



# Annual Report 2015-16

## Review of Scrutiny in 2015-16 and Work Programme for 2016-18

## 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 2015/16 municipal year

In addition to our scheduled scrutiny meetings a number of themed meetings, working groups and workshops have been held. Residents and stakeholders have been involved in topics such as the draft Local Plan; In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) policy; domestic abuse; novel psychoactive substances (legal highs), neglect and domestic abuse. Members have been keen to 'see things for themselves' and have undertaken a number of site visits and information gathering visits to partners and community groups to inform their debates.

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.

Within the council we will continue to monitor developments with the review of operational services and to play a key role in the budget setting process. Our focus will be on supporting delivery of the Council's priorities and, in particular, the new commissioning approach and associated outcomes framework.

We look forward to the new challenges that the coming year will bring us and will continue to pay close attention to the issues that we know are important to the residents of Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Immingham and the Wolds villages.

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

We commend this report to Council.



**Councillor  
Melanie Dickerson**



**Councillor  
Ian Lindley**



**Councillor  
Ron Shepherd**



**Councillor  
Matthew Stinson**



**Councillor  
John Stockton**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2015-16, 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 Ian Lindley
  - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Health – Councillor Melanie Dickerson
  - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Regeneration, Environment and Housing – Councillor Matthew Stinson
  - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Safer and Stronger Communities – Councillor John Stockton
  - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Tourism, Leisure and Culture – Councillor Ron Shepherd
- 1.2 The purpose of this document is to provide a resumé of the work undertaken by the five scrutiny panels and highlight achievements from scrutiny's work in 2015-16 and to outline a work programme for the panels for the period 2016-18.
- 1.3 All agendas and report items considered by the panels during 2015-16 are available on the Council's website or by contacting [democracy@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@nelincs.gov.uk).

## 2. Highlights and Headlines

- 2.1 Scrutiny plays a role in both considering emerging budget proposals and monitoring the delivery of the council's budget. This year all panels had the opportunity to comment and have input into the budget setting process, initially via a 'whole scrutiny' budget working group and then formally via individual panel meetings.
- 2.2 Scrutiny continues to monitor the performance of its partners and this year has provided challenge to new policing arrangements, services provided by Lincs Inspire, education achievement, mortality figures and performance of the regeneration partnership.
- 2.3 The health panel has built effective relationships with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). There has been a continued focus on Healthy Lives/Healthy Futures and the panel has engaged with the public and stakeholders to provide views on adult social care efficiency savings and policy matters such as IVF treatment.
- 2.4 The scrutiny of services to support disadvantaged and vulnerable children has been assisted by the introduction of performance scorecards, provided by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, on topics such as child sex exploitation and neglect. It is anticipated that this scorecard approach will be extended to allow effective performance monitoring of outcomes across all scrutiny panels.
- 2.5 Scrutiny has played a key role in the provision of the Council's transformation savings programme, providing valuable input, for example, with regard to the review of operational services and the making waste pay proposals.
- 2.6 Panels have continued their commitment to 'get out and about' with a number of fact finding visits and observations to support the topics in the work programme.

### 3. Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel

3.1 The following matters were considered by the Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel during the 2015-16 municipal year:

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#### Services provided by Lincs Inspire Limited

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

**What we did:** The performance of Lincs Inspire Limited has been monitored through the consideration of their performance report at scrutiny panel meetings. Members held a Panel meeting at the Bradley Community Stadium to view the facilities and receive a presentation on the services provided.

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#### Saltmarsh

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

**What we did:** Work to maintain the salt marsh has been scrutinised by the panel. It was noted that a new line for removal of the salt marsh had been agreed with Natural England. A new management plan had been prepared and would be reported to scrutiny.

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#### Community Libraries

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**Issue:** To monitor the development of the community library projects, including the transfer of the community library buildings.

**What we did:** The panel received briefings on the projects and was satisfied that continuity of important services for the local communities of North East Lincolnshire had been achieved.

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#### Armed Forces Day

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**Issue:** To monitor preparations for the Armed Forces Day events that had been awarded to North East Lincolnshire for 2016.

**What we did:** The panel received regular briefings on the preparations. Members questioned the Armed Forces team and commented on proposals ahead of what is expected to be a successful programme of events, bringing national recognition to the area.

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### Cleethorpes Railway Station Clock Tower

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**Issue:** This matter was brought to the attention of the Panel as concerns had been raised about the state of disrepair of the clock tower, which was considered an important part of the area's heritage and an historical artefact.

**What we did:** The panel received briefings on progress with the required repair work. Negotiations continue to be held with Network Rail with a view to progressing the application for Listed Building Consent – which is required before work to renovate and restore the clock can be undertaken.

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### Ross Tiger

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**Issue:** This matter was brought to the attention of the Panel to make sure that necessary steps were taken to preserve the Ross Tiger for future generations.

