

## **COUNCIL**

<b>DATE</b>	12 June 2014
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Annual Report of Scrutiny for 2013-14
<b>STATUS</b>	Open
<b>FORWARD PLAN REF NO.</b>	Not Applicable

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report outlines the Annual Report of Scrutiny for 2013-14. The report also outlines issues that Scrutiny will focus on during 2014-17 as part of the work programme.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council receives the Annual Report of Scrutiny for 2013-14.

### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

To ensure that all Members are aware of the breadth of work undertaken by scrutiny during 2013-14 and the contribution that this work has made to the overall work of the council. In addition, this report makes Members aware of proposed work programme issues for 2014-17.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNCIL PLAN/STRATEGIC AIMS**

The scrutiny panels and the Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board act as a reviewing mechanism for decisions made relating to the strategic policy, performance and resources required to deliver the ambitions of the council and the Joint Theme Boards. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the authority being an effective and efficient council.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of future reports, which will be risk assessed by the directorate(s) concerned.

#### **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

- 1.1 The Annual Report of Scrutiny during the Municipal Year 2013-14 is appended for approval by Council.

1.2 The report sets out the work undertaken by the Council's Scrutiny Panels (Regeneration, Housing and Environment; Health; Tourism, Leisure and Culture; Children and Young People; and Safer and Stronger Communities) and the Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board during the last year and highlights some of the main achievements and issues of note.

1.3 Proposed issues for the 2014-17 work programmes are also included in this report.

1.4 Members are asked to consider the content of the appended report.

## **2. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

2.1 Not applicable to this report.

## **3. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY**

3.1 The Scrutiny Panels and Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board have been involved in reviewing the 2013/14 work programme and identifying issues for consideration next year.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications included within this report, beyond the existing budget provision for scrutiny activity.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Constitution provides that Full Council must approve the Annual Report of Scrutiny each municipal year.

## **6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from the report.

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are none directly arising from this report.

## **8. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Potentially impacts on all wards.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 Minutes from the 2013-14 meetings of the Scrutiny Panels can be found on [www.nelincs.gov.uk](http://www.nelincs.gov.uk).

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**HELEN ISAACS  
STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER**



## **Annual Report 2013-14**

### **Review of Scrutiny in 2013-14 and Work Programme for 2014-17**

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## 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 2013-14 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 the scheduled scrutiny meetings, we have also held a number of working groups and have engaged with residents and stakeholders, covering topics such as street lighting policy, pupil exclusions, Great Coates community governance review and playing pitch strategy.

Scrutiny Members have also had the opportunity to be involved in regional scrutiny work, most notably the review of children's congenital cardiac services in Leeds and the consultation across Northern Lincolnshire 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.



**David Bolton**



**Jane Hyldon-King**



**Michael Burton**



**Jon-Paul Howarth**



**Terry Walker**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2013/14, 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 Jon-Paul Howarth
  - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Health – Councillor Jane Hyldon-King
  - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Regeneration, Environment and Housing – Councillor Michael Burton
  - 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 2013 -14, and to outline a three-year work programme for the panels for the period 2014 - 17.
- 1.3 All agendas and report items considered by the panels during 2013 -14 are available on the Council's website under "Your Council", or by contacting [scrutiny@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@nelincs.gov.uk).

## 2. Highlights and Headlines

- 2.1 **Scrutiny of policies and strategies through working groups** – In 2013, there was a change to the constitution around the scrutiny of policies and strategies. As a result, a working group had to be formed to consider key policy documents prior to them being submitted to Cabinet. The Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel considered and made recommendations on the street lighting policy and the draft flood risk management strategy. Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel considered and made recommendations on the playing pitch strategy.
- 2.2 **Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** - Following a report which showed that mortality rates were high, a representative of the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has attended each meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel to provide an update and answer questions specifically around mortality rates. The panel has been kept up to date with the actions that are being taken to improve the position.
- 2.3 **Ofsted Inspections** – Workshops have been held to strengthen members knowledge in the likely event that NELC is inspected by Ofsted. Panel members will be involved in the inspection process as lead members for children and also in their role as corporate parents. Inspections of school improvements services and safeguarding (including LAC) are expected in the foreseeable future. This work is on-going and the panel has included school improvement and safeguarding in its work programme for 2014/15.
- 2.4 **Themed meetings of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel** – In scrutinising crime and disorder matters, the panel has taken a themed approach to scheduled meetings. Members focussed on substance misuse and drug and alcohol intervention, burglary, offending and reoffending. The time between meetings has offered opportunities for members to gather information and to meet and visit partners and other organisations to see first-hand how partners are working together to reduce crime in NEL. Members were able to talk to managers, officers, mentors, service users and offenders about their experiences. This activity led to greater understanding of the issues and an informed debate at the eventual panel meeting.



### **3. Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board**

3.1 The following matters were considered by the Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board during the 2013-14 municipal year:

- Forward plan – items and methodology
- Lincs Inspire Limited board membership
- NHS – Keogh review / Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures
- Welfare reforms
- Humberside policing proposals
- Work programme for scrutiny panels
- Draft council priorities, budget 2014-15 and medium term financial plan for the period 2014-2017
- Performance management information / performance plus
- Scrutiny arrangements and terms of reference
- Outcome reviews
- Demographics of the Council
- Annual scrutiny report
- Public conveniences select committee
- E-factor
- Partnership governance arrangements.

