



TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL

13th January 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Mill (in the Chair)

Councillors Hasthorpe, Humphrey (substitute for Augusta), Lindley, and Wilson.

Officers in attendance:

- Katie Brown (Director of Adult Services)
- Charlotte Dring (Assistant Director Housing and Communities)
- Jonathan Ford (Senior Transport Officer)
- Damien Jaines-White (Assistant Director Regeneration)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance)
- Martin Lear (Principal Transport Officer)
- Guy Lonsdale (Interim Deputy Section 151 Officer)
- Jo Robinson (Assistant Director Policy, Strategy and Resources)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Harness (Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets)
- Councillor Jackson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills)
- Councillor S Swinburn (Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport)
- Councillor Aisthorpe (Ward Councillor for East Marsh Ward)

There was one member of the press in attendance.

SPTISH.51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for this meeting from Councillors Augusta, Bright, Crofts and Pettigrew.

SPTISH.52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

SPTISH.53 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 18th November 2025 be approved as a correct record.

SPTISH.54 QUESTION TIME

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

SPTISH.55 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.56 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 JSPCT.16 (Call-in Selective Licensing), it was noted that the Equality Impact Assessment was in the process of being revisited and a briefing note providing information on proposed selective licensing fees, including impact on charities, would be circulated to members of this panel in the next few days.

At SPTISH.42 (Section 106 Agreement Funding), it was noted that the proposed meeting with the Chair of this panel and the Chair of the Planning Committee was in the process of being arranged.

At SPTISH.46 (Traffic Management Co-ordination Working Group), it was requested that progress with the sign off of the Streetworks Charter be followed up and noted within future tracking reports.

At SPTISH.47 (Corporation Bridge Update), the requestion actions were still being investigated.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that items SPTISH.65, SPTISH.41, SPTISH.43 and SPTISH.48 be removed from future tracking reports as actions had been completed.

SPTISH.57 COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH

The panel considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills presenting a refresh of the Council Plan. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 10th December 2025 and was referred to all scrutiny panels.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted with no further comments from this panel.

SPTISH.58 ALEXANDRA DOCK UPDATE

The panel considered a report from the Assistant Director Regeneration providing an update on the regeneration of the Alexandra Dock area in Grimsby.

A panel member enquired whether consideration had been given to rat infestation in the area as he recalled that it had been an historic problem along the waterfront.

Mr Jaines-White responded that no specific issues had been reported and he was aware that that particular area of the River Freshney had been cleaned up a couple of years or so ago. He was sure that it would be looked at as part of the active management of the site.

The Chair enquired about the allocation of Section 106 Agreement funding referred to within paragraph 1.8 of the report. Mr Jaines-White responded that he did not have the detail but it would be available if needed.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPTISH.59 EAST MARSH RETROFIT SCHEME UPDATE

The panel considered a report providing an update on the East Marsh Housing Retrofit project.

The panel expressed concern at the relatively low levels of engagement.

Mr Dowson responded that the engagement to date had purely been with property owners. This involved finding their contact details and then writing to them. The deadline for this work was the end of January 2026 and work would then commence with those that had engaged, as well as tenants.

It was noted that the report incorrectly referenced Grimsby Crematorium as being within the East Marsh ward in the Ward Implications section.

The panel sought assurance that its previous recommendations on this project had been followed up. The panel also asked if information was available on empty properties in the area.

It was noted that work continued with legal colleagues to ensure that the panel's previous concerns could be incorporated into the scheme. It was noted that there were some empty properties in the area but this would be followed up and information provided to members of this panel.

The Chair invited Councillor Aisthorpe, an East Marsh ward councillor, to address the panel.

Councillor Aisthorpe supported the ambition of the scheme but was concerned about the uncertainty over the number of properties that would receive works and how those residents in Rutland Street that had not been included within the scheme would benefit from the project.

Mr Dowson responded that final numbers were still to be determined. Officers were working on finite budgets and retrofit surveys would need to be conducted. It was expected that numbers would be determined at that point. Work would also be conducted with highways colleagues to look at how the street scape could be improved for the benefit of all residents.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPTISH.60 TRANSPORT HUB

The panel considered a report updating on plans for the development of a new Grimsby town centre transport hub, prior to seeking Cabinet approval to progress these plans.

The panel viewed initial concept design proposals for the Transport Hub.

The panel broadly welcomed the proposals, noting that the building element would form phase 2 of the project, for which funding had yet to be approved.

The panel suggested that accessibility issues needed to be considered, such as provision of dropped kerbs. There were also concerns about positioning of pedestrian crossings, particularly given the volume of people likely to be accessing the site.

A panel member commented that it would have been good to see what the hub would look like should the phase 2 funding not be received. It was noted that this could be made available for members of this panel.

Councillor Aisthorpe had submitted a question on notice to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport on the Transport Hub and it was agreed to take the question at this point in the meeting.

Councillor Aisthorpe commented that the Transport Hub consultation identified safety and anti-social behaviour as key concerns, and the scheme was set to progress to RIBA Stage 3. Separately, evidence presented to the Communities Scrutiny Panel through the Violence Against Women and Girls work showed that women and girls felt significantly less safe than men in the same town centre spaces, particularly after dark. Given the Transport Hub's role as a main gateway and focal point for the town centre, and the Council's White Ribbon accreditation, she asked if the portfolio holder would commit to ensuring that women's safety was explicitly referenced and built into future Transport Hub reports and design concepts? This should include how design decisions around layout, lighting, sightlines and waiting areas would ensure spaces were open, visible and well overlooked, so that differing experiences of safety were actively designed for, rather than assumed to be covered by general safety measures.

Councillor S Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, responded that this approach would be considered. He noted that the current stage of the transport hub design was RIBA 2 which was the concept stage. During stages 3 and 4, officers would ensure design best practice was applied, and violence against all people would form part of this more detailed design.

The panel felt that it was important to monitor how accessibility and tackling anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls was incorporated into the design of the Transport Hub and requested that these matters be referenced in future reports on this project.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That future reports to this panel on the Transport Hub reference how accessibility and tackling anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls was incorporated into the design of the project.

SPTISH.61 CONCESSIONARY FARES

The panel considered a report, due to submitted to Cabinet, seeking approval of the final Concessionary Fares scheme.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted with no further comments from this panel.

SPTISH.62 CORPORATION BRIDGE UPDATE

The panel considered an update on the Corporation Bridge project.

Mr Evans detailed the content of the most recent highlight report that had been previously circulated to members of this panel. It was noted that all was progressing well. Grit blasting had been completed on spans 5 and

6. With regard to painting, primer was being applied and a different painting system was being introduced to allow longer between phases. A mini-environment had also been created so temperatures could be maintained. A residents' newsletter had been provided.

It was noted that members of this panel were due to visit the site later this week.

A panel member felt that it would be useful for the highlight report to confirm whether the target completion date for the project was on course.

Mr Evans commented that it would be possible to add a box to the report to confirm whether the project was on course for the expected December 2026 completion.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

SPTISH.63 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

There were no questions for the portfolio holder other than that detailed under SPTISH.60.

SPTISH.64 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 7.43 pm.