

Minutes

Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Wednesday, 10 July 2024, 10.00 am

**Council Chamber – South
Kesteven House, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham. NG31 6PZ**

Committee Members present

Councillor Nikki Manterfield (Chairman)
Councillor Steven Cunnington (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Pam Byrd
Councillor James Denniston
Councillor Robert Leadenham
Councillor Habibur Rahman
Councillor Graham Jeal
Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor Sarah Trotter

Cabinet Members present

Councillor Richard Cleaver (Cabinet Member for Property and Public Engagement)
Councillor Philip Knowles (Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing)
Councillor Rhea Rayside (Cabinet Member for People and Communities)

Other Members present

Councillor Tim Harrison

Officers

Graham Watts (Assistant Director of Governance and Public Protection, Monitoring Officer)
Emma Whittaker (Assistant Director of Planning)
Claire Moses (Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer and Community))
Ayeisha Kirkham (Head of Service – Public Protection)
Carol Drury (Community Engagement Manager)
Debbie Roberts (Head of Corporate Projects, Policy and Performance)
Charles James (Policy Officer)
Amy Pryde (Democratic Services Officer)
Stephen Ellis (County Lines Development Officer - Lincolnshire Police)

69. Public Speaking

There were none.

70. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Vanessa Smith, Richard Dixon-Warren and Peter Stephens.

Councillor Charmaine Morgan substituted for Councillor Vanessa Smith.

Councillor Sarah Trotter substituted for Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren.

Councillor Graham Jeal substituted for Councillor Peter Stephens.

71. Disclosure of Interest

There were none.

72. Minutes from the Joint Meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 March 2024

The minutes of the Joint Meeting held on 18 March 2024 were proposed, seconded and **AGREED** as a correct record.

73. Minutes from the meeting held on 28 March 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2024 were proposed, seconded and **AGREED** as a correct record.

74. Updates from the previous meeting

There were no actions agreed at the previous meeting.

75. Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service

There were none.

76. Police and Crime Panel Update

Councillor Sarah Trotter provided the Committee with a Police and Crime Panel update, as the Council's representative:

'Since I last spoke to you, our meetings have moved from Horncastle to County offices in Lincoln and on Thursday the 27 June I attended a very interesting presentation to the panel by officers from the East Midlands Special Operations Unit about the County Lines and I am delighted that one of the officers, PC Steve

Ellis, Development officer, has agreed to attend today and give us a shortened presentation.

Can I request if the committee or non-members have any questions to save them to the end of both presentations, and we will endeavor to answer or will provide written responses later. Equally so if you have any non-operational questions that you would like me to raise at the next Police & Crime Panel meeting, which is scheduled for 20 September, please can you email me.

For those of you new to the Rural and Communities OSC Committee, as in my previous overview, I thought it would helpful to just briefly explain the roles and responsibilities of both the

- *Commissioner,*
- *And the PCP & Chief Constable, currently the recently appointed Paul Gibson.*

Our current Police Commissioner for Lincolnshire, Marc Jones is scrutinized and supported by the PCP made up of 10 Councilor's from the County's eight local authorities and two independent (co-opted members).

- 1) *We can review the Commissioner's decisions and have the opportunity to question him.*
- 2) *We have the power of veto over any precept proposals, the choice of Chief Constable, and we are required to review the Police and Crime Plan before it is published.*

Marc Jones has the vital role in holding the Chief Constable to account for operational delivery on behalf of the people of Lincolnshire.

The Chief Constable must answer to the Commissioner in terms of delivering efficient and effective local policing to the people of Lincolnshire, and the way resources and spending are managed, as well as ensuring that the force is contributing to ensuring that policing capabilities are available to address national crime threats and cross-border criminality.

On Wednesday the 21st February, the panel met for an extraordinary meeting and were gathered to conduct a confirmation hearing for the PCC preferred candidate, Mr Paul Gibson, for the post of Chief Constable for Lincolnshire police. A variety of questions were posed to both the Commissioner and Mr Gibson.

On Friday the 28 June I attended the Panel Meeting, in Lincoln where a variety of questions were put to the Commissioner by panel members, concerns were raised at closure of certain policing hubs, the Commissioner reported that any decisions relating to this matter would be on hold due to the election and no changes would be made to at least the Autumn and a report would be published unless of sensitive material.