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 2013-14 municipal year:

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### Lincs Inspire Limited

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**Issue:** To ensure the transition of services to Lincs Inspire Limited runs smoothly. To review the performance and standard of the delivery of those services.

**Outcome:** The panel monitored the progress of the planned transfer of services and the standard of delivery of those services through the quarterly performance and resources report. It highlighted the issue of conflicting membership on the scrutiny panel and on the Lincs Inspire Board. The scrutiny panel did not receive a performance report directly from Lincs Inspire Limited in 2013/14.

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### Saltmarsh

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

**Outcome:** The panel considered a report on the management of the Saltmarsh in September 2013, which included details of the change to the 'line'. The panel discussed alternative options for the management of the Saltmarsh, and agreed to monitor progress in one year.

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### Leisure facilities in North East Lincolnshire

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**Issue:** To ensure the replacement leisure facilities plan is carried out in a timely way and provides value for money.

**Outcome:** The panel considered a petition with respect to the proposed changing rooms at Cleethorpes Leisure Centre. They have also monitored the issues around the flooring of the leisure centre.

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### Playing pitch strategy

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**Issue:** The playing pitch strategy was refreshed in 2013. Scrutiny formed a working group to consider the strategy before it was submitted to Cabinet for approval. The strategy serves two purposes as it supports the sport and leisure agenda but is also a planning document and sits as part of the tools used when making decisions.

**Outcome:** A working group was formed to consider the strategy in July 2013. The group made a number of observations on the report and recommended it to be approved by Cabinet. Cabinet approved the strategy in September 2013 along with the formation of a project team to take the work forward, including the points made by the working group.

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## Central library

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**Issue:** Cabinet referred a report on the central library capital project to scrutiny for their consideration.

**Outcome:** The panel gave due consideration to the proposed works at central library and also to the future sustainability of the building. The Panel supported the proposals that had been made in the report, and also recommended to Cabinet that the panel has a role in the development of the feasibility study and that the library services consultation responses be submitted to this panel prior to Cabinet. Cabinet approved those recommendations.

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## Draft Council plan priorities, budget 2014-15 and medium term financial plan for the period 2014-17

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

**Outcome:** The panel considered the savings proposals that related to tourism, leisure and culture, and also those for the resources directorate. They accepted the proposals in principle but raised concerns over the timeframes for delivery of savings.

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## Resources and performance report

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**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:** These quarterly reports showed how the council was performing against the tasks and actions in the 2012-15 Council Plan, including information on the council's financial position. In particular they have looked at the new leisure centre facilities, income levels, the visitor economy, participation in sports activities and the relationship between sport and health.

4.2 The Panel also considered the following issues:-

- A petition on the constitution "holding officers to account". The panel resolved that the Portfolio Holder had dealt with the petition appropriately.

## 5. Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

5.1 The following matters were considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel during the 2013-14 municipal year:

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### Schools Forum Constitution

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**Issue:** This was an on-going issue from the previous year. Prior to the item being considered by Cabinet, the panel was consulted on an amended constitution.

**Outcome:** The panel held a special meeting and a workshop to consider the draft constitution. Members raised issues relating to consistent reference to representatives; a commitment to openness and transparency; specified timely access to agendas, papers and minutes; and clarity around the formation of sub-groups and special meetings. An amended constitution was considered and approved by Cabinet in June 2013.

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### 'A' Level Provision in North East Lincolnshire

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**Issue:** This was an on-going issue from the previous year. The panel sought assurance that young people in North East Lincolnshire (NEL) have access to good learning experiences in good establishments. As the major provider of 'A' level study in NEL, Franklin Sixth Form College was invited to the June 2013 panel meeting to bring the panel up to date on developments and activities at the college.

**Outcome:** Members received a detailed presentation from the Principal and his management team. The chairman expressed his thanks to Franklin College and stressed that the public would rightly have confidence in the quality of 'A' level provision in NEL. Franklin's many achievements were acknowledged and in particular the college's willingness to support less able students to reach their potential was something they and NEL could be very proud of.

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### Young People not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

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**Issue:** This was an on-going issue from the previous year. The panel wanted to monitor impact of initiatives to support young people who are NEET.

**Outcome:** Officers gave a presentation detailing a six month update on initiatives and impact. Members questioned officers on how the local authority consults with young people; the 'youth contract'; the work pairing scheme; how the authority assures itself that schools are giving good careers information, advice and guidance; and asked for more information about why some young people considered their offer to be 'not appropriate'.

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## Services for Children with Sensory Impairment

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**Issue:** The panel was consulted on changes to service delivery following the withdrawal from joint arrangements for children with sensory impairment. Reports were considered on 19 June, 22 October 2012 (special meeting), 29 January 2013 and 20 June 2013.

**Outcome:** Recommendations to Cabinet were made relating to a preferred option (2), staff consultation and parental engagement. The minutes of the panel meeting (October) were submitted to Cabinet in full. Positive developments were outlined to panel in January 2013 and via this progress report (June 2013). A new joint service is now operating successfully.

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## Pupil Exclusions

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**Issue:** This is an on-going issue from the previous year. In addition to the working group review, the panel received a number of regular (by term) reports which gave a detailed position on pupil exclusions in NEL.

