

District Dec 2024

- Christmas bin collections change. For updates go on website NKDC find my bin day
- The "Statutory Instrument" necessary to establish the new Greater Lincolnshire County Combined Authority (GLCCA) was laid before Parliament on 26 November 2024.

These Regulations provide for the establishment, including governance arrangements, of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority ('GLCCA') comprising of the three upper tier local authorities Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council.

They also provide for a directly elected mayor for the GLCCA, for certain functions of local and public authorities to be conferred on GLCCA, and for certain specified functions of GLCCA to be exercisable only by the mayor.

The devolution agreement brings several benefits for a stronger and more prosperous region, improving the quality of life for people in Greater Lincolnshire. Lincolnshire district and borough councils will play an active role in these new devolution arrangements. It is expected that the Combined Authority will have its first meeting early Spring 2025 which precedes the inaugural Mayoral elections across Greater Lincolnshire, scheduled for 1 May 2025.

- **Draft Active Travel Strategy Consultation**

North Kesteven District Council is currently consulting on a Draft Active Travel Strategy. The Council previously produced a Cycling Strategy but has broadened the scope of the document into an Active Travel Strategy, with the inclusion of walking and wheeling, recognising that all forms of active travel have positive outcomes for health, the environment and in many cases the economy.

The strategy sets out an aim for active travel; 'To increase participation in walking, wheeling and cycling by all in North Kesteven' around priority outcomes for safety, more awareness, opportunities and infrastructure delivery. As well as setting out an action plan the strategy also acknowledges close collaborative working with partners and stakeholders is essential. It also recognises that in many cases external funding will be necessary to deliver projects, but clearly setting out our position on active travel is extremely important to inform bidding for resources as and when opportunities arise.

- **QTNK 2024 Event**

The Council Chamber welcomed 77 students from six of the districts sixth forms to put their questions to a panel of experts in the 2024 Question Time NK event. Student feedback included it being an inspiring, informative, interesting event while teachers welcomed the opportunity for students to visit the civic suite to be able to experience debating and question policy makers.

Questions covered a range of topics from inclusivity, climate change, access to health and housing... things that matter to our young people.

- **Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Award Ceremony**

Councillor Wright joined members of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan team at the national 2024 Awards for Planning Excellence ceremony.

Although the team didn't come out on top in the Excellence in Plan Making Practice category - pipped to the post by Cornwall - their inclusion in the awards demonstrates just how significant the Local Plan is to us and the region.

In particular, the plan was noted in its forward-thinking approach to tackling climate change and pushing industry standards in sustainable development. This ambition and rigour drew the praise of judges at the Royal Town Planning Institute.

The Plan was named the East Midlands' Best Plan by the Royal Town Planning Institute in July.

- Ref **Community Champion Awards**- Washingborough Academy School won in the category 'Contribution to a better Environment' for educating, engaging and inspiring future generations in responsible resource use and consumption

- **Pensioners must apply for Pension Credit by 21 December**

The Government continues to urge pensioners on a low income to apply for Pension Credit before the 21 December deadline – all eligible claimants would receive up to £300 with the Winter Fuel Payment as well as any backdated Pension Credit arrears where applicable.