



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 25th September 2025

TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL

15th July 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Mill (in the Chair)

Councillors Augusta, Bright, Hasthorpe, Pettigrew, K Swinburn (substitute for Crofts) and Wilson

Officers in attendance:

- Laura Bartle (Spatial Planning Policy Manager)
- Katie Brown (Director of Adult Services)
- Paul Evans (Assistant Director of Infrastructure)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance)
- Guy Lonsdale (Interim Section 151 Officer)
- Jo Robinson (Assistant Director Policy, Strategy and Resources)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Jackson (Leader of the Council)
- Councillor Harness (Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets)
- Councillor S Swinburn (Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport)

SPTISH.1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

It was noted that at the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 22nd May 2025, Councillor Mill had been appointed the Chair and Councillor Crofts, the Deputy Chair of the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

SPTISH.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

SPTISH.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

SPTISH.4 MINUTES

The panel received the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2025. At SPTISH.76 (East Marsh Retrofit Scheme), Councillor Wilson commented that the concerns of the panel regarding how landlords may treat existing tenants and tenancies once works had been carried out, was proposed as a recommendation to Cabinet by this panel. However, he felt that this wasn't reflected in the minutes. It was agreed to update the minutes, in consultation with the Chair and Councillor Wilson.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 4th March 2025 be agreed as a correct record, subject to the amendment of minute SPTISH.76 to clarify that the panel made a recommendation to Cabinet regarding its concerns about how landlords may treat existing tenants and tenancies once works had been carried out.

SPTISH.5 QUESTION TIME

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

SPTISH.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.

It was noted that there would be a joint meeting of this panel and the Communities Scrutiny Panel on 21st July 2025 to conduct pre-decision scrutiny of the proposed Selective Licensing scheme that was due to be submitted to Cabinet in August 2025.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be noted.

SPTISH.7 TRACKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY

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

At SPTISH.44 (Electric Vehicle Strategy Update), it was noted that there would be a further update at the meeting of this panel in September 2025 and that would include information on the projects in Nottingham and London.

At SPTISH.57 (Equans Performance Report), it was advised that information had been submitted to Democratic Services on the 2024 tenant survey. The 2025 survey was now live and further information on this would be provided for the meeting of this panel in September 2025.

At SPTISH.65 (Transport Hub Update), it was noted that the Transport Hub had been included in this panel's work programme. Mr Evans added that it was planned to re-open the site as soon as possible in order to eliminate any unsightly and unusable areas. The panel welcomed this but requested that this aspect remain on the tracking.

At SPTISH.73 regarding the remit of this panel in relation to housing issues, it was noted that this would be progressed through the Constitution Working Group.

At SPTISH.74 (Equans Performance Report), an update on the SUDs project on Broadway, Grimsby had been circulated to panel members on the day of this meeting. A panel member noted that there had been a lot of public dissatisfaction with the weeds in the area and the delays with the planting scheme. Mr Evans understood that the weeding had now been done. There had been some issues with planting supplies but further planting was to be done over the next month. Hardy shrubs were being planted to avoid any watering issues. The panel agreed to remove this item from the tracking.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that items SPTISH.66, SPTISH.73 (housing remits), SPTISH.74, SPTISH.75 and SPTISH.76 be removed from the tracking report.

SPTISH.8 COUNCIL PLAN YEAR END PERFORMANCE AND PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN REVIEW 2024-2025

The panel considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets providing key information and analysis of the Council Plan year end performance and provisional financial outturn review. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 11th June 2025 and was referred to all scrutiny panels.

A panel member enquired about the underspend on the capital programme and sought clarification of the reasons for projects not being completed. It was agreed to provide a written response.

The panel enquired about temporary accommodation pressures and were particularly interested in the Swan House provision leased by the council, noting that it had recently been advertised for sale, although that had now been withdrawn. There was an enquiry about whether money

invested in the property could be clawed back if there was a sale. It was agreed to provide a written response on that point.

The panel noted “an underachievement in parking income” and sought further explanation of this, including how it related to the increase in footfall. Mr Evans noted that this could be related to Abbey Walk car park being closed but he agreed to provide further information to the panel.

The panel noted that a programme of works for additional funding through the Local Transport Grant (including reallocation of HS2 funding) was currently being reviewed and enquired whether the outcome would be reported back to scrutiny. Mr Evans agreed that this could be reported back to this panel.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That written responses be provided to this panel regarding the following:
 - Reasons for the underspend on the capital programme.
 - Whether money invested in Swan House could be clawed back in the event of the property being sold.
 - An explanation of the underachievement in parking income

SPTISH.9 EQUANS PERFORMANCE REPORT

The panel considered a report from Equans containing a summary of performance against key performance indicators for the period January to March 2025.