**Outcome:** The panel asked questions about alternative provision, funding pressures, YPSS, achievement of pupils in alternative provision (AP), the number of pupils being managed by the BAC, fixed period exclusions and the quality of AP.

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## Children's Centres - Changing Lives : Improving Outcomes

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**Issue:** The panel had requested an update on how budget savings had impacted on outcomes related to children's centres. Officers presented their impact report "changing lives : improving outcomes". The report had been prepared to research and consider the effectiveness of our children's' centres.

**Outcome:** Members have been able to gain an understanding of the return on investment and consider evidence of the effectiveness of early intervention. NEL children centres had been flagged as excellent practice by Ofsted as a result of evidence provided in external inspections.

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## Education Strategy

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**Issue:** The panel was asked to review and comment on a draft education strategy for North East Lincolnshire Council.

**Outcome:** Members have raised a number of issues including evidencing success and effectiveness of the strategy, school places and lifelong learning/ curriculum for life. The panel's comments were noted and the final version of the strategy was adopted by Cabinet and shared with all members and stakeholders.

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### Local Authority School Improvement Services - Ofsted Inspection

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**Issue:** The panel wanted to find out more about their role in Ofsted's new inspection framework, especially as it seemed likely that NELC may be inspected in the future.

**Outcome:** Members are more aware of their likely involvement in the inspection process. A workshop was held to prepare members for the inspection process and to advise on their role and responsibilities. The draft summary of evidence was forwarded to the panel. Members felt they would like more detailed data about individual schools and the way they are supported by the LA. This work has been added to the panel's work programme for 2014/15.

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### Provisional Test and Examination Results 2013

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

**Outcome:** Members asked questions about the differences in attainment according to gender; poor performance in reading at key stage one; securing employment in emerging local industries for NEL's young people through appropriate qualifications; and what support had been given to schools to improve outcomes for the 2010 cohort. Bad weather and threats of local flooding curtailed the debate. However, members looked forward to receiving the validated results at their February meeting where these matters were further challenged. For outcome see item "Standards and Achievement Report February 2014".

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### Council Plan Performance and resources reports

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

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

- Healthy weight
- Illegal sales of alcohol to young people
- Breast feeding
- Outcomes for looked after children
- Anticipated overspend on out of area placements.

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### Draft Council Priorities, Budget 2014/15 and Medium Term Financial Forecast for the Period 2014/15 to 2016/17

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**Issue:** A working group met in November 2013 to consider the emerging budget proposals and feedback comments, recommendations and alternative suggestions to the Joint Executive Board (JEB). The panel then met in January 2014 to formally consider the draft budget proposals.

**Outcome:** The panel generally supported the proposals in principle, but took the opportunity to question officers further on outline business cases (OBC).

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.

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### Review of School Improvement, SEN and 14-19 Strategies

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**Issue:** The panel was consulted regarding an update and refresh of various strategies prior to approval.

**Outcome:** Members' previous contributions to the Council's education strategy was acknowledged. Members challenged the monitoring of the (successful) delivery of each strategy, school places, engagement with young people, progress on the pupil referral unit, raising the age of participation and the panel's influence in adoption of the strategies. Officers prepared a workshop and various briefing notes to meet members information needs. Members' comments on the strategies were noted.

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### Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints Annual Report 2012/13

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**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 2012 to 31 March 2013. It was referred to the panel by Cabinet.

**Outcome:** The purpose of the report was to inform members, the general public and council officers about the effectiveness of the statutory complaints procedure. The panel received the report.

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## Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) – Annual Report

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**Issue:** The panel considered the annual report of NELC's LSCB from its chairman, Sue Woolmore. Every local authority area must have a LSCB. The board is made up of representatives from Humberside Police, Humberside Probation Trust, NELC (officers and Members), health professionals, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and NSPCC. The board's primary role is to coordinate what is being done by each represented organisation to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area. This work

must be effective and making a difference to the lives of children and young people.

**Outcome:** The purpose of the report was to present a description of everything that is being done to keep children and young people safe in NEL. After a short presentation, members raised the following issues: reducing resources versus increasing need; future pressures on resources; community involvement; parental responsibility; early intervention; elected member roles; and raising awareness of neglect. The LSCB has produced a range of literature to raise awareness of issues and promote community involvement. Members asked for a selection of materials to distribute as appropriate in their wards.

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## Ofsted Inspection of Children in Need of Help and Protection, Looked After Children, Care Leavers and Adoption

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**Issue:** The panel wanted to find out more about their role in Ofsted's new inspection framework, especially as it seemed likely that NELC may be inspected in the future.

**Outcome:** Members are more aware of their likely involvement in the inspection process. A workshop was held to prepare members for the inspection process and to advise on their role and responsibilities. This work has been added to the panel's work programme for 2014/15.

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## Looked After Children (LAC)

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**Issue:** All councillors have a statutory role as corporate parent of children and young people in the care of the local authority. The profile of LAC in NEL has changed with increasing numbers and a changing age distribution. Members wanted to ensure that LAC and care leavers in NEL are safe, all aspects of their development are promoted, and their outcomes are at least as good as those for the rest of children and young people in NEL.

**Outcome:** Members received a report and raised the following issues: homeless young people (under 18); strengths and weaknesses of the services and anticipated areas of concern. It is noted that Councillors Bramley, Cracknell and Howarth of this panel are also members of the Corporate Parenting Board.



