



Annual Report 2014-15

Review of Scrutiny in 2014-15 and Work Programme for 2015-17

A Foreword from the Scrutiny Chairs

Welcome to our annual report, which highlights the key Scrutiny activities and developments at North East Lincolnshire Council during the 2014/15 municipal year

Scrutiny members have continued to play an important part in delivering the best possible public services for residents by highlighting areas of concern and establishing how the council can make improvements. In doing so, Members learn from experts and best practice and gain an in-depth understanding from people who both deliver and receive services. This ensures that our recommendations get to the heart of the matter and add value to the work of the Council.

Apart from scheduled scrutiny meetings a number of themed meetings, working groups and select committees have been held. Residents and stakeholders have been involved in topics such as East Marsh Social Housing; Care Act; children's safeguarding and domestic abuse.

Scrutiny Members have also had the opportunity to be involved in regional scrutiny work, most notably on Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all members who have served selflessly and who have contributed to the work of the scrutiny panels. You have put in a substantial effort during the course of the year and we look forward to working with you all next year.

We commend this report to Council.



**Councillor
David Bolton**



**Councillor
Jane Hyldon-King**



**Councillor
Ray Sutton**



**Councillor
Jon-Paul Howarth**



**Councillor
Terry Walker**

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	Page 4	6. Health	Page 14
2. Highlights And Headlines	Page 5	7. Safer and Stronger Communities	Page 20
3. Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board	Page 6	8. Regeneration, Environment and Housing	Page 25
4. Tourism, Leisure and Culture	Page 7	9. Scrutiny Work Programme 2015-17	Page 30
5. Children and Young People	Page 9		

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2014/15, Scrutiny was delivered through five panels, coordinated by the Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board. The panels were chaired as follows:
- Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Children and Young People – Councillor Ray Sutton
 - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Health – Councillor Jane Hyldon-King
 - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Regeneration, Environment and Housing – Councillor Jon-Paul Howarth
 - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Safer and Stronger Communities – Councillor David Bolton
 - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Tourism, Leisure and Culture – Councillor Terry Walker.
- 1.2 The purpose of this document is to provide a resume of the work undertaken by the five scrutiny panels and highlight achievements from scrutiny's work in 2014-15 and to outline a two-year work programme for the panels for the period 2015-17.
- 1.3 All agendas and report items considered by the panels during 2014-15 are available on the Council's website under "Your Council", or by contacting scrutiny@nelincs.gov.uk.

2. Highlights and Headlines

- 2.1 Panels have continued their commitment to 'get out and about' with fact finding visits and observations to support the topics in the work programme. Here are just a few of them :
- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ● Diana Princess of Wales Hospital | ● Women's Aid Refuge | ● Centre4 Community Hub |
| ● Museum artefacts stores | ● Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub | ● Troubled Families Sanction Meeting |
| ● Local Safeguarding Children Board | ● Ross Tiger and Time trap | ● Humber Teaching School |
| ● CarePlus | ● Locality Police Stations | ● NAViGO |
| ● Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (domestic abuse) | ● Foundations (drug and alcohol services) | ● Riverside Children's Centre |
| | | ● Grimsby Combined Court |
- 2.2 Scrutiny plays a role in monitoring the delivery of the council's budget transformation statements. All panels have taken an opportunity to comment and have input into the budget setting process.
- 2.3 The health panel has built effective relationships with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Healthy Lives/Healthy Futures has been the number one priority for the panel during 2014/15 and this focus will need to continue over the coming years. Scrutiny members have become cognisant of key drivers for change including financial pressures, recruitment difficulties and the need to have a critical mass of patients in order for clinicians to maintain their levels of expertise.
- 2.4 Great Coates Village Council emerged from a community governance review having met all the recommendation from the select committee. The safer and stronger panel had been monitoring the progress of the village council since 2012 and finally made recommendations to NELC to bring the review to a satisfactory conclusion.
- 2.5 The scrutiny of services to support disadvantaged and vulnerable children has been bolstered by recommendations from the Safe and Cared For Working Group. In-depth performance intelligence on matters of neglect, child sexual exploitation and looked after children will now appear as regular standing items on scrutiny panel agendas.
- 2.6 North East Lincolnshire was able to implement the changes required by the Care Act by the national deadline of 1 April 2015 due to the health panel's consultation undertaken with the CCG and Focus as part of the implementation of the Care Act. This focussed on the need to develop a new policy for charging and financial assessment for adult care and support services. The health panel, within a very tight timescale, worked closely with the portfolio holder and analysed the complex arrangements and legislative requirements and made a number of recommendations, which cabinet endorsed.
- 2.7 A cross-panel scrutiny workshop was held on the draft Local Plan. The Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel resolved

3. Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board

3.1 The following matters were considered by the Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board during the 2014-15 municipal year:

- Budget scrutiny
- Local Plan
- Monitoring of scrutiny work programmes
- Consideration of forward plan items
- Annual scrutiny report
- Budget monitoring – transformation statements.

3.2 These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss how scrutiny is working; resolve any problems; allocate workloads and discuss any pertinent issues (e.g. process for undertaking budget reviews).

4. Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel

4.1 The following matters were considered by the Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel during the 2014-15 municipal year:

Services Provided Lincs Inspire Limited

Issue: To monitor the transition of services to Lincs Inspire and how services, provided by Lincs Inspire, are performing.

