



TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL

3rd March 2026 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Mill (in the Chair)
Councillors Augusta, Bright, Lindley, K. Swinburn (substitute for Crofts) and Wilson.

Officers in attendance:

- Paul Evans (Assistant Director Infrastructure)
- Jonathan Ford (Senior Transport 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 S Swinburn (Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport)

There was one member of the press in attendance.

SPTISH.65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

SPTISH.66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

SPTISH.67 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 13th January 2026 be approved as a correct record.

SPTISH.68 QUESTION TIME

The following question was submitted by Mr M Hodson:

Over recent months I have raised repeated road-safety concerns with highways officers and elected members regarding the safe egress of residential roads onto strategic routes, arising directly from the Council's refusal to consider signalised mitigation at the junction of Hawthorne Avenue and the A16 (Louth Road). Hawthorne Avenue is used here as a representative and live example of a wider issue, namely that signalised junctions are routinely required and delivered for new housing developments accessing strategic routes such as the A16, while existing residential junctions experiencing comparable traffic volumes and right-turn conflicts are not subject to equivalent assessment or mitigation. In the interests of transparency, consistency and public safety, I ask whether the Scrutiny Panel would be prepared to examine the Council's approach to junction safety on strategic roads, with particular regard to:

1. When Road Safety Audits (Stages 1–4) are required, and whether reliance on informal site observations alone meets the Council's safety and governance standards;
2. Why signalised mitigation is routinely applied to new development access junctions on the A16, yet explicitly ruled out for existing residential junctions such as Hawthorne Avenue, despite materially identical conflict movements and traffic volumes;
3. How cumulative development impacts on existing residential junctions are assessed when multiple developments are approved along the same corridor;
4. Whether the level of engagement with residents on matters involving acknowledged difficulty and risk meets the Council's obligations for accountability and representation; and
5. What action the Council intends to take to ensure safe and reliable egress from existing residential roads onto strategic routes, where conditions have materially changed over time. This question is not intended to pre-determine outcomes, but to understand whether the Council's current processes ensure that existing communities receive the same evidence-based consideration and safety standards that are applied to new development junctions.

The Chair thanked Mr Hodson for bringing this matter to the panel's attention. Whilst the panel could not get involved in individual cases, the Chair acknowledged the wider issues within the question and he had asked officers to provide a briefing note for the panel updating on the points raised. This had been prepared and would be circulated to panel members after this meeting. If, having received the briefing note, panel

members still had any concerns then they could ask for it to be brought back to the panel as part of its work programme.

The panel then discussed the issue briefly and agreed that it would be something that they would like to look at as part of its work programme, namely to receive assurance over Council policies with regard to safety of highways junctions.

RESOLVED – That the Council’s approach to junction safety on strategic roads be added to this panel’s work programme for further consideration in the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

SPTISH.69 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.70 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 (Selective Licensing Call-in), a member asked if any specific charities had been identified and contacted about potential discounts for selective licensing fees and charges. Mr Windley advised that he would check and inform the panel.

At SPTISH.46 (Streetworks Charter), it was agreed to review implementation of the Charter in six months’ time.

At SPTISH.47 (Corporation Bridge Update), it was noted that a briefing note on the release of financial information on the project had been circulated to panel members. The panel felt that it was difficult to comprehend and requested that clearer information be circulated.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted and all completed actions removed from future tracking reports.
2. That information on whether any specific charities had been identified and contacted about potential discounts for selective licensing fees and charges, be circulated to members of this panel.
3. That the Streetworks Charter be reviewed by this panel in six months’ time.

4. That clearer guidance on the release of financial information on the Corporation Bridge project be circulated to members of this panel.

SPTISH.71 QUARTER 3 COUNCIL PLAN RESOURCES AND FINANCE PERFORMANCE

The panel considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills that provides information and analysis of the Council's financial performance during the third quarter of 2025-26. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 11th February 2026 and was referred to all scrutiny panels for consideration.

Panel members raised the following queries:

- The issues behind the £0.6m overspend driven by pressures in facilities management
- Solutions to pressures caused by the rise in unregistered providers
- Whether the Renters Act had been planned for within budgets
- Transport improvements
- Corporate borrowing
- Clarification of risks for each of the major projects listed in the report that fell under the remit of this panel.