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## Standards and Achievement Report February 2014

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**Issue:** Members welcomed the summary report which provided the key aspects of performance in schools and educational settings across NEL.

**Outcome:** Members are now more aware of specific issues affecting NEL's schools and how Serco are challenging and supporting them to improve. Members sought clarification on a number of statistics in their role to challenge on matters affecting local people. Members were especially concerned that SEN pupils and pupils entitled to free school meals (FSM) were not performing as well as those nationally. The panel was particularly concerned to hear that boys in NEL are still performing less well, markedly so in some cases, than girls of the same age. Members were assured that these issues were being addressed. Members agreed to establish a working group to look at these issues in more detail. This work has been added to the panel's work programme for 2014/15.

- 5.2 In addition, the panel has continued its scrutiny of pupil exclusions. In June 2013, a select committee submitted an interim report to the panel as members did not feel that they were in possession of all the information they needed. The panel agreed to continue this review via a working group. Members of the working group visited both the primary and secondary Behaviour and Attendance Collaboratives (BACs). They met and talked with head teachers and other people, including young people. In October 2013, the working group met with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and the Strategic Director – People and Communities. In January 2014, the working group presented a final report to the panel which included the recommendations to strengthen the panel's ability to monitor the number and type of exclusions and the quality of alternative provision in NEL. The Portfolio Holder supported these recommendations.

## 6. Health Scrutiny Panel

6.1 The following matters were considered by the Health Scrutiny Panel during the 2013-14 municipal year:

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### Welfare Reforms

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**Issue:** A cross-scrutiny panel workshop was held to look at the effects of welfare reforms in North East Lincolnshire.

**Outcome:** The workshop was held in March 2014 and covered a range of issues including housing and employability. Members who attended discussed the use of the welfare reforms fund and made suggestions on how the work can be more focused in the future.

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### Health and Wellbeing Board

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**Issue:** The Scrutiny Panel wanted to gain a better understanding of the work carried out by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Outcome:** The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board provided an update on what the Board has been involved in during the past year. It was confirmed that an action plan for the implementation of the strategy would be prepared shortly. Regular meetings have been held between the Chairmen of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Health Scrutiny and Healthwatch. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel receives the paperwork of the Health and Wellbeing Board meetings.

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### Healthwatch

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**Issue:** The Scrutiny Panel has been engaging with Healthwatch throughout the year, with their representatives attending all Health Scrutiny Panel meetings. Healthwatch are permitted to take part in debates and gave a presentation in November 2013 to improve Members knowledge of the organisation.

**Outcome:** In November 2013, Members received a presentation from Kathleen Young (Chair) and Paul Glazebrook which covered their role and powers; how they engaged the public; media; and how they could impact on health service provision. This has improved Members knowledge of Healthwatch and developed relations between the two organisations.

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### Diabetes

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**Issue:** The Panel received an update on the actions being taken as part of the diabetes review, which aimed to provide good foot care and help reduce the number of amputations.

**Outcome:** Members asked various questions on the causes of amputations; the use of DESMOND (a structured education programme for newly diagnosed Type 2 patients); the differences between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes; and how patients could self-

manage their condition.

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### Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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**Issue:** Following a report which showed that mortality rates were high, the Scrutiny Panel requested regular updates from the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust about the actions put in place to improve and the progress being made towards these.

**Outcome:** A representative of Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has attended each meeting of the Scrutiny Panel to provide an update and answer questions specifically around mortality rates (including procedures put in place to monitor them; mixed sex wards; health screening; issues relating to weekend admissions; staff levels and vacancies)

They also provided an update on the CQC inspection report. In June 2013, areas of concern considered included mandatory training records; documentation of patient records; and care and welfare (relating to documentation rather than patient welfare). By February 2014, Members were advised that following a recent inspection, the CQC had assessed the hospital as delivering good quality care to their patients and had therefore removed the compliance actions it had imposed on the Trust.

The issue of staff/consultant recruitment and retention was highlighted and it was noted the some nurses from Spain had recently been recruited. There had, however, been some redundancies within the support staff. Staffing levels on each ward are now being reviewed every six months.

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### Stoke Unit

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**Issue:** The panel received various updates on the temporary closure of the hyper acute services at Diana Princess of Wales hospital. Members were advised that the service was only open 5 days a week, 8 hours a day at Grimsby and the Trust had been asked to provide a 24/7 service. It had therefore been agreed to accommodate the provision at one site and Scunthorpe General Hospital was in the best position to provide this service.

**Outcome:** Members expressed concern at the difficulties that could be encountered with some residents achieving the “golden hour” admission with the hospital being located in Scunthorpe; potential transport difficulties for relatives; funding; and sought clarification as to who had made the decision regarding the preferred hospital site.

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### Smoking and Tobacco Control

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**Issue:** The Council has been subject to a peer review into how tobacco control and smoking are tackled in North East Lincolnshire.

**Outcome:** During discussion of the feedback report, Members agreed to establish a working group to further scrutinise issues relating to tobacco control and cessation. This working group will meet in the 2014/15 municipal year.

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### Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

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**Issue:** The panel received a joint presentation from the Strategic Director for Public Health on the joint strategic needs assessment.

