

Transport, Infrastructure & Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel

DATE	24 th February 2025
REPORT OF	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
SUBJECT	Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

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 on the 2024/25 municipal year and the work undertaken by the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel. The panel will also consider, within its terms of reference, suggestions to be included in the 2024/25 work programme ahead of confirmation of the work programme at the first meeting of this panel in the new Municipal Year.

MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

The panel is invited to reflect on the 2024/25 work programme, noting any matters it would like to highlight within the Annual Scrutiny Report, and consider any suggested items for inclusion in next year's work programme.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 This report and its appendix summarises the 2024/25 agreed work programme and the panel's timetable of activities to undertake this work.
- 1.2 During the course of the year, the panel has considered the following issues: -
 - The panel received updates on the Corporation Bridge project and sought assurances around contractor issues, completion dates and funding. Members felt the latest update was clear and transparent and welcomed progress made to date.
 - A Cabinet report on the redevelopment of town centre car parks and the creation of the Grimsby Town transport hub was received. The panel sought assurances that due diligence had been carried out when considering the costings and validity of the project. Councillor Jackson (Leader of the Council) endorsed the need for a parking survey and Councillor S. Swinburn (Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport) supported members need for accessibility routes to the nearby train station. With reference to the demolition of the site

members recommended that a useable site be opened as soon as possible to eliminate any unsightly, unusable areas.

- The Panel asked that their recommendations on the government proposal for the National Planning Framework consultation to be sent to Cabinet for consideration and form part of the council's response. The recommendations were warmly received by Cabinet and formed part of the Councils response to government.
- The panel progressed with the Traffic Management Co-ordination Working Group. Members of the group asked for the following key elements to be discussed: formalising plans and strategies; improved communication; benchmarking best practice; updates around the Equans transition; and traffic pinch points. A recent visit to the security control room was very informative and provided the working group with an insight in how technology can assist with traffic issues.
- The panel considered a formal request to call-in the decision taken by the Freshney Place Cabinet Sub Committee on Freshney Place car park maintenance. The panel recommended the release of the decision with a recommendation that the Freshney Place sub-committee refer the matter to the Audit and Governance Committee to consider transparency of finances around car park maintenance.
- Questions around the Scartho Cemetery Lodge disposal were taken by Councillor Harness (Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets) who advised that due diligence had been carried out when deciding on the disposal of the property.
- Additionally, the panel received reports on the Electric Vehicle Strategy; the Bus Service Improvement Plan; the Concessionary Fares scheme; the Gypsy and Traveller Negotiated Stopping Agreement; Alexandra Dock Regeneration Plans and Equans performance. Briefing notes were received by the panel on flood risk management and emergency planning.

1.3 The Annual Scrutiny Report is due to be submitted to the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2025 and will include a full summary of the work undertaken by this panel during the current year. If panel members wish to highlight particular work within this report, then they are invited to do so.

1.4 The panel will also have an early opportunity to consider any topics it may wish to retain in or add to next year's work programme.

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. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY 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, nature recovery and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

6. 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, the Section 151 Officer or the Assistant Director People and Organisational Development.

7. WARD IMPLICATIONS

May impact on all wards

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual report of scrutiny 2023/24
Panel tracking reports

9. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Helen Johnson – Scrutiny and Committee Advisor

JO ROBINSON

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – POLICY, STRATEGY AND RESOURCES
(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)**