

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	3 rd September 2026
REPORT OF	Jo Robinson (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
SUBJECT	Tracking the recommendations of the Communities Scrutiny Panel
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 the strategic partnership. 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 Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each scrutiny panel monitors the progress made on their recommendations through a tracking table, which is included as an appendix of this report.

MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

Members are asked to look at the progress against the recommendations and agree to sign off any recommendations that have been completed or are no longer considered to be an efficient use of resources or where priorities have changed.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

Each scrutiny panel has a standard agenda item so that they can check progress against the recommendations they have previously made.

Members are asked to look at the progress against the recommendations and agree to sign off any recommendations that have been completed, so that they can be removed from the table. It would also be effective to sign off any recommendations that have not been completed but which are no longer considered to be an efficient use of resources, or where priorities have changed.

Appendix A lists progress on tracked items within the terms of reference of this new panel.

Appendix B lists the Full Council budget recommendations to show updates/progress of each scheme.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Risk assessments will already have been carried out on the reports that these recommendations have come from.

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. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable to this report.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The panel's tracking report demonstrates that the panel monitors progress on its recommendations and required actions. This report further demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on Children and young people as a direct result of this report. The reports that these tracked items have come have been assessed for impact on children and young people.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations included within this report, beyond scrutiny's enhanced role in monitoring delivery of the council's budget and medium-term financial plan.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. The reports that these tracked items have come from will have been assessed for impact.

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 and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on public health, health inequalities and Marmot as a direct result of this report. The reports that these tracked items have come from will have been assessed for these impacts.

9. 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 (legal), Section 151 Officer (finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead (human resources).

10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

Potentially impacts on all wards.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

12. CONTACT OFFICER

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JO ROBINSON
STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER

TRACKING OF RECOMMENDATIONS – COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE	PROGRESS/COMMENTS
07.09.23	<u>SPC.28 CCTV UPDATE</u> RESOLVED - That further information be provided to the panel on the number of CCTV cameras located in parks across the borough. To remain on tracking to monitor progress i.e. quarterly report by the 15th of the following month.	Assistant Director, Safer & Partnerships	Update at meeting on 2.07.26: an update was to be sent out at the end of each quarter, and this would remain on tracking for monitoring. This was recently sent out to all panel members via email on 19th August 2026.
4.09.25	<u>SPC.19 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS (STATISTICS /WHITE RIBBON)</u> RESOLVED That progress against the Action Plan to include annual updates on how the council were delivering against the action plan be built into this panels work programme.	Scrutiny & Committee Advisor	This has now been added to the panel's work programme for 2026/27 and is due to be received at the November meeting.
4.09.25	<u>SPC.21 FOOD POVERTY ASSESSMENT</u> That the Food Poverty Action Plan be added to this panels Tracking Report to monitor progress against the Action Plan.	Scrutiny & Committee Advisor	This has now been added to the panel's work programme for 2026/27 and is due to be received at the November meeting.
20.11.25	<u>SPC.29 UPDATE FROM DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER</u> RESOLVED - That a site visit to the force control room be arranged for communities' scrutiny panel members.	Scrutiny & Committee Advisor	Update at meeting on 2.07.26: A site visit to the force control room was to be organised. The Chair stressed the urgency of this visit as it would become inaccessible once the licence came into fruition.

