions at Parliament
- North Lincolnshire was particularly badly hit by the storms and floods in December and numerous employees from across the council went the extra mile in a variety of different roles on these two days and during the subsequent recovery efforts, often in extremely difficult circumstances, to support residents and communities
- The council realised 96% of its planned financial efficiencies (over £5m)

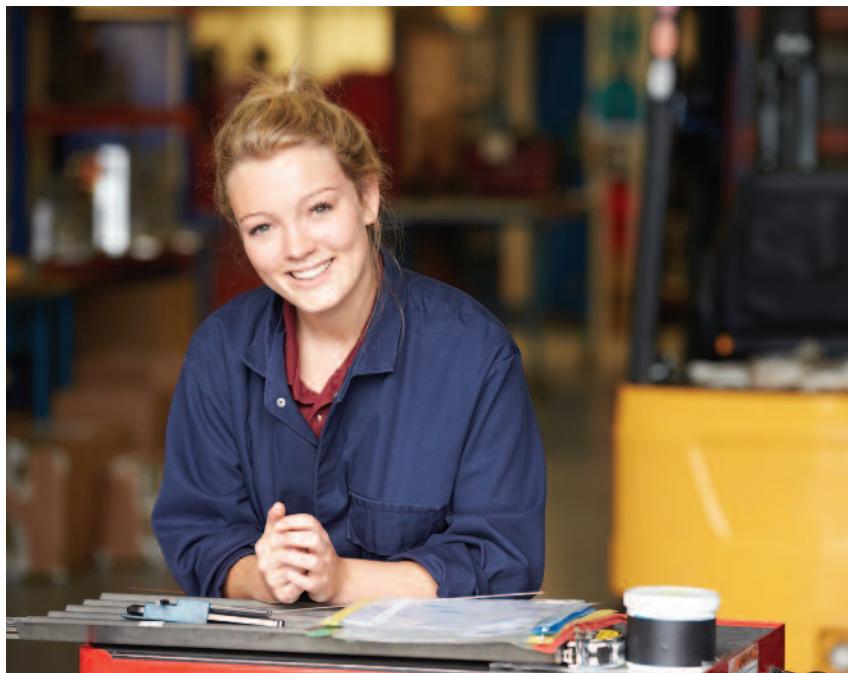


Regenerate our area and increase prosperity



- The strategic housing team successfully enabled four housing associations to access funding from the government's Homes & Communities Agency to build 64 additional affordable units by March 2015

- A bid was successfully submitted for a £11 million University Technical College located in Scunthorpe Town Centre
- The Landscape Partnership received funding from Heritage Lottery Fund of £1.9 million
- The Scotter House Place of Change opened on 4 February 2014. The £2 million conversion of the former Scotter House care home in Dorchester Road will see a maximum of 22 people accommodated in the 20 one-bed flats
- The new Children's Campus was completed at a total cost of £1.2 million
- The parliamentary under Secretary of State for Transport, Robert Goodwill, announced the go-ahead of the £450m Able Marine Energy Park in North Lincolnshire, the biggest offshore wind manufacturing facility in Europe expected to create around 4,000 local jobs



Financial performance

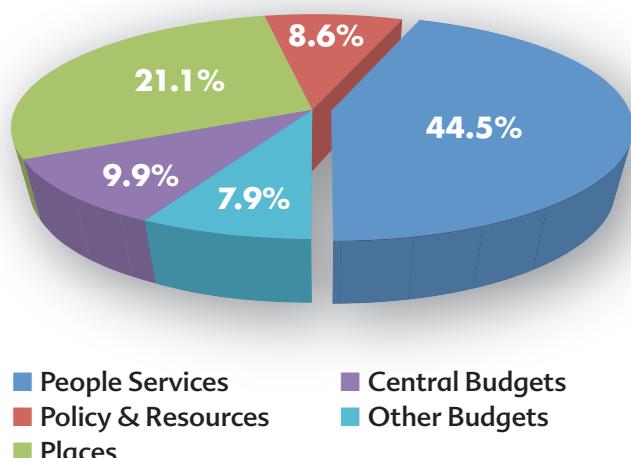
Annually the Council produces a set of accounts that shows its financial position and income and expenditure for the financial year. The figures shown are a simplified version of the full accounts for 2013-14 which are available on www.northlincs.gov.uk (search statement of accounts)

Where the money comes from (after transfers from reserves)

Revenue Support Grant	£43.8m
National Non Domestic Rate Retention Scheme	£39.8m
New Homes Bonus	£2m
Other Grants	£2.4m
Council Tax Freeze grant	£0.7m
Council Tax	£56.8m
Use of reserves	£2.4m
Total	£147.9m

The council's financial position – 2013-14

The revenue accounts show the day to day running costs of providing council services. During 2013-14 a total of £147.9 million was spent on services (after income from fees, charges and grants). Overall service budgets were underspent by £0.5 million after allowing for future commitments. In addition to this £72.03 million was spent on schools, funded from the dedicated schools grant, other grant funding and schools reserves.



People £35.8m Including Education (non-schools), adult and children prevention and commissioning services, adoption, fostering, youth offending services, safeguarding, children and families support services, adult services, public health.

Places £43.1m Including sports, leisure and cultural services, street cleaning, parks and grounds maintenance, cemeteries and the crematorium, transport services, waste disposal, highways, housing, environmental services, community safety, economic development, planning & regeneration, car parking.