Another particular concern was in relation to the policing "funding formular" a guide to the calculations used to work out how much money is allocated to police forces.

The Commissioner has attempted to gain extra funding for Lincolnshire for eight years. The Police uplift nationally helped funding, however the formular itself is outdated, so hopefully post-election this can be reviewed, for the benefit of Lincolnshire, but there will always be winners and losers, nationally. Full written replies to questions posed will be in the published minutes for September.

Other matters discussed were the panel's rules of procedure, the Police & Crime Plan delivery update, the key principles within the plan

*Community Safety and Prevention in Partnership
Listening, responding and being accountable
Protecting and supporting victims and the vulnerable
Policing that works*

The delivery against the Police & Crime Plan, victim services better than ever before, with a new website, 11 additional staff and high praise from independent assessors, record number of police officers recruited, finances on an even keel and delivered the highest ever budget for policing in 2023. Investment in cutting edge technology to ensure Lincolnshire Police are equipped to fight 21st century crime.

Almost £11 million of additional funding brought in from Government to be spent on keeping our communities safe.

Thank you members for your patience and I am happy to take any questions but please can I ask they be kept to the minimum to enable our guest speaker PC Steve Ellis to have sufficient time to deliver his presentation and take questions at the end, as you would imagine his time is precious and we are very lucky that he has taken time out to attend our meeting today.'

One Member queried whether there had been any indication from central Government on whether the funding for Police forces would be increased in size.

It was clarified that the funding formula for Lincolnshire Police was considerably lower than Police forces in large cities. It was noted that central Government had a priority on Neighborhood Policing.

A query was raised on whether any indication had been given to the Police and Crime Panel that the new Chief Constable would review their predecessors policy on the recruitment and deployment of PCSO's.

The Police and Crime Commissioner was reviewing the policy on the recruitment and deployment of PCSO's.

The County Lines Development Officer for Lincolnshire Police provided a verbal presentation to the Committee:

The Officer's role was to deliver training and awareness sessions to partners and professionals, as well as families.

County Lines was a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

The Children’s Commissioner for England believes that at least 27,000 children were county lines gang members. An additional 120,000 children – one in every 25 teens in England – may experience broader risk factors associated with exploitation.

There were many aspects as to why individuals became involved and exploited to county lines:

- *To feel apart of something/family group/organisation.*
- *Fear of receiving threats of violence.*
- *Protection or being shielded from other forms of violence.*
- *Love.*
- *Debt bondage.*
- *Career opportunity and lure of making money.*

'Cuckooing' was a term used to describe the practice where County lines or drug dealers/Crime Gangs take over the property of another person and use it as a place from which to run their drugs business/ crime activity. They will deal and/ or store drugs cash and weapons from the address.

The criminals may target those who are vulnerable, potentially because of substance abuse, mental health issues, financial issues, Learning Disability or loneliness, and befriend them or promise them drugs in exchange for being able to use their property. The gangs often sent vulnerable young people and adults from their own area to stay at a house and distribute the drugs, again often intimidating and threatening them to stay.

Reachable moments were outlined:

- *Children and vulnerable adults may often fluctuate between being “willing workers on a county line and, after a beating or when they have a drug debt, become aware of the risk and exploitation and want to leave”.*
- *This seemed to mirror the type of exploitation involved in other types of violent and coercive control such as domestic abuse.*
- *There were some ‘reachable moments’ in this cycle where interventions from statutory and/or Voluntary sector organisation could enable the individual to avoid getting further entrenched and, ideally, to exit the activity.*

Lincolnshire Police followed the 4 P approach:

- *Pursue – Arrest, warrants, seizing drugs, weapons, cash etc.*
- *Prevent – Preventing individuals becoming involved or continuing to be involved.*
- *Protect – Protecting victims.*

- *Prepare – Reduce the impact of harm.*

Concern was raised on issues within prison service and the blockages. It was queried whether the impact was affecting how Lincolnshire Police operate.

The County Lines Development Officer for Lincolnshire Police dealt with County Lines alone and therefore could not provide any update on prison services. He was aware that prison services were under scrutiny.

One Member noted a recent drug related event that had taken place in Bourne, whereby an individual was murdered. Furthermore, concern was raised around the growing number of drugs being traded in Bourne in line with the reduction in PCSO's.

