

Minutes of a Meeting of the Overview Committee held at the Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH on Tuesday, 7th March, 2023 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Fiona Martin M.B.E. (Chairman)
Councillor Edward Mossop (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Sid Dennis, Alex Hall, Sandra Harrison, Jill Makinson-Sanders, David Mangion and Helen Matthews.

Councillor Rosalind Jackson attended the Meeting as Substitute.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor William Gray	- Portfolio Holder for Communities and Better Ageing
Councillor Graham Marsh	- Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture and Carbon Reduction
Councillor Tom Ashton	- Portfolio Holder for Planning
Councillor Christopher Brewis	- South Holland District Council

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Marshall	- Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and S151 Officer
James Gilbert	- Assistant Director - Corporate
Matthew Hogan	- Assistant Director, Strategic Growth and Development
Jo Parker	- Enforcement Service Manager
Gemma Fisher	- Senior Caravan Licensing Officer
Laura Gale	- Caravan Licensing Officer
Lucy Turner	- Caravan Licensing Technical Assistant
David Dodds	- Environmental Health Service Manager- East Lindsey
Richard Hodgson	- Information Governance Officer
Emilie Wales	- Heritage Manager
Roxanne Warrick	- Strategic Lead, Prosperous Communities, East Lindsey District Council
Julija Beliham	- South Holland District Council
Rebecca James	- Scrutiny Officer
Elaine Speed	- Senior Democratic Services Officer and Civic Officer
Susan Care	- Democratic Services Officer

83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

It was noted that in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice

had been given that Councillor Rosalind Jackson had been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Claire Arnold for this meeting.

84. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY):

At this point in the Meeting, Members were invited to declare any relevant interests.

Councillor Fiona Martin asked it be noted that she was a Member of the Invest East Lindsey Advisory Board, Minute No. 93 (b) refers.

85. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 January 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

86. ACTIONS:

Members noted that the following Actions were now complete.

Actions from the Meeting held on 25 January 2023.

Action Numbers 72 (a) (b), 73, 75, 77(a), (b), (c), 79(a), (b), 27(c), 60 (a), 50 (c)

Actions from the Meeting held on 29 November 2022.

Action Number 50(c)

Actions from the Meeting held on 25 October 2022

Action Number 60

Actions from the Meeting held on 19 July 2022

Action Number 26 (ii)

Action Number 16

To be carried over to 2023/24 – awaiting meeting dates.

Action Number 27 (c) item moved to 2023/24 programme

Actions from the Meeting held on 8 March 2022.

Action Number 87, 88, 89

87. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES:

Three questions were referred from Audit and Governance Committee. Question numbers 1 and 3 have been responded to. A response to Question 2 will be circulated to Members after the Meeting.

88. LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICTS HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY:

The Healthy Living Strategic Lead provided an update on the progress of the strategy and how services were collectively delivered across all of Lincolnshire's district councils to prevent poor health and support the health and care system in Lincolnshire. Members were advised that the strategy had already been adopted, however wished to provide an explanation of the timings and responses and the Council's key role in this. The Healthy Living Strategic Lead advised that each district council had developed a Plan specific to its own population and further emphasised the importance of links with the community and consistent support from the third sector.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member thanked the Healthy Living Strategic Lead for the huge amount of work and excellent partnership working.
- A Member considered that this complimented, not replicated existing work and that by developing the Council's own Board it would be listening to its own communities. There was further discussion on the need to focus on the issue of housing and the impact on health from poor-quality housing. A Member also reflected that ELDC had little control over social housing and that there was a need to make social housing providers more accountable. The Healthy Living Strategic Lead responded that now the Council had agreed the principles and was working with the Healthy Living Board, these would now be adopted with a focus on local priorities, including the impact of housing on health. Regarding children and young people, the Council was working with the Institute of Rural Health in Lincoln to address this.
- A Member stressed the need to avoid poverty and the importance of getting money into people's pockets and drew attention to the public health report which highlighted disparities in health and socio-economic outcomes. Concern was expressed by a Member as to whether the strategy would have the power or authority to follow through on its good intentions to all departments, volunteers and users, particularly as deprivation across the district was a key concern.
- A Member highlighted concerns about the underperformance of Platform Housing and further to anecdotal incidents highlighted hoped to see improvements in the next twelve months.
- The Chairman reiterated that this work would be taken up early in the life of the new Council, and thanked the Healthy Living Strategic Lead for her continued work and invited her to brief Members at a future Reserved Members' Day.

