



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 17th March 2022

ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL

4th January 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Furneaux (in the Chair)

Councillors Cairns, Callison, Dawkins, Harness, Hogan, Sheridan and Smith.

Officers in attendance:

- Lynne Bromley (Parking Manager, Equans)
- Jonathan Ford (Accessibility Officer, Equans)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director of Law, Governance and Assets)
- Guy Lonsdale (Deputy Section 151 Officer)
- Mark Nearney (Assistant Director of Housing, Highways, Transportation and Planning)
- Paul Thorpe (Operations Director, Equans)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Jackson (Leader of the Council)

There were no members of the public or press present.

SPE.48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillor Procter, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Housing and Tourism.

SPE.49 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Dawkins declared a personal interest in SPE.56 as his partner is employed by Equans.

SPE.50 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Economy Scrutiny Panel held on 12th October and 26th October be agreed as an accurate record.

SPE.51 QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public for this meeting.

SPE.52 FORWARD PLAN

The panel received the published Forward Plan and members were asked to identify any items for examination by this Panel via the pre-decision call-in procedure.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be noted.

SPE.53 TRACKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY

The panel received a report from the Assistant Chief Executive (Statutory Scrutiny Officer) tracking the previous recommendations of this panel.

At SPE.45 and the action related to the tracking of progress against indicator CM02 (contract management arrangements), the panel was content for this to be monitored by the Audit and Governance Committee as it felt appropriate.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPE.54 THE BOROUGH OF NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2022

The panel received a presentation from the Assistant Director Housing, Highways, Transportation and Planning providing an overview of proposed changes to off-street parking in North East Lincolnshire. It was noted that this presentation provided the panel with an initial opportunity to comment on the proposals, prior to any formal pre-decision scrutiny.

The panel sought clarification on a number of points and raised the following key issues:

- Restricting the use of electric vehicle bays to four hours was welcomed but it was questioned whether parking and the supply of electricity should be free of charge.
- Some taxi parking bays (for example, outside the Hope and Anchor public house in Victoria Street, Grimsby) were not being used and this needed to be reviewed.

- The level of consultation with businesses and partners was questioned. It was noted that further consultation with businesses was due to be undertaken after this meeting.
- The length of time between reviews was questioned as being far too long and it was requested that a set timeframe be introduced. The impact of COVID was acknowledged and officers agreed to consider a fixed review period.
- Had any work been undertaken on potential impact of the proposals on parking in surrounding areas. It was noted that street parking had not yet been reviewed as a phased approach had been suggested. Further to this, and in response to a query about how success would be measured, it was noted that the cost of the project would be very closely monitored.
- Concerns were raised about any potential move to cashless parking and restricting payments to by phone only. It was noted that ticket machines would continue to be present in council car parks and there was a right of appeal against any parking ticket, which was managed by Equans with oversight from the Assistant Director of Housing, Highways, Transportation and Planning.
- Councillor Callison raised a specific point about an agreement that electric parking bays and one hour of free parking would be provided along Alexandra Road in Cleethorpes as a result of development projects in the resort. Officers agreed to look into this and respond back to Councillor Callison.
- Members requested specific detail on the redundant car parks that were due to be removed from the Parking Order. It was agreed that a list of the redundant car parks would be circulated to members of this panel.

The panel requested that the formal report and recommendations to Cabinet be submitted to a special meeting of this panel prior to decision by Cabinet.

RESOLVED –

1. That the comments of this panel, as detailed above, be noted.
2. That the formal report and recommendations to Cabinet be submitted to a special meeting of this panel on 8th February 2022, prior to decision by Cabinet.

SPE.55 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2021/22 - QUARTER 2

The panel received a report from the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Resources providing key information and analysis of the Council's position and performance for the second quarter of the 2021/22 financial year

This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 3rd November 2021 and referred to all scrutiny panels. Mr Lonsdale noted that the financial position had improved since this report was considered by

Cabinet and the forecast overspend had now reduced from £4.3m to £0.3m. He highlighted key issues within the remit of this panel.

A concern was raised about progress with the South Humber Inward Investment Programme and the impact of slippage. It was agreed that an update on the programme would be brought back to this panel as soon as possible.

The panel welcomed that a return was beginning to be seen as a result of increased house building in the Borough.

RESOLVED – That the report now submitted be noted.

SPE.56 REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 3 2021

The panel received a report containing a summary of the Regeneration Partnership's performance against key performance indicators for the period up to quarter three of 2021.

The panel discussed the empty homes target within the report and it was felt that the target of 40 units being brought back into use could be more ambitious. There was also a query about how long houses had to be empty to be included within the housing supply figures.

Mr Nearney noted that empty homes was due to be considered in its own right at a forthcoming meeting of this panel but commented that the target was a contractual figure and the aim was to deliver as many as possible. He added that this wasn't just about numbers but also the type of property and this could be explored in more depth when the matter was brought back to this panel. He agreed to provide a written response to the query about empty homes and housing supply.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report now submitted be noted.
2. That a written response be provided to this panel to the query regarding how long houses had to be empty to be included within the housing supply figures.

SPE.57 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

There were no members' questions to the portfolio holders.

SPE.58 CALLING-IN OF DECISIONS

There were no formal requests from members to call in decisions taken at recent meetings.

**SPE.59 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
CONCESSIONARY FARES**

The panel considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport seeking approval of the concessionary fares scheme from 1 April 2022. This report was submitted to this panel for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 16th February 2022. It was noted that the appendix to this report was considered exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) but the panel had no questions on the appendix so this matter was considered without the need to exclude the press and public.

RESOLVED – That the report and its recommendations be noted.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.26 p.m.