

ECONOMY, CULTURE AND TOURISM SCRUTINY PANEL

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| DATE | 11 th March 2026 |
| REPORT OF | Statutory Scrutiny Officer |
| SUBJECT | Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme |
| STATUS | 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 Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel. The panel will also consider, within its terms of reference, suggestions to be included in the 2025/26 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 issues:
 - The re-location of Grimsby Central Library, the Library Services Review and the findings of the Library Services Select Committee.
 - The three major projects that were part of the Levelling Up Fund projects in Cleethorpes. Particularly considering how much disturbance these projects would have in the area when they were being implemented.
 - A summarised report on the data and statistics for the 2024 tourist season. Concerns were raised around the need for a direct train from London to Grimsby and Cleethorpes.
 - Safer Towns Review report that detailed the findings and recommendations defined and developed for the workstreams 'Resort & Management' and 'Town Centre Management'.
 - An update was provided on the Kasbah Regeneration Programme and discussions were held around funding and location of the unseen arts centre in terms of accessibility.

- The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy highlighted issues of accessibility, sustainability, and increasing inactivity among children and young people. The panel proposed a joint scrutiny panel meeting with the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel to holistically address the wider impacts of health and physical activity across the borough through the joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy.

A range of other areas have been received in the Municipal year 2025/26, these can be seen in the appendix to this report.

- 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. 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.

7. WARD IMPLICATIONS

May impact on all wards

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual report of scrutiny 2023/24
Panel tracking reports

9. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Beverly O'Brien – Scrutiny and Committee Advisor

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

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION: Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel 2025/26

| 7 th July Special | 31 st July | 11 th September Joint with Children | 2 nd October | 27 th November | 22 nd January | 11 th March |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call in – Temporary Library relocation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024/25 Provisional Outturn report • Q4 Quarterly Finance and Council Plan Monitoring report • Panel work programme 2025/26 • Equans Performance Report (Dec – June) • Clee Regen project (verbal) • Investment update (MJ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Action Plan – Progress Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 Quarterly Finance and Council Plan Monitoring report • Library Review - Phase 2 • Tourism Dashboard • Safer Towns Review (Resort Element) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme Review • Q2 Finance and Council Plan Monitoring report • Kasbah Tour & update • Sport & Physical Strategy • Status of Library Services Select Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim report of the Library Services Select Committee • Creative Strategy • Grimsby Masterplan and Movement Strategy • Freshney Place Business Plan – confirm timings with DJW • Council Plan Refresh • Urgent Business – Local Visitor Levy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q3 Quarterly Finance and Council Plan Monitoring report • Work Programme for 2026/27 • Library Services Select Committee findings report • Cleethorpes LUF Wayfinding Strategy and Design • Freshney Place Business Plan • Pop up Library – 3 monthly review. • Town of Culture • Safer Town Review |

Standing agenda items:

- Question time
- Tracking actions of the panel
- Forward Plan
- Questions to the Portfolio Holder
- Calling in of key decisions

Further Topics identified (to be scheduled in):

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshney Place Leisure Scheme • Refresh Masterplan (1st session Workshop, 2nd Formal Report) • Economic Strategy (1st session Workshop, 2nd Formal Report) • Industrial Strategy • Future Highstreets Taskforce • Strategy to look after Town Centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution – how it will impact our Borough/Tourism. • Strategic Overview – what we expect from Visitor Economy. • Strategic Policy CCA • Sector Specific Analysis (Briefing paper) • Fishing Heritage Centre update • Lincs Inspire Ltd – Core Provision- SW (No presentation) |
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Joint Working:

- Children and Lifelong Learning and Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel – Skills Strategy (*Took place on 11th Sept 2025*)
- Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing and Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel – Local Plan – *Members were invited to attend the TISH Scrutiny Panel on 18th November 2025.*
- Health and Adult Social Care – To examine the wider implications of physical activity and health, linking to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Professor Marmot's work (To be done)