EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the Annual Report of Scrutiny for 2011-12. The report also outlines issues that scrutiny will focus on during 2012-13 as part of the work programme.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNCIL PLAN/STRATEGIC AIMS

The six scrutiny panels and the Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group 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 North East Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the priority of being an effective and efficient council.

RECOMMENDATIONS


REASONS FOR DECISION

To ensure that all members are aware of the breadth of work undertaken by scrutiny during 2011-12 and the contribution that this work has made to the overall work of the council. In addition, this report makes members aware of proposed work programme issues for 2012-13, which will be delivered in the resources available.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of future reports, which will be risk assessed by the directorate(s) concerned.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

1.1 The Annual Report of Scrutiny during the municipal year 2011-12 is appended for approval by Council.
1.2 The report sets out the work undertaken by the six scrutiny panels (Regeneration, Housing & Environment, Tourism, Leisure & Culture, Children & Young People, Safer & Stronger Communities, Health & Wellbeing and Policy, Performance & Resources) and the Scrutiny Chairs' Liaison Group during the last year and highlights some of the main achievements and issues of note.

1.3 Proposed issues for the 2012-13 work programme are also included in this report.

1.4 Members are asked to consider the content of the appended report.

2. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED
Not applicable to this report.

3. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY
Not applicable to this report.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
There are no direct financial implications included within this report, beyond the existing budget provision for scrutiny activity.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS
The Constitution provides that Council must approve the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme for each municipal year.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS
There are no direct human resources implications arising from the report.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS
There are none directly arising from this report.

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS
Potentially impacts on all wards.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS
Minutes from the 2011-12 meetings of the six scrutiny panels and the Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group.

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ANNUAL REPORT
2011-12

ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCRUTINY
2011-12
&
WORK PROGRAMME FOR
2012-13
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A Foreword from the Scrutiny Chairs

Welcome to our annual report, which highlights the key scrutiny activities and developments at North East Lincolnshire Council over 2011-12.

As we have outlined in previous reports, scrutiny members play an important part in delivering the best possible public services for residents, by acting as a checking mechanism for decisions that have been made and establishing how the council can make improvements. We have also sought guidance from technical experts in the issues that we have looked at. This has ensured that our recommendations will benefit local residents and add value to the work of the council.

As a result of a review of the scrutiny structure, agreed by full council in May 2011, we gained a Policy, Performance & Resources Scrutiny Panel. During the year, this panel ensured that we had a forum for considering reports and issues of a corporate nature, overall organisational performance and resource management, policy development, as well as looking at partnership arrangements.

Apart from the scheduled scrutiny meetings, we have also held a number of select committees and working groups, covering topics such as alcohol intervention, proxy buying, recycling and parking. In addition, we have gone on site visits, such as the visit to Cleethorpes seafront, to see first hand the extent of the saltmarsh and other issues affecting the resort. Further site visits, on other issues, are planned, particularly as the East Midlands Ambulance Service has extended an invitation to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel to visit their headquarters in Lincoln and to go out on an ambulance call. Scrutiny also has had the opportunity to be involved in regional scrutiny work, most notably the review of children’s congenital cardiac services.

This year has seen the introduction of a number of new pieces of legislation, on issues such as localism, health and social care, policing, crime and social responsibility. We will follow progress with the implementation of the legislation and will be keen to be involved and to add value to the process, where appropriate.

Within the council, we will continue to monitor developments with the Future Shape Programme, which has been an area of focus this year for the Policy, Performance & Resources Scrutiny Panel. We will also continue to monitor performance and budget monitoring and like this year, will want to continue to play a key role in the budget setting process.

We look forward to the new challenges that the coming year will bring us and will continue to pay close attention to the issues that we know are important to the residents of Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Immingham and the Wolds villages.
1. Introduction

1.1 Scrutiny is delivered through six panels, coordinated by the Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group. During 2011-12, the scrutiny structure was chaired as follows:
   - Chairman of the Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group – Councillor Andrew De Freitas
   - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Policy, Performance and Resources – Councillor Keith Brookes
   - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Children & Young People – Councillor Peter Bailey
   - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Tourism, Leisure & Culture – Councillor Leeanor Pidgen
   - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Safer & Stronger Communities – Councillor Steve Beasant
   - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Health & Wellbeing – Councillor Karl Wilson
   - Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel for Regeneration, Housing & Environment – Councillor Andrew De Freitas

1.2 The purpose of this document is to give detail on the work undertaken by the six scrutiny panels and the Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group, provide examples of achievements and highlights from scrutiny’s work in 2011-12 and to outline work programme items for 2012-13.

1.3 As part of the 2010-11 Audit Plan, Internal Audit carried out a review of scrutiny. A total of eight recommendations were made within the original report, all of which were agreed by management and have been tested again by Internal Audit. Key developments included:
   - An induction programme for members new to scrutiny
   - Scrutiny chairs being invited to sit on the North East Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership’s theme boards
   - The setting up of the cross cutting Performance, Policy and Resources Panel
   - The development of a scrutiny handbook
   - The development of protocols to develop work programmes and prioritise workloads
   - Scrutiny being part of a wider governance function within the council, which should encourage closer working with other services with governance responsibilities and reduce the risk of duplication

The Internal Audit follow-up report was considered at the Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group in September 2011, with the auditor noting that the service was now rated as giving a high audit assurance.

1.4 It is approximately six years since the scrutiny procedure rules were last reviewed. In order to improve the clarity and effectiveness of the procedures, the leaders of all political parties agreed that scrutiny chairs
should lead on a short review. The terms of reference for the review were agreed as:

- The relationship between scrutiny and portfolio holders
- The role of scrutiny in engaging partners and third parties
- The use and effectiveness of pre-decision scrutiny and post decision call-in
- The Introduction a formal structure for the governance of select committees
- The introduction of amendments that would serve to enhance the overview and scrutiny function generally

As a result of this review work, which was agreed at the Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group, it is proposed that the Constitution of North East Lincolnshire Council will be amended accordingly, with Council’s approval.

1.5 The review work in the previous paragraph made reference to pre-decision scrutiny and the main mechanism available to the scrutiny panels is the Forward Plan, which is a standard agenda item at each scheduled scrutiny panel meeting. This document outlines a plan of key decisions to be taken by the council and is published on a monthly basis. This document provides each scrutiny panel with the opportunity to examine issues, prior to the final decision being made by Cabinet, with the chairs of scrutiny panels having the responsibility for reviewing the plan immediately when it is published, in order to highlight any areas to be examined in detail.

1.6 The review work in paragraph 1.4 also made reference to post decision call-in and this year, there have been some call-ins, which were mainly heard by the Regeneration, Housing & Environment Scrutiny Panel. A call-in essentially “freezes” a decision which has been made, but not yet implemented, by Cabinet. This procedure ties in with scrutiny’s role as a “checking mechanism” and provides the panels with the following options:
- To refer the matter back to the decision making person or body, with recommendations for reconsideration
- To refer the matter to full Council
- To release the decision for implementation

1.7 The introduction of a proposed procedure for dealing with public questions at scrutiny meetings was another area of investigation. The proposed procedure was agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group and it is to be recommended as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution, that the principles be incorporated into the Constitution.

1.8 All agendas and report items considered by the panels during 2011-12 are available on the council’s website under ‘Your Council’, or by contacting customerrequests@nelincs.gov.uk.
2. Highlights & Headlines

**Recycling Select Committee** – The committee recommended that the decision to introduce wholesale charges for garden waste collections be overturned and made alternative recommendations for improving the efficiency of waste services. Cabinet accepted the select committee’s recommendations, with some minor amendments.

**Humberston Fitties** – Following an appeal against the decision to reject a petition to change the leases at Humberston Fitties Chalet Park, the Regeneration, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Panel recommended that Cabinet should consult with all of the chalet owners, to establish if there was a consensus for a 50 week stopover. The panel also recommended that a select committee should look at the other variances in tenancy conditions relating to the Fitties.

**Alcohol Intervention Select Committee** – The Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel formed a select committee to look at a co-ordinated approach to alcohol intervention work. In addition, a task and finish group was formed to investigate the perceived and actual issues of proxy buying.

**Skills Strategy** – The Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel considered the 19+ Skills Strategy for North East Lincolnshire, in conjunction with the Regeneration, Housing & Environment Scrutiny Panel, with members welcoming the partnership approach and a future joint panel meeting will be called to monitor progress.