20.11.25	<u>SPC.30 2025/26 QUARTER 2 COUNCIL PLAN RESOURCES AND FINANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT</u> RESOLVED–That a briefing note be provided to cover improvements to and understanding recycling rates in different communities.	Assistant Director Environment	Update on 2.07.26: A briefing note covering improvements and understanding of recycling rates was to be provided. Ms Hitter confirmed this would be completed as part of wider waste and transformation items.
20.11.25	<u>SPC.35 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER</u> That a further report could be brought back to scrutiny with anonymised data showing how persistent antisocial behaviour and repeated breaches are handled.	Democratic Services	This matter is to be put to the Executive Scrutiny Liaison Board 9 th October to see whether the topic of youth justice/youth offending sits better with the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel.
2.07.26	<u>SPC.8 CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND</u> That a briefing note be provided regarding baseline data and monitoring for the £1.5 million investment.		A briefing note was sent out to all panel members via email on the 5 th August 2026.
2.07.26	<u>SPC.9 COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME 2026/27</u> That the River and Water Health report be added to this panels work programme with an invitation extended to Anglian Water and Environment Agency to participate in discussions. That a joint meeting with Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny to discuss Domestic Abuse be organised. That the Play Areas in the Borough item encompassing issues such as anti-social behaviour, vandalism, bin <u>provisions and security measures</u> be added to this panels work programme linking this in with the community payback scheme.	Scrutiny and Committee Advisor/ Chair. Scrutiny and Committee Advisor Scrutiny and Committee Advisor	The Chair is currently reaching out to Anglian Water and Environment Agency to invite to a future panel meeting. The date is yet to be confirmed. This is to be organised for October 2026. This has been added to the work programme and is to be received at the Crime and Disorder Committee meeting in October.

NO RESTRICTIONS

TRACKING OF FULL COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS – COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

FULL COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PROGRESS/COMMENTS	DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION
Pest Control Service (19th February 2026 Budget Amendment - to hold a review looking into demand across the Borough for pest control).	Assistant Director Environment	Progress: • Project brief agreed and project team assembled. • Benchmarking exercise undertaken to better understand the provision offered by CIPFA statistical near neighbours, including the scope of pests covered and associated costs. • Desktop research and direct engagement with Anglian Water (AW) confirms that routine sewer baiting is not part of AW's current policy. AW will undertake restorative works to sewer infrastructure where there is evidence of an issue, particularly where defects may be contributing to increased rodent activity. • AW receptive to coordinated, proactive partnership working. Challenge:	• Intend to provide review report by the end of March 2027. • Sewer baiting timescales remain unclear, but dialogue is ongoing with Anglian Water.

		NELC or AW do not currently have the in-house qualified technical resource required to undertake sewer baiting. A suitably qualified contractor will therefore need to be costed, procured and appointed.	
Large item waste collection (19th February 2026 Budget Amendment – to offer, for a trial period of 9 months (to allow officers time to plan and implement the trial) a free collection of large item waste (1 item per household) with a view to reducing fly tipping across the areas in the borough).	Assistant Director Environment	Progress: - Project brief agreed and project team assembled. - Reviewed current operation to determine suitable options for incorporating free trial into existing service delivery model. - Officers are currently working up anticipated true delivery costs for the service to estimate how many collections can be completed within the allocated budget. This which will also help to inform any required budget allocation should the trial be extended or made permanent. - Thresholds and processes used for other means-tested projects have been explored. Officers are working to implement appropriate data governance measures ahead of the trial launch to ensure GDPR	Subject to relevant approvals, ambition to launch trial in December 2026. <i>Noting delayed project start, Finance have provisionally confirmed that the budget allocation can be carried into FY 2027-2028, subject to Scrutiny and Cabinet approval, if required to accommodate proposed trial length.</i>

		compliance. - Once scope clarified, a system for processing service requests will be developed. Challenges: - There is a risk that demand may exceed availability and that the trial period may be significantly shorter than 9 months, depending on how many free collections are undertaken per day. - System review required to ensure that we can accurately report on the uptake and impact on current model.	
Extra large wheelie bin hire service (19th February 2026 Budget Amendment – to offer, for a trial period of 9 months (allowing officers time to plan and implement the proposal), the provision of extra large waste bins (similar in size to those used commercially) for residents to hire for a day, at a reduced commercial rate, across fly tipping hotspots in North East Lincolnshire).	Assistant Director Environment	Progress: - Project brief agreed and project team assembled. - The anticipated costs to purchase extra-large (1,100L) bins have been explored and officers have engaged private sector partners to understand prospective rental options. - Existing fly-tipping data is being	Timescales remain subject to further feasibility work, including confirmation of delivery costs, hotspot locations, operational oversight arrangements, and any required approvals.

