



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 20th March 2025

ECONOMY, CULTURE AND TOURISM SCRUTINY PANEL

23rd January 2025 at 10.00am

Present:

Councillor Brookes (in the Chair)
Councillors Bright, Cairns (substitute for Lindley), Crofts, Farren (substitute for Jervis), Mickleburgh, Morland and Parkinson

Officers in attendance:

- Nick Browning (Head of Culture, Heritage, Leisure and Tourism)
- Damien Jaines-White (Assistant Director Regeneration)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance, Monitoring Officer)
- Guy Lonsdale (Assistant Director Finance)
- Beverly O'Brien (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Helen Thompson (Strategic Lead for Tourism)
- James Trowsdale (Strategic Lead for Culture)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Jackson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills)
- Councillor Dawkins (Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy)

SPE.43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence for this meeting were received from Councillors Lindley and Jervis.

SPE.44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dawkins declared a disposable pecuniary interest in Item SPE.49 as his spouse was employed by EQUANS.

SPE.45 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 5th December 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

SPE.46 QUESTION TIME

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

SPE.47 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.

RESOLVED - That the Forward Plan be noted.

SPE.48 TRACKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY

The panel received a report from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer tracking the recommendations of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel.

At SPE.40, Mrs O'Brien confirmed that a briefing note on the Council's approach to town twinning and another on the Grimsby Minster had been sent out in December 2024 and January 2025. The panel were happy for these completed actions to be removed.

RESOLVED – That SPE.40 be removed from the tracking report and all other actions be noted.

Councillor Dawkins left the room at this point of the meeting.

SPE.49 REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORT

The panel considered a report from EQUANS containing a summary of performance against key performance indicators for the period July to September 2024.

RESOLVED – That the Regeneration Partnership performance report be noted.

Councillor Dawkins returned to the meeting at this point.

SPE.50 SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY AND LEISURE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

The panel considered a report from the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure providing an update on the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and leisure service delivery over the past year.

The panel received a presentation from the Chief Executive – Lincs Inspire Ltd who gave a detailed update on recent leisure service delivery. Members sought clarification on the provisions relating to cricket, refurbishment of the local tennis courts, business resources, the Active Forever health programme and closure of swimming pools in Immingham over the winter months.

RESOLVED – That the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and Leisure Service Annual Report be noted.

SPE.51 GRIMSBY FISHING HERITAGE CENTRE UPDATE

The panel received a report from the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure that summarised the progress made by the Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre.

RESOLVED – That the Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre update be noted.

SPE.52 CREATIVITY STRATEGY – ACTION PLAN 2024 AND 2025

The panel received a report from the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure that outlined the authority's aim to use creativity to share our stories in order to celebrate our past and help shape our future.

One Panel Member asked for reassurance that the service had sufficient budget to make sure these events could take place. Mr Trowsdale confirmed that the Council and other organisations had been successful in accessing external funding from Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver parts of the Action Plan for 2025

RESOLVED – That the Creative Strategy action plan 2024 and 2025 be noted.

SPE.53 FRESHNEY PLACE BUSINESS PLAN

The panel received a report from the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure to review the Freshney Place business plan for 2025.

Councillor Mickleburgh proposed for this item to be deferred to a special meeting, due to several panel members not having the opportunity to read the report beforehand. Councillor Bright seconded this.

After a vote of five for and two against, with one abstention, the proposal was agreed.

RESOLVED – That the Freshney Place business plan be deferred to a future special meeting of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel.

SPE.54 KASBAH PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES IN CONSERVATION AREAS (PSICA) 1 REVIEW AND UPDATE ON NEW GRANT SCHEME (PSICA 2)

The panel received a report from the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure reviewing the delivery of a programme of regeneration on the Kasbah Conservation Area which ran from January 2019 to March 2024 as part of the Greater Grimsby Heritage Action Zone.

The panel thought it would be insightful to see all the works done and asked if a visit could be scheduled in when it was most appropriate to do so.

RESOLVED –

1. That it be arranged for Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel Members to visit the Kasbah Conservation Area, when it was most appropriate to do so.
2. That the Kasbah Partnership scheme update be noted.

SPE.55 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

There were no panel members' questions to the Portfolio Holder.

SPE.56 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 11.34 a.m.