**Children’s Congenital Cardiac Services** – The Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel joined a regional committee, to formulate a response on the NHS consultation relating to the future provision of congenital heart services for children.

**Partnerships** – The Policy, Performance & Resources Scrutiny Panel undertook the scrutiny of some key partnerships this year. This work included looking at Balfour Beatty Living Places and VANEL (Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire).

**Priorities, Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) -** Scrutiny members had an early opportunity to consider draft priorities and Outline Business Cases (OBCs) through panel based working groups held in November 2011, with the final version of the OBCs considered at the January 2012 round of scheduled panel meetings. Members’ comments and recommendations were fed back to JEB (Joint Executive Board) and Cabinet.

**Good Scrutiny Awards 2012** – Just as we were about to go to press, we received notification that our entry for the Centre for Public Scrutiny’s Good Scrutiny Awards had been shortlisted. Our entry was on the Immingham Coal Dust Select Committee and the winner will be announced on 12 June 2012.
3. Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group

3.1 The following captures the work areas for the Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group for the municipal year 2011-12.

**Green Issues**

**Issue:** Environment Sustainability and Climate Change.  

**Outcome:** The group had an opportunity (14 July 2011) to put suggestions forward for consideration:
- Prioritisation of partner involvement
- Clear timelines to be established
- Links made with producers of green energy
- Explore the use of the council’s buying power to make solar panels more affordable for local residents
- Take advantage of New Deal

In addition, it was agreed that the Regeneration, Housing & Environment Scrutiny Panel considered the draft Environment Sustainability Framework, with the Tourism, Leisure & Culture Scrutiny Panel having an opportunity to submit comments/questions. This meeting took place on 7 September 2011.

**Audit Review of Scrutiny**

**Issue:** To receive the Internal Audit follow-up report on the council’s scrutiny arrangements. 

**Outcome:** The group received the report (8 September 2011) and considered papers on the actions relating to the criteria for scrutiny referrals and a Scrutiny Guide for Members. Internal Audit confirmed that the service was now rated as giving high audit assurance.
Public Questions at Scrutiny Meetings

**Issue:** To ensure that there is a mechanism for the public to ask questions, or raise issues through the scrutiny process.

**Outcome:** The group considered the options available over a series of meetings and then agreed (15 March 2012) the procedure that needs to be put in place for the forthcoming municipal year.

Review of Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules

**Issue:** To revisit the procedure rules in order to improve their clarity and effectiveness.

**Outcome:** The potential amendments were discussed (8 December 2011) and comments from the scrutiny chairs were incorporated into the procedure. The Constitution will be amended to incorporate these changes, subject to agreement at full Council.

Draft Council Priorities, Budget 2012-13 and Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2012-2015

**Issue:** To consider the outcome of discussions at each of the scrutiny panels.

**Outcome:** At the meeting (19 January 2012), each of the scrutiny chairs gave an overview of the discussions at their panels and discussed the issue of exempt business and opportunities to scrutinise in public. The group felt that, in support of transparency, there is a need to minute exempt discussions in more detail.

Resources & Performance Report

**Issue:** To receive the quarterly monitoring report.

**Outcome:** Any issues referred from the Policy, Performance and Resources Scrutiny Panel, which may cut across the remit of more than one panel, were discussed and the scrutiny panel allocation was agreed.
3.2 The Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group first met on 14 July 2011 and appointed Councillor Andrew De Freitas as their chairman.

3.3 These meetings provided chairs with the opportunity to share work programmes items, thus avoiding any duplication of effort. This also was an opportunity to agree the allocation of an issue to a particular panel, if it cut across the work of more than one panel. Examples included the council’s response to the severe winter weather being referred to the Regeneration, Housing & Environment Scrutiny Panel and the then Localism Bill being referred to the Policy, Performance & Resources Scrutiny Panel.

3.4 In addition, the Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group gave chairs the opportunity to share information on regional work, such as the Review of Children’s Congenital Cardiac Services and provide feedback from regional scrutiny networking events, such as the event held in York on 2 December 2011.
4. **Tourism, Leisure & Culture Scrutiny Panel**

4.1 The following captures the work areas for the Tourism, Leisure & Culture Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2011-12, plus other items brought to the panel throughout the year:

### Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan

| Issue: Following the Saltmarsh Select Committee, which was part of the 2009-10 scrutiny work programme, the panel resolved to jointly monitor progress on the recommendations with the Regeneration, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Panel, due to the potential impact on tourism in the resort. |
| Outcome: The panel visited Cleethorpes beach to see the extent of the saltmarsh first hand. Members also received updates on progress against the management plan at their meetings (July 2011, November 2011 and January 2012). |

### Leisure Centre/Central Library Review

| Issue: A review of leisure facilities in 2009 identified that Grimsby Leisure Centre and Scartho Swimming Pool were coming to the end of their useful lives. A feasibility study was also carried out to assess the options for replacing Central Library, due to rising maintenance costs for the building. Since then, various options and sites have been investigated. |
| Outcome: Following a review of capital programme funding, the current option proposes the replacement of the leisure centre and pool, with one new facility at the existing leisure centre site and the carrying out of essential repairs to the existing central library building. The panel have received regular updates on the progress of this project and considered the latest Cabinet report at their meeting in January 2012. The report was welcomed as a pragmatic approach in light of the current financial situation. |

### Olympics 2012

| Issue: The council has been working with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) on the borough’s involvement in the Olympic Torch Relay. The panel were also keen to |
| Outcome: The panel received regular updates on progress in organising the Olympic Torch Relay, subject to strict reporting restrictions imposed by LOCOG. In January, the panel heard more about the torch |
hear how the Sports Development Team was linking local events to the Olympics. They also received a presentation on how the Sports Development Team were tying local events to the Olympics, as well as an update on the wider work the team are undertaking across the borough.

### Review of Sport, Leisure & Culture Management

**Issue:** As part of the 2011-12 budget proposals, the council resolved to investigate possible future options for the delivery of sport, leisure and culture activities.

**Outcome:** An options appraisal was carried out and a special scrutiny working group met (26 September 2011) to consider the resulting report. The working group resolved that the report, recommending a preference for a social enterprise delivery model, be approved for consideration by Cabinet with no further recommendations. Cabinet met later that same day and approved the report’s recommendations.

### Draft Council Priorities, Budget 2011-12 and Medium Term Financial Plan

**Issue:** A working group met in November to consider the emerging budget proposals and feedback comments, recommendations and alternative suggestions to the Joint Executive Board (JEB). The panel then met in January to formally consider the draft budget proposals.

**Outcome:** The working group generally supported the proposals, but were concerned that an outline business case regarding Cleethorpes Tourist Information Centre would see the loss of the provision of tourist information at Cleethorpes library on Sundays. Members suggested possible alternative venues where tourist information could be provided and asked the Service to provide further information on the proposal. At their meeting in January, the panel received an update on plans to provide tourist information in the resort through other information points.
Meridian Park Arena

**Issue:** Following the reduction of the events budget for the Meridian Park Arena in Cleethorpes, the panel were keen to see more use of the arena for community events.

**Outcome:** The panel received an update on the draft events programme for next year.

Cleethorpes Beach Management

**Issue:** The panel had concerns that rising tide levels were encroaching on the beach and if left unchecked, would adversely affect traditional ‘bucket and spade’ tourism in the resort.

**Outcome:** The panel received a report on beach management on Cleethorpes beach and took the opportunity to question the borough’s drainage and coastal defence engineer on aspects of the report.

Quarterly Resources and Performance Report

**Issue:** The panel reviewed the quarterly council plan performance and resources report.

**Outcome:** Members asked questions on the projected overspend on the leisure contract, reported in quarter two.

The Esther

**Issue:** The panel were concerned with both the condition and the cost of maintenance of Esther, a Grimsby sail trawling smack built in 1888. The ship, moored at the Fishing Heritage Centre, was leaking and water had to be regularly pumped out.

**Outcome:** Throughout the year the panel tracked the progress of the independent condition survey report.

4.2 In addition, at the July meeting, the panel received questions raised by members of the public on:

- Plans for a new swimming pool
- Promoting tourism
- Tennis facilities
- The use and quality of guest house accommodation in Cleethorpes
4.3 Prior to the September 2011 meeting, the panel had a short walking tour of Cleethorpes seafront, to see first hand the extent of the saltmarsh and other issues affecting the beach and resort generally.