**Outcome:** During the presentation, Members noted that there were big differences in life expectancy depending in which Ward you reside. Members discussed issues relating to smoking prevalence and its contribution to respiratory disease; infant mortality; and reducing smoking in pregnancy.

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### Draft Council Plan Priorities, Budget 2013-14 and Medium Term Financial Plan

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**Issue:** Following a working group in November 2013 to consider emerging budget proposals, the Panel met in January 2014 to formally consider the draft budget.

**Outcome:** The Panel took the opportunity to question officers further on the financial proposals, especially in terms of the impact of the changes on vulnerable persons and sought assurance from senior officers on whether the level of savings could be achieved.

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### Adult Social Care Transformation Journey

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**Issue:** The Scrutiny Panel considered the progress report on the adult social care transformation journey.

**Outcome:** The Panel highlighted that if we stop providing residential care, provision in the area might be lost; queried whether the significant drop in people receiving new packages of care was due to people getting the wrong message or level of cost; the need for short-term periods of intensive intervention to prevent long-term care issues; and the implications of the new Care Bill.

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### Council Plan Resources and Performance Report

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

**Outcome:** The Panel has regularly challenged targets and performance in the quarterly council plan report and has requested further information on various issues including:

- Reducing smoking in pregnancy and young people
- Sexual and relationship education in schools

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- Health and wellbeing hub
  - Supply of illicit tobacco.
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### Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures

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**Issue:** The panel was advised that the Clinical Commissioning Group anticipated an £80m funding shortfall by 2015/16. They were therefore reviewing alternative method of service provision across northern Lincolnshire.

**Outcome:** Through various panel meetings and briefing sessions, Members have been involved in the consultation proposals and the Chairman has represented the panel at various summit meetings and interviews. All members of Council have been invited to attend the briefings and sent copies of the slides and key information afterwards. The panel will set up a working group in 2014/15.

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- 6.2 The Panel has also considered other matters including new working arrangements with the pharmaceutical industry; east midlands ambulance service; the health and wellbeing strategy; and additional funding for Accident and Emergency departments at Diana Princess of Wales hospital.
- 6.3 Councillor Hyldon-King, as Chairman, has represented the Health Scrutiny Panel on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber), which was specifically formed to consider the outcome of the Safe and Sustainable Review of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services in England, together with the subsequent proposals and their associated implications for children and families across the region.

## 7. Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel

7.1 As previously mentioned, 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 the reduction of crime and disorder in NEL. The panel has met with representatives from Humberside Police, Humberside Probation Trust, Empower, Criminal Justice Services, Public Health, Great Coates Village Council, East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Councils Association (ERNLLCA), together with officers from the Safer Communities Partnership, and the local authority. Ward councillors and other councillors, not on the panel, with an interest or expertise in matters under consideration have also participated in panel meetings.

The following matters were considered by the Panel during the 2013-14 municipal year:

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### Great Coates Village Council (GCVC) Community Governance Review

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**Issue:** Following the disestablishment of the Policy, Performance and Resources Scrutiny Panel, the monitoring Great Coates Village Council's compliance with recommendations from the Community Governance Review Select Committee was referred to the panel.

**Outcome:** Reports were presented at each panel meeting throughout the municipal year. At each meeting the chairman of the village council (VC) or a representative plus the clerk to the VC were present to respond to questions. Panel members raised many issues including; handling requests under Freedom of Information Act (FOI), accessibility of information on the VC website, procurement policy, changes made as a result of the recommendations from the select committee, village councillor training plans, developing relationships and improving communications with community groups and the electorate of Great Coates generally, Great Coates Residents Association (GRASS), decision making protocols, exempt information, publication and declaration of information, parish council precept, member and officer protocols. For over a year council officers and members had been working alongside ERNLLCA and the village councillors and parish clerk. Whilst the panel felt some progress had been made they requested the Chairman of the Panel and officers to work with ERNLLCA and the VC to compile an action plan with deadlines to evidence where it had made changes to comply with the recommendations. Regrettably, in March 2014, NELC received standards complaints from two members of the VC. The complaints related to governance matters. The panel therefore felt it could not progress with monitoring of an action plan given the nature of the pending complaints. Hence the panel deferred

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consideration of the action plan pending the outcome of investigations.

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### North East Lincolnshire Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership Plan 2012-15

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**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, measuring the success of drug intervention work, reduction in theft of and from motor vehicles and partnership priorities. The panel approved the plan.

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### Scrutiny of Performance Reporting

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**Issue:** The panel routinely receives the Council's quarterly corporate performance and resources report. In addition the panel receives detailed reports, at each meeting, from the crime reduction partnership showing performance against targets as set out in the partnership plan.

**Outcome:** The panel regularly challenge performance and targets on various matters including, during this municipal year; the impact, on performance data, of the troubled families initiative; unmet targets for crime reduction, the night time economy (NTE), late licences and the impact on police and health resources, partnership priorities, prolific offenders, methods used to raise awareness of high crime areas and conviction rates

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### Community Pride

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**Issue:** The panel wanted a detailed update on the role and responsibilities of the community pride enforcement team.

**Outcome:** Following a department review and restructure of the service and management team, officers presented a report to the September 2013 panel meeting. Members raised the following issues; a 'dramatic' increase in reported incidents of noise nuisance, enforcement, accessibility of the service, allocation of income from fixed penalty notices (FPN), the number of prosecutions for littering and dog fouling, raising awareness about enforcement and accumulations of waste in privately owned alleyways. Members noted the report.

