



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 28th September 2023

TOURISM AND VISITOR ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL

27th July 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Councillor Brookes (in the Chair)
Councillors Boyd (substitute for Hudson), Cairns, Henderson, Mickleburgh,
Morland, Parkinson and Westcott

Officers in attendance:

- Nick Browning (Head of Culture, Heritage, Leisure and Tourism)
- Anne Campbell (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Dee Hitter (Head of Environmental Sustainability)
- Damian Jaines-White (Assistant Director – Regeneration)
- Ian King (Special Planning Manager)
- Sophie Pickerden (Committee Support Officer)
- Joanne Robinson (Assistant Director – Policy, Strategy and Resources)
- James Trowsdale (Strategic Manager – Regeneration)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Dawkins (Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy)

There were two members of the public in attendance.

SPTVE.1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

It was noted that at the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 25th May, 2023, Councillor Brookes had been appointed the Chair and Councillor Parkinson the Deputy Chair of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

SPTVE.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillor Hudson.

SPTVE.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

SPTVE.4 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel meetings held on 10th and 24th March 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

SPTVE.5 QUESTION TIME

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

SPTVE.6 FORWARD PLAN

The panel considered the current Forward Plan and were asked to identify any items for examination by this panel via the pre-decision call-in procedure. No such items were identified.

RESOLVED - That the Forward Plan be noted.

SPTVE.7 PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT

The panel received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets providing key information and analysis of the Council's position and performance against its Finance and Commissioning Plan at the end of the 2022/23 financial year. The report was referred to all scrutiny panels by Cabinet at its meeting on 14th June 2023.

Ms Robinson committed to gather responses in writing from the finance team relating to capital £8.6m underspend, profile of £23.9m capital commitment and allocation of £11.9 public health grant.

RESOLVED -

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a written response to issues raised be forwarded to the panel.

SPTVE.8 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/2023 - QUARTER 4

The panel received a report from the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing providing oversight of performance against the council plan for the final quarter of the 2022/23 financial year (January – March 2023). The report was referred to all scrutiny panels by Cabinet at its meeting on 14th June 2023.

The committee were given to the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on any matters. A member queried whether the Council was on target with the original budget, factoring in current inflation rates. Ms Robinson stated that a finance officer would be better to advise on that matter but said that costs of materials was factored into the report and if there were any significant changes due to inflation, then officers would have to go through the standard governance process and a decision would be made by Cabinet. A member asked whether benchmark figures could be included in the report alongside the trend lines. Ms Robinson stated that improvements were being made to the dashboard which would improve the way that the information would be presented to panel members.

A member sought clarification on the trends lines in the report being shown as going down but the narrative in the report being that everything was going okay. Mr Jaines-White commented that there had been a mistake and that indeed the narrative did not reflect the trends. Mr Jaines-White added that the figures fluctuated and he was not unduly concerned.

A member stated that he thought the dip in footfall on the North Promenade could be related to the issues around Transpennine Express which had now been resolved. A member stated that he thought it was important that the Council took a lead on the issue of the potential train station ticket office closures. Councillor Dawkins stated that the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport were against the closures of the ticket offices, as was the rest of Cabinet.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPTVE.9 SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY

The panel received a report from the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure on the development of a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. Mr Browning stated that the report would be presented to Cabinet in August.

The panel was given the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on any matters. The Chair queried how the effectiveness of the strategy would be measured. Mr Browning said that clearer measures for each of the eleven priorities in the report would be outlined

in the annual action plan. He said that the effectiveness of the strategy could be assessed by various data being collected such as leisure facility usage and methods of travelling to work. Mr Jaines-White stated that the strategy would take time to have effect and that to properly assess the impact, it would need to be considered generationally rather than through short term performance indicators. Mr Jaines-White offered to collate a dashboard of statistics showing the direction of trends, which would show the panel the impact the strategy was having over time. Members agreed to this.

A member queried Lincs Inspire removing concessionary prices at the leisure centres. Mr Browning clarified that there were no longer concessionary prices for paying on the day but that Lincs Inspire still offered a concessionary price for those paying monthly. Mr Jaines-White stressed that whilst the authority worked in partnership and maintained working relationships with Lincs Inspire, the council could not influence the pricing regime of leisure services delivered by Lincs Inspire.