4.4 Panel members contributed to the completion of a joint consultation exercise on the Car Parking Strategy with the Regeneration, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Panel. The Parking Strategy and Policy were approved by Cabinet in October 2011. The scrutiny task and finish group have resolved to maintain a watching brief as specific parking policies are developed.
5. **Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel**

5.1 The following captures the work areas for the Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2011-12, plus other items brought to the panel throughout the year:

### School Improvement Partnership Contract

**Issue:** Further to the panel’s consideration of a report which outlined the concept of commissioning outcomes and provided background to a procurement process. The panel was consulted on the tender evaluation process and gave challenge on various aspects.

**Outcome:** The panel resolved that the executive summary of the Cabinet report be expanded to provide an explanation of the weighting system applied to the evaluation process.

The panel recommended to Cabinet that an assurance be sought that the contract would take account of the declining number of schools under local authority control and that an assurance be sought that issues around the lack of impact assessments would be resolved as part of the mobilisation period (May 2011).

### Trin High-wire

**Issue:** The high-wire activity installation at Trin Young People’s Centre had been fraught with problems resulting in it remaining unused for 2 years. Future options were presented to the panel for their comment prior to Cabinet consideration.

**Outcome:** At the panel meeting (7 July 2011), members had a lively debate about the future of the installation. Ward councillors attended to speak. After a lengthy debate the panel recommended to Cabinet that a partnership solution be sought by expressions of interest, to include proposals around re-location, management and costs.

### Schools – Financial Health and Assurance

**Issue:** Following the allocation of additional funding to support a former LA (Local Authority) school, members asked for

**Outcome:** At the 7 July meeting members were reassured that, despite the financial mismanagement of
details on the financial health and assurance arrangement in place for all schools to avoid similar situations in future.

Willows Schools Organisation

**Issue:** The panel had been following changes to new configurations of schools for the Willows community. The Whitgift (secondary) School had recently applied for academy status. Members sought clarity on the most recent developments.

**Outcome:** At the panel meeting (7 July 2011), members raised several concerns about the Willows schools. Ward councillors attended to speak and ask questions. The panel gained an insight into the latest developments. A briefing note was issued (July 2011).

Safeguarding

**Issue:** The Government commissioned a review into the child protection system. Professor Eileen Munro’s recommendations required all councils to review their safeguarding arrangements. The panel were consulted on the local impact of these recommendations and the content of the draft Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB) Business Plan.

**Outcome:** The panel considered the implications of the Munro report and were reassured to hear that the recommendations for a focus on early intervention and prevention had already been responded to locally. Changes to the serious case review process and the inspection regime were outlined. Members debated the LSCB, specifically the work of partners which affected local children and young people. Members were reassured that the portfolio holder for people and communities was a member of the board and that the board appointed two lay members from the community (September 2011).

Mosquito Devices

**Issue:** The panel were delighted to consider a report from the Council for Young

**Outcome:** The panel were reassured that these devices were not and would not be
People (CfYP). Mosquito devices are electronic devices which emit a loud, high frequency sound. The sound is audible generally to people under 25. The device is used to deter loitering by young people. The CfYP disapproved of these devices and are working nationally to achieve a ban on such devices. Used on council owned buildings. Neither are they used, nor would they be used on any buildings of the Community Safety Partnership. There are a small number of devices in use in North East Lincolnshire on private premises. The panel made a recommendation to Cabinet to make a policy decision not to use these devices on council owned or managed premises and further recommended that the council’s partners do likewise (March 2012).

Community Use Policy

**Issue:** Panel members continued their focus and concern regarding community use in schools. At the panel’s request, a policy document to guide schools in encouraging community use was presented for comment before being rolled out to schools.

**Outcome:** Members commented on issues relating to public liability insurance, entertainment licences, other council assets and the exclusion of assistance dogs from the ‘no animals’ rule. The panel contributed to the development of the policy to improve community facilities for local people. The panel asked for an update on uptake (by schools) of the policy and this information will be presented in September 2012.

Priority School Building Programme

**Issue:** Tight deadlines dictated by the Partnership for Schools meant there was no prior opportunity for scrutiny to be consulted prior to a Cabinet decision being made. The panel comments were sought retrospectively.

**Outcome:** The panel felt there was no alternative option to the private finance initiative (PFI) to improve Great Coates Primary School. Members were, however, mindful of the long term budget implications of entering into a PFI scheme. The panel supported the decision.
**Holiday Scheme**

**Issue:** The panel had previously requested this report outlining the implications of an LA (Local Authority) sustained holiday activity programme to meet the needs of working parents.

**Outcome:** Whilst there was a general perception of a lack of child care facilities in North East Lincolnshire, members were relieved to hear that only the Five Ways and Central areas had a shortage of places and there was an action plan in place to address this. It was generally agreed, by members, that the council should take a lead role in coordinating and promoting child care rather than providing it. The panel recommended that the LA work with other providers and publish holiday activities within regular media. This should include the use of social media to raise awareness of activities with young people. (November 2012).

**School Meals Take-up**

**Issue:** The panel asked for a briefing note on the current take up of hot school meals. The briefing note generated a debate on the merits of hot school meals, potential stigma associated with entitlement to FSM (Free School Meals), schools' funding based on number of children eligible for FSM and methods to improve take-up.

**Outcome:** The panel resolved that individual members visit schools to observe school meal provision and report back to the panel on matters affecting the economic, health and well-being of local families. Panel members were able to give positive feedback relating to issues about quality, arrangements and take-up as a result of their visits. (February 2012)

**Children – Road Traffic Accident Statistics**

**Issue:** The panel wanted to be kept informed about local issues and methods to address

**Outcome:** The panel received a detailed report (February 2012) giving data...
accident hotspots. Members raised a number of issues relating to road safety training in schools, increases in accidents in the Five Ways area, use of cycle helmets, lengthy waits for traffic calming schemes and road signage. A briefing note was issued in response to all questions raised.

The Council's Role and Strategic Remit with Academy Schools

Issue: The panel wanted to make sure that school governors had clear and comprehensive information in order to make decisions about schools applying for academy status.

Outcome: At the November panel meeting, members heard of a number of activities aimed at informing schools and their governors of options, culminating in a December seminar. In February, members received feedback on the success of this event. However, plans for a Spring seminar were cancelled because governors did not feel the event was necessary. Members were reassured that various methods were being undertaken to work with schools and governors on this issue.

The panel have received regular and timely updates on the number of schools applying for academy status and how this affects the profile of education provision in North East Lincolnshire.

Council Priorities, Budget 2012-13 and Medium Term Financial Plan for the Period 2012-2015

Issue: A working group met in November 2011, to consider the emerging budget proposals and feedback comments, recommendations and

Outcome: The panel generally supported the proposals, but took the opportunity to question officers further on Outline
alternative suggestions to the Joint Executive Board (JEB). The panel then met (January 2012) to formally consider the draft budget proposals.

Business Cases (OBC).

Regarding children’s centres, members sought reassurance that closures would be avoided with additional service provision through use of outreach centres.

Regarding children’s homes, members asked that the ongoing review of council assets surplus to requirements be undertaken expediently, members asked for more information in the form of a briefing note.

Regarding childminder support, the impact of the proposals to be presented to the panel during the 2012-13 municipal year.

Regarding teenage pregnancy and obesity, the panel strongly felt that the impact of the proposed savings on service delivery and outcomes should be more clearly detailed in the OBC. A report on initiatives to reduce teenage pregnancy will be submitted to a future meeting of the panel.

Pupil Exclusions

**Issue:** The panel were concerned about permanent exclusions and called for a report. Members’ fears were confirmed when comparative figures for the past three years were presented in February 2012. Officers could relate no single direct reason for this, speculating that revised polices, new management procedures, combined with inappropriate and challenging

**Outcome:** The panel called for a select committee to further investigate and consider a review of permanent school exclusions.

The panel also requested a report on the result of an SEN (Special Education Needs) review by Serco.
behaviour by pupils may have resulted in the spike.

**Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS)**

**Issue:** In 2011, the Positive Activities Working Group (PAWG) highlighted a number of areas that they wanted more information about. These areas were elements of the strategy for change for IYSS.

