



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

ECONOMY, CULTURE AND TOURISM SCRUTINY PANEL

31st July 2025 at 10.00am

Present:

Councillor Holland (in the Chair)

Councillors Brookes, Crofts, Farren, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Morland and Parkinson

Officers in attendance:

- Nick Browning (Head of Culture, Heritage, Leisure and Tourism)
- Damien Jaines-White (Assistant Director Regeneration)
- Maggie Johnson (Head of Economy and Funding)
- Beverly O'Brien (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Eve Richardson-Smith (Legal Services Service Manager (Consultancy) and Deputy Monitoring Officer)
- Jo Robinson (Assistant Director Policy Strategy and Resources)
- Clare Swainson (Strategic Lead – Finance)
- Helen Thompson (Strategic Lead - Tourism)
- James Trowsdale (Strategic Lead – Culture)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Dawkins (Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy)

There was 1 member of the press present and 4 members of the public present.

SPE.5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received for this meeting

SPE.6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

SPE.7 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 13th March 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

SPE.8 QUESTION TIME

The Chair welcomed a question from Ms Greenfield who asked:

‘Given the recent removal of the contents of the local history library from the basement of the Grimsby central library building, many of which are irreplaceable, could the panel please provide assurance that proper steps have been taken to ensure that these materials are stored safely and appropriately, that risks have been properly assessed to ensure that they will not be affected by damp, mould, water leaks, vermin infestation, etc. Could you also provide assurance that access to the materials is limited and the building in which they are being held is monitored, sufficiently secure as to prevent intruders and that the materials are safe from vandalism and arson attacks.’

Mr Browning explained that the materials were being stored safely and securely within the temporary location. The temporary location benefitted from security grilles/bars on the majority of ground floor windows and doors, internal door locks, locking mechanisms on access doors, a fully functioning intruder alarm linked to the Council's Security Gatehouse, and a fire alarm. The site was also covered by CCTV externally and linked to the Council's Security Services Team. The location was monitored daily and had been staffed within the recent period while relocation of materials took place. Materials and items were being stored appropriately and securely, with monitoring processes in place and risks considered under the guidance and support of Lincs Inspire who undertook regular monitoring of the material.

The relocation of local history materials was still ongoing from the Central Library, and the Archivist and Conservator were both heavily involved in the review of these items, overseeing their safe packing, transportation and resulting storage within the temporary location. The temporary location continued to be part of the Council's maintenance programme with all planned preventative maintenance and repairs continuing at the site.

Councillor Dawkins, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy added that he had visited the temporary location and was happy, but noted that work was still ongoing and being carried out sensitively.

The Chair asked a supplementary question on formal site risk assessments being done and whether the wider library and archives materials were added to the risk register for elements around relocation. Mr Browning explained that Lincs Inspire naturally held a range of different

risk assessments for operational matters and a wider council risk register was in place for the library and archives review that included the relocation risk.

The Chair also asked whether insurers and underwriters had been made aware of the removal of these items. Mr Browning explained the current insurance arrangements in place at the temporary storage location but added that he would check with the appropriate colleagues and update members after the meeting.

One Member then asked for further information on fire suppression. Mr Browning informed them that there were fire extinguishers all around the building and confirmed that there was not a water sprinkler system in place.

The Chair then welcomed Ms Gregory to ask the panel the following question:

'The DCMS (Department for Culture Media and Sport) states that they would like Councils considering changing their library services to inform the DCMS Library Team about their proposals before public engagement or consultation. Was this done in the case of the recent library consultation.'

Mr Browning confirmed that the DCMS library team were engaged in advance of both phases of public consultation and throughout the library review process.

The Chair requested that a written response be provided to the members of the public who had asked the questions.

SPE.9 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.

The Chair questioned whether item CB 07/25/06 (Warm Homes) should be noted as being for this Panel to scrutinise. Officers present stated that they would take this away to confirm.

RESOLVED - That the Forward Plan be noted.

SPE.10 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.

A panel member asked when the findings of phase two of the library and archives consultation would be made public for information. Mr Browning confirmed that the consultation findings would be made available at the next panel meeting on 2nd October 2025.