Outcome: The performance of Lincs Inspire Limited has been monitored through the consideration of their performance report at scrutiny panel meetings. Members have scrutinised the actions undertaken to achieve the outline business case proposal for The Auditorium contract.

Saltmarsh

Issue: To annually monitor progress made towards the actions in the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.

Outcome: Work to maintain the salt marsh has been scrutinised by the panel. It was noted that a new plan of action for 2016 is being prepared.

Library services



Issue: To receive and comment on the results from the consultation, and help shape the future options for the library.

Outcome: The panel are aware of the results of the public consultation. The consultation gathered over 2000 responses. The panel challenged on the buildings, future service and digital inclusion, which were considered by Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

Budget and financial savings

Issue: A joint working group with the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel met in November to consider the emerging budget proposals and feedback comments, recommendations and alternative suggestions to the Joint

Outcome: The panel, jointly with the Safer and Stronger Communities Panel considered the savings proposals that related to tourism, leisure and culture, and also those for the resources directorate.

Council plan performance

Issue: The panel received the quarterly monitoring report, so that information could be scrutinised and that any areas of concern could be allocated to the relevant Scrutiny Panel for further investigation.

Outcome: Members have monitored how the council was performing against the tasks and actions in the council plan.

The impact of inactivity



Issue: Last year the panel highlighted the relationship between sport and health as part of their consideration of the resources and performance report.

Outcome: The panel fully appreciate the impact of inactivity in terms of health, cost and the impact on the economy. Members asked questions about benchmarking services against other authorities, sports for people with a disability, raising the profile of sports and communications and marketing in general.

Leisure facilities : Ice rink and The Auditorium

Issue: The panel has a role in ensuring that leisure facilities in North East Lincolnshire are fit for purpose.

Outcome: This year the panel considered the options available to the council's leisure review objective in the commercial development and operation of a new ice rink in the area. The panel was also asked to comment on options considered by cabinet in the future management of The Auditorium.

Cultural assets

Issue: The panel identified that they would like to look at how the council manages assets of cultural importance.

Outcome: Members secured visits to the council's museum stores, Ross Tiger and Time Trap and were given a tour by the Head of Cultural Service and the Museum's Collections Assistant. The panel understands the processes and challenges relating to the management of NELC's cultural assets.

5. Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

5.1 The following matters were considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel during the 2014-15 municipal year:

Exclusions from schools

Issue: The panel regularly monitors the numbers of exclusions by means of a report at the end of each school term and an annual report (December 2014) which includes a review of the Behaviour and Attendance Collaborative (BAC). This regular reporting is the result of the findings of a select committee on pupil exclusions (June 2013).



Outcome: Regular reporting and monitoring allows the panel to compare and look for trends in this important indicator. The panel sought assurance on a number of issues including:

- An increase in the number of schools days lost due to exclusion (especially primary schools).
- Individual schools' approach to exclusions
- Closure of the alternative provision at Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education, resulting in 15 young people needing new placements.
- A reduction in the number of high cost placements, offering the LA a more cost effective use of resources.
- The formation of a quality assurance sub-group reporting to the BAC on standards of service delivery and individual student placements.
- Stated reasons for exclusion.
- The conversion of two pupil referrals units to academies under the Wellspring Academy Trust.

Prevention and Early Intervention

Issue: Prevention and early intervention aims to promote better long term life outcomes for vulnerable children and families and in doing so, prevent them from needing more intensive and expensive social care in the future.

Outcome: The panel had its first look at the emerging prevention and early intervention strategy in July. The panel sought assurances that all partners, agencies and schools were being involved prior to redesigning services and a conference held to contribute to this, including partners and head teachers. The Children's Partnership Board would act as the programme board. An update report in March 2015 brought the panel up to date with progress and detailed the

Corporate Quarterly Performance

Issue: The panel reviewed the quarterly council plan performance report.

Outcome: The panel regularly challenged targets and performance in the quarterly council plan report and requested further assurances on various issues including:

- Individual (poor) performance of schools and academies in NEL
- Best practice in school improvement.
- The need for detail and financial information to allow good scrutiny. The panel generally felt that the council plan areas of focus did not reflect the council's role and responsibilities in ensuring a good start in life for children and young people in NEL.
- Young people not in education, employment or training.
- The attainment of looked after children.

Children and Young People Plan 2014-16

Issue: The plan was presented to the panel following consultation and design by young people and approval by the Children's Partnership Board.



Outcome: The panel were impressed that children and young people had played the leading role in producing the plan. Members expressed some concern about the 'ownership' of the plan in that it was compiled by young people and would be monitored by young people's groups and by the Children's Partnership Board. The panel offered its support to young people should there be any problems with progress or performance relating to the plan. The chair of the panel is an observer on the board and this would help to maintain a link between the delivery of the plan and this panel.

Provisional Test and Examination Results December 2014

Issue: Members maintained their focus on attainment via the un-validated results for schools in NEL at a special meeting in

Outcome: The panel noted that un-validated GCSE results were a considerable issues for all local authorities although members noted

Pupil Place Planning and School Admissions

Issue: The panel heard that local improvement in the housing market and proposed housing developments in the draft local plan were expected to dramatically impact on the number of required places and associated phased application. In-year movement may also increase. Following an announcement from Shoreline Housing Partnership that the East Marsh multi-storey flats were scheduled for demolition, the authority had been working closely with local housing providers and affected schools.