**What we did:** Updates were provided to the Panel on steps taken to date and this matter will feature in next year's work programme.

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### Former Grimsby Swimming Pool Site

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**Issue:** To conduct pre-decision scrutiny of proposals for the decommissioning and future use of the former Grimsby Swimming Pool site.

**What we did:** The panel considered options, requested some further information and, in principle, supported the preferred option presented to Cabinet.

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### Humberston Fitties

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**Issue:** A joint panel with the Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel met to consider the findings of the independent Flood Risk Assessment relating to the Humberston Fitties Chalet Park..

**What we did:** The panel, jointly with the Regeneration, Environment and Housing considered the advice of the consultants who had conducted the assessment and the representations of resident groups from the chalet park. Recommendations were subsequently made to Cabinet although decisions were subsequently delayed and are not expected to be made until June, 2016.

3.2 In addition to the above, the panel received updates on the following matters within its remit:

- Discover NEL – presentation on the development of the Discover NEL brand
- Digital Strategy for North East Lincolnshire – requested from the Forward Plan as an item of pre-decision scrutiny
- Tourism and the Visitor Economy – as part of the Panel’s work programme
- North East Lincolnshire Economic Strategy - requested from the Forward Plan as an item of pre-decision scrutiny
- Grimsby and Cleethorpes Town Centres Investment Plan – as part of formal consultation on the plans.

3.3 The panel also considered the following call-in of a decision taken by Cabinet:

- Discretionary Rate Relief – Lincs Inspire



## 4. Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

4.1 The following matters were considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel during the 2015-16 municipal year:

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### Prevention and early intervention

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**Issue:** The Council has been successful in bidding for Social Care Innovation Programme (SCIP) funding from the Department for Education (DfE). From over 350 initial bids NELC is one of 53 councils benefiting from this one-off award.

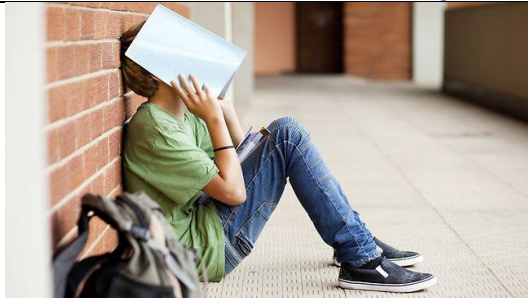
**What we did:** The panel had its first look at the SCIP in July 2015. Members asked questions about how the success and impact of the programme would be evidenced and evaluated. In March 2016 Mr John Rodger from York Consulting attended to explain the role of the council's evaluation partner and to describe the positive impact on outcomes resulting from the early stages of the programme. These included improved recruitment and retention rates for social workers (currently 25%) and a significant reduction in re-referral rates.

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### Exclusions from schools and annual report of the behaviour and attendance collaborative (BAC)

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**Issue:** Following a select committee on pupil exclusions in 2013/14, the panel requested termly reports to show the number of permanent and fixed term exclusions in schools and academies in NEL. The panel also receives an annual report (November 2015) analysing trends and detailing, by school, the total number of exclusions during the academic year. The annual report also contains information about pupil referral units and alternative provision.



**What we did:** The panel was concerned that the number of exclusions in secondary and primary schools in NEL continued to be increasing. In particular the number of permanent exclusions made without reference to the BAC. Members have visited to observe the work of the BAC; the BAC is a partnership of all secondary academies who meet weekly to work together to best manage the education provision for pupils who are referred to it. Members found the visits a valuable insight into the stories behind their regular statistical reports. Members received current DfE guidance on the classification of behaviour leading to exclusion and commented on the serious nature of the given grounds for permanent exclusions. It was noted that permanent exclusions, which appeared not to have sufficient grounds, were challenged by the Council's exclusions officer. The panel asked for additional information about disadvantaged children to be included in the termly reports. Members also suggested that this topic be added to the panel's work programme for next year.

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## Report by the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO)

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**Issue:** The panel received a report regarding a complaint made against the council. The Local Government Ombudsman had found in favour of the complainant.

**What we did:** The panel heard the details of the case and focussed on lessons learned. Members made sure that changes had been made to procedures and to how the council communicated and shared its concerns with families.

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## Education strategy

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**Issue:** The panel received the 'refreshed' education strategy plan on a page. The strategy is a means to support communities and families in preparation for formal education through family hubs and child development linking also to the prevention and early intervention strategy.

**What we did:** Members sought assurances that 'supporting vulnerable children' would be given a more prominent position in the plan.



