

Foreword

It is now seven years since North Lincolnshire came into being as a new unitary authority and it gives me great pleasure to present the adopted plan of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. This is an important strategic document which will be the basis upon which all development decisions will be taken. The Plan is more than just a legal document, it is about making decisions which will shape the future of North Lincolnshire and affect the lives of all its residents. It is vital that the community is at the forefront of this planning policy process. I hope that you will take this opportunity to play your part in positively influencing development into the new millennium.

North Lincolnshire has an area of great diversity in terms of both town and country. The Council values its natural and built heritage, which ranges from Scunthorpe industrial garden town to the historic market towns and rural hamlets and villages in the surrounding countryside. The area's natural heritage is equally diverse. The internationally important wetland habitats of the Humber, the undulating Lincolnshire Wolds and the river valleys of the Trent and Ancholme provide a contrast to the large areas of high quality farmland.

North Lincolnshire has great opportunities for development. The economy of North Lincolnshire has developed dramatically from its agricultural origins and more recent manufacturing base. Trade is expected to continue to increase at the Humber Ports and Britain's largest remaining undeveloped deep-water frontage located in North Lincolnshire is expected to experience significant growth. Estuary related development is likely to play a key role in the future economic prosperity not just in the district but in the Yorkshire and Humber region as a whole. Humberside International Airport proceeds to expand both its business and tourist operations. Corus has invested heavily in new technology at its Scunthorpe works and new strategic employment sites of a regional scale continue to be brought forward for development.

The North Lincolnshire Local Plan seeks to ensure that development is "sustainable". This means providing quality jobs and houses, improving shopping, leisure, transport and education facilities and increasing economic prosperity and providing for the needs of all residents whilst at the same time protecting and improving the natural and built environment. The challenge of improving the quality of life and also the environment into the 21st Century is one to which I hope that you will contribute and make North Lincolnshire a better place for all.

Eddie Lodge

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that curves back under the name.

Director of Environment and Public Protection