**Outcome:** The strategy for change was presented to the panel at a special meeting in February 2012. Members challenged on career guidance, youth workers, the relationship between youth work and youth crime, partnership working and universal provision versus needs led services. The panel contributed to the development of this important strategy to improve services for young people in North East Lincolnshire.

**Schools Forum**

**Issue:** Following concern expressed by members, the panel received the draft constitution and terms of reference of the North East Lincolnshire Schools Forum.

**Outcome:** Members raised issues about the proposed membership of the forum, the number of members required for the forum to be quorate and the role and function of the forum. The panel were consulted on this body, which affects local residents, with comments forwarded to the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director - People and Communities. (February 2012)

**Admissions Forum**

**Issue:** The panel asked for details on the local impact of the removal of the requirement for the LA (Local Authority) to have admissions forum effective from February 2012.

**Outcome:** The panel gained clarity on the role of the forum and were consulted on the future of this forum, which affects local families. The panel supported the abolition of the Schools Admission Forum, with all matters relating to school admissions
Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB): Annual Report

**Issue**: The panel received the annual report outlining activities and achievements of the partnership over the previous 12 months.

**Outcome**: Members asked a number of questions at their March 2012 meeting relating to partners’ commitment and attendance, levels of contribution, school inspections and the future of the Children’s Trust. The panel noted the report.

The Council’s Property Rationalisation Plans

**Issue**: Continuing its interest in council and community assets, the panel received a presentation on plans to rationalise the properties from which the council operated.

**Outcome**: Members asked questions about the future of the former Lindsey Lower School site and Western Technology School site, the sale of buildings whose use was restricted by covenant, ICT costs, health and safety issues of ‘working from home’ and options for agile working. (March 2012).

Attainment: The Annual Analysis of Teacher Assessment Tests and Examination Results 2010-2011

**Issue**: The panel called for a detailed report on attainment to show validated results further analysed by gender, Special Educational Needs (SEN), cultural and other differences, entitlement to Free School Meals (FSM) and Looked After Children (LAC).

**Outcome**: Members sought clarification on a number of statistics in their role to challenge on matters affecting local people. Members were especially concerned that SEN pupils and pupils entitled to FSM were not performing as well as nationally. The panel was assured that these issues would be addressed within the School Improvement Strategy. (March 2012).
SEN and Inclusion Financial Plan September 2011 – August 2014

**Issue:** The panel called for a report of the results of an SEN review. The review was referred to at the February 2012 special meeting.

**Outcome:** The panel received a report on the SEN and Inclusion Financial Plan. Whilst members had no issue with the report as presented, they were vociferous and unanimous in their disappointment regarding a lack of consultation with elected members in the development of the SEN Strategy. The panel felt strongly that it should contribute to the development of this key strategy, which affects services for vulnerable children and young people and their families. It was recommended that Cabinet seek reassurance that the panel would receive both a progress report on the plan and an opportunity to comment on the draft SEN Strategy at the earliest opportunity.

Performance and Resources Report

**Issue:** The panel scrutinised the quarterly council plan performance and resources reports. The panel also challenged the Children’s Trust performance reports.

**Outcome:** Throughout the year, members had an opportunity to challenge on performance. Examples of the issues raised include care leavers, child and adolescent mental health services and Looked After Children (attainment), breastfeeding rates and illegal sales of alcohol through test purchases.

5.2  In addition, the panel held a joint meeting with the Regeneration, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Panel to consider the 19+ Skills Strategy for North East Lincolnshire. Please refer to paragraph 8.5
6. Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

6.1 The following captures the work areas for the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2011-12, including items brought by the local NHS trusts under the statutory duty to consult with scrutiny:

**Stroke Services**

**Issue:** To gain an update on stroke services in North East Lincolnshire from the Care Trust Plus.

**Outcome:** The scrutiny panel has tracked the progress of this issue over the last couple of years. This was an opportunity (21 July 2011) for members to discuss the key priorities for the stroke service and to understand the benefits of early diagnosis of thrombolysis. The phased approach to the delivery of telemedicine was also discussed, as this will enable physicians to make the diagnosis remotely and therefore provide a continuous all year round local service.

**Progress with Adult Social Care Indicators**

**Issue:** To scrutinise the adult social care indicator performance report.

**Outcome:** The panel had an opportunity to scrutinise the indicator information (21 July 2011). This issue will be a work programme item for the forthcoming year, as Internal Audit has advised that there is an expectation in the Care Trust Plus agreement that the panel will be presented with a performance report on a quarterly basis.

**Supporting People**

**Issue:** To scrutinise the performance of the Supporting People Programme.

**Outcome:** Supporting People is the Government’s long term policy to enable local authorities to plan, commission and provide housing related support services, which help vulnerable people to live independently. The panel
received an update (21 July 2011) and focused their discussion on the commissioning of remodelled services, with particular reference to those for older people. In addition, the panel had concerns about this issue at the budget meeting (19 January 2012) and asked for this issue to be reported at alternate meetings and by exception, during the forthcoming year.

**NAVIGO**

**Issue:** The panel wanted to learn more about this recently established organisation.

**Outcome:** The panel had an opportunity to ask questions (14 September 2011) about this not for profit social enterprise, which provides a mental health service for North East Lincolnshire. The panel felt reassured that although large mental health hospitals have closed nationally, the infrastructure has been brought closer to the people who use the service, allowing them to feel more connected to their care.

**Quarterly Performance and Resources Report**

**Issue:** To scrutinise performance information relating to the remit of the panel.

**Outcome:** Performance information was scrutinised on a quarterly basis, with smoking being identified as an issue that the panel wished to look at in more detail and a separate report was received on this issue at their meeting (15 March 2012).

**Dementia Services**

**Issue:** The panel requested an overview of the current provision of dementia services in North East

**Outcome:** The panel received an update (14 September 2011) on current issues and were invited to nominate a
Lincolnshire. representative to the Dementia Forum. Councillor Mills agreed to be the representative and will keep the panel updated on progress with the Dementia Implementation Plan.

End of Life Care

**Issue:** As the panel had this issue on their tracking document, an update was requested.  

**Outcome:** The panel had an opportunity (14 September 2011) to ask questions and receive reassurance about the developments and successes in relation to the implementation of the national End of Life Care Strategy, in the last year.

Transforming Community Equipment Services

**Issue:** To monitor progress with the findings of last year's select committee on this subject.

**Outcome:** This issue was discussed at two meetings (17 November 2011 & 15 March 2012), as the panel wanted to ensure that the appropriate consultation work had been carried out. The revamped service will be operational by Autumn 2012 and the panel asked for a further update at their September 2012 meeting.

Northern Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**Issue:** To scrutinise issues relating to the Hospitals Trust.

**Outcome:** The Trust attended two meetings (17 November 2011 & 15 March 2012) and provided the panel with an opportunity to ask questions on issues such as patient dining arrangements, the major trauma review, mortality ratios and hospital car parking spaces. This has proved to be a good opportunity to engage with one of the panel’s key NHS partners.
Diabetes and Obesity

**Issue:** Diabetes and obesity had been highlighted in the work programme as two areas that the panel wanted to learn more about during 2011-12.

**Outcome:** This was an opportunity (17 November 2011) to learn more about the current provision of diabetes and obesity services in North East Lincolnshire. The panel felt that obesity and diabetes in children is a long term issue and they will track progress annually.

Draft Council Plan Priorities, Budget 2012-13 and Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2012-15

**Issue:** To consider the draft documentation and where appropriate, to make recommendations to Cabinet.

**Outcome:** The meetings (working group meeting on 17 November 2011 and the formal panel meeting on 19 January 2012) gave the panel the opportunity to scrutinise the open and closed business cases and to seek clarity on the implication of the proposals. As the panel had concerns about the budget savings relating to the Supporting People budget, they requested formal progress reports at alternate meetings, plus reports by exception when necessary.

6.2 The panel has kept abreast of progress with the Health & Social Care Act (and specific elements such as HealthWatch), with updates being received at the meetings held on 14 September 2011 and 17 November 2011. In addition, a development session for the panel, on the NHS Reforms, was held on 2 February 2012, with another session due to be held early in the new municipal year.