A member asked whether the strategy could include partnering with more grass roots community sport groups and whether such groups could attain any funding. Mr Jaines-White said that officers were building a relationship with Sports England which could potentially lead to funding opportunities. He stated that the strategy was considered with the whole borough in mind not just the leisure centres.

Members commended the report and looked forward to receiving updates on progress.

The Chair reiterated his desire for members of the panel to initiate visits to leisure facilities with a view to providing feedback to the panel. This would be part of the panel's work programme.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report and members' comments be noted.
2. That a dashboard of statistics be developed to enable the panel to track performance against and impact of the strategy and action plan.
3. That members be encouraged to visit leisure settings to provide feedback to the panel.

SPTVE.10 ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND PRIORITY PLACE SUPPORT

The panel received a report from the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure requesting feedback from the panel on the draft priorities and to inform of the activities that could take place to deliver the shared objectives between the council and the Arts Council England. Mr

Trowsdale introduced the report and explained the progress that had been made in terms of receiving funding for projects.

The panel commended officers on the report and all those involved with the projects. A member suggested that an event be organised about funding in which different groups could attend. Mr Jaines-White suggested that the Assistant Chief Executive would potentially look into that.

There was a wider discussion around the importance of collaboration between different community groups and the Council and on the importance of advertising local facilities.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPTVE.11 CLEETHORPES HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The panel received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport outlining the approach and actions to maintain and manage the Cleethorpes Coastline. The report had been referred to the panel for pre-decision scrutiny and comment before going to Cabinet on 23rd August 2023. Ms Hitter introduced the report and explained that the Humber Estuary was an important site for wildlife and that there was a legal duty upon the council to manage the site.

The panel were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the report.

A member expressed concern about the discharge of raw sewage into the estuary and the impact on water quality. Ms Hitter said that the council worked with the Environment Agency and monitored the situation. Mr Jaines-White commented that the issue regarding sewage was not included in the plan. He recommended that the issue of sewage and water quality be included on the agenda for a future meeting for discussion to take place. The Chair agreed to this approach.

There was a wider discussion about the Habitat Management Plan and how disturbances such as noise to the estuary were dealt with. Ms Hitter said that there was a system in place to track disturbance events and that officers do have channels of communication with various teams to deal with any issues. A member asked what officers considered to be an acceptable level of salt marsh. Ms Hitter advised that there was a line determined by Natural England and if salt marsh encroached over this line it could be removed.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report and members' comments be noted.
2. That a report on water quality be brought to a future meeting of this panel.

SPTVE.12 TOURISM AND VISITOR ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

The panel received a report from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer (Assistant Chief Executive) outlining the forward work programme of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel. Ms Campbell reminded panel members of the different topics included in the work programme for 2023/24.

Councillor Henderson requested that two items be clarified in the work programme. Specifically, developing an integrated Docks Regeneration Strategy so that we can preserve the site as a heritage asset and use it to stimulate the visitor economy, and protecting the Fitties as a heritage site, valued by tourists and to stimulate the local economy, in-line with the Hemmingway plan. The panel agreed to this amendment of the two items and Ms Campbell confirmed she would add them.

Councillor Westcott asked whether the Cleethorpes beach huts could be added to the Work Programme. Ms Campbell responded that a report on the beach huts had been presented to the panel at a recent meeting and there would not be a benefit for the panel to scrutinise the matter again. Ms Campbell stated that she would circulate the previous report to new members of the panel who had not seen the report before for information.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel Work Programme for 2023/2024 be approved, subject to the amendments regarding Humberston Fitties and a Docks regeneration strategy.
2. That the Scrutiny Advisor circulate the Cleethorpes Beach Huts March 2023 report to new members of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel.

SPTVE.13 TRACKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY

The panel received a report from the Assistant Chief Executive tracking the recommendations of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That the tracking report be noted.

SPTVE.14 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

There were no questions submitted for the portfolio holder at the meeting.

SPTVE.15 CALLING IN OF DECISIONS

There were no formal requests from members of this panel to call-in decisions taken at recent meetings of Cabinet.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.30am.