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## Post-16 high needs funding for young people with special educational needs and disabilities

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**Issue:** The panel requested a report to explain changes to commissioning of educational services for all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

**What we did:** The panel found out about transformational changes to the commissioning of services. The Schools' Forum (SF), of which the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services is a member, were responsible for decisions around strategy and direction of support for this group of young people. Members expressed concern that a budget for education provision for some of the most needy and vulnerable children in NEL was significantly underspent for the past two years. Officers confirmed that no complaints had been made about the service and members were reassured that the process was flexible and responsive and greatly assisted individuals and families in need. The panel asked how the scheme was evaluated and what evidence of successful intervention was gathered.

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## Oasis Community Learning Trust's (OCLT) governance of Oasis Academy Wintringham (OAW)

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**Issue:** This was considered as an urgent item following the resignation of a number of local community / parent representatives from the academy's governing body. Of particular concern was the lack of involvement of the academy

**What we did:** The panel were given assurances by representatives of the Academy and the Deputy Chief Executive. These included details of an Interim Executive Board (to include members of the community and a Council representative). It was acknowledged that

council in key decisions and specifically that decisions affecting local young people and families were being made by OCLT without influence or input by the academy council. The matter had received a high profile in local media and the panel needed assurances that local governance arrangements were functional and effective.

communications could have been better and the organisation had learned from this incident. The panel had a good discussion about the issues and members were satisfied that governance at OAW was compliant with statutory guidelines and conformed with its own procedures and noted that Ofsted and Department for Education (DfE) had found no issues in that respect. An offer was made by the Academy to come back to the panel in six months' time to report on progress together with an invitation to visit OAW. On behalf of the Council the panel accepted the invitation to seek a nomination to the IEB and, ultimately, the reconstituted Academy Council

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### Provisional test and examination results December 2015

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**Issue:** Members maintained their focus on attainment via the un-validated results for schools in NEL at its meeting in December 2015.



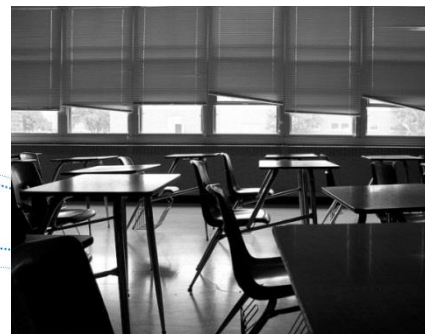
**What we did:** The panel noted that un-validated GCSE results were a considerable issue for all local authorities although members noted that compared to Yorkshire and the Humber, NEL's dip in result at KS4 was not as significant as our near neighbours. Furthermore, member commented that the attainment gap for disadvantaged children and young people had not closed significantly over the past ten years despite pupil premium, rather in many cases, the gap appears to widen as a pupil gets older. Further clarification was provided on these issues when the validated results were presented to the Panel at its meeting in February, 2016.

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### Pupil place planning and school admissions

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**Issue:** The panel received its regular (annual) report on the availability of school places across North East Lincolnshire.



**What we did:** Members of the panel had raised issues around pupil places at previous meetings and at a consultation event on the draft Local Plan, as suggested housing development sites would see the need for the equivalent of three extra primary schools. It was noted that proposals were being developed to allow the needed expansion of Bursar Street Primary School by moving to the former Matthew Humberston site. Six proposed new housing developments sites around the borough were included in the forecasts.

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## Progress update on the termination of the strategic partnership contract with Serco Education NEL

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**Issue:** The panel wanted to make sure that transition plans were in place to support the mutual termination of the Serco contract and ensure that the transfer of school improvement, special educational needs strategy, inclusion and associated functions on 1 April 2016 would be a smooth changeover.

**What we did:** Officers outlined the arrangements for a project team to plan and manage the transition, including details around staff transfers, alignment of future services including school improvement; governor support; strategic leadership for SEN and inclusion and music and performing arts service (MAPAS). Members were satisfied that all financial, legal, human resource and service delivery implications had been taken account of.

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## North East Lincolnshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (NELLSLB) - Annual Report 2014/15

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**Issue:** The panel called a special meeting on 12 November 2015 to allow timely consideration of the NELLSLB annual report. The Chairman of the NELLSLB, Mr Rob Mayall, attended to speak to panel members.

**What we did:** The panel were updated on 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 schools and academies, board members' commitment, scrutiny of stakeholders, adoption and evaluating the impact of early interventions. It was confirmed that there had been better attendance and greater commitment from partners. There was good evidence of service improvement and the desire to continue to improve. The voices of families and children were being heard more, although this is an area for continuous improvement. CSE and Safeguarding training had been undertaken by members, partner organisations, hoteliers, taxi-drivers and other organisations. At the request of the panel, the portfolio holder, who is a member of the LSCB, wrote to the Police Crime Commissioner to acknowledge the police's improved commitment to the board and encourage continued support in these priority areas.

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## Joint Adoption Service

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**Issue:** In February 2016 the panel asked for a report on proposals for a regional adoption service as referenced in the forward plan.

