

## **COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL**

<b>DATE</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Communities Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme
<b>STATUS</b>	Open

### **CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS**

The scrutiny panels act as a reviewing mechanism for decisions made relating to the strategic policy, performance and resources required to deliver the ambitions of the Council and its key partnerships. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the Council being effective and efficient, and therefore it is integral to the delivery of the Council Priorities.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report reflects on the 2025/26 municipal year, and the work undertaken by the Communities Scrutiny Panel. The panel will also consider, within its terms of reference, suggestions to be included in the 2026/27 work programme ahead of confirmation of the work programme at the first meeting of this panel in the new Municipal Year.

### **MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION**

The panel is invited to reflect on the 2025/26 work programme, noting any matters it would like to highlight within the Annual Scrutiny Report, and consider any suggested items for inclusion in next year's work programme.

#### **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

- 1.1 This report and its appendix summarises the 2025/26 agreed work programme and the panel's timetable of activities to undertake this work.
- 1.2 During the course of the year, the panel has considered the following key issues:-
  - Household Support Fund
  - Violence Against Women and Girls
  - Food Poverty Assessment
  - Community Safety Update Report including JSIA findings
  - Community Trigger/ASB in Parks/Place Based Approach
  - CCTV Outcomes from new investment and performance measures
  - Operation Yellow Fin –(Pre–Cabinet Report)
  - Salix and the Crematorium- (Pre Cabinet Report)
  - Dune Funding
  - Local Nature Recovery Strategy –Pre consultation report
  - Referrals from Equans Working Group

## Some key achievements to highlight

At the start of the year the panel reviewed the Household Support Fund and input into the council's plans for allocating £2.7m in line with national guidance.

Another important topic earlier in the year had been Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) with the panel invited to examine data, consultation findings, and progress on White Ribbon accreditation. Annual updates on the VAWG action plan were requested by the panel.

On the topic of food poverty, the panel considered findings from the Food Poverty Assessment which would inform the upcoming action plan, with concerns centred on access to affordable food, support for isolated older people and better recognition of dietary needs and intolerances.

Later last year, the Crime and Disorder Committee met to review the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment covering crime trends, ASB, drugs, and VAWG. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) attended the panel to provide an update including the future abolition of PCCs by 2028.

Under Public Space CCTV the panel has reviewed performance and raised concerns about rising fly-tipping, calling for more cameras and encouraging public reporting via 101 and My Community Alert.

The panel have also scrutinised proposals prior to Cabinet with regard to the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and nuisance vehicles with key concerns being around illegal e-scooters, public awareness, costs, and battery-related safety risks.

Under the environment agenda, the panel supported plans to replace cremators at Grimsby Crematorium, discussing energy efficiency and heat-recovery options. In addition, the panel received updates on the DUNE Project (Phase 2) and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, seeking clarity on environmental protections and future actions.

Site Visits have also been organised through the year to further visit the CCTV Control Room and also the Police Control Room.

Finally, this year the panel have overseen the Equans Working Group which has focused on both the pre and post implementation closely monitoring operational matters. The Working Group have reported relevant recommendations back through the Communities Panel prior to consideration at Cabinet.

- 1.3 The Annual Scrutiny Report is due to be submitted to the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2026 and will include a full summary of the work undertaken by this panel during the current year. If panel members wish to highlight particular work within this report then they are invited to do so.
- 1.4 The panel will also have an early opportunity to consider any topics it may wish to retain in or add to next year's work programme.

## **2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include risk assessment(s) by the author(s) concerned.

## **3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

The work programme demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

## **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no financial considerations included within this report.

## **5. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include climate change, nature recovery and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

## **6. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no impacts on public health, health inequalities and Marmot.

## **7. MONITORING COMMENTS**

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer, the Section 151 Officer or the Assistant Director People and Organisational Development.

## **8. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

May impact on all wards

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Annual report of scrutiny 2024/25  
Panel tracking reports

## **10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

Joanne Paterson – Scrutiny and Committee Advisor

**JO ROBINSON**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – POLICY, STRATEGY AND RESOURCES**  
**(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)**



**ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION: Communities Scrutiny Panel and the Crime and Disorder Committee: 2025/26**

AGENDA ITEMS	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2.00 p.m.	Thu 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2.00 p.m.	Thu 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2.00 p.m. Crime & Disorder Committee	Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2.00 p.m.	Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2.00 p.m.	Thu 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2.00 p.m.
THEME:	Supporting our adults	Stronger Communities	Community Safety	Safer Streets	Good and Sustainable Homes	Greener Future
<b>STANDING / GENERAL / MONITORING AGENDA ITEMS:-</b>	Work Programme 2025/26  Household Support Fund (Pre Cabinet 16.07.25)  Council Plan Year End Performance & Provisional Financial Outturn Review 2024-2025	2025/26 Q1 Council Plan Resources and Finance Performance Report  Violence Against Women & Girls (Statistics /White Ribbon)  Food Poverty Assessment	Community Safety Update Report including JSIA findings.  Community Trigger/ASB in Parks/Place Based Approach (cycling)  Invitation to Police & Crime Commissioner to attend panel.	2025/26 Q2 Council Plan Resources and Finance Performance Report  Work programme Update 2025/26  CCTV Outcomes from new investment & performance measures	Operation Yellow Fin -Pre-Cabinet Report  Salix and the Crematorium- Pre Cabinet Report  Dune Funding  Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Pre consultation report	2025/26 Q3 Council Plan Resources and Finance Performance Report  The Annual Green Futures Report  Glyphosate – Post Cabinet Report  Work Programme Update 2025-26 (including items for the next municipal year).
<b>BRIEFING NOTES (COMPLETED)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Food Poverty Assessment and development of a Food Poverty Action Plan</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Current and New Powers to Improve Housing Standards</b></li> <li>✓ <b>North East Lincolnshire CCTV Public Space and Rapid Deployment Cameras.</b></li> </ul>					

**Other items for consideration:-**

- Food Poverty Action Plan Report – (by March 2026)
- Household Waste Delivery Plan (POST CABINET)
- Progress against VAWG Progress Update/Action Plan to include annual updates on how the council were delivering against the action plan.
- Weed Control outcome of trials to come back to scrutiny around September 2026
- Quarterly update on CCTV Performance – 2026
- Selective Licensing – report back to scrutiny 1 year after Selective Licensing is implemented (Date TBC)

**Briefing Notes (still to bring forward)**

- Operation Gateway Project (how successful this was)
- Additional Licensing Article 4 HMO's – generic powers
- Vaping
- BCP Implications

**Site Visits**

- Police Control Room (via Deputy Police Crime Commissioner) \*require more members if going to make viable\*.
- CCTV Control Room Took place on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.