The panel requested a report on the availability of school places across the borough.

Outcome: Suggested housing development sites in the draft local plan would see the need for the equivalent of three extra primary schools. Members asked that future sites for new schools / places be identified in the draft local plan (see page 26).



It was noted that new places would have to come from expansion of existing schools and / or new academies or 'free' schools. In response to members' questions they were provided with detailed information regarding the stated reasons for in-year movement.

Review of Strategies for Children in NEL : School Improvement , Special Educational Needs and 14-19 Local Area Statement of Need

Issue: The panel was consulted on the update and refresh of various strategies prior to approval.

Outcome: Members challenged the monitoring of the (successful) delivery of each strategy. Issues raised by members included teacher training and recruitment, changes to special educational needs and disability (SEND) codes of practice, levels of SEN in NEL, growth industries in NEL and attainment of disadvantaged children and young people. Members requested and received membership details for the 14-19 strategy group.

Standards and Achievement Report March 2015



March 2015.

Issue: Members welcomed the summary report which provided the key aspects of performance in schools and educational settings across NEL. Members received un-validated results in December 2014 and verified results in

Outcome: Members are now more aware of specific issues affecting NEL's schools and how Serco are challenging and supporting them to improve. Members asked questions around disadvantaged children, the gender gap, phonics screening and the organisation's confidence in key stage four results moving to national average or above. See also 5.2 below.

Draft Council Priorities, Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Forecast for the Period 2015/16 – 2018/19

Issue: A working group met in November 2014 to consider the emerging budget proposals (transformation statements) and to feedback comments, recommendations. The panel then met in January 2014 to formally consider the draft budget proposals.

Outcome: The panel took the opportunity to question officers further on the transformation statements.

Members raised the following issues: reasons for budget pressures; increasing numbers of looked after children; increases to local council tax; government funding and support; adoption services; integrated youth support' services to children with disabilities; youth offending team; care leavers; special educational needs and education welfare services.

Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints Annual Report 2013/14

Issue: It is a statutory requirement for the council to produce an annual report of complaints and representations received by the council. The children's social care statutory complaint annual report provides an overview of the activity and analysis during the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. It was referred to the

Outcome: The purpose of the report was to inform members, the general public and council officers about the effectiveness of the statutory complaints procedure. Members noted an increase in the number of complaints but that all had been resolved. The panel particularly appreciated the well-structured report and the section on



Issue: The panel called a special meeting on 27 March 2015 to allow timely consideration of the NEL LSCB annual report.

Outcome: The new Chairman of the LSCB attended to speak to panel members. The panel are now more aware of issues affecting NEL's disadvantaged and vulnerable children and how the LSCB is challenging and supporting partners to improve. Members asked questions around effective engagement with children and young people, scrutiny of stakeholders, adoption and evaluating the impact of action. Members looked forward to receiving the LSCB scorecards as part of a regular standing report to the panel in the upcoming municipal year. The panel would continue to spotlight child poverty, neglect and disadvantaged children in its future work programme. See also 5.3 below.

- 5.2 The panel has continued its in-depth scrutiny of school improvement. On 25 September 2014 the panel held a workshop to facilitate fact finding about school improvement in North East Lincolnshire. The panel heard about recent changes relating to the changing role of the local authority regarding academies, changes to Ofsted inspection regime and methodology and the appointment of a Regional School Commissioner. Members discussed school designations, changes to local alternative provision, elements that influence designation, criteria for support, determination of 'requires improvement', how we handled academies of concern, barriers to school improvement, how the service supports and encourages networking and partnerships working between schools and academies and teacher recruitment and retention. Members considered the authority's self-assessment against current and known Ofsted criteria and sought assurance that appropriate challenge was enabled in relation to the statements made within the assessment document. The panel requested supplementary information on the revised Ofsted inspection criteria, 'championing excellence', a panel report on admissions, school and academy roll numbers, the local authority's actions relating to schools and academies 'of concern', skills/leadership gaps in relation to teacher recruitment and the school improvement action plan. The panel also arranged a site visit on the 10 November to The Healing School, A Science Academy and Teaching School.
- 5.3 The substantive issue for the panel during this municipal year has been that of children in need of help and protection, looked after children, care leavers and adoption. Following a workshop in April 2014 the panel retained this item in its work programme and in July 2014 appointed a 'Safe and Cared For Working Group' (SACFWG) to conduct an in-depth examination of services that ensure all children and young in NEL were safe and cared for. The working group met throughout the municipal year and reported to the panel in December 2014 with emerging issues. Members had evidenced their findings with reference to a huge amount of background documents, interviews with lead officers and observation visits to a number of bodies including the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.

6.1 The following matters were considered by the Health Scrutiny Panel during the 2014-15 municipal year:

Health and Wellbeing Board and implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Issue: Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) are responsible for producing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and for developing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the area. The boards also have a specific statutory responsibility for promoting the integration of health and social care services in the area.

Outcome: The roles and responsibilities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and health scrutiny have been clarified this year. The Chairs of the two committees have worked closely together on a number of issues, including implementation of the Care Act and the development of a new charging and financial assessment for adult care and support services policy.

Review of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector

Issue: In 2014, the council, CCG and police undertook a review of the borough's existing voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector infrastructure.

