



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 26th September 2024

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

23rd July 2024 at 2.00 pm

Present:

Councillor Aisthorpe (in the Chair)
Councillors Kaczmarek (substitute for Augusta), Bonner, Boyd, Brookes, Farren, Shutt and Silvester

Officers in attendance:

- Carolina Borgstrom (Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure)
- Gemma Broderick (Solicitor, Law and Governance)
- Neil Clark (Regulatory Services Strategic Lead)
- Paul Cowling (Service Director Regulated Services)
- Spencer Hunt (Assistant Director Safer and Stronger Place)
- Helen Isaacs (Assistant Chief Executive)
- Guy Lonsdale (Assistant Director Finance)
- Jo Paterson (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Eve Richardson Smith (Service Manager Consultancy and Deputy Monitoring Officer)
- Joanne Robinson (Assistant Director Policy Strategy and Resources)
- Charlene Sykes (Assistant Director Safeguarding and Early Help)
- Emma Young (Deputy Service Director Youth Justice and Early Help)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Ron Shepherd (Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities)

There were no members of the press present.

SPC.1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

It was noted that at the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 23rd May 2024, Councillor Aisthorpe had been appointed the Chair and Councillor Shutt the Deputy Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

SPC.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

SPC.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items on the agenda.

SPC.4 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the special meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Panel held on 12th February and meeting held on 22nd February 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

SPC.5 QUESTION TIME

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

SPC.6 FORWARD PLAN

The panel received the current 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.

SPC.7 TRACKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY

The panel received a report from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer tracking the recommendations of the Communities Scrutiny Panel.

At SPC.22, registered housing provider, Ms Paterson advised that she was awaiting an update from Mr Evans on how to progress this.

At SPC.28, CCTV update, the panel asked that this remain on tracking.

One member requested further information around CCTV outside of Lisle Marsden School. Mr Hunt to obtain an update from Mr Thorpe and report back directly to Councillor Boyd.

At SPC.51, waste on private land, Mr Clark advised that the guidance requested would form part of his report to the panel in September 2024.

At SPC.52, progress update on play areas, a briefing note would be provided as part of the panel's work programme.

At SPC.52, Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) performance update, Ms Paterson confirmed that this was now included within the work programme for the forthcoming year. The panel agreed that this could now be marked as complete and removed from tracking.

At SPC.59, depot rationalisation, members requested that a comprehensive report be brought back to the meeting of this panel in September 2024.

RESOLVED

1. That the tracking report be noted.
2. That further information be provided to Councillor Boyd on CCTV outside of Lisle Marsden School.
3. That a comprehensive report on the depot rationalisation be submitted to the meeting of this panel in September 2024.

SPC.8 COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

The panel considered its work programme for 2024/25.

RESOLVED – That the Communities Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2024/25 be approved.

SPC.9 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024-25

The panel received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education which outlined the Annual Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25.

Ms Young set out the background to the report noting that there was a statutory duty for each local authority after consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement an Annual Youth Justice Plan. Ms Young noted that the plan had been modified and the revised version would be circulated to members in due course.

Members asked how ward councillors could be more engaged with this. Ms Young would take this forward in terms of exploring more engagement with the plan.

The Chair referred to the speech, language and communication aspect of the report noting that research had shown that young people convicted of a criminal offence had undiagnosed language problems and that autism required a higher quality of support than other special educational needs (SEN) such as ADHD and dyslexia which had been categorised differently. The Chair asked what more was being done in terms of preventative measures to address this at a much earlier stage before it got to the youth justice service.

Ms Young noted that they had a close relationship with the Head of SEN and Inclusion to tackle how to address speech and language connectivity. There was also a real emphasis on this area, and they were working closely around intervention and further work was underway around the family hubs agenda.

The Chair asked for more information about waiting lists for the education health and care plans. Ms Young noted that this was an improving picture, and officers were doing a lot of work around diagnoses, making sure those children that needed extra support at the earliest opportunity got that support and tailoring in intervention.

A member queried the re-offending data between 2020-22 noting that this was very low and asked whether this was influenced by COVID and lockdown. Ms Young explained that whilst there was a noted impact in this data this was a result of COVID. This data was two years out of date as the cohort were tracked for a time period to determine if they were to re-offend and for a further time period to understand the outcome of the offences. It was noted that the youth justice cohort had reduced over recent years, and the reducing cohort made the re-offending rate volatile.