6.3 Two further development sessions had been held this year, with one concentrating on the national Ageing Well Programme (26 January 2012) and the other on the work of the East Midlands Ambulance Service (28 February 2012).

6.4 The panel had been monitoring the recommendations from previous select committees and was finally able to sign off the remaining recommendations relating to supporting carers (the launch of a young carers’ card) and dignity in care (dining arrangements for patients), as these issues have now been resolved.
6.5 The Chairman, on behalf of the scrutiny panel, joined representatives from the 14 other local authorities in the Yorkshire & Humber region, to form a committee for responding to the consultation on children’s congenital cardiac services. This was an important piece of work to be involved in as the NHS was reviewing how it delivers congenital heart services to children in England and Wales, with Leeds being one of those that could potentially be closed. As children from the North East Lincolnshire area travel to Leeds for treatment, Councillor Wilson was able to highlight the impact that this will have on these children if the unit at Leeds is closed and children have to travel to Newcastle, Liverpool or Leicester, provided that these units are kept open. This increase in travel distances could potentially put children’s lives at risk, as well as increase social exclusion and health inequalities. The Grimsby Telegraph also ran a publicity campaign to support the proposal to keep the unit at Leeds open. The committee submitted their consultation response to the JCPCT (Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts), but there may be some further work to do in the forthcoming municipal year, when the results of the consultation exercise are released in July 2012.
7. **Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel**

7.1 The following captures the work areas for the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2011-12, plus other items brought to the panel throughout the year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safer &amp; Stronger Communities Partnership Plan</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Issue:</strong> The panel was consulted on the Crime Reduction Partnership Plan. The plan is an important document for local residents, detailing how outside organisations and the council will provide local services.</td>
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<td><strong>Outcome:</strong> Members praised the Plan and had only one request, that any statistical or performance data relating to the plan include percentages and actual numbers. The Plan was approved. The panel has a standing item on its agenda to receive updates on the meetings of the partnership's executive board from the Chairman, who attends the meetings as an observer.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Policing in the 21st Century</th>
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<td><strong>Issue:</strong> The panel requested updates on progress on arrangements for implementation of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act – Police and Crime Commissioners.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome:</strong> The panel received a detailed report at its November panel meeting and asked questions about transition arrangements, funding, roles and responsibilities and scrutiny’s role. This issue remains on the panel’s tracking report, in order to receive timely updates.</td>
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<tr>
<th>CCTV: The Safer &amp; Stronger Communities Partnership CCTV Strategy Incorporating NELC Capital Spend</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Issue:</strong> The council and its partner, BBWP (Balfour Beatty Workplace), had undertaken a review of CCTV provision and control in North East Lincolnshire. The panel were keen to monitor the progress and impact of this review.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome:</strong> The panel received a detailed report at its September meeting. Members were frustrated at delays in procurement and contracting, but reassured that the estimated date for completion, 16 December 2011, would be met. This</td>
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position was confirmed at the November panel meeting when members took another opportunity to challenge on a number of matters. Panel members and all councillors were invited to the refurbished control room (January 2012). The panel continues to monitor this project due to technical and operational delays.

### Clearing Waste from Alleyways

**Issue:** The panel were concerned about an increase in waste clearances from alleyways and asked for a policy statement which would lead to fair and more effective intervention. The panel raised a number of issues when the report was presented to its September panel meeting. The panel could not reach consensus and this contentious matter was debated again at the November panel meeting. After another lively and lengthy debate, many issues were raised including, establishing ownership, establishing liability, enforcement, links to ‘normal’ road-side waste collection, change of ownerships. This resulted in the matter being deferred to a special meeting in December 2011.

**Outcome:** At a special meeting (December 2011), members’ issues were largely answered. Upon a vote, the panel resolved that the council should only seek to recover charges for alleyway clearances from the person(s) responsible for the deposit of the waste. The panel asked the Regeneration, Housing & Environment Scrutiny Panel to explore the value of a Landlords’ Charter. Lastly, it requested that a progress update report be submitted to this panel after 6 months, to assess the impact of the policy.

### Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)

**Issue:** The panel asked for information regarding FPNs.

**Outcome:** A briefing note was issued responding to questions about the number of FPNs issued for cycling and dog fouling incidents and the payment ratio.

In addition, in April 2012, all members were invited to an
event presented by the Government’s advisor on environmental legislation, David Armstrong. The event covered the Government approach to enforcement, including the use of FPNs, enforcement of litter and dog fouling, enforcement of waste issues and Government proposals for Section 46 (legislation for bin use and recycling).

**Drinking in Public Places: Signage**

**Issue:** The panel wanted to monitor progress on outstanding recommendation following a select committee.

**Outcome:** The panel requested the portfolio holder to assess the level of Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) signage restricting consumption of alcohol in the top town area and align available budgets to bring this up to standard, if necessary. The portfolio holder reported back to panel. Members were reassured that signage was appropriate and adequate in the designated area (December 2011).

**Council Priorities, Budget 2012-13 and Medium Term Financial Plan for the Period 2012-2015**

**Issue:** A working group met in November 2011 to consider the emerging budget proposals and feedback comments, recommendations and alternative suggestions to the Joint Executive Board (JEB). The panel then met (January 2012) to formally consider the draft budget proposals.

**Outcome:** Members had many concerns relating to the proposed cessation of all non-statutory community pride enforcement. Following a lengthy debate, the panel supported the proposals and asked for a briefing note on “work in default”. “Work in default” is when the council carries out work that it has previously requested others, for example, owners or tenants, to do. The council can sometimes make charges for this work.
### Performance and Resources Reports

**Issue:** The panel scrutinised the quarterly council plan performance and resources reports on matters relating to the remit of this panel. The panel also challenged the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership’s performance reports.

**Outcome:** Issues around timing and presentation of information were largely resolved, with the panel agreeing to receive the partnership’s performance data and agreeing to receive an extract from the associated Cabinet report.

Throughout the year, members had an opportunity to challenge on performance. Examples of the issues raised include progress on the CCTV review, hate crime, violent crime and illegal sales of alcohol through test purchases.

### Hate Crime - “So Do We!”

**Issue:** The panel tasked a working group with identifying issues that this panel could scrutinise relating to this national and local priority.

**Outcome:** As a result of the working group, all panel members were invited to the North East Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership forum event on hate crime. The partnership produced a handy pocket size information leaflet for elected members and a meeting of the Crime & Disorder Committee was called in March 2012, to challenge the delivery and impact of the partnership’s hate crime action plan.

### Alcohol

**Issue:** The panel tasked a working group with identifying issues that this panel could scrutinise relating to alcohol abuse and crime.

**Outcome:** As a result of the working group’s recommendations, the panel formed a select committee to secure a co-ordinated approach to alcohol intervention work, plus a task and finish group to further
investigate the perceived and actual issues of proxy buying.

**Tackling Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009-2012**

**Issue:** The partner agencies tackling domestic abuse were restructured to form a virtual team. The panel called for an update report on statistical information, to consider the impact on outcomes from this change.

**Outcome:** The panel was reassured that the changes would not have negative effect on outcomes. Furthermore, officers were commended on the progress made with the strategy and specifically work regarding perpetrators being brought to justice. The panel requested a briefing note to be issued on the number of male victims of domestic abuse in North East Lincolnshire (September 2011).

**Survey on Community Use in Schools**

**Issue:** The positive activities working group had started a survey of community use in schools. The results were presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel. As the response rate was low, this was referred back for a follow up, to improve response rate.

**Outcome:** On completion of the follow up survey, the results were referred back to the Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel for consideration and the panel removed this item from tracking (September 2011).

**Reducing Violent Crime**

**Issue:** A small working group met to consider issues and made recommendations to the panel. It was agreed that a small delegation of members visit the partnership’s ‘Reducing Violent Crime Action Group’ to act as a critical friend to challenge decision makers in their work to reduce crime and disorder in the borough.