Outcome: Members received two updates on the VCSE project at formal panel meetings, in addition to the Local Welfare Provision Fund Working Group also considering the VCSE review.

Relationship between NELC, CCG, NAViGO, Focus and Care Plus

Issue: There are a number of commissioners and providers of health and social care in North East Lincolnshire and the relationship between them is both complex and important, with huge financial challenges over the coming years. The panel sought to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of its different commissioning and delivery partners.

Outcome: The CCG is a key partner at all health scrutiny meetings and have lead on many issues. The panel routinely receives the adult social care progress report from the CCG. The panel has also received presentations from NAViGO, Focus, Care Plus and the council's own Lifestyle and Behaviour Change team.

Members have also undertaken visits to both NAViGO and Care Plus services to further develop their understanding of the roles of each organisation and the relationships between them.

Healthwatch



Issue: Every local authority has a local Healthwatch organisation. These are commissioned by local authorities as independent bodies to act as a voice for current and potential users of health and care services. It is important that health scrutiny has a good working relationship with its local Healthwatch organisation to ensure clear communication and sharing of information.

Outcome: The scrutiny panel has engaged with Healthwatch throughout the year and Healthwatch representatives have regularly attended health scrutiny meetings. The Chair of the panel has also regularly met with Healthwatch representatives.

Healthwatch brought an important issue to scrutiny regarding the number of outstanding continuing care assessments, which the panel has continued to monitor throughout the year.

LGA Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge

Issue: North East Lincolnshire Council took part in the Local Government Agency (LGAs) health and wellbeing peer challenge programme.

The peer review in June 2014 explored how the council and its partners were working together to deliver successful health outcomes through their health and wellbeing board (HWB) and new responsibilities to improve health and ensure better integration between health and social care.

Outcome: The report from the peer challenge review and the subsequent improvement plan was approved by council and considered by health scrutiny at their February meeting who requested to be involved in the progress of the improvement plan.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Issue: In 2013, NLAG were one of the 14 trusts nationally which fell into the scope of the Keogh Review, due to their performance on the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI). Since then, the Trust



Outcome: The Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive of Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (NLAG) have regularly attended health scrutiny meetings to provide performance updates and answer questions from panel members. Panel members have also considered a number of other NLAG issues throughout the year including the audit of cardiac arrests and subsequent actions undertaken, the new food contract, including cost per patient and clinical

Issue: The Care Act 2014 received Royal Assent on 14 May 2014, bringing into force the Law Commission's recommendations for the reform of adult social care. The Act implemented the most far-reaching reforms of adult social care law for over 60 years.

Outcome: The health scrutiny panel has received presentations on the Care Act and Better Care Fund and has received regular updates on their implementation

In addition to this, the health scrutiny panel set up a working group in January 2015 to consider the development of a new policy for charging and financial assessment for adult care and support services, as a result of the requirements of the Care Act.

Mental Capacity Act

Issue: The Mental Capacity Act 2005 marked a turning point in the statutory rights of people who may lack capacity. The Act signified a step change in the legal rights afforded to those who may lack capacity, with the potential to transform the lives of many.

The changes to the Mental Capacity Act's Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) have led to a greater number of service users now being subject to a DoLS, and a significant increase in the number of social care assessments which council officers and CCG colleagues are now required to complete.

Outcome: Health scrutiny received an update on the Mental Capacity Act and the Deprivation of Liberty Standards at their September panel meeting and acknowledged the significant work pressure that this has caused.

Fairer Contributions Policy

Issue: National regulations and guidance require local authorities to charge for residential and nursing home services and very strongly encourages them to charge for non-residential services. Local authorities must follow government guidance to ensure charges are made fairly.

This policy has been superseded by the Care Act 2014.

Outcome: The health scrutiny panel considered the Fairer Contributions Policy in July 2014.

The panel subsequently held an all panel member working group to consider the implications of the Care Act in terms of charging in January 2015. The working group made a number of recommendations for Cabinet to consider for the new charging and financial assessment for adult care and support services policy.

Issue: Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures is a review of health and care services in North and North East Lincolnshire, led by both North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups, in partnership with local health and care organisations. The aim is to look over the next 5 – 10 years, at how an improved health and care system can be developed that delivers safe, high quality and affordable services for years to come.

It was agreed at the Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board on 24 January 2014 that a formal working group be set up to monitor the proposals through the Health Lives/Healthy Futures programme.

The working group will oversee the development of the programme throughout its lifespan.



Outcome: Healthy Lives / Healthy Futures has been a priority for the health scrutiny panel throughout 2014/15 and a working group has met a total of six times during the year.

In September 2014 members fully scrutinised proposals relating to the centralisation of hyper-acute stroke care at Scunthorpe General Hospital and ENT Inpatient surgery at Diana, Princess of Wales hospital. A formal response was submitted on the two specific proposals. The scrutiny working group met with senior CCG managers on 12 November to air concerns and consequently endorsed the joint recommendation of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire CCG to permanently centralise Hyper-Acute Stroke Care at Scunthorpe General Hospital with a number of recommendations.

The panel hosted a successful regional health scrutiny workshop in November 2014.