It was queried whether increased community policing would assist County Lines Officers in drug containment and the selling of drugs.

The County Lines Development Officer was very passionate about community policing and the importance it had. There were challenges within community policing on numbers.

The Head of Service - Public Protection confirmed that the team had a close working relationship with Lincolnshire Police. The team would liaise with Inspector Mark Hillson, where direct concerns on community policing could be addressed.

A query was raised whether the CCTV for South Kesteven was supportive in terms of intelligence and arrests on County Lines cases.

The County Lines Development Officer highlighted that CCTV was important for the prevention of crime as well as arrests, however, he was not familiar with the CCTV provision for South Kesteven.

Members raised concern on knife crime, it was queried whether Lincolnshire Police had seen an increase in knife crimes.

It was noted that knife crime had increased nationally and locally.

77. Corporate Plan 2020-23 Key Performance Indicators End-of-Plan and 2023/24 End-Year (Q4) Report

The Cabinet Member for Governance and Licensing presented the report that outlined the performance of the Council against the Corporate Plan 2020-23 and part Q4 for 2023/24.

The Corporate Plan 2020-23 listed eight actions across the priorities Healthy & Strong Communities, and High Performing Council, which fell within the remit of this Committee. These actions set the Council's agenda for the life of that Plan.

The first round of performance reporting in 2020/21 introduced a series of criteria for what successful delivery would look like. This criterion has been used as a measure to judge the Council's overall performance against the stated actions.

The Council achieved seven out of eight stated actions that were set in 2021.

In Q4 for 2023-24, six actions were presented, four were rated green and two of the actions were rated amber.

The new KPI suite with proposed targets for 2024-27 was presented to, considered, and approved by the Committee on 28 March 2024. The first report for those KPIs would be presented in Q3 of 2024/25.

A query was raised on safeguarding matters and whether issues with Council housing were dealt with internal within the Housing department.

The Community Engagement Manager confirmed that all safeguarding matters were dealt with in the same system and procedure. Safeguarding concerns around anti-social behaviour with tenants were dealt with the Neighbourhoods Team.

That the Committee:

- 1. Review and scrutinise the performance against the Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators in relation to the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2020-23 priorities and outcomes.**
- 2. Use this report to inform and support the ongoing work programme of the Committee.**

78. UKSPF Update

The Cabinet Member for Governance and Licensing presented the report.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and has provided £2.6 billion of funding for local investment between April 2022 and March 2025. It aimed to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK by investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. The UKSPF replaces the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) was a top-up to the UKSPF and succeeds EU funding from LEADER and the Growth Programme which were part of the Rural Development Programme for England. The REPF supports capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure. The programme seeks to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities. It is complementary to funding used to support rural areas under the UKSPF, with the funding period running from April 2023 to March 2025. Lead local authorities, such as South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) have flexibility over how they deliver the UKSPF and REPF.

In respect to the REPF South Kesteven had been awarded a total of £540,460 in funding for projects which would have to be delivered by the end of the programme, March 31st 2025.

- Year 2: £135,115 was awarded in the financial year 2023 / 2024
- Year 3: £405,345 was awarded in the financial year 2024/ 2025

The Year 2 allocation within the REPF (1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024) was as follows:

- Supporting Rural Business
 - Intervention 1.1 - £60,115 (capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro & small enterprises in rural area.)
 - Intervention 1.3 - £25,000 (capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy)
- Supporting Rural Communities
 - Intervention 2.4 - £50,000 (capital grant funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offers)

The Year 3 allocation within the REPF (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025) was as follows:

- Supporting Rural Business
 - Intervention 1.1 - £180,345 (capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro & small enterprises in rural area.)
 - Intervention 1.3 - £75,000 (capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy)
- Supporting Rural Communities
 - Intervention 2.1 - £100,000 (capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.)
 - Intervention 2.4 - £50,000 (capital grant funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer)

To date the UKSPF Board has recommended three applications for approval, totalling £110,301.66. A further have been deferred to return to the July 2024 board for reconsideration, totalling £140,000.