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### Substance Misuse – Alcohol intervention

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**Issue:** The panel asked for a report on the impact of additional funding (July 2012) from the Humberside Police Authority reserve fund. The funding of around £92,000 over three years had been allocated in response to the findings of a scrutiny review (March 2012) to ensure a coordinated approach to alcohol intervention work.

**Outcome:** As a result of the additional funding the following have been initiated; diversionary activities (Parkour) in the West Marsh, development of an education pack to be used by school staff at key stage 2 and 3 and development of a local code of practice with alcohol retailers. Members raised the following issues; evaluation of success (via adolescent lifestyle survey), adult drug prevention work, alcohol and substance misuse awareness at year 9 (13-14 years), by young people support services, outreach workers and peers, theatre based sessions for primary schools, targeted versus universal provision.

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### Tackling Substance Misuse

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**Issue:** The panel was concerned about the impact that substance misuse had on crime and disorder and wanted to find out more about these links and what the crime reduction partnership was doing to tackle this. Members wanted to hear how investment in intervention work impacts on crime figures



substance misuse had on crime and disorder and wanted to find out more about these links and what the crime reduction partnership was doing to tackle this. Members wanted to hear how investment in intervention work impacts on crime figures

**Outcome:** Prior to the meeting members undertook background reading and visits to services commissioned by the drug and alcohol action team (DAAT); specifically Roundabout, CarePlus and AddAction. Members talked to staff including health professionals, volunteers and service users. At the panel meeting officers submitted a detailed report and presentation. Members raised the following issues; information sharing between agencies, MCA and other 'club drugs', changes to probation services, striking the right balance between funding for drug and/or alcohol services, measuring the success and impact of intervention work, access to GP services, alcohol intervention, realistic outcomes for chronic substance abusers. Following a lively and informed debate members are now more aware of the links between substance misuse and crime and are reassured that, subject to resources remaining available, partners are working well together to reduce the impact of substance misuse on crime and disorder.

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### Draft Council Priorities, Budget 2014/15 and Medium Term Financial Forecast for the Period 2014/15 to 2016/17

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**Issue:** A working group met in November 2013, to consider the emerging budget proposals and feedback comments, recommendations and alternative suggestions to the Joint Executive Board (JEB). The panel then met (January 2014)

**Outcome:** The panel generally supported the proposals in principle, but took the opportunity to question officers further on outline business cases (OBC).



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to formally consider the draft budget proposals.

Members raised the following issues; anti-social behaviour team, neighbourhood management and consulting with young people on proposed changes/developments to the young and safe support service.

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### Burglary

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**Issue:** Burglary was identified as a priority for both the local crime reduction partnership (CRP) and by Humberside Police. Following a discussion on the JSIA members asked for dwelling and non-dwelling burglary to be added to its work programme and requested a detailed report on how the partnership is tackling these issues.

**Outcome:** Members are better informed and reassured that partners are working effectively together to tackle burglary and acquisitive crime in NEL. Prior to the panel meeting panel members and substitutes had access to background research and visits to various agencies and initiatives aimed at reducing crime, especially burglary. StreetCRED, Humberside Probation Trust's integrated offender management and Humberside CID tactical task group were amongst those hosting visits from the panel. Members visited, met and talked with partners, officers and clients, observed meetings and went out 'on location' with the StreetCRED team. At the panel meeting, following a short presentation from the partnership a full and informed debate ensued. Members raised the following issues; number and profile of burglars, IOM criteria for intervention, measures to determine success and raising awareness of high crime areas (hot spots).

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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.

**Outcome:** The panel supported the continuation of the existing aims to prevent offending and reoffending and tackling substance misuse and alcohol related harm and the four priority areas of violent crime, burglary, antisocial behaviour and victim care. Members raised a number of issues; statistics relating to alcohol misuse, alcohol misuse and its impact on accident and emergency and ambulance services, data sharing, domestic abuse, fast tracking of domestic abuse offenders and antisocial behaviour orders.

- 7.2 The panel also considered potential for a joint scrutiny working group with North Lincolnshire Council to monitor the implementation and impact of changes to policing structures, responsibilities and accountabilities on the south bank of the River Humber, as a result of the Humberside Police restructure proposals. This work will be further considered in the 2014-15 municipal year.
- 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 13 March 2014 with co-opted members from the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board. The panel called the meeting to consider the partnership's work to reduce offending and reoffending and specifically to hear about:
- On-going work to reduce offending and reoffending
  - Initiatives planned and in place to reduce offending and reoffending
  - Evidence of effective partnership working
  - Data and information to demonstrate impact and/or improvement as a result of operations.
- 7.3.2 Prior to the committee meeting, members visited a number of establishments and sites to observe and talk to officers and service users. Members also attended to observe a meeting of the fortnightly Humberside Police lead tactical task group. At the committee meeting members received a report and presentation from partners including Humberside Probation Trust, Humberside Police and Empower. The report gave detailed information on past, current and predicted performance and targets. Crime levels have increased in NEL particularly acquisitive crime; this is a national and regional trend albeit with a greater rate of increase locally. The cohorts of offenders have reduced in number but when calculated against the number of proven offences suggests a negative performance in reducing reoffending. However, the early identification of offenders and crime trends to assist targeted arrest and charge is the causation factor. It was evident that the partnership continue to put every available resources to reducing the prevalence of offending and reoffending.