A working group met in January 2015 to consider transport issues and began their discussions around the need for an urgent care service. In March 2015 members discussed the programme governance and the draft proposals for the next stage of the Healthy Lives/Healthy Futures programme with senior CCG managers. Members stressed the importance of being clear and open about the intended outcomes of the Healthy Lives/Healthy Futures programme, both financial and otherwise. The risks attached to the overall programme including the roles/responsibilities of individuals and organisations have also been discussed.

In April 2015, the working group received the draft options for the next stage of the Healthy Lives/Healthy Futures programme, prior to formal consultation. Healthy Lives / Healthy Futures will continue to be a

Quality of local mental health care provision and adult safeguarding

Issue: In February 2014, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook unannounced inspections at three properties in North East Lincolnshire which provide care for people with mental health care issues.

The CQC found shortfalls in the standards at all three homes and the provider was informed that improvements were required in a number of areas.

An informal meeting between elected members, local neighbours and representatives from the provider took place in May to discuss the CQC reports. At this meeting it was agreed by the Leader that this matter be considered by the health scrutiny panel.

Outcome: The panel set up a working group in October 2014 to consider the roles and responsibilities of the council, local communities and national agencies in ensuring that quality standards are maintained within private care services that are commissioned on the council's behalf by the CCG. The panel also agreed that the working group would consider the role/influence the council can have on the quality of local provision which is not commissioned through the local arrangements (such as the provider in question), but which might be available for use by self-funders or external (out of area) commissioners. It was agreed that the provider in question would be used as a case study for the working group.

The health scrutiny working group met a number of interested parties as part of its study and as a result came to a number of conclusions and made several recommendations which Cabinet approved.

Housing Related Support Review (formerly "Supporting People")

Issue: Housing related support services refer to the government-funded scheme for vulnerable people for the purpose of "developing that person's capacity to live independently in accommodation or sustaining his capacity to do so". It aims to help vulnerable people live as independently as possible in the local community and to have a good quality of life.

Outcome: The panel considered the housing related support services review at the panel meeting in September and agreed that members needed to continue to review progress in the provision of services.

Local Welfare Provision Fund

Issue: A joint scrutiny panel workshop focussing on the impact of welfare reform and the Local Welfare Provision Fund took place in March 2014. It was agreed that members would

Outcome: The health scrutiny panel set up a working group in November 2014 to look at the Local Welfare Provision Fund. The group spoke to a number of officers involved in the fund in addition to

Draft Council Plan Priorities, Budget 2015-16 and Medium Term Financial Plan

Issue: All panels have been informed of the two year budget which forms part of the medium term financial plan, along with a number of transformation statements. Scrutiny will have a more comprehensive role in the budget over the next two years to review progress and to challenge and support as circumstances change and risks emerge.

Outcome: The health panel held a budget workshop in November 2014 and held a “budget only” panel meeting in January 2015. The health panel also met as a working group to consider the consultation on proposals including full cost recovery for the meals on wheels service, day care provision for older and vulnerable adults and transport services to day care provision. All recommendations made by the panel were taken forward by the CCG. The panel will be required to monitor the adult social care efficiencies throughout the next two years.

Council Plan Resources and Performance Report

Issue: The council produces a quarterly performance and a quarterly resources report which is considered by scrutiny following its approval by cabinet.

Outcome: The panel has regularly considered targets and performance in the quarterly council plan reports.

- 6.2 The panel has also considered other matters including the CCG and NELC Business Plan, the Public Health annual report, the East Midlands Ambulance Service strategies and quality account, lifestyle and behaviour change services, the adult social care strategy, adult social care progress reports, adult social care and statutory health complaints and NHS Personal Medical Service contract review.
- 6.3 The panel has undertaken three separate visits in the community, including a tour of NAViGO services (Harrison House, Rharian Fields, the Gardens, Tukes and People’s Park); Care Plus services (Freeman Street Resource Centre, Curzon Centre, the Beacon and Cromwell Road Health and Wellbeing Centre) and Diana Princess of Wales hospital (including various wards, A&E and the kitchens).

7. Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel

7.1 The following matters were considered by the Panel during the 2014-15 municipal year:

Great Coates Village Council (GCVC) Community Governance Review



Issue: The panel is monitoring Great Coates Village Council's compliance with recommendations from a Community Governance Review Select Committee held in November 2012. A special meeting of the panel was held on 18 September 2014 at Great Coates Village Hall.

Outcome: The panel made a number of recommendations which were considered at a special meeting of Council on 13 November 2014. Ultimately council determined that the requirements of the community governance review had been complied with. It was subsequently resolved by Great Coates Village Council not to proceed with the offer of a loan from NELC.

North East Lincolnshire Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership Plan 2014-17

Issue: The panel was consulted on the annual refresh of the Crime Reduction Partnership Plan. The plan is an important document for local residents, detailing how partners and the council will provide local services to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse in NEL.

Outcome: The panel considered the report and raised the following issues; how NEL compares with other local authorities especially in its 'family group', increasing incidents of domestic abuse despite changes to 'improve' services, unambitious performance targets, approaches to tackling anti-social behaviour in the night-time economy. The panel received the plan.

Scrutiny of Performance Reporting

Issue: The panel routinely receives the council's quarterly corporate performance report. In addition the panel receives

Outcome: The panel regularly challenge performance and targets on various matters including, during this municipal year; analysis of data

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Crime and Policing Act 2014

Issue: Changes in the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 gave new powers to police forces and local authorities to tackle ASB. Members considered a report outlining the changes and the new tools and powers which would come into force (October 2014).

