

An aerial photograph of Lincoln, England, featuring the Lincoln Castle walls in the foreground. The castle walls are made of stone and have a walkway with a metal railing. Below the walls is a green lawn. In the background, the city of Lincoln is visible, with various buildings and houses. The sky is clear and blue.

# Family Community County

**Council Plan**  
2026 - 2031

**Lincolnshire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

The logo for Lincolnshire County Council, featuring a stylized white flower or leaf design to the right of the text.



**Council Plan 2026 - 2031**

# Introduction

**On 1 May 2025 residents voted for new leadership in Lincolnshire.**

Lincolnshire residents and businesses deserve a council that delivers good local services and sets an ambitious vision for a county where people want to live, study, work, visit, and bring up a family. We are listening and have heard strongly that our residents want us to cut wasteful spending, reduce bureaucracy and deliver strong local services so that our city, countryside and coast are safe, clean and thriving.

The new leadership of this council is committed to making the changes necessary to move the council forward and deliver for local people. We know that by allocating our resources more efficiently and concentrating on delivering positive outcomes, we can refocus on the needs of our residents more effectively and create better value for the taxpayer.

Over the next 5 years we will revitalise the economy, celebrate our cultural heritage and improve infrastructure and connectivity. We will prioritise joined up partnership working to pool efforts and expertise and engage more deeply with residents through town and parish councils to deliver common goals.

Our promise is to lead Lincolnshire County Council so that it delivers for your family, your community, protects our landscapes, and takes our great county forward.

We have a lot to be proud of and if we can improve our council, deliver for our residents and lead Lincolnshire we can achieve so much more to be proud of in the next 5 years.

**Councillor Sean Matthews**

**Leader of Lincolnshire County Council**




## Family

### Delivering:

- ✓ Children's Services rated **Outstanding** by Ofsted 
- ✓ Adult Services rated **Good** by the Care Quality Commission 

### Supporting:


- ✓ **7,407 children** with education, health and care plans (EHCPs) 
- ✓ Approximately **70,000** unpaid carers

## Community

### Delivering:

- ✓ **50 libraries** and community hubs throughout the county 
- ✓ Response to emergencies with **48 fire engines** and **45 specialist vehicles**

### Supporting:


- ✓ **600** parish and town councils
- ✓ **335** schools including arranging **840,000** school journeys per year 

## County

### Delivering:

- ✓ Maintenance for **5,500** miles of road 
- ✓ Disposal of **350,000 tonnes** of household waste 

### Supporting:

- ✓ **Around 1,700** small businesses every year face to face 
- ✓ **32 million** visitors each year

# Our ambitions

This council plan sets out our ambitions to:

## Support and empower our residents

**Outcome:** Children and young people in Lincolnshire have the best start in life, residents can age well and everyone has the chance to live independently.