**What we did:** In March, the panel heard about initial work regarding regionalisation of adoption services. The 15 authorities that make up the current Yorkshire and Humber Adoption Consortium had successfully bid for funding to develop proposals under the government's plans to regionalise adoption services. Members were concerned given NEL has an Ofsted rating of 'outstanding', that the quality of service should not be affected by the merger. Officers were able to describe a number of positive elements to the proposals which would enhance NEL's current service. New arrangements were anticipated to 'go live' in March 2017.

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## Universal Youth Provision

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**Issue:** The panel requested an update on what had happened to universal youth provision following decisions to change the delivery model. Services were moving away from being directly funded and/or provided by the council.

**What we did:** The panel received a detailed report at its March meeting. Members challenged on equality and access to services, fees and charges and evaluation of success. Members were also able to describe successful interventions from targeted youth services in wards around NEL.

- 4.2 The panel has received performance scorecards from the LSCB. Members of the Safe and Cared For Working Group had observed meetings of the LSCB and had every confidence in the Board. And felt that the intelligence and information contained within the scorecards submitted to the LSCB were absolutely relevant to the panel and in line with recommendations from the investigations covered by reports into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham and Oxfordshire. Due to the issues to be considered and the likelihood that vulnerable families or individuals and sensitive information may be discussed, the panel agreed to consider matters in exempt session. In September the panel held a workshop to look at incidents of 'missing' children and child sexual exploitation. This prompted an all member training programme on such issues. The authority operates best practice, with intelligence led operations (PRIAM), use of child abduction notices and the '*if you see something say something*' campaign. Members challenged on conviction rates, relationships with academies, relocation of police teams and sharing data between agencies.
- 4.3 In October the Consultant Nurse for Safeguarding and Mental Capacity and the Clinical Psychologist from the Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust attended a special meeting held to inform members about changes to the service and current performance. The panel asked question about Ritalin prescription rates; services for more complex cases; the definition of 'crisis', 'urgent' and 'emergency' referrals and looked after children. The focus was on neglect at a special meeting held in December 2015. An officer from National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and a Special Nurse from Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Trust attended to respond to members questions about spotting neglect, raising community awareness, school engagement. As a direct result of the panel's debate a member development event on neglect was held and will be repeated after June 2016. The objectives of the session were designed to help ward councillors understand neglect and be able to identify it in their communities and, more importantly, know what to do about it.

- 4.4 Members of the panel attended NEL Skills Summit in December 2015. The event was hosted by the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council and involved local employers, education leaders and other key partners. Seminars included NEL economic landscape, recruiting, retaining and developing our workforce, apprenticeship levy and shaping the future.
- 4.5 Members of the panel have received a number of invitations to visit secondary academies. The visits to; John Whitgift Academy, Tollbar Academy and Cleethorpes Academy have greatly informed members' knowledge and experience of different education settings in NEL. They look forward to similar engagement with schools and academies at both primary and secondary level in the future.

## 5. Health Scrutiny Panel

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

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### Healthwatch

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**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.

**What we did:** 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.

Two specific issues were raised and considered:

- 1) The review of GP access. Members discussed the concern in the rise in the number of urgent and unplanned GP appointments. Members discussed the alternative options to GP appointments including out of hours GP services, walk-in centres and pharmacies.
- 2) A CCG decision to revise the IVF policy in August 2015. The Panel also received representations from Fertility Fairness and an IVF patient on this matter. The CCG provided an explanation of the rationale behind the decision. The Panel asked the CCG to reconsider the position of patients already on the care pathway when the decision was taken and review the application of the decision; reporting the outcome back to the Panel.

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### Transformation of Day Services , Transportation and Meals on Wheels

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**Issue:**

In 2012/13 the Council entered into a dialogue with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) with regard to reducing the costs of adult social care services to achieve £7m per annum savings. This resulted in the development of an efficiency approach, based on the council's and CCG's joint adult social care strategy.

Subsequently the Council developed a further medium term financial plan to cover 2015-17. Within that there was a

**What we did:**

A working group was set up in July 2015 to provide Cabinet with recommendations under three areas, transport, meals on wheels and day care services.

Regarding transport the working group agreed with the recovery of costs if individuals were assessed as to whether the increase was affordable.

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requirement to achieve further savings from the adult social care budget of £2m per annum.

The majority of these savings, some £1.3 to £1.6m will be found from the current block contract with Care Plus Group and proposals that could deliver these savings have now undergone a period of consultation with the general public and service users.

Regarding the meals on wheels service, the working group agreed with recovery at full cost of meal for all users of the service at £4.50 per meal. The working group were very concerned about day care services especially relating to vulnerable clients for example, those suffering with dementia. The Health Panel had a duty to fully understand what day care would 'look like' under any new arrangements. So much was in the air, and the provider remained "challenged with delivering an alternative service within a budgeted amount". In short there was no clear description of the service, facilities or premises that would be provided to these most vulnerable of clients.

