



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

## **TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL**

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**

### **Present:**

Councillor Mill (in the Chair)  
Councillors Crofts, Hasthorpe, Holland, Humphrey, Boyd (substitute for Lindley),  
Pettigrew and Wilson

### **Officers in attendance:**

- Jo Robinson (Assistant Director Policy, Strategy and Resources)
- Carolina Borgstrom (Director Economy, Environment and Infrastructure)
- Paul Evans (Assistant Director Infrastructure)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)
- Helen Johnson (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)

### **Also in attendance:**

- Councillor Harness (Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets)
- Councillor Jackson (Leader of the Council)
- Councillor Wheatley

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### **SPTISH.6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillor Lindley and from the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, Councillor S. Swinburn.

## **SPTISH.7      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Boyd noted that she carried out paid work for the Department for Transport but was unsure whether she needed to declare an interest in any items on the agenda for this meeting. Mr Jones advised that she should update her Register of Interests entry but there was no need to declare an interest at this meeting unless it was specifically referred to as part of any debate.

## **SPTISH.8      MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel special meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be agreed as a correct record subject to it being clarified that Councillor Wheatley was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Mill.

## **SPTISH.9      QUESTION TIME**

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

## **SPTISH.10    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.

## **SPTISH.11    TRACKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY**

The panel considered the report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer tracking the recommendations previously made by this scrutiny panel or its predecessor, which had been updated for reference at this meeting.

At SPE.37, Local Plan Review – Scoping and Issues, Mr Windley confirmed that the review would be subject to a joint meeting of this panel and the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel and information on methods of engagement would be available for that meeting.

At SPE.53, North East Lincolnshire Concessionary Fare Scheme, Mr Evans confirmed that an update on this item would be provided at the next meeting of this panel.

RESOLVED - That the report and the above updates be noted.

## **SPTISH.12 2023/24 COUNCIL PLAN YEAR END PERFORMANCE AND PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT**

The panel considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets providing key information and analysis of the Council's plan year end performance and provisional financial outturn review 2023/24. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and subsequently referred to all scrutiny panels for further consideration.

It was noted by Elected Members that overall, the Council's financial position was much better than the previous year however it was acknowledged that there are still challenges. Ms Robinson confirmed that Children's Services was in a much better financial position.

In the absence of the Assistant Director Finance, Elected Members agreed that clarification on the items below be made available to them as soon as possible.

- Confirmation of whether all Capital Receipts would be reinvested into the capital programme.
- How had transformation funds made a difference to the way services were provided and, noting that a significant proportion had been spent on children's services, were there any other elements funded through the transformation fund. Furthermore, it was noted that the £3.3m underspend in corporate budgets reflected the additional utilisation of capital receipts to fund transformational activities. Could there be a detailed breakdown of these activities?
- Within the revenue budget overview, the panel requested a clearer explanation of why the budget had been extended.

The Chair noted the sizeable variance in the Housing, Highways and Transport capital budget and enquired whether this was the result of timing issues. Mr Evans responded that there were multiple impacts and he agreed to provide the panel with further detail.

The panel sought clarification on a number of performance areas and these were responded to by officers present. It was noted that a number of performance targets were currently under review. It was agreed that consideration would be given to the inclusion of a target around affordable housing.

### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the Assistant Director Finance be requested to provide additional information to members of this panel as detailed above.
2. That the Assistant Director Infrastructure provide further information to members of this panel on the reasons for the variance in the Housing, Highways and Transport capital budget.

3. That consideration be given to the potential inclusion of a performance target around affordable housing.

## **SPTISH.13 REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

The panel raised the following issues:

- Timescales for the Grimsby Top Town Market move.
- Co-ordination of Highways Works
- The reason for the reducing number of Phone N Ride passenger trips
- Number of net new homes

On the Grimsby Top Town Market move, it was noted that the programme of works for the wider Freshney Place regeneration project was currently subject to input from the contractor and clear timescales were expected in early Autumn. In the meantime, discussions were taking place with stall holders to look at ways to make short-term improvements. It was agreed to add this to the panel's tracking report.

Highways works were being co-ordinated through an ICT system but it was felt that this was not being fully utilised. He also felt that statutory powers could be better utilised. Mr Evans confirmed that he was actively working on a resolution.

On the issue of the Phone N Ride scheme, Mr Evans agreed to provide an update as part of the Concessionary Fares scheme report that was due to be considered at the next meeting of this panel.

Ms Borgstrom advised she would check the net new homes figures and report back to panel members.

### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That further information on the use of the Phone N Ride scheme be included within the Concessionary Fares report due to be considered at the next meeting of this panel.
3. That the net new homes figures be clarified and confirmed with panel members.

## **SPTISH.14 CORPORATION BRIDGE**

The panel considered a report and a presentation setting out the findings of a full assessment of the Corporation Bridge refurbishment works and options available to the council.

It was noted that this report was advised to be considered in exempt session as it contained commercially sensitive information. On that basis, the Panel agreed to exclude the press and public for consideration of this item.

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).

The panel sought clarification on a number of points, including around financial options, accuracy of estimates, options for extending working hours and timescales. The panel felt that realistic communication with the public on the project was vital.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That option 2 as set out in the report now submitted be supported by this panel for implementation.
3. That a further update on this matter be submitted to the meeting of this panel in November 2024.

Note – The press and public were invited to return for the remainder of this meeting.

## **SPTISH.15 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

The panel considered a report setting out the council's highways and transportation priorities and providing a programme delivery update on progress.

A panel member referred to the Kiln Lane carriageway reconstruction and noted that an associated cycle path was not included in these works. He was concerned about a potential second road closure if these works were not done simultaneously. Mr Evans agreed to look into this and report back to the panel member.

Elected Members asked if there was still scope for adding more highway schemes. Mr Evans advised that they were waiting on confirmation of funding from the Department for Transport and there

would be full consultation with Elected Members if this funding was forthcoming.

A panel member suggested that information be made available on the previous year's performance. Mr Evans responded that this was being looked at for inclusion in future reports.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Assistant Director Infrastructure review works to be carried out to the Kiln Lane carriageway reconstruction to identify whether associated cycle path works would be carried out simultaneously, and that this be reported back to the relevant panel member.

## **SPTISH.16 TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME**

The panel considered a report from the Assistant Chief Executive (Statutory Scrutiny Officer) seeking to confirm this panel's work programme for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

A panel member suggested that the panel review traffic pinchpoints and funding that could be available them. It was also suggested that the panel receive a briefing note update on the Swan House project.

RESOLVED – That this panel's work programme for the 2024/25 Municipal Year be approved, subject to the addition of the following items:

- A review of traffic pinchpoints
- A briefing note update on the Swan House project.

## **SPTISH.17 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

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

## **SPTISH.18 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 8.30 pm.