89. SCRUTINY HERITAGE BRIEFING REPORT:

Members received a written update provided by the Heritage Manager, following which the Chairman invited Councillor Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning to outline the paper. Members were advised that the update had been requested following an offer made by Councillor Ashton during a Motion presented at the Council Meeting held on 14 December 2022, Minute No. 59 refers. Members were advised that it was proposed to close the outstanding recommendation on the tracker and to present an updated document to Committee following the election in May.

Councillor Ashton detailed the background to the report and work undertaken to date and advised that the increase in numbers on the At Risk Register was a reflection of action, not inaction on behalf of officers and this should not be regarded negatively as it was a commitment to support and monitor buildings in conservation areas and opened up additional funding streams. Members were advised that the recent increase in numbers of Section 215 Notices had made a marked difference to town centres. Councillor Ashton highlighted four conservation areas under review and highlighted that valuable work had been undertaken, including producing leaflets and documenting seventeen conservation areas within the district. He acknowledged that some of the updates had not been undertaken since the 1990s and this work would help people understand their responsibilities.

The Heritage Manager advised Members that this item has been on the recommendation tracker for three years, and acknowledged that slow progress had been made, however the pace had increased and this work would be brought back after May 2023 for the new Council to appraise. The leaflets referred would be bespoke for each area, following which Members received a brief update on the details to be included. The Heritage Manager advised that the leaflets were not being consulted on as they were an update and improvement to existing information, however would be brought to Scrutiny for consideration. With regards to consultation, Members were advised that there was a duty to consult, firstly with the portfolio holder followed by a full public consultation, including town and parish councils. If any changes were proposed, a letter would be sent to those impacted by this. The timescale for this was confirmed as four to six months commencing in June 2023, when draft copies would be available.

Following which, some discussion ensued between Members around the need to produce a paper leaflet as opposed to the sole option of an online version. Some Members further highlighted the particular difficulties and expenses of living in a conservation area. Suggestions were made for potential places for leaflet distribution, such as estate agents and solicitors.

A Member considered that there needed to be a balance between the needs of the conservation area and the wellbeing of people living in them.

A Member reflected that this area was a work in progress, and acknowledged that enacting enforcement measures was difficult.

The Heritage Manager outlined the history of heritage grants and how some places had missed out on this funding, and stressed that there need to be an awareness of what could be achieved if funding was secured..

The Chairman thanked the Heritage Manager and Portfolio Holder for Planning for their attendance and reiterated the need for paper leaflets.

NB. Councillor Dennis left the meeting at 11.09.

90. ENVIROCRIME CONTRACT PROGRESS ELDC:

The Environmental Health Service Manager (ELDC) advised the Committee that the South and East Lincolnshire Councils' Partnership had awarded a three-year contract, with the provision to extend for up to another two years, to Kingdom LA Support Ltd to carry out environmental crime enforcement work, commencing in January 2023. This contract award was a key strategic milestone for the Partnership in addressing environmental crime across each Authority. Members were referred to the briefing paper, attached at pages 33 to 36 of the Agenda.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member thanked the Environmental Health Service Manager for the work undertaken by the team for addressing the problem highlighted on the A16 and the prompt manner in which fly tipping was being managed.
- A Member queried whether CCTV coverage and subsequent investigations would be improved with the new contract. Further questions were raised about disparities between towns and villages in terms of CCTV coverage and whether the data collected actually reflected reality 'on the ground'.

The Environmental Health Service Manager responded that the contractor has been asked to reconsider its offer for rural locations and provide equipment that was easier to mount on lampposts.

Following which, there was discussion on the pros and cons of 'overt' versus 'covert' CCTV. The Environmental Health Service Manager advised that work was being undertaken to deploy further cameras in towns and was working with the Waste Team to ensure holistic coverage.

With regard to fly tipping investigations, Members were advised that the team was ready to go door to door to raise awareness, and the provision of a warning leaflet to residents regarding their duty of care regarding waste disposal was currently being considered.

The Environmental Health Service Manager advised that with regard to patrols in Spilsby, the initial phases of the trial were focused on coastal

strip and towns. This was then widened to include other locations such as Spilsby and the trend indicated that this would increase. Once scaled up there would be advisory letters to Ward Members and Town and Parish Councils. Members were advised that patrols had been undertaken but would also ensure that the data on these would be forwarded to Members.

Following some discussion on dog fouling, the officer advised that incidents needed to be reported via the enviro crime email address and referred Members to a telephone number of previous contact sheets.

- A Member highlighted the need for further liaison with caravan sites , following which the Environmental Health Service Manager confirmed that he was working with the Communications Team and other relevant officers regarding this.

There were some questions from Members regarding the status of the dog warden role and what was included in the job description. The Environmental Health Service Manager confirmed the warden worked within his team and that the role was broad but included high visibility patrolling and education. Following which it was agreed that the Environmental Health Service Manager would provide Members with an up to date Environmental Team contact sheet, to be circulated in the Members' Point Brief.