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### Infection Control

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**Issue:** The panel requested information relating to the number of days that wards had been closed and also on delays to operations due to infection.

**What we did:** Members of the infection control team from Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals attended to discuss their concerns.

Members felt that their concerns had been highlighted and were reassured that measures were in place to reduce the spread of infection.

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### Care Act 2014 (including the Better Care Fund)

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**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. The panel needed to be kept update with the progress of the implementation of the Care Act.

**What we did:** The health scrutiny panel 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.

Members raised concerns about the introduction of the living wage and the effect it may cause healthcare providers and the Council. Members were reassured that contracts were let and procurement took place at rates companies could deliver the service.



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## Local Government Ombudsman Finding Report

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**Issue:** The Local Government Ombudsman investigated a complaint about the deferred payments agreement. There were lessons to be learnt from the outcome that members of the panel were keen to ensure they were implemented.

**What we did:** The panel received a report and were provided with an update on progress with the associated action plan.

Members were pleased to hear that colleagues worked together on the introduction of a flagging system used by financial assessors and social workers to ensure a similar incident did not happen again. Training sessions on signposting the families to other benefits to ease and support their care package had been put in place and a letter of apology was sent to the family concerned.

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## The Mortality Agenda & SHMI Reports

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**Issue:** The panel receive the quarterly mortality report and members wanted to understand how the report was made up and the issues facing patients and NLAG so they could challenge effectively.

**What we did:** The panel received two briefings on the mortality report. The first in September to understand the issues faced by the trust and it was reported that steps being taken included two new palliative care consultants; improvements to how information was shared; a smoking cessation advisor appointment; and issues arising from the Stroke Review were being investigated, eg. over-prescribing. Junior doctors were being approached to learn from their knowledge of working elsewhere in the country and steps were being taken to increase the seven-day service by, for example, increasing senior staffing levels at weekends.

The Panel enquired about the mortality rate comparisons and raised particular concern about the recruitment of nurses and the lack of available placements on nursing courses.

The second mortality report presented to the panel in November focused on the quality development plan and key performance indicators and in particular members were keen to understand the current position with regard to performance.

Members acknowledged the areas of slippage and the actions being taken to address them.

The Panel also received a presentation on the personal side of dying in hospital. The panel were encouraged to hear that NLAG had

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focused on the lessons learnt from the Liverpool Care pathway and as a result they identified five priorities with the patient and the families which were to recognise the wishes of the patient and review them regularly.

Members expressed concerns about patients with dementia in care homes where there were no close relatives and were reassured by the processes being taken.

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### Healthy Lives / Healthy Futures

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**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 would oversee the development of the programme throughout its lifespan.

**What we did:** Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures has been a priority for the health scrutiny panel throughout 2015/16 and the working group has met four times during the year to look at community transport issues, NEL hospital and community model, the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) response and travel times for NEL patients travelling to Scunthorpe General Hospital.

In July the panel were given a presentation explaining the case for change; progress to date; the vision for the future; current work and next steps.

Members requested more information about transport within the area and the links with partners, the local plan, local transport plan and the healthy lives healthy futures programme. This information will be considered as part of the 2016/17 work programme.

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- 5.2 The panel has also considered other matters including the voluntary community social enterprise (VCSE) review updates. Healthwatch annual report, health & wellbeing action plan, public health grants, Hadleigh House lessons learnt report, the revised IVF policy for North East Lincolnshire, NAViGO, and an update on adult social care efficiencies.
- 5.3 The panel undertook a visit to the 'Strand Court' extra care housing development in the East Marsh which provides care for older people in North East Lincolnshire. The aim of the visit was to see the new facilities and meet the residents.

## 6. Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel

6.1 The following matters were considered by the Panel during the 2015-16 municipal year:

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### Preventing violent extremism

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**Issue:** The panel asked for a themed meeting to allow a debate on how agencies were working together to tackle radicalisation and violent extremism.

**What we did:** The September 2015 panel meeting focussed on this topic. Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel were invited to attend as there had been recent national press coverage about radicalisation in schools. Police officers including officers from special branch were in attendance to respond to members questions. Officers presented a detailed report and video presentation about the Government's 'Contest' strategy and new statutory duties placed on Councils within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and how North East Lincolnshire's Safer Communities Partnership agencies were working together to meet the requirements of the Act. Members asked questions about the use of social media in extremism leading to criminal behaviour, radicalisation of vulnerable people and the Channel Panel.

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### Scrutiny of Performance Reporting

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**Issue:** The panel receives detailed reports, at each meeting, from the crime reduction partnership showing performance against targets as set out in the partnership plan.

**What we did:** The panel regularly challenges performance and targets on various matters including, during this municipal year; malicious communications (including violence against the person without injury), PubWatch, impact of austerity on crime related performance, binge drinking and night time economy, licensing and the cumulative impact policy and targeted police action. The panel also received detailed information seeking reassurances that proper multi-agency health and community safety processes were in place for major events.

