

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	27 th February 2025
REPORT OF	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
SUBJECT	Communities 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 Communities 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 key issues:-
 - Annual Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25 for comment and pre-decision scrutiny prior to submission to Cabinet.
 - Progress with the Depot Rationalisation project.
 - Update on the action plan associated with waste on private land.
 - Report on the proposal for a new Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan.
 - Update on the Council registering to become a housing provider.
 - Update on the current operating model of the Public Space Protection Orders(PSPOs).

Some key achievements to highlight

The panel received its first Call-In relating to the enforcement pilot of Selective Licensing and heard concerns from two local ward councillors.

The panel also received a report outlining how the Council utilised the Household Support Fund (HSF) with the panel making some recommendations to cabinet around the HSF requesting that a letter be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer requesting further clarification of the Government's plans beyond the additional six-month funding period.

An additional recommendation to Cabinet was made by the panel asking the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities to send a further letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, advocating for adjustments to the Household Support Fund to account for inflation from 2025 onwards.

On the topic of housing, a representative from Lincolnshire Housing Partnership attended the panel to update them on empty homes. The panel found the presentation interesting and had the opportunity to ask questions and felt this was the first step towards the Council improving its relationship with LHP in the future.

Site Visits have been organised through the year to further visit the new Border Control Point, also visit a to Generations Food Pantry and a field trip to look at housing provider sites in Doncaster and Scunthorpe with ONGO.

Finally, this year the panel have overseen the Equans Working Group which has focused on both the pre and post implementation closely monitoring operational matters. The Working Group have reported their recommendations around CCTV and security services and Enforcement back through the Communities Panel prior to consideration at Cabinet.

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 2024/25
Panel tracking reports

9. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Joanne Paterson – Scrutiny and Committee Advisor

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

APPENDIX A

ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION: Communities Scrutiny Panel – CRIME and DISORDER COMMITTEE: 2024/25

AGENDA ITEMS	Tues 23 rd July 2.00 p.m.	Thu 5 th September 2.00 p.m.	Thu 10 th October 2.00 p.m.	Thu 21 st November 2.00 p.m.	Thu 9 th January 2.00 p.m.	Thu 27 th February 2.00 p.m.
THEME:			CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE			
STANDING / GENERAL / MONITORING AGENDA ITEMS:-	<p>Work programme 2024/25</p> <p>North East Lincolnshire Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024-25</p> <p>Council Plan Year End Performance & Provisional Financial Outturn Review 2023-2024</p> <p>Equans Review Working Group – to receive initial recommendations.</p>	<p>Q1 Finance Monitoring</p> <p>Household Support Fund / Exit Strategy</p> <p>Waste on Private Land</p> <p>Financial Report on Doughty Road Depot Project</p>	<p>Community Safety Update Report</p> <p>To include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hate Crime statistics. • Domestic Violence • ASB Review 	<p>Q2 Finance Monitoring Report</p> <p>Work programme Update 2024/25</p> <p>New Management Plan - Cleethorpes Country park</p>	<p>Full Report on PSPO's to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Police data <p>Equans Update Report for the Communities Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>Report on progress of Council registering to become a housing provider.</p>	<p>Q3 Finance Monitoring Report</p> <p>Report back to scrutiny on Phasing out use of Glyphosate (petition considered at Council in September 2024) (<i>potential recs to Cabinet in March</i>)</p> <p>Design out Crime Safer Streets in the Town Centre</p> <p>Annual Green Futures Report</p> <p>Draft Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan</p>

2 Working Groups to report back formally through this Panel: -

- Depot Rationalisation – Complete
- Equans Review (to include Security and Street Enforcement)

Briefing Notes

- Update on Play Areas
- Cleethorpes Boating Lake- Update on any future works
- Empty Homes – Update around Policy/Approach how enforce.
- Cleethorpes Country Park

Site Visits

- Further Site Visit to new BCP Building (scheduled for 11th November 2024 at 2:15pm)
- Visit to Generations Church Pantry - Food provision – (scheduled for 21st November 11am).
- Field Trip to ONGO 28th February 2025.

Next Years Work Programme

- Update on youth Justice Plan in 12 months time – July 2025 Panel
- Joint Scrutiny Panel between Communities and Children and Lifelong Learning to receive and scrutinise the Youth Justice Plan.
- Violence against Women & Girls (from Crime and Disorder Committee October 2024)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy Update (**Will be coming after Mayoral Combined Election**).
- That the topic of cycling within the Town Centre be added to the panel's work programme for next year.