## Connect our county

**Outcome:** Lincolnshire's communities are supported and shape investment in infrastructure and services.

## Keep our communities safe

**Outcome:** Lincolnshire's residents feel safe in their communities.

## Grow our county's economy

**Outcome:** Lincolnshire's needs and opportunities are championed at local and national levels.

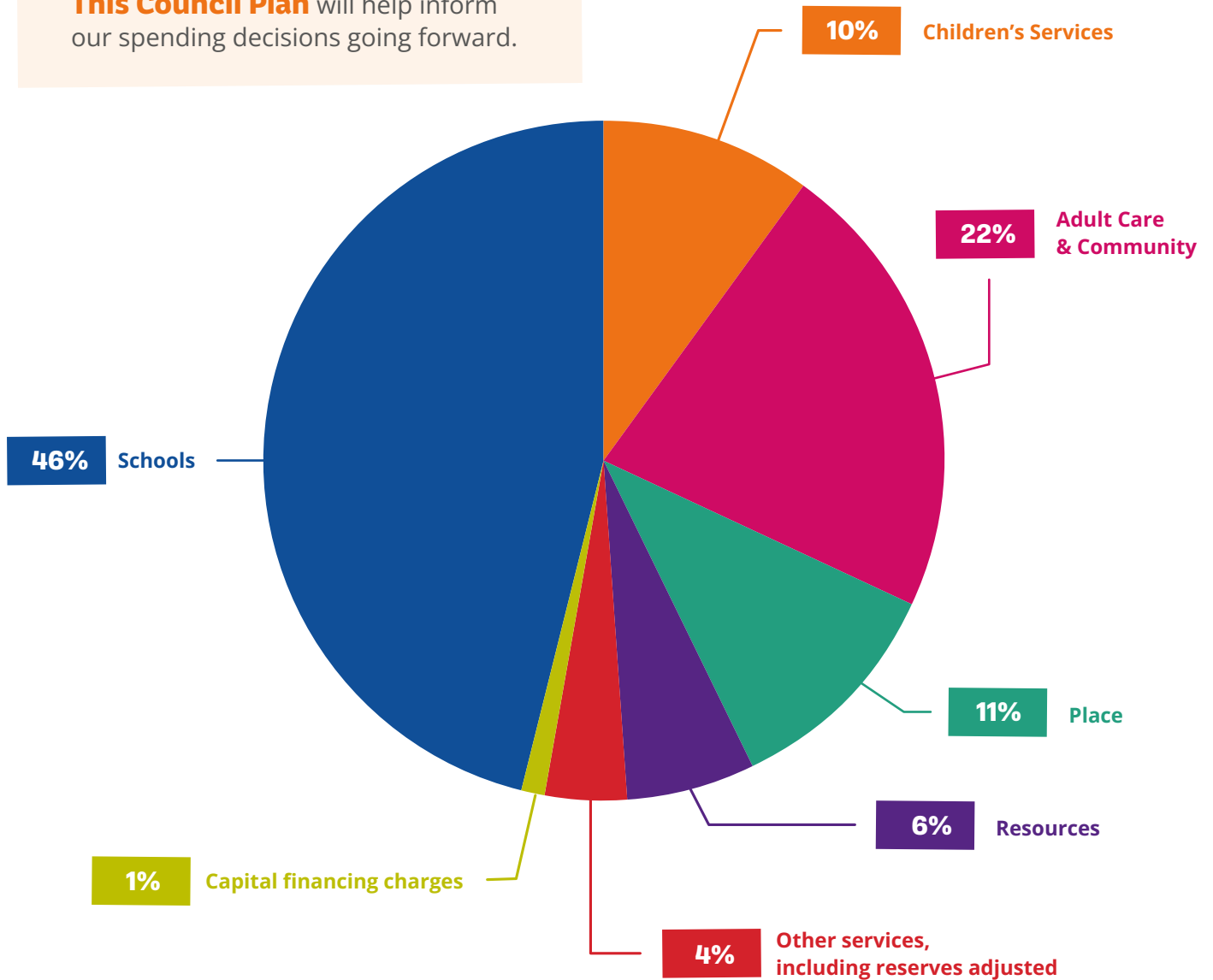
We are committed to spending public money wisely in everything that we do.

## Protect our county's landscapes

**Outcome:** Lincolnshire's communities and countryside are protected and enhanced.

# Council spending

**This Council Plan** will help inform our spending decisions going forward.



# Spending wisely

## Delivering strong and quality services

We will provide good quality services for residents, adapting and improving services, and being open to new ideas, so that services are even more accessible and available in local communities.

## Cutting waste and reducing inefficiencies

We will explore opportunities to innovate and deliver services in new ways, to develop our staff and harness technological advances, such as AI, to automate routine tasks, reduce costs and better predict future customer need.

## Working together

We will work collaboratively across services and with partners to deliver more joined up services – this will include working with the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor to support our communities.

We will develop our website and messaging so that more people can find out about what is available in their local area and how to access it.

## Being accountable for cost, performance and delivery

We will demonstrate value through transparent decision making, leadership and good governance, with rigorous audit and scrutiny.