The REPF programme has nine months left to run. If the fund was not spent then it will likely have to be returned to the Government. The recommendations were therefore focused on making every effort to distribute the funding to high quality projects which achieve valuable and value for money outputs in in the Council's rural communities.

One Member queried when the deadline for Parish Council bids were.

The UKSPF meeting in July 2024 had applications that were already in production. The following meeting would be held in September 2024, where new projects would

be discussed. Parish Council's were encouraged to contact the Council for guidance on the process of bid applications.

That the Committee:

- 1. Notes the progress made with the UK Shared Prosperity – Rural England Prosperity Fund and the supports opportunities identified to expedite the distribution of the funding.**

79. SK Community Fund – Proposed Amendments March 2024

The Cabinet Member for People and Communities presented the report.

The SK Community Fund was first introduced in 2015 with the Small Grants Scheme added in 2016. It was important that the application process, including the assessment and funding criteria were regularly reviewed to ensure they remain fit for purpose. The criteria had been reviewed and some proposed changes to the funding criteria had been identified.

The proposed amendments put to committee were:

Re-introduction of the Community Buildings Category to the criteria of the fund

- The category was temporarily removed in 2023. The change was agreed in light of the many alternative sources of funding available to organisations operating village and community halls to carry out such work. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund also created an overlap of funding for such projects, however, this was shortly coming to an end so the category was recommended for re-introduction to the Fund's criteria. Whilst alternative sources of funding existed, grants from the SK Community Fund could be used as supporting funding for larger projects.

Introduction of an additional offer within the Community Amenities category to cover monuments and war memorials

- The Community Engagement Team is often approached by groups looking to renovate such structures and, whilst the maximum grant offered through the SK Community Fund is unlikely to be sufficient to carry out significant work, a grant could support a larger bid or possibly pay for an architect's report where required.

A tightening up on eligibility for projects related to highways to specifically remove such items as speed signage/cameras and village signs from the criteria at the request of the Awarding Panel

- This change was a direct request from the Awarding Panel who felt that projects should be funded by those responsible for highways or via a parish

precept since the SK Community Fund was established to support projects that had wider community benefit.

A tightening up on eligibility of applications from Parish and Town Councils and Parish Meetings to state that projects that are parish-specific should be supported through the Precept process

- The condition that Parish and Town Council's should utilise their precept rather than seeking community funding has always been in the criteria of the fund. This change was simply a change of wording to underline the fact that, if the project is only of benefit to a specific location (like, for example, the village signage mentioned earlier), the precept should be the first option to fund the endeavour.

It was highlighted that smaller Parish Council's utilised their precepts on the maintenance of the village and may not have monies left over for village signage.

One Member noted that Denton Parish Council had a precept of £6,200. Denton Parish Council had to save over the last four years for white speed gates, which would cost £4,000 per gate and four were required.

The importance of speed prevention within Denton village was outlined and that applications for speed signs should be supported within the Community Fund criteria.

A Member informed the Committee of a community speed watch, where 20 volunteers had taken part for a few hours a week during busy periods of events taking place at Belvoir Castle. During a busy event at Belvoir Castle, over 9000 vehicles travelled through Denton. During a week of community speed watch, 56 speeding motorists were caught, two of which were doing within excess of 70mph in a 30mph zone.

The Community Engagement Manager clarified that the Community Fund would still be available to Town/Parish Council's for projects and events that offered wider community benefit, however the precept should be the first step for specific Parish projects.

The Cabinet Member for Property and Public Engagement informed the Committee that the Lincolnshire County Council Highways website stated that equipment purchased for community speed watches had to be purchased through Town/Parish Councils.

Town/Parish Councils were encouraged to plan their precepts, at least a year in advance, in order to receive match funding.

Grantham Town Council had only recently been established and therefore were on a backfoot in regard to road safety, speeding etc. It was noted that they had a very small precept for a large population and large road network.

Several Members did not agree with the proposed amendments on the change of wording on applications received from Town/Parish Councils be included within the SK Community Fund.

One Member stated that it would cost a Town/Parish Council £2,000 to join Lincolnshire Road Partnership. It was clarified that there was no joining fee. Parishes could start a speed watch group via the Partnership who would provide the equipment required and up to 6 passive roadside notices. Additional notices could be purchased at a cost of £20 each. Wheelie bin stickers could also be purchased at a cost of 50p each. Electronic signs were £2,000 each.

