

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	23 July 2020
REPORT OF	Director for Communities (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
SUBJECT	Tracking the recommendations of the Communities Scrutiny Panel
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIM

The scrutiny panels act as a reviewing mechanism for decisions made relating to the strategic policy, performance and resources required to deliver the ambitions of the council and the strategic partnership. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the Council being effective and efficient, and therefore it is integral to the delivery of the Council Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each scrutiny panel monitors the progress made on their recommendations through a tracking table, which is included as an appendix of this report.

MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

Members are asked to look at the progress against the recommendations and agree to sign off any recommendations that have been completed or are no longer considered to be an efficient use of resources or where priorities have changed.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

Each scrutiny panel has a standard agenda item so that they can check progress against the recommendations they have previously made.

Members are asked to look at the progress against the recommendations and agree to sign off any recommendations that have been completed, so that they can be removed from the table. It would also be effective to sign off any recommendations that have not been completed but which are no longer considered to be an efficient use of resources, or where priorities have changed.

Appendix A lists progress on tracked items within the terms of reference of this new panel.

Appendix B lists the remaining recommendations from a review of environmental street scene.

Appendix C lists the nine recommendations from the enforcement scrutiny working group.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Risk assessments will already have been carried out on the reports that these recommendations have come from.

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include risk assessment(s) by the author(s) concerned.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable to this report.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The panel's tracking report demonstrates that the panel monitors progress on its recommendations and required actions. This report further demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations included within this report, beyond scrutiny's enhanced role in monitoring delivery of the council's budget and medium term financial plan.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. The reports that these tracked items have come from will have been assessed for impact.

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include climate change and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

7. MONITORING COMMENTS

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (legal), Section 151 Officer (finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead (human resources).

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS

Potentially impacts on all wards.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes from the Communities Scrutiny Panel -
<http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/committees/>

10. CONTACT OFFICER

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TRACKING OF RECOMMENDATIONS – COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE	PROGRESS / COMMENTS
3 October 2019	<p><u>SPC.26 - Housing Assistance and Disabled Adaptation Policy</u> An update report be provided in six months' time to demonstrate improvements, impact and uptake of the new housing assistance and disabled adaptation policy.</p>	Assistant Director Housing	Complete – Originally scheduled for Communities Scrutiny Panel meeting 2 nd April, 2020. To be circulated to panel members.
28 November 2019	<p><u>SPC.39 – Work programme half-year review</u> Suggested topics for 2020/21 work programme; Food banks and forum, monitoring delivery of the homelessness and rough sleeping strategy. Violent crime (strategy), graffiti and anti-social behaviour (not criminal damage). Also a panel visit to be arranged to Humberside Police Station, Grimsby.</p>	Scrutiny and Committee Advisor	

APPENDIX B

Summary of recommendations and outcomes from a special meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Panel held on 5th December 2019. The meeting was called to consider a 12 month update on progress made following the recommendations of a select committee looking at the quality of the local street scene in North East Lincolnshire. Only unresolved/work in progress/ new recommendations are listed

Reference	RECOMMENDATION	Outcome 5 December 2019
2.2.2	That the use of wild flowers in parks, open spaces and grass verges, in consultation with Ward Councillors and communities, be supported.	RESOLVED – That recommendation 2.2.2 to retain current wild flower schemes with additional steps taken to speed up progress by grass removal where required. Including to review the prospect of further schemes on a ward to ward basis in consultation with ward, town and parish councillors using lessons learnt.
2.2.3	To note the petition requesting improvements to grass cutting in Cleethorpes had been addressed within the review of the grounds maintenance service	RESOLVED – That with regard to recommendation 2.2.4; further work is required in the areas of weed control and an increased focus on the gateways to the borough.
2.2.4	That the review of the grounds maintenance service be endorsed, subject to consideration of long term financial viability.	
3.2.3	That all legal options and best practice be explored in order to pursue enforcement, particularly in respect of fly-tipping.	RESOLVED – That recommendations 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 continue to be monitored subject to the findings and recommendations of the Enforcement Scrutiny Working Group.
3.2.4	That there be improved co-ordination between all stakeholders, leading to more robust enforcement processes and higher profile action.	
4.2.1	That the positive feedback on the Skip It Campaign be noted, and the scheme be reviewed following evaluation of the pilot.	RESOLVED - That support is given to continue Skip-It initiatives in partnership with LHP and community groups as far as financially sustainable without affecting core service offer.
4.2.3	That the offer of support towards any future Skip It! events be noted, and that officers engage with Lincolnshire Housing Partnership when making future arrangements.	
5.2.1	That communications to the public and Members on guidance about service areas be reviewed and improved.	RESOLVED - That the proposed format for communication to the public and members is agreed and steps taken to circulate this to all ward councillors, community groups and parish councils on a quarterly basis.
5.2.3	That enhanced ward based information on street scene activity and enforcement to be provided to Elected Members on a quarterly basis.	

End

APPENDIX C

Summary of nine recommendations from the Enforcement Scrutiny Working Group of the Communities Scrutiny Panel. Final recommendations were ratified by the panel on 4th June 2020 and adopted by Cabinet at its meeting of 8th July 2020. The Director of Growth and Economy was authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities, to implement such recommendations subject to internal governance and controls. (DN.138 refers)

Ref.	RECOMMENDATION	Outcome
1	That commercial regulatory enforcement teams, currently situated at Estuary House and building control (planning condition enforcement) currently located at New Oxford House should remain separate and grouped by the legislation they enforce.	
2	That future integration/generic working of street scene based enforcement activities be considered. Future integration of environmental crime and housing enforcement be explored.	
3	That administration and back office support be developed in line with the amount of enforcement activity.	
4	That a single point of access for reporting to enforcement teams be developed, combined with a triage approach and referral to appropriate teams. Longer term there should be a move to improved software allowing more joined up working between disciplines.	
5	That elected member training be developed relating to the reporting of complaints, referrals and requests for service. This to be implemented following the findings of the customer portal review.	
6	That during the municipal year 2020/21 the Communities Scrutiny Panel receive a report on the work of the NELC Officers' enforcement working group.	
7	That investment in moving vehicle number plate recognition (NPR) technology and utilising road rule enforcement cameras to increase the positive impact of civil enforcement around highways and parking enforcement should be actively explored.	
8	That future procurement of enforcement technology hardware and software, CCTV systems / rapid deployment cameras /. Number plate recognition software / IT systems / case management system / data sharing networks etc. should allow fluency between teams, partners and systems.	
9	That, subject to Cabinet approval of a proposed CCTV strategy, the CCTV Strategic Group to provide an annual report (or more frequent if required) to the Communities Scrutiny Panel to inform of progress and performance around the effectiveness and outcomes of the CCTV Strategy and multi-agency working.	

End.