# Our commitments: Family, Community, County

## Family

- **Supporting** our carers
- **Promoting your health** and wellbeing
- **Safeguarding children** and vulnerable adults
- **Supporting you** when you need it
- **Delivering essential care** that is built around you
- **Giving children and young people** the best opportunities

## Community

- **Improving travel** opportunities for all
- **Supporting the rollout** of gigabit broadband
- **Fostering** community spirit
- **Empowering and strengthening** local voices
- **Helping residents** feel safe
- **Defending** our communities from flooding
- **Preparing** for emergencies





## County

- **Creating the conditions** for growth
- **Championing** Lincolnshire
- **Lobbying government** to reform our services
- **Collaborating** with our partners
- **Keeping Lincolnshire** farming
- **Creating environments** that we want to live in
- **Managing** household waste responsibly
- **Celebrating our heritage** and culture

**Being accountable  
for cost, performance  
and delivery**

**Working together**

**Delivering strong  
and quality services**

**Cutting waste and  
reducing inefficiencies**

# Family

## Supporting our carers:

**We recognise the vital role that carers play across Lincolnshire.**

We will collaborate with partners and communities to support carers to continue the valuable contributions that they make to the lives of others, and to enable them to live their own lives too. This will include working with health partners to enhance family support and services for carers including short term breaks to avoid break down in family arrangements, which can lead to increased demand for supported living services.

## Promoting your health and wellbeing:

**We will work with our district councils,** local health services and the community and voluntary sector to encourage everyone in the community to take up opportunities to be active, with an increased emphasis on improving the physical and mental health, and wellbeing of the county's communities.

## Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults:

**We will support people in difficulty,** to ensure they receive help at the earliest opportunity and work with families, to enable them to stay together wherever possible. We will encourage more people to become foster carers so Lincolnshire children who need care are able to live in a family home in their community.



## Supporting you when you need it:

**We will prioritise early intervention**, preventing crises before they arise, and embedding an approach that draws on people's strengths, their relationships and what is going on in their local communities to help them live longer, healthier, independent lives. Through our family hubs, we will provide a lifeline for many parents and bring together early learning opportunities and access to health care, so young children have the very best start in life. We will establish new options to support adults to reduce the need for residential care, enabling people to live in their community where appropriate.

## Delivering essential care that is built around you:

**We will work with our health**, voluntary sector and district council colleagues to enable more people to live independently in their home of choice, achieved in part by continuing to develop our extra care and supported accommodation services as an alternative to 24/7 care. Working with the NHS, we will improve availability of reablement and intermediate care services to help people to recover from a hospital stay and, wherever possible prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital or 24/7 care and develop a community-based prevention service for working age adults with mental health needs.

## Giving children and young people the best opportunities:

**We want all children and young people** to be supported in effective education and through collaboration, we will support the achievement of strong results and enable all students to access a high-quality education. For children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and other needs, the council will work in partnership to promote inclusion in mainstream education where possible, helping everyone to get a fulfilling and positive educational experience. We will invest in mainstream specialist hubs to support pupils close to their community. We will strengthen our support to children in need of early help and protection through implementing the national reforms, building on our work as National Pathfinder.



# Community

## Improving travel opportunities for all:

**We will make your choice of travel as simple as possible.** We will seek new, innovative methods and tools to improve road maintenance and support the travel choices of residents. Working closely with the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor, we will progress major infrastructure upgrades, particularly road and rail connectivity along the region's main transport corridors. We also recognise the need to improve rural transport to enable our residents to travel easier across the County.



## Supporting the rollout of gigabit broadband:

**We will continue to support** the rollout of gigabit broadband across Lincolnshire so that residents have access to high-speed connections, ensuring that they are not digitally isolated. This will include pushing mobile operators and the government to reduce coverage gaps, especially in rural and underserved areas.

## Fostering community spirit:

**We will work with communities to champion and secure investment** in local services and infrastructure that enables them to thrive. We will also ensure support for our important military history and the armed forces community in Lincolnshire.

## Empowering and strengthening local voices:

**Our Councillors and officers will be encouraged** to engage with town and parishes so that local views can shape future service improvements. We will work with communities to help them to establish new town and parish councils where it can be demonstrated that there is local support for their creation or to explore different ways to engage with the Council.

## Defending our communities from flooding:

**We will work with at risk communities** across Lincolnshire to support them to develop flood resilience plans. We will work closely with towns and parishes to continue to invest in flood defence projects and to champion improvements and adaptations from other public service providers and partners.