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## Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

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**Issue:** The panel retained a focus on substance misuse in 2014/15 and subsequently called for this report to develop understanding and to evidence partnership work aimed at tackling the use of NPS in NEL.

**What we did:** Officers from public health and the crime reduction partnership were asked about closure of premises (Public Space Prohibition Order [PSPO]), retail outlets and dealers in NEL, current legislation, emerging legislation, user profile, immediate and long-term health impacts of NPS, education and early intervention, funding sources, the use of social media and vulnerable children and young people. The panel resolved to learn more about the use of education, information, advice, guidance and early intervention relating to NPS, especially in schools.

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

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**Issue:** Despite previous assurances that a review of police structures, effective in April 2015, would not adversely affect front line services, the panel called a special meeting to consider problems with the '101' non-emergency number and negative impact on neighbourhood policing.

**What we did:** Mr Matthew Grove, the then Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) and senior police officers from the Humberside force attended a special meeting in October 2015 to respond to members' concerns. The panel challenged the commissioner on a number of matters and he acknowledged the initial shortcomings of the review. Mr Grove assured the panel that issues with the availability and visibility of police community support officers (PCSOs) had now been addressed and councillors would begin to see a change in their wards. Initial non-emergency call handling processes were inadequate but much work had been very quickly undertaken to remedy this and it should now be the case that calls were answered and processed more efficiently and effectively. Mr Grove urged any elected members to contact him if there were problems with policing in NEL. The portfolio holder for safer and stronger communities also took an opportunity to formally ask questions of the PCC.

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## Customer access strategy delivery update

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**Issue :** Cabinet referred this report following consideration in November 2015.

**What we did :** The panel received cabinet's report and challenged on the following matters; access to services for vulnerable/disabled persons, charges for credit card payment, telephony systems, reduction in the numbers visiting customer access points, realisation of saving proposals and voluntary and community services. The

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panel asked for a progress report in six months' time (July 2016).

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### Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA)

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**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.

**What we did:** Members received a detailed presentation and raised issues around violent crime without injury, reoffending rates, substance misuse, cycle theft and gang crime. 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 is now fully aware of the rationale behind the crime reduction partnership's continuing priorities of violent crime, burglary, antisocial behaviour and victim care.

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

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**Issue:** In October 2014 the panel considered a report outlining legislative changes and new powers to police forces and local authorities which came into force in the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. Members wanted to know, a year later (March 2016), what the impact had been on performance and policing.

**Outcome:** An afore mentioned problem with community policing had negatively affected anti-social behaviour. That said, the panel was ultimately reassured by senior police officer that the reporting of incidents and the police response was much improved. Members described recent incidents in their wards which corroborated this.

6.2 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 2015-16 included, the Partnership headquarters at the Elms, Women's Aid Refuge, Cleethorpes Police Station (Public Protection Unit), the Council's CCTV control room. Panel members have also observed meetings of family hub assessment meetings across NEL and ASB and criminal damage task group meetings. The panel has met with representatives from Humberside Police, Humberside Probation Trust, Criminal Justice Services, Public Health, Women's Aid and Rape Crisis and with officers from the Safer Communities Partnership, and the local authority. The chair has also observed partnership activities to support enforcement work in relation to trading standards and licencing.

6.3 Following a cabinet resolution a special joint meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities and the Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panels met to appoint a working group to consider a review of operational services

During August and September 2015 the working group met a number of times and visited a number of services, including the Crematorium, Doughty Road Depot, Border Inspection Post, Environmental Health Office, Gilbey Road Depot, the Elms, to talk to

managers, team leaders, supervisors and other employees. The members also took an opportunity to observe roadside collection of domestic waste in Wellington Street, Grimsby. In order to understand what happened to collected waste, members also visited the energy from waste facility operated by NEWLINCS. A special meeting of a joint panel to finalise the findings report of the scrutiny working group and to agree recommendations was held on 29 October 2015. It made a number of recommendations to Cabinet (see report to Cabinet in February, 2016).

6.4 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.

6.4.1 The Crime and Disorder Committee met on the 14 April 2016 with co-opted members from the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board. The panel called the meeting to consider the partnership's continuing 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), and the Blue Door (Rape Crisis). Members asked questions around support for male victims, high levels of casework of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), approach to medium risk victims and the average length of stay at the refuge. The Office of the PCC were looking to a 3 year commissioning programme to secure services from 2017/18. With this in mind, Members asked that this topic be added to the panel's work programme for 2016/17.

## 7. Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel

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

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### Regeneration Partnership Performance Monitoring

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

**What we did:** Target setting and performance were challenged throughout the year. Specific concerns were raised around long term empty properties, highways performance indicators not reflecting the key highway issues that would be of interest to the public (e.g. potholes), and whether any problems were being experienced with the highway light replacement programme. Indoor and outdoor market occupancy was also discussed, resulting in a report being submitted to the panel.