Outcome: The panel developed an in-depth knowledge of new legislation and challenged the partnership on how it would meet the new requirements of the Act. Members undertook a number of visits and observations to inform their debate; attendance at training sessions aimed at agency officer practitioners in the new powers, observation of various specialist service meetings including antisocial behaviour panel, troubled families sanctions allocation, East Marsh estate meeting and anti-social behaviour/criminal damage thematic group. Cases relating to ASB heard at Grimsby Combined Crown Court were also observed by members. A ward councillor for West Marsh ward, Councillor Billard, attended to speak to members about his experiences of dealing with some extreme cases of ASB. The panel were particularly impressed by the multi-agency approach, collaborative working and the commitment of individuals. The panel asked for further work to be carried out to identify resources needed to meet the requirements of the new legislation and will consider this issue further in the 2015/16 work programme.

The Future of Humberside Police : One Team, Making a difference

Issue: Humberside Police had published a document outlining changes to take effect from April 2015. The changes were partly in response to the austerity programme but also the Chief Constable's desire to modernise the force and make a difference to policing in Northern Lincolnshire. The panel called a special meeting to consider the document

Outcome: The Police Crime Commissioner along with senior police officers from the Humberside Force attended the meeting to present the report. Members challenged on relocation of the command hub (to Hull), potential lack and loss of local knowledge, retention of police stations, changes to police officer shift pattern, use of technology and social media and joint working with other Yorkshire and Lincolnshire forces and Humberside Fire and Rescue services. Members received assurances that front line services in NEL would not be adversely affected.

Tackling Substance Misuse

Issue: The panel retained this item in its work programme following a themed meeting in September 2013 to monitor the impact of funding and organisational changes.



Outcome: The panel visited primary care and commissioned services to support drug and /or alcohol dependent individuals before a themed meeting. Members are more aware of the area's uniqueness, problems and successes relating to substance misuse. Issues debated included opiate use (there is a relatively high percentage of heroin users in NEL); needle exchange services; novel psychoactive substances (NPS), local culture and attitudes to alcohol and the relatively high numbers of drug users (in NEL) in treatment (penetration rate).

North East Lincolnshire Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership Plan 2015 -

Issue: The crime reduction partnership presented its refreshed partnership plan to the panel for comment. The panel consider the plan annually. In addition to commenting on the content, members use it to help determine suitable issues for future scrutiny.

Outcome: The panel is aware of the partnership's priorities for the next three years. The panel had featured current priorities in its themed meetings over the previous two municipal years and would continue to monitor work to tackle domestic abuse and the impact of new legislation to reduce anti-social behaviour. The panel would further review violent crime during the new municipal year.

Community Leadership

Issue: As part of the council's stronger communities focus, the panel held a special meeting to consider initiatives emerging from the report to cabinet (14 July 2014).

Outcome: The panel are more aware of the council's approach to releasing community capacity, developments in partnerships, the role of the voluntary sector, engaging with communities and using resources differently. Members asked questions about community hubs, parish councils, an impending findings report of a collaborative review between Humberside Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group aimed at making best use of available (joint) resources, Councillors as a source of community intelligence and a directory of service provision.

Draft Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Forecast for the Period 2015/16 to 2018/19

Issue: A joint working group of this panel and the Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel met in November 2013, to consider the emerging budget proposals and feedback comments, recommendations and alternative suggestions to the Joint Executive Board (JEB). The joint panel then met (January 2015) to formally consider the draft budget proposals.

Outcome: The panel, jointly with the Tourism, Leisure and Culture Panel considered the savings proposals that related to tourism, leisure and culture, and also those for the resources directorate.

Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA)



Issue: The panel routinely receives the findings within the JSIA. Officers present a detailed report. Areas which are highlighted are considered for inclusion in the panel's work programme.

Outcome: The panel is aware of the rationale behind the crime reduction partnership's continuing priorities of violent crime, burglary, antisocial behaviour and victim care. Members received a detailed presentation and raised issues around recorded crime, positive outcomes for victims and reparation projects. The panel agreed that it had benefitted from the visits and observations undertaken throughout the year and hoped that the themed meetings approach would continue. Members felt more informed about issues and welcomed opportunities to build relationships with partners informing their challenge and debate on work programme topics. The panel added violent crime and reoffending to its work programme for 2015/16.

- 7.2 The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel has, where possible, taken a themed approach to its scheduled panel meetings. Members have used the time between meetings to undertake research and visit services and partners that contribute to creating stronger communities and the reduction of crime and disorder in NEL. Visits in 2014-15 included, the Partnership headquarters at the Elms, Women's Aid Refuge, Centre4 Community Hub, Cleethorpes Police Station (Public Protection Unit), Riverside Children's Centre (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference and Troubled Families Sanctions Allocation meeting, Hamilton Street Police Station (ASB and criminal damage thematic group and East Marsh Estate meeting), Grimsby Combined Crown Court (ASB and criminal damage case work), Grimsby Practices in Partnership (primary care drug and alcohol intervention) and Foundations (commissioned services for substance misuse). The panel has met with general practitioners, representatives from

Communities Partnership, and the local authority. Public meetings have been held away from the usual venue at Grimsby Town Hall at Centre4 Community Hub and Great Coates Village Hall. This year has seen an increasing focus on 'stronger communities' with the panel considering reports on community hubs and community leadership. Ward councillors and other councillors, not on the panel, with an interest or expertise in matters under consideration have also participated in panel meetings. Panel members also observed partnership activities in the night time economy (NTE), Operation Ferret.