## 8. Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel

8.1 The following matters were considered by the Regeneration, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Panel during the 2013-14 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 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.

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### Economic Development

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**Issue:** The panel wanted to ensure that we were doing all we can to attract investment and that strategies and funded schemes were being delivered successfully.

**Outcome:** Members of the panel received a presentation on the progress with regional growth fund three and four. In addition they also considered the development by DONG Energy. The panel was pleased with the work being done to attract investment.

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### 19+ Skills Strategy and Change Programme

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**Issue:** The scrutiny panel wanted to review the impact that the 19+ skills strategy and change programme had made. The strategy focused on a range of objectives, in line with the needs of community stakeholders and employers, government ambitions and funding requirements.

**Outcome:** The panel considered a report on the progress made with the 19+ skills strategy and change programme. In recognising that stronger economy is a key priority for the Council the panel requested that the progress made towards the creation of a single skills strategy be monitored.

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## Freeman Street Neighbourhood Development Framework

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**Issue:** The first phase of the Freeman Street Development programme was to create a "District Centre", including the creation of a new public square and a revamp of the existing retail units.

**Outcome:** The panel has monitored the works in Freeman Street throughout the year, and in February, did a final review as the first catalytic project was completed. The panel constructively challenged and raised concerns, particularly around how we measure how successful the project had been.

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## Housing

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**Issue:** To examine the housing needs of the area and ensure that appropriate targets are set. Ensure clarity over the definition and data regarding the number of new homes.

**Outcome:** The panel constructively challenged the findings from the strategic housing market needs assessment and additional information was provided through briefing notes. The panel kept a regular check of targets and progress through the regeneration partnership performance report. A workshop was held on empty homes in March 2013 to inform member of the challenges and approach taken to reduce the number of empty homes in the borough.

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## Flooding

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**Issue:** The Council are the lead local flood authority and a new local flood risk management strategy has been drafted.

**Outcome:** The panel formed a working group to consider the draft local flood risk management strategy. Members made several comments and observations which were submitted as part of the consultation on the strategy. As the Council are the lead flood risk authority, the panel wanted to monitor progress made with the strategy. The panel also received a report on the Immingham 2012 flood, which contained lessons learned and recommendations for the future.

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### Homelessness

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**Issue:** The panel was keen to monitor the level of homelessness in the borough, especially since the introduction of the welfare reforms.

**Outcome:** The panel received an update on homelessness in September 2013 and so were aware of the number of people presenting themselves to the council as homeless.

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### Humberston Fitties

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**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:** The panel has tracked the progress with the recommendations throughout the year. They received a report in September 2013 examining the potential for disposal of the site. They continue to monitor the developments with this.

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### Street Lighting Policy

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**Issue:** The street lighting policy was refreshed in 2013 which brings alignment to the project which sought to upgrade North East Lincolnshire's street lighting provision.

**Outcome:** A working group was formed and met in August 2013 to consider the strategy. The group submitted their comments to Cabinet, who approved the strategy in October 2013.

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### Asset Management of Cleethorpes Day Chalets

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**Issue:** The panel received a report on the asset management of the Cleethorpes day chalets in March 2013. They were keen to investigate the progress that had been made to improve the appearance and the upkeep of the chalets and the potential of raising income from selling vacant plots for new tenants to build on.

**Outcome:** The panel received a report on the options to regenerate the Cleethorpes day chalets. They were keen to monitor how the options for the day chalets developed and resolved that the viability report be shared with the scrutiny panel. This would be included in the work programme for 2014-15.

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### Fleet Review

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**Issue:** The panel had been monitoring the progress of the fleet review, one of the council's transformation projects.

**Outcome:** An update was provided on the review in September 2013.

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### Procurement Framework for Capital Works

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**Issue:** The procurement framework for capital works was refreshed in 2013.

**Outcome:** The panel received a report on the changes to procurement methods which enabled them to understand the process.

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### Draft Council Priorities, Budget 2014/15 and Medium Term Financial Forecast for the Period 2014/15 to 2016/17

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**Issue:** A working group met in November 2013, to consider the emerging budget proposals and feedback comments, recommendations and alternative suggestions to the Joint Executive Board (JEB). The panel then met (January 2014) to formally consider the draft budget proposals.

**Outcome:** The panel supported the proposals, but took the opportunity to question officers further on the proposed outline business cases. They highlighted the importance of flood mitigation and ensure that good preventative measures remain in place.

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### Performance and Resources Report

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

**Outcome:** The panel regularly challenged targets and performance in the quarterly council plan report and has requested further information on various issues. In particular they have looked at the use of ear marked reserves, income from car parks and highways issues.

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8.2 The Scrutiny Panel also considered a number of call-ins:

- Cemeteries and crematoriums
- Peaks Parkway development
- Speed limit – Bradley Road.

In all cases the decisions made by Cabinet were freed up for implementation.

8.3 Consideration was also given to an appeal against a decision made on a petition in relation to the speed bumps on Elsenham Road. The panel resolved that no further action was to be taken on the matter at that time.

