

Economy Scrutiny Panel

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| DATE | 11/07/2023 |
| REPORT OF | Assistant Chief Executive |
| SUBJECT | Economy Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2023/24 |
| STATUS | OPEN |

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIM

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report reflects work undertaken by the Economy Scrutiny Panel; within the panel's terms of reference, to identify topics to be included in the 2023/24 work programme. The panel is asked to agree the work programme.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

The appendix to this report summarises the suggested work programme and the panel's likely timetable of activities during 2023/24 to undertake this work. The report will be a live document and progress on each of the work programme items will be monitored throughout the year.

In addition to the work programme items, there will be the opportunity for members to identify agenda items from the forward plan, 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 its recommendations.

The panel may also consider any issues it may wish to remove or add to this year's work programme. The panel may also respond to issues of public concern.

Members are asked to consider and agree the work programme for the ensuing municipal year.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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

3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The work programme demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations included within this report.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on children and young people as a direct result of this report. Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include children and young people implications by the author(s) concerned.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include climate change and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

7. MONITORING COMMENTS

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

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS

May impact on all wards

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual report of scrutiny 2021/22
Economy Scrutiny Panel tracking reports

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Anne Campbell – Scrutiny and Committee Advisor
01472 326132

HELEN ISAACS
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)



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Economy Scrutiny Panel

Work programme 2023/24

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1. The role of scrutiny

Effective overview and scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge - examine and review the council’s decisions
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public - review and report on issues that affect local people
- Drive improvement in public services - consider the work of partners and other public organisations which affect local residents
- Contribute to the development of future policies and strategies that will help improve services for local people
- Involve local people in council decision making
- Co-ordinate the Councillor Call for Action

You can find out more about scrutiny on the council’s website:

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/decision-making/scrutiny/>

This document sets out the priorities, outcomes and actions which relate directly to the Economy Scrutiny Panel and forms the basis of its work programme for the next municipal year. It also provides a guide for prioritising items for scrutiny.

This document is ‘work in progress’; the updating of the work programme is an ongoing task. The work programme in detail describes the panel’s desired outcomes, objectives, intentions, outputs and progress. Topics may be added or withdrawn to react to changing priorities.

2. Terms of reference

The scrutiny panels are responsible for scrutinising any matters affecting North East Lincolnshire within their remit. For the Economy Scrutiny Panel these include:

- Matters pertaining to the Economic strategy
- Economic development
- External funding and inward Investment (including renewable energy)
- Regeneration projects
- Local enterprise and growth
- Regeneration Partnership performance monitoring
- Local Plan
- Transport and traffic regulations (including parking)
- Business and education partnerships
- Strategic housing
- Asset management (including business centres)
- Flood risk management
- Energy and climate change
- Empty and derelict property

3. Scrutiny of the budget

A key element of the work programme is annual scrutiny of the Council's proposed priorities and budget prior to formal approval by Cabinet and Council in February 2024. This is usually achieved via both informal and formal all member budget scrutiny meetings.

The Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board will determine how budget scrutiny, performance monitoring issues and matters of a corporate nature which affect the Council as a whole, are dealt with.

North East Lincolnshire Council's finance and commissioning plan 2023/24 – 2025/26 as approved in February 2023 can be found [here](#).

4. The Council Plan

The council plan, approved by Council in February 2023, sets out the priorities for this council and should influence the content of the panel's future work programme. All scrutiny panels will monitor the vital signs and delivery of the council plan via regular performance monitoring reports. The council plan can be found [here](#).

The panel's work programme remains a flexible document and may need to be adjusted to reflect this panel's role in monitoring council plan priority interventions within its remit. It is anticipated that the scrutiny panels will receive regular updates on progress with the key actions contained within the council plan.

5. Focus for the Economy Scrutiny Panel

The forward work programme of each scrutiny panel should be linked to the delivery of the Council Plan. The work of this scrutiny panel must be focussed on these priorities when making recommendations on important policy matters and must hold the executive and other decision makers to account on those terms. It is important that panels maintain this focus when examining issues and setting agendas.

At its meeting on 28th February 2023, members were given the opportunity to identify potential items for the panel's 2023/24 programme.

Panel suggestions 28 February 2023:

In addition to priority outcomes within the panel's terms of reference, the following topics have been suggested for consideration for next year's scrutiny work programme:

- Monitoring performance relating to the delivery of the council plan and the economic strategy
- Evaluation of the impact of the Grimsby Master Plan and its individual projects and schemes.
- Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) and improvement plans
- South Humber Industrial Investment Programme (SHIIP) - timely updates on progress
- Empty homes
- Gypsy and traveller negotiated stopover site
- Implementation of freeport proposals
- 'Our Green Futures' - monitoring performance relating to the delivery of Energy Carbon Roadmap and Natural Assets Plan

The panel will also continue monitoring via regular reporting on :

- Local transport plan
- Monitoring the performance of the regeneration partnership via quarterly report
- Financial and council plan monitoring via quarterly reports

The above matters were discussed by the panel at a work programme workshop on 27th June, 2023 where the following was also agreed:

- Housing Strategy Review (pre-cabinet scrutiny)
- Housing delivery
- Freshney Place Management Sub-Committee Annual Report
- Corporate Asset management Plan (pre-cabinet scrutiny)
- Commercial Estates Plan (pre-cabinet scrutiny)
- Panel consultation on major highways schemes
- Grimsby Master Plan* draft designs
- Grimsby Master Plan* Grimsby library

How the panel will approach this work is included in section 9.