One Member suggested that workshops be set up with Officers and Parish Council's to assist them in planning ahead on precepts.

Councillor Robert Leadenham invited Committee Members to a community speed watch training session which was being held by Lincolnshire Road Partnership at Harlaxton Village Hall at 7:45pm on Monday 15 July 2024.

It was highlighted that the purpose of the community fund was to prioritise issues of loneliness, social and rural isolation, mental health and wellbeing.

Speeding fell outside the remit of the community fund; however, the Committee were keen to discuss issues around speeding in a workshop environment.

The Community Engagement Team had access to a database, whereby 4,000 different funds could be explored for various types of funding so support could be given to identify alternative sources for such projects.

One Member suggested that the Committee review issues of speeding and invite a representative of the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership to give a presentation if a workshop was set up to explore this matter further.

ACTION: For further discussion around road safety and speeding in communities to be added to the Work Programme.

The Community Engagement Manager highlighted that funding workshops and fairs were delivered by the Community Engagement Team in community settings four times a year. Parish and Town Councils could attend if they required information on funding opportunities available to them for any type of community project.

The Committee thanked Officers for all their hard work.

ACTION: For the Committee to discuss the impact of the Forbidden Forest Festival on South Kesteven's rural communities.

It was proposed, seconded and **AGREED** that the Committee:

- 1. Comments on the changes proposed to the criteria of the SK Community Fund.**
- 2. Recommends the Cabinet Member for People and Communities approves the changes proposed to the criteria of the SK Community Fund.**

80. Community Engagement Update

This report was presented at the request of the Committee Chairman.

It was the first in a series of reports that were linked to work undertaken by the Community Engagement Team.

Going forward, the reports would be themed and based on activities outlined in the Action Plan of the Council's Community Engagement and Development Strategy.

The report provided a retrospective update on community engagement for 2023/24, based on activities that promoted wellbeing, positive mental health and help to reduce social isolation.

This work was underpinned by the commitment shown within our Corporate Plan under the key priority of "Connecting Communities".

The report was provided for information and officers were present should members of the committee have any questions.

One Member highlighted the importance of events taking place. It was requested that a programme of events be provided for Members to inform their communities of events taking place.

The Community Engagement Manager clarified that all activities were outlined within the Council's Action Plan, which had been considered by Committee.

ACTION: For the Community Engagement Action Plan to be sent to all Members

The Community Engagement Manager provided a verbal update on work undertaken in support of the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant:

'As Members will be aware, our engagement and advocacy work to support our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant is a very important and integral part of the work we do as a Community Engagement Team. You might also be aware that, apart from anything else - this year marks the 80th Anniversary of two significant offensives in WW2. Those being, of course, D Day and Arnhem.'

You will, as ever, get an annual review of activities related to our Armed Forces work later in the year but, with your agreement, I'd just like to mention a few significant things that have happened or are planned to happen this year.

D-Day Commemorations

Three well-attended, hosted, information walks (30 May, 5 June and 13 July). These have taken place at RAF North Witham, now known as Twyford Wood near Colsterworth, location for a top-secret pre-D Day American Pathfinders mission, laying the markers behind the German lines to guide the incoming invasion. An associated talk was also held in the Guildhall Arts Centre on June 6. All were delivered by Brian Riley, military heritage specialist.

A significant D-Day commemoration was also organised on 8 June at RAF Saltby, hugely significant for American forces on D-Day. There was a commemorative service, military re-enactors, talks, heritage vehicles and the Airborne Forces Riders.

It was attended by the Chairman of SKDC, Chief Executive and our Cabinet Member. It was also attended by serving and retired American military, including the current commander of 314 Air Lift Wing (modern day equivalent of the US 9th Troop Carrier Command who flew paratroopers from Saltby for D-Day), Col John Tucker and his Command Chief, Sgt Cameron Davis were with us. Two days earlier Col Tucker had flown the lead aircraft in the Cherbourg flypast. After that, they made the journey to the UK specially for the event at Saltby, with Col Tucker calling it the honour of his career.