**Outcome:** The Chairman and scrutiny officer attended the January meeting of the RVCAG. The Chairman reported back to the March 2012 panel meeting. Members were reassured that the partnership is working effectively to reduce violent crime and there is a positive impact on the levels of committed and reported violent crime. The panel resolved to continue to monitor related performance.
indicators (March 2012).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parks &amp; Play Areas</th>
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<td><strong>Issue:</strong> In consideration of the panel’s work programme, members voiced concerns with ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour), bullying and criminal damage.</td>
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<th>Road Traffic Accident Statistics: Children</th>
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<td><strong>Issue:</strong> The panel requested a detailed report.</td>
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<th>Burglary: Dwelling and Non-dwelling</th>
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<td><strong>Issue:</strong> The panel wanted to know what the partnership was doing to tackle this local priority.</td>
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<th>Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA)</th>
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<td><strong>Issue:</strong> The panel received its regular (annual) report on</td>
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outcomes in the JSIA, to give data on local priorities and inform consideration of the panel’s work programme for the approaching municipal year.

of burglary, shop theft, anti-social behaviour, violent crime, alcohol related crime, hate crime and integrated offender management and youth crime.

7.2 In addition, following a question to the portfolio holder, the issue of metal theft was discussed at length. The portfolio holder confirmed that this was a local and national issue and was able to assure members that much work with partners and merchants was giving this matter high local priority. Following this debate, the issue became the subject of much media coverage.

7.3 In addition, the panel formed a select committee to secure a coordinated approach to alcohol intervention work, plus a task and finish group to further investigate the perceived and actual issues of proxy buying. These work areas ran concurrently with the same membership.

7.3.1 The select committee sat on 29 February and 1 March 2012, to consider evidence and interview witnesses. The report from the select committee went to the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel in March 2012, where the work was commended both by the panel and the portfolio holder for community safety and neighbourhoods.

7.3.2 The panel added a further recommendation to Cabinet: - That the recommendations and findings of the Alcohol Intervention Select committee (incorporating the work on proxy buying) be shared with the relevant scrutiny panels, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board.

7.3.3 The recommendations went before Cabinet on 16 April 2012. Cabinet expressed its appreciation of the work of the select committee, approved all recommendations and further added the Local Strategic Partnership to the list of bodies receiving a copy of the report.

The final recommendations/ resolutions were as follows:

**Recommended to Cabinet**

That the Unitary Leaders Group is urged to lobby the current Police Authority and the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner on the issue of alcohol intervention work as a means of reducing crime, disorder and reoffending. Furthermore, North East Lincolnshire Council’s Community Safety Partnership’s model of an Alcohol Intervention Programme is trialled across the sub-region and funded from the Police Authority Partnership Reserve. This would support the Policing Plan objectives to do more to tackle alcohol related harms and violence.
Recommended to Cabinet
That alcohol and its effects should be given a high priority from key stage two in Personal, Social Health & Economic (PSHE) work with children and young people in North East Lincolnshire.

Recommended to Cabinet
That the recommendations and finding of the Alcohol Intervention Select Committee be shared with the relevant Scrutiny Panels, the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board and the Local Strategic Partnership Executive.

Recommended to Cabinet and Community Safety Partnership
That officers initiate a campaign to publicise the law covering proxy buying of alcohol and report back to the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel.

Recommended to Community Safety Partnership
That all partners work together to agree and embed a consistent and robust data collection policy on alcohol related attendance at Diana, Princess of Wales (DPoW) Accident & Emergency (A&E).

Recommended to Clinical Commissioning Group
That funding for alcohol intervention work be increased so as to better mainstream screening, Information and Brief Advice and access to specialist treatment, across the whole of the health community.

7.4 North East Lincolnshire Council’s Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee, under the Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009. The committee must sit at least once each municipal year to scrutinise crime and disorder matters and can co-opt members from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). In North East Lincolnshire, the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership (SSCP) is the CSP.

7.5 The Crime & Disorder Committee met on the 22 March 2012, with co-opted members from the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership Board. The committee considered the delivery and impact of the partnership’s hate crime action plan. Members heard that a high proportion of hate crime in North East Lincolnshire which happen in the Night Time Economy (NTE), is committed by young people (50%) and is a result of another incident (that is, not a targeted offence). Good progress had been made with the action plan and future initiatives included a ‘hate crime’ film festival, expansion of events to primary schools and linking initiative into the London Olympic Games 2012. The committee resolved that hate crimes against people with disabilities be included in the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership’s refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan and that a further report monitoring hate crime in North East Lincolnshire be presented to North East Lincolnshire Council’s Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel in 6 months time.
8. **Regeneration, Housing & Environment Scrutiny Panel**

8.1 The following captures the work areas for the Regeneration, Housing & Environment Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2011-12, plus other items brought to the panel throughout the year:

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<tr>
<th>Balfour Beatty Workforce Services Partnership</th>
<th>Regeneration and Property Services Partnership</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Issue:</strong> Consultation with scrutiny forms part of the performance monitoring arrangements for the council’s regeneration partnership with Balfour Beatty Workforce.</td>
<td><strong>Outcome:</strong> Members received a presentation on the key messages from the regeneration and property services annual report. The panel identified empty homes and subsidised bus routes as issues they would like to explore in more detail in future meetings.</td>
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**Cleethorpes Renaissance/Town Team**

**Issue:** Following an update from the outgoing chairman of the Cleethorpes Town Team the previous year, the panel resolved to invite the incoming chairman of the Town Team to a future meeting, to update the panel on progress.

**Outcome:** The panel received a presentation from Mr Barry Waby, the new Chairman of the Cleethorpes Town Team. Mr Waby outlined the objectives, achievements, challenges and aspirations of the Town Team going forward. Members felt it was commendable that the Town Team were committed to continuing despite funding and accommodation issues and applauded their efforts to date.

**Humberston Fitties Chalet Park – Petition Appeal**

**Issue:** The panel heard an appeal against the decision made by Cabinet on 14 February 2011, to reject a petition to change the leases at Humberston Fitties Chalet Park to a 15 year lease, allowing 50 weeks residency a year.

**Outcome:** The panel disagreed with the Cabinet decision to reject the petition to vary the terms of the standard leases for Humberston Fitties Chalet Park and recommended that:
- Cabinet should consider holding a referendum or
consultation exercise to establish if there was a mandate among all of the chalet owners at the Fitties for a 50 week stopover

- Subject to the outcome of that exercise, a select committee is then established to investigate and resolve any other existing matters affecting the Fitties

The recommendations were accepted by Cabinet.

**Saltmarsh – Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan**

**Issue:** Following the Saltmarsh Select Committee, which was part of the 2009-10 scrutiny work programme, the panel resolved to jointly monitor progress on the recommendations with the Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel.

**Outcome:** The panel received updates at its meetings (July 2011 and January 2012) and asked various questions, including clarification of the area where the saltmarsh growth was being controlled.

**Housing Issues**

**Issue:** The panel tracked the progress of several housing related issues, including bringing empty homes back into use, assisting people in privately rented accommodation and the provision of affordable housing.

**Outcome:** Members received additional information regarding empty homes loans, empty homes grants and help given under the Rent Assist Scheme. Tony Bramley, the Chief Executive of Shoreline Housing Partnership, briefed the panel on forthcoming changes to housing benefit legislation and the use of affordable housing funding. The panel received a further update, at its January 2012 meeting, on a pilot private sector leasing scheme.

**Retirement Village**

**Issue:** The Health and

**Outcome:** The panel
Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel had been monitoring progress on proposals for a retirement village. As firm proposals are now out for consultation, this issue has been referred to the Regeneration, Housing and Environment Panel to track progress. Members received a presentation from the Longhurst Group outlining the results of public consultation to date and how the proposed plans for the retirement village had been amended as a result. Members took the opportunity to clarify some issues which were of concern to residents.

### Homelessness Strategy

**Issue:** The panel was consulted on the council’s new Homelessness Strategy, 'Preventing Homelessness - Actions for All' (2012 - 2015).

**Outcome:** The panel congratulated the service on a comprehensive report and had no recommendations to add.

### Supporting People Programme

**Issue:** The panel requested updates on the progress made on the commissioning and delivery of the supporting people programme, with particular reference to older people.

**Outcome:** The panel received updates at their September and March meetings.

### Draft Council Priorities, Budget 2011-12 and Medium Term Financial Plan

**Issue:** A working group met (November 2011) to consider the emerging budget proposals and feedback comments, recommendations and alternative suggestions to the Joint Executive Board (JEB). The panel then met in January 2012 to formally consider the draft budget proposals.

**Outcome:** The panel supported the proposals, but took the opportunity to question officers further on the proposed development of a community infrastructure levy.

