

North Lincolnshire Council's HQ, Church Square House in Scunthorpe

North Lincs paid one of the highest council energy rates in the country

'TERMINATING THE CONTRACT WOULD HAVE LED TO EVEN HIGHER COSTS'

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NORTH Lincolnshire Council is in the top 25 council and other public sector bodies for paying the highest gas and electricity rates for their energy.

An investigation by not-for-profit energy consultancy, Box Power CIC using freedom of information laws and accounts analysis has found notable variation in the prices local authorities pay for their energy.

North Lincolnshire ranked 21st overall out of 404 council and other public sector bodies for the highest price rates for gas and electricity between April 2023 and March 2024.

By contrast, neighbouring North East Lincolnshire Council had almost the lowest energy paying rates in the country.

A senior councillor has credited its work with Equans to purchase energy before the market price hikes for the lower rates.

North Lincolnshire Council paid 42.7p per kwh for electricity, amounting to £6.6m last year, and 14.6p per kwh for gas, working out to £2.6m in the year.

North East Lincolnshire ranked 399, with the fourth lowest rate of energy price costs. It paid 21.5p per kwh for electricity, totalling £2.4m in costs.

On gas, it paid 4.7p per kwh for gas, working out to £452,772 in 2023/24 spent on gas.

Hull had the highest rate in Humberside last year.

A North Lincolnshire Council spokesperson said: "The rises in energy costs in 2023/2024 had an impact on the prices the council paid for both gas and electricity – the same as businesses

and households across the country.

"Terminating the contract the council had with suppliers would have led to even higher costs at that time.

"We have seen prices drop significantly and are paying much less for energy now."

North East Lincolnshire Cllr Stephen Harness, cabinet member for finance, resources and assets, said: "The council's energy frameworks are managed by their delivery partner, Equans.

"By working with Equans, the council avoided the worst of the energy market crisis by purchasing energy just prior to the crisis and waiting out the extreme price spikes.

The council have recently signed a further energy supply agreement under its energy framework.



“The council continue to benefit from a robust risk management policy, with energy prices locked to protect the authority.

“The underlying wholesale price the council pays has increased and is in line with the current market conditions.”

“Box Power CIC are putting these results in the public domain because we want to bring more transparency and value into the sector when it comes to energy buying,” said Corin Dalby, Box Power’s CEO.

“When you consider that some local authorities also buy energy for the schools, leisure centres and more in their area who trust them to deliver the best value for money, the hugely different amounts paid raise some important and difficult questions.”

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Cllr Stephen Harness, cabinet member for finance, resources and assets