The panel were pleased with overall performance and in particular around the higher inward investment figures and the planning performance indicators.

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### River Freshney Petition

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**Issue:** The panel received a petition about the condition of the River Freshney and the concerns were:

- Dirt and debris on top of the water and when cleared it was left on the river bank.
- The willow tree on the island leaning over the path on the river bank
- Road bollard in the water
- Litter

**What we did:** The panel were concerned about the vermin and water voles. The Environment Agency confirmed there was no evidence of water voles nesting in the river bank. Plans were in place to remove the bollard and debris from the side of the river.

The panel were concerned about the overflow from the river being maintained, especially after the floods in 2007. Members felt there needed to be more regard for the ecology and getting the right balance between the ecology and flood risk.

The panel agreed to walk sections of the river referred to in the petition and see for themselves the issues raised.

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## Shoreline – Social Housing on the East Marsh

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**Issue:** Following on from the Social Housing in the East Marsh Select Committee and the recommendations made the panel to received updates on the demolition project.

**What we did:** The Panel received updates on the progress of the demolition of the high rise tower blocks and Comber Place since September 2015.

The panel were reassured the project remained on track. The next step was to discuss with North East Lincolnshire Council the future of the site and for the site be included in the local plan.

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## The Local Plan

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**Issue:** This was scrutiny's opportunity to be consulted on the development of the Local Plan. It was vital the panel took a thorough approach to ensure that the Local Plan meets the changing needs and future development in NEL.

The Local Plan would set the rules for how NEL would develop over time. The Local Plan, along with any neighbourhood plans, forms the overall development plan for the local area. It covered issues including affordable housing, the economy and employment, infrastructure, sustainability, green space and development. It sets out the framework for future development and growth in a sustainable way. It addressed the key areas of housing, employment, health, education, community facilities, open space, infrastructure provision and the environment.

**What we did:** The panel attended three cross panel workshops and their views would form part of the council's response to the consultation. The working group considered the research that had been carried out in response to the Transpennine Express and Northern Rail Service consultation.

The first workshop was aimed to give an understanding of the importance of the local plan, an overview of the content and process and, crucially, an opportunity for the panel to comment and influence the plan based on scrutiny role.

The second workshop focused on how the Local Plan can be delivered and the impact that growth may have on services and infrastructure. It will also identify how comments and concerns raised during the last consultation have been taken into account in the development of the Local Plan.

The third workshop looked at what we need to do with our road network, schools and other infrastructure, and how this might be funded, so as to ensure that the development identified in our Local Plan is realised. The panel also got a greater understanding of development viability as this is a big constraint on the contributions towards infrastructure we can ask from development in some parts of the borough.



In between the workshops the panel received updates on the progress of the development of the local plan. The panel were concerned about the pressure on the road networks which were already at full capacity and would be made more so with the proposed new developments on the west and south sides of Grimsby and the job creation being predominately on the east/centre.

The panel were concerned about the effects on air quality from additional traffic but were pleased to understand it had been taken into account in the local plan and that the sustainability appraisal published alongside the plan takes into account a wide range of environmental, social and economic impacts from policy proposals and allocations, and this included indicators for air and water quality.

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### Making Waste Pay

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**Issue:** A transformation statement (“making waste pay”) had been developed, as part of the Council’s approach to setting a two year balanced budget, which sought to make efficiencies from the Councils management of Municipal Waste. Members were asked to consider the consultation summary document and questionnaire. It was agreed for a working group to be set up to consider the draft consultation summary document and questionnaire to be used in a 12 week public consultation exercise.

**What we did:** A workshop was held in July 2015 and Members influenced the structure, content of the questionnaire and distribution.

A special meeting was held were the Panel received a report on the waste management strategy and community consultation report.

Members agreed that there was a clear need to deliver the waste service differently.

The panel emphasised the importance of education and promotion with regard to recycling.

The panel agreed recommendations to go forward to Cabinet and asked for future updates to be brought back to the panel in the new municipal year.

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## Community Stadium

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**Issue:** The panel followed the progress of the community stadium project.

**What we did:** The Panel considered the sequential site assessment for the community stadium which looked at 16 sites and reduced them down to four using the following criteria; suitability, availability and viability. A fifth was added (Freeman Street site) due to its potential unique regeneration potential. The panel's concerns included the following:

- B&Q site on the A16.
- The Great Coates site's proximity to Novartis.
- The location of railway stations to the proposed sites.
- Millennium Park site which had good public transport, was within walking distance of a large housing population, near a railway station and the A180
- Environmental issues on the Millennium Park site.

Further updates were given at panel meetings in March and April 2016.