		reviewed to identify hotspots. Challenges: - Concerns raised about the potential limited impact of extra-large bins in supporting alleyway clearances, referenced in the original proposal. - Further consideration is also needed around oversight of the materials disposed of, noting NELC's duty of care for the waste.	<i>Noting delayed project start, Finance have provisionally confirmed that the budget allocation can be carried into FY 2027-2028, subject to Scrutiny and Cabinet approval, if required to accommodate proposed trial length.</i>
Trial focused 'skip it' events (19th February 2026 Budget Amendment - to trial an updated version of skip it events focusing on those wards with the worst fly tipping incidents).	Assistant Director Environment	Progress: - Officers have reviewed the project documentation from the effective delivery of the 2018 and 2019 events to inform the scope, outline plans, and success metrics for the forthcoming events. - Opportunities for coordination, learning, and direct involvement from existing community networks and partners delivering events with similar objectives are being explored to maximise community impact. - Officers are working to understand	Subject to relevant approvals, ambition to host first event in October 2026. <i>Noting delayed project start, Finance have provisionally confirmed that the budget allocation can be carried into FY 2027-2028, subject to Scrutiny and Cabinet approval, if</i>

		the approximate true delivery costs for a template Skip It event, including staffing, equipment, facilities, and disposal. • A data-led methodology for the ward selection process, based upon fly-tipping data, is proposed and will be presented to Panel for approval. Challenges: • The need to licences and potential road closures dependent on location. Highways officers are engaged to understand impact and process.	<i>required to support events bridging financial years.</i>
Community payback provision (19th February 2026 Budget Amendment - to enter into discussions with the probation service regarding expansion and enhancement of the current pilot scheme to look at training opportunities and where possible coordination with community groups).	Assistant Director Safer & Stronger Place	Following discussions with the Probation Service Payback Scheme, a proposed programme of works has been developed in collaboration with Payback managers and NELC. The programme focuses on a range of environmental improvement and regeneration activities across parks, open spaces and key locations such as Cleethorpes resort. Work will include maintenance, clearance, painting, and wider enhancement works. This schedule is currently being refined to ensure it aligns with local priorities, operational capacity, and the intended	• Project Plan to be place by end of July 2026. • Implementation commenced

		community benefits. Further updates will be provided as the schedule is finalised, with progress reports on completed projects, before-and-after outcomes, and wider community impact brought forward to the Communities Scrutiny Panel on a quarterly basis.	
Dog waste and clean up patrols in high footfall areas (19th February 2026 Budget Amendment - to trial a dog waste response unit of 2 P/T Council staff focusing on high footfall areas such as routes to/from school, shopping streets and tourist areas. Given the number of trial periods that the Environmental team were implementing linked with the proposals within this budget amendment, the trial period for the dog waste patrol was recommended to be across the final quarter of the year).	Assistant Director Environment	Progress: • Project brief agreed and project team assembled. • Work has been undertaken to understand the current process for reported dog fouling. • On receipt, dog fouling reports are shared with the Street Cleansing Manager for allocation to crews and, where appropriate, with WISE civil enforcement officers for investigation. Records of these cases inform patrol routes. • Clean up cases are typically responded to within one working day of receipt or, where this is not possible, on the next available working day.	• Implementation expected Q4 2026/2027.