Policy & Resources £12.8m Including human resources, employee services, learning and development, health and safety, legal services, elections, mayoral costs and those of local councillors, financial management, taxation and benefits, audit services, insurance, procurement and value for money, business support, information management.

Corporate Budgets and Levies £14.7m Including levies from internal drainage boards and environmental agencies for flood defences, insurance premiums, coroners court expenses, corporate management, carbon reduction strategy and energy management, public health, archive services.

Other budgets £11.5m Including commercial property trading account, interest on loans used for capital investment and the provision for future payments of debt, inflation and service transformation provisions.

The council's financial position – capital

Capital expenditure is money spent on buying and improving assets such as land, buildings and highways. In the last year overall capital expenditure was £48.4 million. The most significant elements of the 2013-14 capital expenditure were:

2013/14 Capital spend £48.4m - most significant elements:

Investment in the Area	
Local Transport Plan	£7.4m
Regional Growth Fund	£2.0m
Fleet Replacement Programme	£1.1m
Disabled Facilities Grants	£0.9m
Home Assistance	£0.7m
Town Centre Regeneration	£0.5m
Street Lighting	£0.5m
Investment in Children	
Building Schools for the future	£21.2m
Schools & Children's Centre Investment	£4.0m
Children's Campus	£1.2m
Schools Temporary Buildings Replacement	£0.6m
Fredrick Gough Multi Use Games Area	£0.5m

Where the money for capital spending comes from

Grant Funding	£32.8m
External Funding	£0.2m
Property Trading Account	£0.3m
Capital Receipts	£5.0m
Internal Borrowing	£10.0m
Revenue	£0.1m
Total Funding	£48.4m

Balance sheet

The Balance Sheet Shows what the council was worth at 31 March 2014

Property, Plant & Equipment	£405.2m
Heritage	£1.0m
Investment Property	£38.4m
Intangible (eg software)	£0.2m
Assets Held For Sale	£7.2m
Long Term Debtors	£0.4m
Inventories (eg stock)	£0.7m
Short Term Debtors	£19.4m
Cash & Cash Equivalent	£16.6m
Total	£489.1m



Financed by:

Short Term Borrowing	£2.0m
Short Term Creditors	£27.1m
Short Term Provisions	£4.5m
Short Term Liabilities	0.1m
Long Term Provisions	£2.4m
Long Term Borrowing	£105.8m
Other Long Term Liabilities	£212.0m
Total	£353.9m
Net Assets	£135.2m

Environmental Performance

During the year we maintained and expanded our ISO 14001 environmental management system. By 2016 the standard will cover all areas of the council. During the year we maintained our Carbon Masters Standard and will be seeking during 2014/15 to achieve the gold standard.

The council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by reducing our energy consumption and saving money and thus providing value for money for our council tax payers. We initially set ourselves a challenging target of reducing our carbon footprint by 33% by 2014/15. (based upon our 2008 baseline). This year we have almost achieved this target by reaching a 32% reduction. This is one year ahead of schedule over the same period. Staff mileage has reduced by 29.5 % but our emissions from staff mileage reduced by 28.1%. Our planned investments during 2014/15 will exceed our 33% target.

Since 2010 North Lincolnshire Council in line with the other authorities has had to buy carbon credits as part of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme. The credits reflect our carbon emissions. If we emit more carbon we pay more to central government. Since the inception of the scheme, North Lincolnshire Council has reduced its emissions and therefore the amount of



money we have to spend on carbon credits. We have increased our performance to such an extent that during 2014/15 we will fall under the threshold of the scheme and as such we will no longer have to buy carbon credits. (See table on page 11).

In addition to our own carbon emissions the government monitors our efforts in reducing regional carbon emissions. Again for the second year running our regional emissions have reduced and whilst we are still a major emitter of carbon at the national level, we have improved to such an extent that we are ranked 18th most improved out of 406 Local Authorities.

The government also monitors our performance in designating and bringing into management local wildlife and geological sites. During 2013/14 we have

identified 15 new sites. Throughout the year we have put considerable effort into ensuring that many of the sites identified last year and this year were brought into positive management. As a consequence our performance increased from 65% in 2012/13 to 74% during 2013/14. This puts us ahead of our target of 71% .

During the year we maintained our Local Nature Reserve (LNR) provision at 1.65 hectares / 1000 head of population . The national target for Local Authorities is 1 hectare of LNR / 1000 head of population. North Lincolnshire Council has set itself a more ambitious target to achieve two hectares / 1000 head of population and we are expecting to hit this target within the next couple of years.

North Lincolnshire Council Annual Report Data

CO2 Emissions from Fossil Fuel consumption (gas, electricity, oil etc)

Baseline Data 2008-9, 33,985 Tonnes CO2

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Tonnes CO2 emitted	29,219	27,089	25,624	24,923	22,780
% Reduction against 2008 baseline	14%	20.3%	24.6%	26.6%	32.9%

Staff Mileage and CO2 emissions

Baseline Data 2008-9,
Miles = 3,682,909.
Tonnes CO2 = 1,179.1

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Miles Travelled on council business	3,474,100	3,051,715	2,709,227	2,442,397	2,596,303
% Reduction in mileage against 2008 baseline	5.7%	17.1%	26.4%	33.7%	29.5%
Tonnes CO2 emissions from staff mileage	1,023.5	957.6	856.6	850.7	848.0
% CO2 reduction from staff mileage against 2008 baseline	13.1%	18.8%	27.4%	27.9%	28.1%