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7.2 The panel also considered the following call-ins:

- The gypsy and traveller provision
- Delivering Differently Project (delivery of the Cemeteries and Crematorium service)

7.3 The panel reviewed, asked questions and made recommendations for amendments on the following policies and strategies:

- Sandbag policy,
- Economic Strategy
- Cleethorpes Habitat Management Policy
- Energy services.

## 8. Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board

These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss how scrutiny is working; resolve any problems; to coordinate those issues that cut across the work of all the scrutiny panels, allocate workloads and discuss any pertinent issues (e.g. process for undertaking budget reviews). The involvement of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council also allows opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny to be raised.

## 9. Common Issues

The following matters were referred to each of the Panels for consideration during the 2015/16 Municipal Year:

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### Scrutiny of the council's resources

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**Issue:** The council produces a quarterly resources report which is considered by scrutiny following its approval by Cabinet.

**What we did:** Throughout the year the panel has received reports relating to the council's savings programme, its provision outturn and regular resource monitoring reports. Examples of reassurances sought by Members included:

- school improvement services,
- savings related to school/college transport
- community learning services
- transition arrangements around the Serco Education contract
- the risks associated with the potential reduction of the public health grant by £700,000
- implementation of the Care Act
- the voluntary sector review
- projected overspend on waste services

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## Draft Council priorities, budget 2015/16 and medium term financial forecast for the period 2015/16 – 2018/19

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**Issue:** A whole-scrutiny working group met in November 2015 to consider the emerging budget proposals and to feedback comments and recommendations. The panels then met, in January 2016, to formally consider the draft budget proposals.

**What we did:** The panels took the opportunity to question officers and Portfolio Holders further on the proposals, including:

- reduction of respite provision
- restructure of ‘troubled families’ staffing
- budget pressures as a result of ‘living wage’ implementation, business rate retention
- the Council’s new commissioning approach.
- Inward investment
- the new homes bonus
- Disabled Facilities Grant

Comments from the Panels were reported into the Council’s budget consultation.

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## 10. Work Programme 2016-18

- 10.1 Members who sit on each scrutiny panel have the opportunity to suggest items for the panel work programme. All suggestions from 2015-16 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 2016/17 municipal year.
- 10.2 In addition to the items suggested, there will be the opportunity to identify work programme items from the forward plan, the Council's outcome framework and the council's quarterly performance and resources reports.

All people in NEL enjoy & benefit from a strong economy	All people in NEL feel safe & are safe	All people in NEL enjoy good health & well being	All people in NEL live in strong, sustainable communities	All people in NEL fulfil their potential through skills & learning
<p>Key Commissioning Priorities:            Energy – 0-19 provision – Culture, Heritage and Sport</p> <p><b>CONTRIBUTION TO EFFICIENCY TARGET OF £9m</b></p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the renewable energy industries</li> <li>• SHIP enterprise zone</li> <li>• Local Plan including housing</li> <li>• Devolution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families First implementation – family group conferencing, signs of safety, restorative practice, outcomes based accountability</li> <li>• Domestic violence one system approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-2 years service redesign with Wave Trust</li> <li>• C&amp;YP mental health</li> <li>• Social prescribing intervention</li> <li>• Establishing a substance misuse recovery community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy usage</li> <li>• Reshaping of environment services</li> <li>• Reshaping relationship with V&amp;CS</li> <li>• Review of leisure culture and heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reshaping Schools engagement</li> <li>• Skills strategy</li> <li>• Apprenticeship development</li> </ul>

- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 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 there is no duplication of effort.
- 10.5 Suggested panel work programmes :

#### **Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel**

- Review of leisure culture and heritage
- Services delivered by Lincs Inspire Limited
- Preservation of the Ross Tiger
- Armed Forces Day - evaluation

#### **Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel**

- South Humber
- Inward Investment Programme
- Port of Immingham flood risk
- Regeneration partnership quarterly report
- Community Stadium project
- Gypsy & Traveller provision
- Local Transport Plan
- Delivering Differently
- Energy & Carbon
- Environment policy
- Waste strategy
- Economic strategy
- Humberston Fitties flood risk findings
- Highways Schemes

### **Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel**

- school engagement,
- pupil exclusions,
- substance misuse,
- CAMHS (transition services and depressants)
- Local Plan issues
- SEN

### **Health Scrutiny Panel**

- Prevention
- Right Care Programme
- Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures
- CCG Quarterly reports
- Performance reports from various bodies
- Budget Monitoring
- Transport and accessibility of health services
- CCG Commissioning Intentions 2017
- Better Care fund project
- Social Prescribing
- Basic hospital care

### **Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel**

- review of operations (continuation of joint working group)
- road safety
- criminal justice
- Sex workers in NEL – health / personal safety
- Customer Access Strategy
- Domestic violence

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If you would like more information or to find out more about scrutiny you can contact us:

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