On the issue of corporate borrowing, it was suggested by the panel that clarity be provided within future reports around whether each capital programme scheme was being funded through grants or borrowing. It was agreed that an explanation would be sought for the anticipated rise in capital borrowing for the 2026/27 financial year.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That an explanation be sought for the anticipated rise in capital borrowing for the 2026/27 financial year and that it be requested that future reports provide clarity over whether individual capital programme schemes were being funded through grants or borrowing.

SPTISH.72 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The panel considered a report from the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure giving an update on the land and property strategic asset management plan covering 2025 to 2028.

A panel member enquired what the biodiversity target was for the asset management aim policy supporting biodiversity. It was agreed that further clarification on this would be provided to members of this panel.

The panel enquired how backlog maintenance would be managed and requested a financial breakdown of prioritised works.

It was noted that the previous plan, the total value of assets was £282m but without knowing the number of properties involved it was difficult to identify the reason for the current value in this plan of £190m. Sales accounted for this but Mr Evans agreed to provide information on the number of properties involved.

Similarly, it was noted that page 8 of the current plan identified types of assets with numbers next to a down arrow. The panel enquired whether these represented the number of assets lost. Mr Evans agreed to provide clarification.

RESOLVED –

1. That the progress made in delivering the Strategic Asset Management Plan since its approval in June 2025, be noted.
2. That the continuation of the Strategic Asset Review and associated workstreams be endorsed.
3. That clarification on the above points raised by this panel be circulated to members of this panel.

SPTISH.73 ELECTRIFICATION OF BUSES

The panel considered a report from Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure providing an update on the electrification of buses in North East Lincolnshire.

Members of the panel raised concerns at the lack of progress on this matter and felt that this area was not being prioritized. It was commented that lack of competition in North East Lincolnshire may be a factor. The panel suggested that these concerns be raised with the Mayoral Combined Authority, particularly in light of the low car ownership in this area.

It was proposed and agreed by the panel that Stagecoach be invited to a future meeting of this panel to present their future plans for a modern bus service in North East Lincolnshire, incorporating the electrification of buses.

RESOLVED –

1. That the approach taken to introduce the electrification of buses in North East Lincolnshire be noted.
2. That Stagecoach be invited to a future meeting of this panel to present their future plans for a modern bus service in North East Lincolnshire, incorporating the electrification of buses.

SPTISH.74 CAR PARKING STRATEGY

The panel considered a report from Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure giving an update on the progress towards the development of a new borough wide Parking Strategy.

The panel enquired about options for managing parking pressures in Grimsby town centre. It was noted that options were being explored.

Smart car parking was views as a good way forward and the introduction of 30 minutes free short stay parking was welcomed. The proposed review of resident parking schemes was also welcomed and it was suggested that cheaper schemes could increase revenue from car parks.

The panel was also given the opportunity to view plans for new car parks at Abbey Walk and Burgess Street in Grimsby town centre. The plans were broadly welcomed by the panel, although it was suggested that the option of parent and toddler bays at Abbey Walk car park be explored.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPTISH.75 CORPORATION BRIDGE UPDATE

The panel considered an update on the Corporation Bridge project. Mr Evans reported that good progress was being made and everything was on track. The next panel visit to the bridge was due to take place on 20th March 2026.

Councillor Wilson commented on advice made available to local businesses affected by the closure and, in his capacity as a West Marsh ward councillor, asked to be consulted on the advice given and which businesses had been contacted.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

SPTISH.76 TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING, SCRUTINY PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW 2025/26 AND WORK PROGRAMME 2026/27

The panel considered a report from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer which reflected on the 2025/26 municipal year, and the work undertaken by the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel. The panel also considered, within its terms of reference, suggestions to be included in the 2026/27 work programme.

It was noted that relevant schemes arising from recent amendments to the budget would need to be included in the panel's work programme.

Mr Evans added that the panel may wish to be updated on the use of AI technologies to influence road surveys.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that AI technologies in relation to road surveys and relevant schemes arising from recent amendments to the budget be added to this panel's work programme for 2026/27.

SPTISH.77 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

There were no questions for the portfolio holder.

SPTISH.78 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 9.03 pm.