Coming Up

15 – 17 August

Digging Market Garden. This is an archaeological dig at Fulbeck Manor. SKDC is working in partnership with Oxford University and the University of Lincoln in conjunction with Wings to the Past. The dig is intended to illustrate the presence locally of Allied paratroopers pre-Arnhem – specifically British First Airborne on this site whose commander, Maj General Roy Urquart was billeted at this site during 1944.

6 – 8 September

There will be an event in Caythorpe, 216 Signals Parachute Squadron - Arnhem Reunion.

Saturday 7 September would be a village gala.

The Sunday has a High Street Parade and commemorative service in St Vincent's Church (St Vincent's Church is shrine to airborne forces and 216 Signals' spiritual home, forged in 1944)

SKDC was contributing to heritage displays + re-enactors + D Day Darlings

11 - 12 October

156 Parachute Regiment Reunion at RAF Saltby.

Talks, Dinner 11 October and service 12 October.

*156 Para regiment was decimated at Arnhem to the extent that it was disbanded and merged with 1 Para on return (1 Para HQ at Grimsthorpe Castle)
SKDC contributing talks / video of D-Day Commemoration 8 June, plus re-enactors*

25 October

Arnhem80 – St Wulfram's Church.

Evening of Commemoration for 80th anniversary.

Band of the Welsh Guards, speakers and stories of Arnhem's unique local backstories of British, American and Polish airborne forces' collaboration and training in the build up to battle – and their departure from local airfields.'

One Member requested the events in a date order format.

ACTION: For the Community Engagement Manager to provide a programme of events in a date order format.

That the Committee:

1. Notes the content of the report and provides comment on the activity contained.

81. CCTV (Verbal Update)

The Head of Service – Public Protection provided a verbal update on CCTV.

In March 2024, Cabinet approved the contract award for the Upgrade of CCTV network and to enable connected towns, including the provision of wireless hubs. The project includes upgrading the existing analogue network across the town centers of Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and Market Deeping. This upgrade will also include free to access public Wi-Fi networks across the IP fibre network which will help position the council as a digital enabler, supporting digital inclusion.

As part of this project the CCTV Control room will be moved to the Grantham Police Station, which will have a number of benefits including increased partnership working with the police. The control room equipment will be upgraded to include a new milestone management platform, new workstations and a video wall.

BT was awarded the contract, and the project has commenced following the Cabinet approval. Weekly meetings have been arranged with BT to manage the progression of the project.

All equipment has been ordered and scheduled to be received at BT's engineering base in August 2024, there it will be tested and pre-configured as much as possible to reduce installation time on site.

The delivery project plan is complete, identifying resources, individual items of work, grouped into schedules of delivery and dependencies so that the BT project manager can tightly control the planned works and mitigate any slippage, and risk assessments and method statements have been completed.

The Control Room design is approved and in manufacturing. Liaisons and updates are active with Council and Police IT, SKDC & Lincolnshire County Council for street works, wayleaves and street column permissions. New fibre circuits are on order with Openreach and the public Wi-Fi coverage is agreed and will be delivered alongside the CCTV works. We are currently negotiating the lease agreements at the Police Station.

The project is on plan, with CCTV proposed to be re-located to the Grantham Police Headquarters in Autumn of 2024. We look forward to updating you as the project continues to progress and inviting you to a grand opening once complete later in the year.

Concern was raised around the need for more CCTV coverage. It was queried how additional CCTV cameras should be requested.

In terms of making requests on the provision of additional CCTV, Officers had to consider whether all other potential avenues had been explored prior to installing CCTV. Going forward, requests for additional CCTV would be reviewed.

It was queried whether the new technology at the Police Station would have the capacity to support more CCTV cameras in the future.

It was confirmed that the technology had been upgraded and would have the capacity to support more CCTV cameras in the future.

The Chairman queried whether the project was on time to be delivered in Autumn 2024.

The target for delivery was September/October 2024. If the project fell off-target, a further update would be brought to the Committee.

82. Work Programme 2024-25

The Committee noted the Work-Programme 2024 - 25.

Members requested the following items to be brought to Committee meeting in the future.

- Parish Council Workshop.
- Impact of the Forbidden Forest Festival on South Kesteven's rural communities.
- KPI report.
- Crime Disorder meeting.

Councillor Charmine suggested a verbal update be brought to the Committee in December 2024 for the following:

83. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent

There were none.

84. Close of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11:52.