7.3 North East Lincolnshire Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee, under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009. The committee must sit at least once each municipal year to scrutinise crime and disorder matters and can co-opt members from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). In North East Lincolnshire, the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership (SSCP) is the CSP.

7.3.1 The Crime and Disorder Committee met on the 22 January 2015 with co-opted members from the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board. The panel called the meeting to consider the partnership's work to tackle the prevalence of domestic abuse across the borough and detailing the progress and vision to develop a one system approach. Partners structured their report around the Centre for Public Scrutiny's publication "Ten questions to ask if you are scrutinising domestic violence". Prior to the meeting committee members visited the Women's Aid Refuge, Cleethorpes Police Station (Public Protection Unit), Riverside Children's Centre (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and Young Peoples Support Services. Members asked questions around support for male victims, high levels of casework of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), approach to high risk victims and the average length of stay at the refuge. Members received additional information on the needs assessment and asked that a progress report be brought to the panel as part of its 2015/16 work programme to keep members informed and allow challenge on the developments and vision around the 'one system approach'.

8. Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel

- 8.1 The following matters were considered by the Regeneration, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Panel during the 2014-15 municipal year:

Regeneration Partnership Performance Monitoring

Issue: Members regularly received the regeneration partnership's performance report which identifies the priorities, indicators and performance measures which assess and monitor the contractual obligations and the operational effectiveness of the regeneration partnership with Cofely. This covers the core outcomes in terms of regeneration, investment, highways, transport and planning.

Outcome: Target setting and performance were challenged throughout the year. Specific concerns were raised around the timescales of the local plan, how the planning process is performance managed, new housing developments and empty homes.

Skills and employability

Issue: The panel want to ensure the skills hub is developed and delivered successfully and meets the set outcomes.

Outcome: The panel received a presentation on the skills hub and the assessment of the local economy at their meeting on 24 June 2014.

The panel requested that the Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board consider a joint piece of work being carried out around skills, with the children and young people's panel. This is something that panels are expecting to carry out in the new municipal year.

Local employment



Issue: To consider the inward investment programme and to monitor its impact across the

Outcome: The panel received a presentation on the assessment of the local economy at their meeting on 24 June 2014. The Panel discussed how the three studies would contribute to the delivery of

Sustainable Housing

Issue: To take an active role in the development of the Local Plan

Outcome: Scrutiny feedback will be included in the formal draft Local Plan community consultation report to cabinet. A workshop was held in February 2014 to consult with all panels on the Local Plan. The well attended workshop gathered scrutiny member comments on general and panel specific issues.

Transport

Issue: To have a more active role in the delivery of the Local Transport Plan and to review the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. To consider the Transpennine and Express and Northern Rail Service consultation.

Outcome: Scrutiny members' views formed part of the council's response to the consultation A cross-panel working group considered the research that had been carried out in response to the Transpennine Express and Northern Rail Service consultation.

Cabinet considered the Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy with the benefit of feedback and comment by the panel

Humberston Fitties

Issue: A select committee was held in 2012, which made ten recommendations to cabinet. Cabinet approved those recommendations in January 2014. One of the recommendations was to consider the future management of the site.

Outcome: Progress against recommendations has been monitored throughout the year. The findings of the flood risk assessment were debated in December 2014 in a joint meeting with the Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel .

Budget and financial savings

Issue: A working group met in November 2014, to consider the emerging budget proposals and feedback comments, recommendations and alternative suggestions to the Joint Executive Board (JEB). The panel then met (January 2015) to

Outcome: The panel supported the proposals, but took the opportunity to question officers further on the proposed transformation statements. Members raised the following issues; ring-fencing of budgets relating to home options service, community

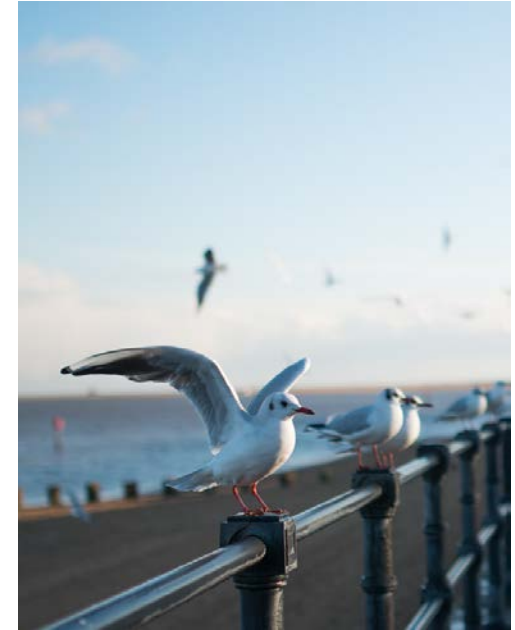
Issue: There were several strands within the sustainable environment area of focus that the panel will be looking at over the next three years:

- Waste – the panel will be consulted with on the revised waste strategy.
- Air quality – the panel will be involved in a review of performance against the national air quality standard and review of the findings of the coal dust select committee in Immingham.
- Dog fouling – the panel will be consulted and help to shape the dog fouling initiative proposal prior to implementation.
- Flooding - the panel will monitor the progress made with the local flood risk management strategy.
- Speed cameras – In March 2014 council resolved that the consistency of the use of speed cameras across the borough be investigated more fully by the relevant scrutiny panel.