A panel member noted some inconsistencies around reported building control performance.

Ms Robinson noted that this would be the final Equans performance report following the end of the contract on 30th June 2025. Officers were currently looking at incorporating meaningful performance information within the Council Plan quarterly performance reports.

The panel stressed the importance of including information on trends.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPTISH.10 RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON REFORM OF PLANNING COMMITTEES

The panel considered a report from Portfolio Holder Housing Infrastructure and Transport in response to the Government consultation

on reform of Planning Committees. This report was due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16th July 2025.

The panel felt that it was important to retain some form of call-in mechanism to allow Elected Members to bring matters to the attention of the Planning Committee.

The panel had no comments to add to the proposed response.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted with no comments added to the proposed response.

SPTISH.11 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The panel considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport which sought approval to adopt and publish the updated version of the Statement of Community Involvement (2025) at Appendix 1 in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2017. This report was due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 20th August 2025.

A panel member enquired why this council had chosen not to pursue the community infrastructure levy. It was noted that it was decided some time ago that the levy wasn't relevant in this area due to viability issues. Upon further questioning, it was noted that it would require significant resource and cost and would likely lead to a lot of challenge from the development industry. It was agreed to provide panel members with information on when this was last reviewed.

The panel enquired about community involvement in the allocation of Section 106 Agreement funding. It was noted that the forum for that was through consultation on a planning application when ideas could be presented for consideration. However, funding could only be used to support measures that were a direct impact of the development. It was agreed to submit a report to a future meeting of this panel setting out how communities can be involved in the allocation of Section 106 Agreement funding. This report would include information on the use and availability of such funding per ward.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted with no comments from this panel at this stage.
2. That a report be submitted to a future meeting of this panel setting out how communities can be involved in the allocation of Section 106 Agreement funding, to include information on the use and availability of such funding per ward.

SPTISH.12 TRANSPORT HUB CONSULTATION

The panel considered a briefing paper on the proposed public consultation on the Transport Hub

RESOLVED – That the briefing paper be noted.

SPTISH.13 TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

The panel considered the work programme for 2025-26 for the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED – That the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel's work programme for 2025-26 be approved.

SPTISH.14 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

A question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport had been submitted by Councillor Humphrey as follows:

In light of the dismissal of the contractors regarding Corporation Bridge in May, and the councillor's own apology in June, can he provide an update particularly to impacted local businesses, drivers and pedestrians regarding the progress with the project including how he intends to demonstrate the 'transparency accountability and learning' he states is needed?

Councillor S. Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, responded that, as previously stated, the council was committed to returning this historical structure back to full public use as quickly as possible. It was unfortunate that the termination of the principal contractor working on this refurbishment happened, however, based on the information provided by officers it was felt necessary and the correct decision to make to move this project to completion.

The situation with Corporation Road Bridge had understandably caused frustration for local businesses, residents and all those who rely on this key route. He reiterated his apology for the disruption caused and the way the project had unfolded.

Following the dismissal of the original contractor in May, the administration had undertaken a full review of the circumstances leading to that decision. Since then, the council had been working closely with technical advisors, heritage bodies and procurement specialists to secure a new contractor who was capable of completing the works to the required standard, particularly given the bridge's listed status and the complexity of restoration involved. Once a new contractor was appointed a timescale for the project would be

announced to the public and elected members. On approval of the new contractor, site work would be scheduled to resume soon after, subject to final due diligence. The council was committed to regular public updates, and this would include any emerging risks and mitigation plans.

With regard to how he intended to demonstrate transparency, accountability and learning, he had asked officers to initiate an internal lesson-learned process that would be reported to scrutiny. Furthermore, he was working with officers to strengthen our project oversight mechanisms, particularly for major infrastructure schemes. He remained committed to restoring both Corporation Road bridge and public trust in how we managed major projects.

He repeated that officers were working to procure a contractor to finish the bridge works, but due to the nature of this work, the details were commercial driven and sensitive. Therefore, until the new contractor was appointed, he was unable to share any further information.

SPTISH.15 CALLING IN OF DECISIONS

There were no formal requests from members of this panel to call in decisions taken at recent meetings of Cabinet.

SPTISH.16 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).

SPTISH.17 CORPORATION BRIDGE UPDATE

The panel received an update on progress with the Corporation Bridge project.

The panel asked a number of questions around financial considerations, the cost and responsibility for snagging works, and quality assurance.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted and that a further update be submitted to the next meeting of this panel.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.19 pm.