

- **Good morning everyone & welcome !**
- **I am Cllr Ric Metcalfe the Leader of the City of Lincoln & for this year the chair of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee**
- **Can I offer a warm welcome to everyone and to**
- **Matthew Birkinshaw BA (Hons) Msc MRTPI and**
- **Clive Coyne BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI.**
- **We give you both a very warm welcome to Lincoln and to Central Lincolnshire.**
- **Whilst your reviewing duties are time consuming & onerous I hope you might get chance to see some of this beautiful part of the country including our magnificent City of Lincoln**
- **Apart from offering you a warm welcome I also wanted to say something on behalf of the CLJSPC about its meaning & importance to us and to all our local communities.**
- **This is not just any old plan ! We know it needs to pass some pretty significant tests in advance of it being brought in front of you today**
  - **It must reflect what our communities want.**
  - **It must contribute to national priorities.**
  - **And perhaps most important of all, it must be a plan which puts in place a framework for a better future for everyone**
  - **A better future in several senses:**
    - **A better future for our communities**, whether that is affordable housing, well-designed places or the right infrastructure in the right places.

- **A better future for our economy..** Making sure we have the right land in the right places to support a growing economy.
- **And a better future for our environment,** whether that is protecting the wonderful assets that we have, our heritage assets and our landscape, as well as reversing the decline in biodiversity and reducing our impact on the climate.
- **I want to highlight three aspects of this Plan which I think are of particular importance.**
- **First,** this plan is, without question, **a pro-growth plan.** It more than meets our identified needs for new homes and jobs; it allocates a wide range and choice of sites for the market to deliver; and it has numerous flexible policies, so that changes in circumstances or site-specific issues can be considered carefully and pragmatically.
- **Second,** it is a plan about **place making.** It seeks to help secure the protection and provision of those essential things which are needed to make great communities: open space; affordable housing; high quality design; walking and cycling facilities & much more
- **And third,** and the one I want to emphasise most of all to you in this opening statement, is that this plan is about doing what it can to **help tackle climate change.**
- **Just last week, the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, said that our planet is "sending a distress signal". ...**
- **I AGREE !**
- **Climate change is no longer a theoretical possibility , it is happening now !!**

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- **And it is happening right here, in Lincolnshire. We are the unfortunate custodians of the UK record temperature of 40.3C, set just 4 months ago, and just 20 miles from where we sit today.**
- **For the majority of my lifetime, the UK record temperature had been set way back in 1911, at 36.7C.**
- **That record held for 79 years, when it was exceeded in 1990 by a new record of 37.1C.**
- **Since then, we didn't have to wait another 79 years. In fact, the record now keeps being broken, and on a scale that is hard to comprehend.**
- **Let's look at the facts:**
- **It took 79 years for the record to be broken by less than half a degree.**
- **In the next 32 years, the record has been broken 7 times, and by 3.6 degrees.**
- **That should shock and disturb us all.**
- **We have to act now. There is no more time to twiddle thumbs, or pass the problem on to the next generation.**
- **I know the solutions are extremely difficult, and the CLJSPC and its Plan can certainly not solve everything.!**
- **What however the committee has done is to have mandated its officers from the outset to explore all realistic opportunities for this new plan to do what it can to help mitigate climate change, whilst still achieve all the other important things that the plan must do.**

- **And I believe it has done just that.**
- **And I am proud of what the plan says and aims to achieve.**
- **And I'm proud of the thoroughness of the evidence, the justification for the policies, and the viability testing of what it seeks to achieve**
- **So, to sum up, thank you for your indulgence Mathew & Clive, I very much look forward to your thorough examination of the plan and your subsequent findings.**
- **And I hope, like me, you will agree that this Plan creates the framework for a sustainable Central Lincolnshire that we can all be proud of.**
- **Thank you very much !!**