A member asked about the 'Jeff Project' and what preventative measures were in place and also what work was being done to support children with their mental health. Ms Young explained about targeted intervention and engaging with community and voluntary agencies to support a new model going forward with the Integrated Care Board (ICB). There was a clear link between those children with mental health needs being involved in the criminal justice system.

Members were supportive of the Annual Youth Justice Plan and complimented officers on an excellent report. Members asked for a further update in twelve months' time. Ms Paterson confirmed this could be factored into the work programme.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024-25 be supported.
2. That a further updated on progress be provided to this panel in 12 months' time.

SPC.10 COUNCIL PLAN YEAR END PERFORMANCE AND PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REVIEW 2023-24.

The panel considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets providing key information and analysis of the Council's position and performance at the end of 2023-24.

Mr Lonsdale gave a brief summary of the report noting that the focus for this panel had been around safer and partnerships. He noted that the new quarterly Council Plan report would have a new format with some of the responsible areas changing and including more specific areas of focus. The new format would include a live dashboard which was still being developed and was hoped to be ready by the Autumn.

A member considered it would be more helpful if the Council Plan could provide some indication around direction of travel in terms of context and more problematic areas, rather than providing members with a mass of data. Ms Robinson noted that they were working on the live dashboard over the coming months, and officers would take this forward in terms of how the information was presented. Ms Robinson would share a link to the new dashboard which would include some guidance about how to use it.

A short discussion ensued around concerns with project overspends and project accounting. Members were assured by officers that a whole range of governance and oversight took place with council projects noting that larger more material projects were commercially sensitive. It was felt that oversight fell within the remit of the Audit and Governance Committee in terms of its remit around giving that assurance, also the Council's Business Development Group reviewed projects and the development framework provided additional assurance.

Members felt that we could learn a lot from some of the issues experienced with projects and improve on things in the future.

Ms Borgstrom noted that if members had specific concerns around council projects a report could be brought back to scrutiny although she cautioned that, due to the sensitivity around contractor challenges, some of this information would have to be taken in exempt session.

Ms Isaacs reminded members that they received regular press releases through the Council's communications team which provided a good level of information on projects the Council were undertaking. It was suggested that members come back to officers if there was not enough information provided.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a link to the new performance dashboard, including guidance on its use, be circulated to members of this panel.

SPC.11 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

There were no questions for the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities at this meeting.

SPC.12 CALLING IN OF DECISIONS

There were no formal requests from members of this panel to call in decisions of recent Cabinet and Portfolio Holder meetings.

SPC.13 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the press and public be requested to leave on the grounds that discussion of the following business was likely to disclose exempt information within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

SPC.14 EQUANS REVIEW WORKING GROUP

The panel considered a report from the Assistant Chief Executive and Statutory Scrutiny Officer on the above.

Ms Borgstrom set out the context to the two reviews for both CCTV and Security Services and Street and Public Space Enforcement Service. Ms Borgstrom outlined the background to the review of services as detailed within her report and further set out the recommendations, noting that the panel were being asked to consider the recommendations from the working group for potential referral to Cabinet.

Mr Hunt gave an overview of the CCTV and Security Services review, noting what had been considered and explored including the range of commercial services provided by Equans which generated income. Mr Hunt had also undertaken some benchmarking with other neighbouring authorities to understand and compare how their CCTV and Security Services operated. Mr Hunt outlined the recommendations within the report.

Members raised a number of queries including how Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with schools would be factored into things and also planning enforcement issues.

Members supported unanimously both recommendations to Cabinet within the report.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET -

CCTV and Security Services

1. That the Council reintegrate the Equans current delivery model and continue to provide in-house service delivery for both Security and CCTV post June 2025.
2. That a further review of the Security provision be undertaken 12 months post integration to enable a more informed understanding of both the external customer business model, in addition to

understanding better what the council's future security requirements should deliver moving forward.

Street and Public Space Enforcement

3. That the Council continue their Partnership Delivery with City of Doncaster Council for street-based patrols and align contract end dates with neighbouring council's by exercising the extension period to November 2026. This would provide the opportunity to reconsider future delivery models for street-based enforcement of litter and public space issues in 2026.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.24 p.m.