## Preparing for emergencies:

**We recognise the challenges** posed by extreme weather events and flooding. We will ensure the needs of communities are understood during a time of crisis so that they can be supported to respond and recover effectively. Through the Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forum, the Council and Lincolnshire's Fire and Rescue will prepare for these, and other emergencies, to ensure the Local Resilience Forum is able to mitigate the effect of such incidents.

## Helping residents feel safe:

**We will ensure our communities are and feel safe.** We will engage with residents, gather local knowledge, and have open conversations while working closely with our partners, including Lincolnshire Police and the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. We will provide support to residents and businesses through trading standards to tackle unsafe practices and enable residents to have confidence in local traders.



# County

## Creating the conditions for growth:

**We will work with Lincolnshire's businesses** and the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor to get more investment to support and grow our businesses and wider regional opportunities that benefit our county. We will continue to keep our economy strong by championing defence, agri-tech, and manufacturing. We will also facilitate appropriate land, premises, and training for businesses and people, and promote the county to visitors.

## Championing Lincolnshire:

### **We will advocate for the strengths of Lincolnshire.**

By celebrating the County Council's high-quality services, we will build confidence and credibility to underpin our relationship with residents, businesses, partners and government.

## Lobbying government to reform our services:

**We will call on central government** to address the unsustainable pressures on public services, especially those in rural areas. This includes the SEND system, so that children get the right support, in the right place, when they need it. Reformed and better financed services will mean that there is more money for the public sector to spend on services for local businesses and charities.

## Managing household waste responsibly:

**We will support residents** to make it as easy as possible to recycle and dispose of household waste, ensuring best value in our waste services.



## Collaborating with our partners:

**Over the next five years**, we will work with government to bring together and improve services currently provided by all of the councils across Lincolnshire. We will join up services in a way which makes sense to residents, simplifying how to access services and ensuring the new council/s is/are as efficient, relevant to our local communities and businesses, and effective as possible. We will also work with the Mayor and combined county authority to actively support investment in infrastructure to support growth and in skills to help our residents to take advantage of current and future opportunities in the workplace and reach their potential.

## Celebrating our heritage and culture:

**We will protect** our County's proud past to ensure that it can be enjoyed by current and future residents. We will champion Lincolnshire's culture, regionally and nationally, to broaden participation and engagement, opening opportunities for local communities to own and make best use of our assets and continue to invest in our cultural heritage.

## Keeping Lincolnshire farming:

**We recognise the local and national significance of farming in Lincolnshire.** We will challenge the government on their approach to clean energy and engage robustly with developers, proposing significant new infrastructure in Lincolnshire. We will work to secure maximum community benefit, if development goes ahead, to mitigate the negative impacts on Lincolnshire's farming community and the wider Lincolnshire economy.

## Creating environments that we want to live in:

**The Council will work with communities and partners** to create a positive environmental legacy in the County and to support growth where it is right for Lincolnshire. We will advocate for projects that can enhance our natural landscape, improve housing quality, and create memorable spaces. We will work with Anglian Water to manage water supply more effectively; we will work with developers and local planning authorities on sustainable design that improves access to services and quality of life for our residents. We will also seek a long-term plan for the Lincolnshire coastline.

# Delivering **this plan**



## Evidence and Supporting activities

**This Council Plan sets out the high level ambitions of the council** based on a wide evidence base and understanding of needs across Lincolnshire that includes input from councillors, the joint strategic needs assessment, local statistics and analysis of local economic data.

This plan is supported by a number of strategies, programmes and other activities. Collectively, they set out the details of what the council aims to deliver, and the resources needed. These include strategies which set out more detailed actions towards meeting our goals, and plans that support delivery or drive efficiency and effectiveness. Examples include our council budget and our Medium-Term Financial Strategy, which set out how we plan to spend public money.

## Performance monitoring

**A Council Plan Performance Framework** will show how we are performing against our commitments within this Council Plan. It will use a combination of performance indicators and key activities to determine if the council is making progress against the commitments set out.

Performance will be regularly reviewed and scrutinised through quarterly reports to councillors, with the information also available on our website -

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/councilplan](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/councilplan)