RESOLVED – That the tracking report be noted.

SPE.11 COUNCIL PLAN YEAR END PERFORMANCE AND PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN REVIEW 2024-2025

The panel received 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.

The panel noted the difficulty of not having comparative data included within the report received. Ms Robinson noted that feedback around comparator data had been taken on board. Resources had been concentrated on the development of the new dashboard to support the new Council Plan that members would see with the Quarter 1 report.

One Member asked about physical activity findings being lower than previous years, they wondered how findings were recorded. Mr Browning explained that all national datasets were provided through Sports England.

The Chair commented on the impact the capital programme had on the delivery of projects. The report noted that delivery was an ongoing challenge and that only half of the capital programme had been spent. He wondered whether this would reduce the amount of borrowing needed or whether it was due to not having the capacity to deliver. Ms Swainson explained that capital projects were monitored robustly. Their intention was never to slip for the intention to save. Sometimes there may be a need to slip budget backwards to reduce borrowing, but this was more of a bonus not a driver.

The Chair also asked for clarification around revenue budgeting. Ms Swainson explained that it would be best if she took that away and updated the Chair after the meeting. The Chair also asked for clarification around the flexible use of capital receipts.

RESOLVED – That the Council's plan year end performance and provisional financial outturn review 2024/25 be noted.

SPE.12 EQUANS PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

The Chair asked whether all performance indicators had been agreed for services that were delivered by Equans. Ms Robinson stated that indicators had been agreed and would be included in the Quarter 1 report, but these may be amended over time. She explained that the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) included within the report had been set 15 years ago and were now not relevant.

One member asked about long-term empty homes, and they wondered whether a new target had been set. Ms Robinson stated that she would take this away and inform Members after this meeting.

RESOLVED – That the EQUANS performance report for the period January to March 2025 be noted.

SPE.13 CLEETHORPES REGENERATION PROJECTS UPDATE

The panel received a verbal update from Mr Jaines-White on the three key levelling up fund projects in Cleethorpes - the Market Place, Pier Gardens and Sea Road Development.

Members asked for clarification on the following:

- Layby areas for drop offs in the Market Place.
- Whether works would be immobilising in 2025.
- Toilet facilities being available during the works.
- Tender process for Pier Gardens

Officers present were able to clarify members concerns.

The Chair asked a question on having a simultaneous project plan and whether someone would have oversight of it, particularly, around disruption to the area. Mr Jaines-White stated that it was not unreasonable to think that the Pier Gardens and Sea Road development would be contained to their sites. He added that they wouldn't be seeing huge road closures. The Market Place would be closed for a period of time but as it was not a main traffic route, they couldn't see this being a big issue. However, if issues were to arise it would be looked at and they would see what mitigation action could be put in place.

RESOLVED – That the Cleethorpes Regeneration Projects update be noted.

SPE.14 INVESTMENT UPDATE

The panel received an update on Investment.

The Chair questioned the Viking CCS project. He wondered if there was specifically any money to take this forward. Ms Johnson stated that they were still waiting for the final position on investment from the Government

but assured members that they were in regular engagement. The Chair also asked for some clarification on the Freeport Seed Capital, particularly around the three projects involved. Officers present answered his queries.

RESOLVED – That the Investment update be noted.

SPE.15 ECONOMY, CULTURE AND TOURISM SCRUTINY PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

The panel considered a report on the work programme for 2025-26 for the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel.

One member asked if the panel could look closer into physical activity figures and, if needed, work with the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel to look at physical activity services available in more detail. One member who also sat on the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel explained how it would be useful for members to receive the Cabinet Marmot Town report, which detailed the Marmot framework through full implementation to address the deep-rooted health inequalities in North East Lincolnshire.

The Panel agreed to receive the Marmot Town Cabinet report, and to receive the Sport and Physical Strategy annual update in November prior to forming a view as to whether further joint work was needed with the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2025-26 be agreed, subject to the changes detailed above.

SPE.16 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

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

SPE.17 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 11.30 a.m.