		- Officers are reviewing the distribution of reported dog fouling cases to identify potential hotspots. Challenges: - Ability to recruit additional officers on a short-term basis (3 months). May need to review approach.	
Take-up of discretionary council tax hardship support in North East Lincolnshire. 19th February 2026 Budget Amendment - to implement a data-led early intervention referral gateway within the existing council tax recovery process. The referral gateway model would be reviewed after 12 months against arrears escalation, enforcement progression, collection performance and resident outcomes. The amendment allocated funding in 2026/27 to commission additional accredited debt advice capacity through appropriately accredited VCSE partners to increase specialist accredited debt advice capacity; support residents referred through the early intervention gateway; provide accredited advice covering council tax arrears, rent, utilities and other priority debts; and address underlying financial issues to prevent	Assistant Director Housing and Communities	Discretionary Council Tax Hardship Support Funding to support this initiative was included within the Crisis and Resilience Fund Delivery Plan (within the crisis payment strand). The Delivery Plan was approved by the then Portfolio Holder in April 2026. A new IT system will be in place by November 2026. In the meantime, short and medium term measures have been put in place to support the work. In the short term, the scheme's community referral partners are supporting 1 to 1 conversations, identifying and reporting households at risk via submission of a Crisis Payment Application. An NELC panel then assess need, review benefit/council tax status,	18 May 2026

escalation into enforcement.		refer into Discretionary Housing Payments and, if appropriate, consider further hardship support with council tax debt. This process involves advice providers, guiding individuals to make contact and request 60-90 days of respite from the debt. This is known as breathing space, giving time to support budget management and income maximisation. A crisis payment of up to £250, alongside advice and breathing space, could prevent enforcement if there is early engagement. Starting from July 2026, we will review cases internally and identify households at risk that could benefit from advice and a crisis payment. This proactive process will be in addition to our advice partners delivering outreach services within the community. Capacity to deliver targeted support and outreach will be strengthened on completion of the CRF advice service procurement (due to complete late Autumn 2026). The new system – intended to go live in	8 July 2026 2 November 2026
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		November – will enable us to assess data and pro-actively identify households at risk. Data sharing will be put in place with the new advice service. This level of information will help us to understand service demand, impact and enable joint working to help resolve complex cases. Commission accredited advice service We are seeking Cabinet approval in July to commission a new CRF funded accredited advice service that will be in place until March 2029. Subject to receiving this approval, we will have this new service in place by November 2026. The specification includes the required accreditation, capacity building as well as community outreach. Additional Support (not funded by CRF) Extra Council Tax Support Payments: a contribution towards bill if in receipt of Council Tax Support. This is resourced via a budget held within the Local Taxation and Benefits Service.	30 October 2026
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School Uniform Grants 19th February 2026 Budget Amendment – extending school uniform grants - to expand the current provision in offering support to families to help with purchasing school uniforms across the borough, for a trial period of one year.	Assistant Director Housing and Communities	Funding to support this initiative was included within the 26/27 Crisis and Resilience Fund Delivery Plan (within the crisis payment strand). The Delivery Plan was approved by the then Portfolio Holder in April 2026. We have approached local school uniform swap groups to explore shared learning and opportunities to collaborate and reach more households and schools. The School Uniform Network was established and plans are now in place to collect donated items from 18 drop off points to support three events. Volunteers are currently being recruited to support collections, event preparations and stewarding. Each event will include space for statutory and voluntary sector partners to promote wider services to support families (27 organisations to be invited). Network members will evaluate the impact and explore next steps in September 2026.	Event dates and locations: - 15 August Cleethorpes Memorial Hall - 17 August Immingham Civic Centre - 24 August Grimsby (venue to be confirmed)
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Adopting the Preston model of local procurement (19th February 2026 Budget Amendment - to develop a Preston model of procurement which is focused on community wealth building)	Assistant Director Policy Strategy & Resources	Further detailed analysis of expenditure with local suppliers is being undertaken to understand the value of both on and off contract spend, identify procurement categories, and establish mechanisms for effective progress tracking and reporting. Information is being gathered to map the local supplier profile in NEL of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Voluntary and Community Social Enterprises (VCSE). Assistant Director Policy Strategy & Resources has recently requested a meeting with Cllr Mill (as the elected member who put forward the recommendation to full council) to discuss the full ambitions of implementing the Preston model for procurement in NEL to build on this work.	
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