### Immingham Coal Dust Select Committee

**Issue:** As part of the 2010-11 work programme, the panel responded to concerns on air quality raised by Immingham ward councillors on behalf of their constituents by holding a

**Outcome:** Members received an update on progress made against the select committee recommendations in November 2011. The majority of actions have now
Select committee on coal dust in Immingham. The select committee made several recommendations and the panel resolved to track progress against the recommendations. The progress made and actions taken were highlighted via a press release from the leader and portfolio holder.

Environment Climate Change Framework

**Issue:** As part of the consultation on the environment climate change framework, members were invited to comment on the framework.

**Outcome:** The panel asked various questions, including asking for further information on water consumption and recycling rates.

Local Transport

**Issue:** The panel was interested in exploring subsidised bus routes and were keen to address some concerns raised by residents around bus stock condition and accessibility with Stagecoach East Midlands.

**Outcome:** Information on subsidised bus routes was presented to the panel (November 2011). The panel then invited Mr Dave Skeper, Commercial Director and Mr Gary Nolan, Managing Director of Stagecoach East Midlands, to discuss residents concerns regarding bus stock condition and accessibility. The panel heard that most routes were now served by low floor, accessible buses, but that double deckers remained in use on school routes due to the number of seats required. Stagecoach welcomed the feedback from members and were pleased to announce that some brand new buses would be in service earlier than planned.

Response to Severe Winter Weather

**Issue:** In December 2010, full

**Outcome:** Subsequent
council resolved that a review of the Highway Winter Service provision be undertaken by the panel.

discussions identified that there was already a member/officer workshop planned to review the response and capture any learning for future emergencies. The findings from this group, the Humber Local Resilience Forum Multi-agency Working Group and details of a multi-agency winter planning campaign for older people were presented to scrutiny to give members assurance that a comprehensive review had taken place.

Quarterly Performance and Resources Report

**Issue:** The panel reviewed the quarterly council plan performance and resources report.

**Outcome:** Members asked questions on job growth issues, reported in quarter three.

8.2 In addition, the panel held a special meeting on 12 October 2011 to consider a revision to outline business case CS08, Waste Management (Collection and Disposal). The revised business case proposed that the original option A, which was to apply Environmental Protection Act powers to make recycling compulsory, was replaced by the following:

- **Option A1:** Pre-sort all “Community Recycling Centre waste to avoid landfill charges (by enabling more waste to be processed through the energy from waste plant)
- **Option A2:** Increasing recycling Income. Take advantage of high commodity prices and long term contracts to secure advantageous recycling prices
- **Option A3:** Introducing a charge for garden waste collections. Garden waste is classified as a discretionary service for which councils are able to levy a charge
- **Option A4:** Introduction of a range of trials to identify ways of achieving further efficiencies (to inform the council’s long term strategy)

The remaining options B and C were retained:

- **Option B:** Charging for replacement bins
- **Option C:** Reduce winter collections (garden waste)
The panel recommended to Cabinet that the revised outline business case option A3 (charge for garden waste collection) and option B (charge for replacement bins) not be approved.

8.2.1 Cabinet met to consider the revised outline business case on 24 October 2011. Although noting the recommendations of the panel, Cabinet resolved to approve the outline business case.

8.2.2 The decision was called-in on 25 October 2011. The reason for the call-in was given as ‘to consider an improved option that will increase North East Lincolnshire Council’s recycling rate and save money’.

8.2.3 The call-in was heard at a special meeting of the Regeneration, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Panel (3 November 2011). By majority vote, the panel resolved that option A3, the £25 charge for garden/brown bin waste collection, should not be implemented and to form a select committee to investigate ways to promote and increase recycling across the borough, with the involvement of Newlincs Development Ltd (Newlincs). The remaining options within the business case were supported.

8.2.4 Members attended a briefing session on the council’s current arrangements for the collection and disposal of household and garden waste; and considered case studies from other authorities achieving high recycling rates. The select committee then met over 2 days and heard evidence from North Lincolnshire Council and Newlincs before formulating their recommendations.

8.2.5 The select committee concluded that they remained opposed to the wholesale introduction of charges for garden waste collection. The committee proposed 7 recommendations that they considered offer both short and longer-term solutions for improving the efficiency of the service, as an alternative to the original outline business case. Cabinet generally accepted the Select Committee’s recommendations with some minor amendments.

8.3 The panel also considered the following call-ins of decisions by Cabinet:
- Freemen Street Public Space Proposal – 11 July 2011 decision
- Freeman Street Public Space Proposal – 5 December 2011 decision
- Quarter Two Finance & Performance Report (relating to the demolition of Matthew Humberston School)
- Speed Limit Review – 7 February 2012, Portfolio Holder, Environment and Strategic Housing decision

8.4 Panel members contributed to the completion of a joint consultation exercise on the Car Parking Strategy, with the Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel. The Parking Strategy and Policy were approved by Cabinet in October. The scrutiny task and finish group has resolved to maintain a watching brief as specific parking policies are developed.
8.5 The panel held a joint meeting with the Children and Young People Scrutiny panel to consider the 19+ Skills Strategy for North East Lincolnshire. Members welcomed the partnership approach and made the following recommendations:

- That an update report, highlighting progress to date on the strategy and the associated delivery plan, be submitted to a further joint panel in six months
- That the strategy provide a stronger emphasis on employer engagement, including micro businesses, identifying barriers for employers
9. Policy, Performance & Resources Scrutiny Panel

9.1 The following captures the work areas for the Policy, Performance & Resources Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2011-12, plus other items brought to the panel throughout the year:

**Financial Inclusion**

**Issue:** The panel wished to be kept informed on the work of the Financial Inclusion Forum.

**Outcome:** At meetings (12 July 2011 and 8 December 2011), updates on this issue were given. This work ensured that the work of the Forum and the key factors in North East Lincolnshire’s Financial Inclusion Strategy were understood and monitored.

**Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (VANEL)**

**Issue:** As part of the panel’s remit is to look at the partners that the council works alongside, VANEL was one of the organisations that the panel wanted to learn more about.

**Outcome:** At the meeting (8 September 2011), members were given an overview of the current state of play and immediate future of VANEL, with ample opportunity to ask questions on key activities, such as the Volunteers’ Centre, the Development Workers Network and the Neighbourhood Management Toolkit.

**Future Shape**

**Issue:** The panel wished to monitor progress with the council’s Future Shape Programme.

**Outcome:** The panel received updates at their meetings (8 September 2011, 8 December 2012 and 15 March 2012). This was an opportunity to monitor and ask questions on the key activities and actions that have taken place and those that are being planned. The meeting on 15 March 2012 also considered the expected risks and impacts of the Future Shape Programme.
Council Communications System

**Issue:** At the full council meeting on 14 July 2011, the panel was tasked with looking at the issue of the council’s communication system. Whilst the council acknowledged the improvements made to council’s communication systems in recent years, there is still room to deliver an enhanced service to members and the public.

**Outcome:** The panel heard that a number of projects are currently underway to underpin and support the council’s existing business systems and projects. The report provided a review of the ICT and web activity in three areas. These areas were Future Shape, Service Outcomes and Service Improvement Plan. This work is set in the context of ICT saving over £1.6 million in operating costs, over the next 4 years. The panel were reassured about the work that was taking place and had no further comments for Cabinet to consider at this time.

Balfour Beatty Workplace

**Issue:** The panel wished to monitor the progress with the Balfour Beatty Workplace contract.

**Outcome:** Apart from receiving an overview of the partnership, the panel were able to gain clarity on the Highways Winter Maintenance Programme and the key activities for 2011-12, including Close Circuit Television (CCTV), car parking review and the Local Transport Plan (LTP3).

Procurement & Buy Local

**Issue:** The panel requested further information on procurement and “buy local” activities.

**Outcome:** At their meeting (8 December 2011), members received a briefing on the activity relating to procurement, particularly the activities undertaken with the Chamber of Commerce and E-factor. This provided reassurance that everything possible was being done to support local businesses, within the current procurement legislation.
Draft Council Plan Priorities, Budget 2012-13 and Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2012-15

**Issue:** A working group meeting was held on (25 November 2011), with a formal public meeting held on 19 January 2012.

**Outcome:** This work gave the panel the opportunity to scrutinise the open and closed business cases and to seek clarity on the implication of the proposals.