Outcome: Regular updates on the dog fouling initiative have been challenged.

A working group was formed to comment on the local flood risk management strategy. The panel also considered the section 19 reports, which are produced following a flood.

The panel considered a report on air quality management issues, and resolved to consider the new air quality management strategy which is has been prepared.



Council Plan Performance

Issue: The panel reviewed the quarterly council plan performance and resources report.

Outcome: Regular challenge on targets and performance in the quarterly council plan reports has been achieved. Members have questioned and sought further information on various issues including young people's support services; young people not in education, employment or training; the 'big switch' energy scheme and South Humber Energy Efficiency Partnership (SHEEP) schemes for households in fuel poverty. .

- 8.2 In addition, the panel formed a select committee which met in January 2015 to consider social housing in the East Marsh, in response to the decision taken by Shoreline Housing Partnership to demolish the six high rise flats and maisonettes in Comber Place. The select committee considered the decision making process, consultation results, re-provision of housing and impact on planning and the local area and made a number of recommendations:
- 8.3 Following a petition received by the council on 12 March 2014 this panel formed a select committee to consider the funding of public toilets in the context of historic savings proposals that had been put forward and to include the possible introduction of charging. The select committee was formed and met in September 2014. Their findings were submitted to cabinet and at its meeting on 13 October 2014. A number of resolution were made. The select committee members have met again informally, to be updated on the progress made with the plan and feasibility of options, and their views were included in the final report to cabinet.
- 8.4 The panel also considered a number of call-ins:
- The new Local Plan – 2014 revised local development scheme.
 - The introduction of charging for advice before a planning application is submitted and for the monitoring of legal agreements (under s106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990)
 - Cabinet working group on flooding

In the first two cases, the decisions made by cabinet were implemented. In the case of the flooding working group, the decision was implemented subject to the adoption of a detailed action plan.

9. Work Programme 2015-17

- 9.1 Members who sit on each scrutiny panel have the opportunity to suggest items for the panel work programme. All suggestions for 2015-1 are listed for each scrutiny panel in this section of the report. It is recommended that panels confirm their priorities for their work programmes at the first meeting in the 2015/16 municipal year.
- 9.2 In addition to the items suggested, there will be the opportunity to identify work programme items from the forward plan and the council's quarterly performance and resources report.
- 9.3 Panels will also consider regular standing items
- to track the recommendations of the panel and its working groups or select committees
 - to monitor delivery of the council's transformation statements and other significant savings proposals via a regular exceptions report with a focus on those issues relevant to the remit of the panel
 - to monitor relevant performance information via regular reports from the council and other key partners.
- 9.4 The Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board will continue to look at issues that relate to the scrutiny process and to coordinate those issues that cut across the work of all the scrutiny panels. The work programme will also include receiving updates from the chairs of the scrutiny panels on the work that their panels are involved in and any plans for select committees, review work or working groups, so that the work can be co-ordinated and that there is no duplication of effort.
- 9.5 Suggested panel work programmes :

Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel

- Services provided by Lincs Inspire Limited
- Library services (including central library feasibility study)
- Leisure facilities
- Tourism/visitor economy
- Saltmarsh
- Management of cultural assets
- Arts and culture provision

Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel

- Economy strategy
- Skills strategy
- Inward investment programme
- Progress made by the Local Economic Partnerships
- Regional Growth Funded schemes.
- Waste
- Air quality strategy
- Dog fouling
- Local plan
- Working group – quality of housing
- Monitor the recommendations and actions of the Cabinet Flood Working Group.
- Humberston Fitties, outcome of flood risk assessment (joint with Tourism)
- Rail consultation
- Review of local sustainable transport fund
- Delivery of the local transport plan
- Working group - Speed camera enforcement
- Review of operations (joint work with Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel)

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

- Prevention and early intervention
- Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- 14 – 19 skills & education
- Embed performance monitoring and policy development relating to children and young people incorporating exempt item consideration of safeguarding, looked after children and school improvement and Local Safeguarding Children Board performance reporting including child poverty, neglect and disadvantaged children.

Health Scrutiny Panel

- Healthy Lives / Healthy Futures (*working group*)
- Adult Social Care: the adult social care strategy; implementation of the Care Act and the adult social care efficiencies and the future of adult social care – including effective market management and managing expectations (*potential working group*)
- Prevention: The work of public health and the wider role of the local authority in the prevention of poor health and wellbeing, the spend of the public health grant and the need for a single prevention strategy for the area (*potential working group*)
- Performance reports from various bodies (NELC/NLAG/CCG/Care Plus/Focus/NAViGO)
- Mortality rates at Diana Princess of Wales Hospital – getting behind the SHMI (mortality indicator)
- Mental health, especially children's mental health
- Transport and accessibility of health services

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel

- Domestic abuse (update)
- Impact of Anti-social Behaviour Act
- Impact of Police operational changes
- Prevent
- Violence [from Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA)]
- Re-offending (from JSIA)
- Review of operations (joint work with Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel)

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