8.4 The local plan was an item on the work programme for 2013-14. However, the development of the new local plan has been delayed and so this work needs to be carried forward into the new municipal year. Scrutiny will have an important role in the consultation of the plan. The issue around the delay has been picked up by the panel through the scrutiny of the regeneration partnership performance report.

## 9. Work Programme 2014-17

- 9.1 Members who sit on each scrutiny panel have the opportunity to suggest items for the panel work programme. The suggestions for 2014/17 are listed for each scrutiny panel in this section of the report.
- 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 (with a focus on those issues relevant to the remit of the panel) and the tracking of the recommendations of the panel will be standard items on future agendas.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4

<b>Regeneration, Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel</b>			
<b>Council plan areas of focus</b>	<b>Key activities and projects</b>	<b>Members' Work programme</b>	<b>Directorates' suggestions (additional to key projects and Members' work programme)</b>
(a) Skills and employability (b) Business support and innovation (c) Local employment (d) Sustainable environment (f) Sustainable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a skills hub</li> <li>• Transfer business centres</li> <li>• Foster links with universities to increase technology transfer</li> <li>• Inward investment programme</li> <li>• Adopt a new local plan</li> <li>• Establish an energy company</li> <li>• Increase vacant and derelict property enforcement activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regeneration partnership performance monitoring</li> <li>• The impact of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund</li> <li>• Select committee on the funding of public conveniences</li> <li>• Options for Cleethorpes day chalets</li> <li>• Local Plan</li> <li>• Combined skills strategy</li> <li>• Car parks review</li> <li>• Monitoring of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</li> <li>• To help to shape the proposal to mitigate dog fouling prior to implementation.</li> <li>• An investigation into the consistency of the use of speed cameras across the Borough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local economic assessment</li> <li>• Strategic housing land availability assessment (SHLAA)</li> <li>• Local transport plan</li> <li>• Inward investment strategy</li> <li>• Council asset rationalisation programme (potentially a joint piece of work with Safer and Stronger on community hubs)</li> <li>• Air quality – Performance against national air quality standard and review of Coal Dust Select Committee findings</li> <li>• Waste strategy – scrutiny consultation of draft revised strategy</li> </ul>



<b>Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel</b>			
<b>Council plan areas of focus</b>	<b>Key activities and projects</b>	<b>Members' Work programme</b>	<b>Directorates' suggestions (additional to key projects and Members' work programme)</b>
[Stronger Economies]		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lincs Inspire Limited</li> <li>• Library service (in response to the 2014 consultation)</li> <li>• Replacement leisure facility – phase one</li> <li>• Saltmarsh</li> <li>• Update on medium term financial plan savings (tourism, leisure and culture and resources)</li> <li>• The visitor economy</li> <li>• Sports and health</li> </ul>	

<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel</b>			
<b>Council plan areas of focus</b>	<b>Key activities and projects</b>	<b>Members' Work programme</b>	<b>Directorates' suggestions (additional to key projects and Members' work programme)</b>
(a) Skills and employability (e) Independence (h) Healthy lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the education strategy</li> <li>• Develop early intervention and prevention strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School improvement / standards</li> <li>• Children's safeguarding</li> <li>• Looked after children</li> <li>• Children's health (potential for joint review with Health Scrutiny Panel)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education strategy. Autumn 2014. Monitor and comment on strategy action plan.</li> </ul>

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel			
Council plan areas of focus	Key activities and projects	Members' Work programme	Directorates' suggestions (additional to key projects and Members' work programme)
(g) Active citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new democratic model for the area</li> <li>• Develop community hubs (potentially a joint piece of work with Regen regarding property rationalisation)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-social behaviour / Crime and Policing Act 2014</li> <li>• Domestic violence (update on progress and MARAC)</li> <li>• Organised crime</li> <li>• Restorative practices</li> <li>• Great Coates community governance review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Safety Partnership Plan – annual refresh of CSP strategy</li> <li>• Drugs and alcohol – New commissioning arrangements</li> <li>• JSIA – annual presentation to scrutiny</li> <li>• Controlled drinking zone (DPPO) - Consultation and findings prior to decision making.</li> <li>• Police reform/changes to local policing</li> <li>• Complaints and freedom of information requests</li> </ul>

Health Scrutiny Panel			
Council plan areas of focus	Key activities and projects	Members' Work programme	Directorates' suggestions (additional to key projects and Members' work programme)
(e) Independence (h) Healthy lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sectors review.</li> <li>• Adopt and implement a plan to deliver the health and wellbeing strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy lives healthy futures</li> <li>• Health and wellbeing board</li> <li>• Northern Lincolnshire and Goole (NLAG) Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Healthwatch</li> <li>• Welfare reform issues (with issues covered by other panels as appropriate)</li> <li>• Health and Wellbeing peer challenge</li> <li>• Tobacco Reliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From September 2014 VCSE review, progress against implementation plan.</li> <li>• From now onwards. Care Bill. Ensure (adult safeguarding) policy is fit for purpose.</li> <li>• Supporting people review. Ensure reduced resources are aligned to strategy.</li> <li>• From now onwards. Better care fund. Scrutiny comment on plans.</li> <li>• April 2014. CCG/ASC. Ensure accountability for delivery.</li> <li>• Autumn 2014. Mental Capacity Act. Comment and challenge on policy changes.</li> <li>• Fairer charging. June 2014. Review community consultation and make recommendations to Cabinet.</li> </ul>

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