6. Who's who

Chair of the Economy Scrutiny Panel
Deputy Chair

- Councillor Oliver Freeston
- Councillor Henry Hudson

Cllr P Jackson –

Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing:

- Economic strategy
- Regeneration, inward investment and growth
- Business support and local enterprise
- All aspects of housing
- Net Zero, decarbonisation, the NEL Carbon Roadmap and the Green agenda
- Strategic economic collaboration
- Skills and employability

Cllr S Harness –

Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets:

- Financial strategy and corporate governance
- Revenue budget and capital programme
- Digital strategy, inclusion and development
- Shared services and commercial development
- Financial inclusion
- Assets (corporate, commercial, community) and estate management

Cllr S Swinburn –

Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport:

- Planning, development control, highways and transportation
- Traffic management, parking and regulation
- Waste, recycling and environmental management
- Neighbourhood services, street scene, parks, open spaces
- Climate Change related policy implementation affecting the natural environment

7. Panel Membership 2023/24

Membership

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Conservative - | James Cairns Oliver Freeston Henry Hudson Martyn Sandford Mark Smith |
| Labour - | Kathryn Wheatley Karl Wilson |
| Independent | Stephen Holland |

Substitutes

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|---------------|--|
| Conservative: | Nick Pettigrew Tanya Brasted Keith Brookes Bill Parkinson Paul Silvester |
| Labour: | Matthew Patrick Janet Goodwin |
| Independent | Paul Henderson / Lyndsey Downes |

8. Scheduled meetings of the panel 2023/24

All meetings start at **6.30 p.m.** in **Grimsby Town Hall** unless otherwise stated on agenda papers.

Tuesday 11 July 2023
Tuesday 12 September 2023
Tuesday 7 November 2023
Tuesday 9 January 2024
Tuesday 27 February 2024

The panel may call special meetings to consider issues in a timely manner or to give focus to important items.

There will be a special joint scrutiny meeting held on Monday 17th July 2023 at 6.30 p.m. involving the Economy Scrutiny Panel and Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel to allow pre-decision comment, scrutiny and influence relating to a proposed skills strategy and action plan. The Strategy will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 19th July, 2023

9. DRAFT - ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION: Economy Scrutiny Panel 2023/24

| 11 July 6.30 p.m. <i>Scheduled</i> | Mon 17 July 6.30 p.m. <i>SPECIAL JOINT w CLL</i> | 12 September 6.30 p.m. <i>Scheduled</i> | 7 November 6.30 p.m. <i>Scheduled</i> | 9 January 6.30 p.m. <i>Scheduled</i> | 27 February 6.30 p.m. <i>Scheduled</i> | <i>SPECIAL</i> | <i>SPECIAL</i> |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|----------------|----------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 Provisional outturn report (Mar23) • Q4 Council Plan (Jan-Mar) • Panel work programme 2023/24 • EQUANS performance report end of year (Dec 22) <p>Cabinet 19 July 23 Aug</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Strategy <p>Cabinet 23 Aug</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 EQUANS performance (Jan-Mar) • Q1 Quarterly Finance and Council Plan Monitoring report (Apr-Jun) • Gypsy and Traveller Negotiated Stopover site • <p>Cabinet 20 Sep 18 Oct</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 Quarterly Finance and Council Plan Monitoring report (Jul-Sep) • Housing Strategy Review • Housing Delivery • Freshney Place Management - Annual Report • Corporate Asset Management • Commercial Estates Plan • SHIIP (pre cabinet) • Major Highways Project(s) <p>Cabinet 15 Nov 20 Dec</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 EQUANS performance (Apr-Jun). • Bus Service Improvement Partnership <p>Cabinet 17 Jan 14 Feb</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q3 Quarterly Finance and Council Plan Monitoring report (Oct-Dec) • LTP <p>Cabinet 13 Mar 3 Apr</p> | • . | • . |
| STANDING / GENERAL AGENDA ITEMS:- | | | | | | | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public questions • Forward Plan | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions to PH • Tracking | | |
| WORKING GROUPS / WORKSHOPS | Work Programme Workshop June 2023 | Scrutiny Budget working groups November 2023 and January 2024 – to be confirmed | To be determined : Freeport / County deal - consider panel/all member development event / briefing note | | | | |

Panel suggestions Feb 2023 (from annual scrutiny report)

- Monitoring performance relating to the delivery of the council plan and the economic strategy
- Evaluation of the impact of the Grimsby Master Plan and its individual projects and schemes*.
- Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) and improvement plans
- South Humber Industrial Investment Programme (SHIIP) - timely updates on progress
- Empty homes
- Gypsy and traveller negotiated stopover site – after Summer 2023
- Implementation of freeport proposals
- 'Our Green Futures' - monitoring performance relating to the delivery of Energy Carbon Roadmap and Natural Assets Plan

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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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North East Lincolnshire Council
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Town Hall Square
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or call (01472) 326285