**Resources & Performance Report**

**Issue:** The panel received the quarterly monitoring report, so that information could be scrutinised and that any areas of concern could be allocated to the relevant scrutiny panel for further investigation.

**Outcome:** These quarterly reports showed how the council was performing against the tasks and actions in the 2010-13 Council Plan, including information on the council’s financial position. The issues that members sought further clarity on included Icelandic bank investments, capital spend, the Value for Money Strategy and the use of council credit cards. An example of a referral, by the panel, of an area of concern was the Affordable Housing Schemes, which was referred to the Regeneration, Housing & Environment Scrutiny Panel on 8 December 2011.

**External Funding**

**Issue:** As the demand for external funding is already extensive and is likely to grow further, taking into account the council’s future budget restrictions, the panel wanted to know what is being done to ensure that no opportunities are overlooked.

**Outcome:** The panel discussed this issue at their meeting (15 March 2012) and had an opportunity to ask questions and seek reassurance about the voluntary sector steering group. Members heard that this group will provide a more co-ordinated approach to external funding and the impact should be few competing bids, resulting in higher levels of external funding attracted to the area, to support the delivery of agreed priorities.
9.2 As this panel was only created in May 2011, it has proved to be a useful mechanism for considering reports and issues of a corporate nature, which affect the council as a whole, for maintaining an overview of the council’s overall organisational performance and resource management arrangements and for scrutinising the work of partner organisations.
10. Work Programme 2012-13

10.1 Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group
The Scrutiny Chairs’ Liaison Group will continue to look at issues that relate to the scrutiny process, or issues that cut across the work of all the scrutiny panels. The work programme will also include receiving updates from the chairs of the scrutiny panels on the work that their panels are involved in and any plans for select committees, review work or working groups, so that the work can be co-ordinated and that there is no duplication of effort.

10.2 Tourism, Leisure & Culture Scrutiny Panel
The proposed work programme areas for 2012-13 are:
- Future management arrangements for Leisure Services
- Leisure Centre/Central Library Project
- Review of Tourist Information
- Saltmarsh
- Tourism NEL
- Cleethorpes renaissance, which may involve joint work with the Regeneration, Housing & Environment Scrutiny Panel
- Events (comparisons with other local authorities/providers and may require input from the Resources Directorate on the analysis of performance information)

Some of the above items may need to be dealt with as closed agenda items, for example if they relate to confidential or commercially sensitive information.

In addition, there will be the opportunity to identify work programme items from the Forward Plan and the following will be standard items on agendas:
- Council’s Quarterly Performance & Resources Report, with a focus on those issues relevant to the remit of the panel
- Tracking the recommendations of the panel

10.3 Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel
The proposed work programme areas for 2012-13 are:
- Pupil exclusions
- Teenage pregnancy
- Childhood obesity
- Mosquito devices
- NEETS

There will also be a work programme item relating to safeguarding issues, as an action plan incorporating all the issues from Ofsted, the Peer Review and Munro will be going to the portfolio holder and Cabinet in June/July, with a proposal that scrutiny reviews/monitors progress.
In addition, there will be the opportunity to identify work programme items from the Forward Plan and the following will be standard items on agendas:

- Council’s Quarterly Performance & Resources Report, with a focus on those issues relevant to the remit of the panel
- Children’s Trust performance report
- Tracking the recommendations of the panel

10.4 Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

The proposed work programme areas for 2012-13 are:

- Progress with HealthWatch, which is due to start in April 2013
- NHS Reforms and this will include updates on the Health & Wellbeing Board and its remit and how the scrutiny panel will interact with this new body
- Major Trauma Network - this issue is about having clear patient pathways in place to facilitate the transfer of major trauma patients to major trauma centres. Members received a briefing note on this issue during December 2011, but as the first phase goes live on 1 April 2012 and wish to monitor progress with this
- Update on home care packages – this is likely to be a one-off agenda item as members had requested an update as a follow on from the Dignity in Care Select Committee recommendations
- Children with diabetes – this issue was discussed by members at the November 2011 meeting, with an update requested in a year’s time
- Issues from the Northern Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – the Chief Executive attends twice a year to give an update on current issues
- East Midlands Ambulance Service – this will follow up the issues that members were made aware of at the development session on 28 February 2012, in a working group setting
- Adult Social Care and Value for Money
- Monitoring of progress with the Community Equipment Services
- Monitoring of progress with the Allied Health Professional Review
- Access to Medical Centres – this will revisit the recommendations from the previous select committee, particularly on the transport aspect and Stagecoach will be invited to provide an update

In addition, there are a few issues which will be standard items on each agenda:

- Council’s Quarterly Performance & Resources Report, with a focus on those issues relevant to the remit of the panel
- Progress with adult social care indicators – Internal Audit has advised that there is an expectation in the Care Trust Plus agreement that the Panel will be presented with a performance report on a quarterly basis
- Supporting People Budget – the Panel had concerns about this issue at the budget meeting on 19 January 2012 and asked for this to be reported at alternate meetings and by exception
During this current municipal year, the scrutiny panel has received some development/briefing sessions and the following are some topics for further development/briefing sessions:

- NHS Reforms – this will be a follow-up from the event held on 2 February 2012 and will be held in the evening, so that members who could not make the original event will be able to attend and any newly elected members can also attend
- East Midlands Ambulance Service – this will focus on the issue of foundation status
- The role of the Health & Wellbeing Board

In addition, the East Midlands Ambulance Service has issued an invitation for the scrutiny panel to visit their headquarters in Lincoln and to go out, locally, on an ambulance call.

10.5 **Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel**

The proposed work programme areas for 2012-13 are:

- Victims of crime and/or witnesses to crime
- Violent Crime
- Monitoring of the impact on outcomes as a result of changes in waste clearance from alleyways (update report due to June/July panel)
- Monitoring of progress on arrangements for Police Crime Panels and the Police Crime Commissioner and building appropriate relationships
- Monitoring of progress with new CCTV systems installation
- Monitoring progress on the hate crime action plan with a report to panel due July 2012

In addition, there will be the opportunity to identify work programme items from the Forward Plan and the following will be standard items on agendas:

- Council’s Quarterly Performance & Resources Report, with a focus on those issues relevant to the remit of the panel
- The Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership performance report; with special attention to violent crime indicators
- Chairman’s feedback from the Safer & Stronger Communities Executive Board
- Tracking the recommendations of the panel

10.6 **Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Panel**

At the meeting on 20 March 2012, the panel agreed the following work programme items:

- Regeneration partnership performance monitoring
- Freeman Street regeneration
- Housing Policy, which will include issues such as the progress on bringing empty homes back into use
- Localism Act e.g. neighbourhood planning, Community Infrastructure Levy
- Flood risk management
• Local Enterprise Partnership
• Enterprise Zone
• Renewables industry
• Outcomes from the Bus Review
• Asset management of Cleethorpes day chalets (beach huts)
• Parking Issues
• Monitoring of the Homelessness Strategy
• Monitoring of the Skills Strategy

With regard to potential select committees, Humberston Fitties Chalet Park may be one but this will be dependent on the results of the residents’ consultation exercise.

In addition, there will be the opportunity to identify work programme items from the Forward Plan and the council’s quarterly performance & resources report (with a focus on those issues relevant to the remit of the panel) and the tracking of the recommendations of the Panel will be standard items on future agendas.

10.7 Policy, Performance & Resources Scrutiny Panel
The panel will concentrate on the following work programme items:
• Balfour Beatty Living Places – this will be a regular agenda item so that members are kept updated with progress
• Scrutiny of other partner organisations
• Financial Inclusion, as the panel want regular updates on progress on the work of the Financial Inclusion Forum
• Localism Act – matters arising from the implementation of the Localism Act
• Future Shape – regular progress updates will be provided
• Quarterly Performance & Resources Report, as the panel will receive the full report that goes to Cabinet and identify issues that the panels need to look at

In addition, there will be a number of one-off reports that the panel will receive. This includes an update report on vacancy management, which was originally raised at the meeting on 8 December 2011. This will give a clear picture of vacancies and the workforce at the end of the 2011-12 financial year. Another one-off report will be the report on Community Leadership – the Ward Member Role, which will come to the panel once it has been to Cabinet.

At their meeting on 15 March 2012, the panel agreed that they would leave some space on their work programme, so that they can address items as they arise.
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