Members emphasised the importance of communicating with residents all of the work of the Council on dog fouling and littering. The Environmental Health Service Manager responded that there was a communication plan and was a work in progress being supported by the Communications Team.

NB. The Environmental Health Service Manager left the meeting at 11.45am.

91. HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE - UPDATE:

Councillor David Mangion, Reserve Member to the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire (HSC), updated Members on the meetings held on 18th January and 15th February 2023. Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

A Member asked how the delegation of commissioning to a more local level impacted value for money and whether economies of scale would be lost. Councillor Mangion advised that this reflected the evolving nature of the NHS and this was how the Government had decided to move forward and that it would better meet the needs of local communities. He emphasised that value for money was a procurement issue, and not directly related to this work.

A Member welcomed the Lincolnshire Dental Strategy and hoped that it would improve local services. There was some discussion on the 111 service and the need to improve, as well as transport to hospitals. A Member observed that healthcare had worsened since the pandemic and

there was some discussion amongst Members about the lack of mobile breast screening services.

A Member asked if the consultation on mental health was ongoing and when the Committee could expect to have sight of it. Members were advised that there was a consultation running until 31st March 2023 and that it would be presented to the HSC after this point.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Sandra Harrison and David Mangion and Harris for their work as Outside Body Appointee and Reserve Member on the HSC.

92. UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY AND POLICY PANELS INCLUDING QUALITY CHECKING OF FINAL REPORTS:

(A) INTERIM REPORT - TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MAGNA VITAE'S 5-YEAR PLAN, INCLUDING KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS SCRUTINY PANEL:

Councillor Mangion thanked the Scrutiny Officer for her work with the Panel, following which he outlined the key points contained within the report. It was noted that Magna Vitae had engaged well with the scrutiny process and delivery was consistent with the contract. Members were informed that future directions would be looked at in conjunction with scrutiny panels which would be continued following the May election. At this point of the scrutiny process, the Panel had raised no concerns with the way the service was being run.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member highlighted concerns regarding the budget for Magna Vitae balanced against its important links to the community.

There was discussion amongst Members regarding fluctuating attendance figures and whether this should be a concern. Councillor Mangion acknowledged that there were fluctuations due to weather, however considered that this was inevitable. There was also discussion around energy prices and the need to monitor decarbonisation measures. Councillor Mangion advised that this would be addressed during future scrutiny after the May election.

The Scrutiny Officer highlighted the difficulty of collecting data post-Covid (data on visitor numbers to MV facilities such as Meridian etc.), particularly when trying to compare like with like periods. Councillor Mangion noted that trend analysis would be more robust moving forward.

There was further discussion amongst Members regarding the unseen work been carried out at Magna Vitae, including health referrals and free sessions. It was also noted, in relation to ELDC's responsibility to look after its buildings that there was Council funding budgeted to look at decarbonisation.

An error in the report figures was noted by a Member (this was in incorrect figure on the population of Louth which has now been corrected), following which the Scrutiny and Procurement Officer advised that she amended this.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the interim report of the 'To monitor the implementation of Magna Vitae's 5-year plan, including Key Performance Indicators' Scrutiny Panel be noted.

(B) FINAL REPORT - TO EXPLORE THE ISSUES SURROUNDING CARAVAN LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT SCRUTINY PANEL:

The Chair welcomed the Planning Enforcement Team to the meeting who were in attendance to answer Members' questions.

Councillor Makinson-Sanders, Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel outlined the background to the report and emphasised the importance of getting this right for all the groups and individuals concerned. She emphasised the need to making this a top priority for the Council and the need to finance a bigger enforcement team to address the issue of rogue operators. She also noted the risk of flooding, which was backed by evidence from the Chief Fire Officer and a representative of the Environment Agency. She also emphasised concerns over the 'invisible community' and how this led to health inequalities.

The Chairman highlighted the hard work carried out to produce this excellent, and overdue piece of work. She highlighted the large number of recommendations listed within the report, however advised Members that the Scrutiny Panel had worked with the enforcement team during the process and that these were welcomed and in agreement with the Enforcement Service Manager. Councillor Makinson-Sanders advised that the recommendations could be managed within any of the timescales proposed for this work with options of 5, 7 and 10 year plans depending on the budget allocated.

Members were invited to put their comments and questions forward.

- A Member highlighted the 6,600 plus people living unlawfully in caravans during stated that this helped to explain the inequalities experienced on the coast, including access to healthcare and how this needed to be addressed to ensure levelling up took place.

Further reference was made to the issues relating to flood risk and emphasised the need for this report to be sent to MPs. There was further discussion between Members on the importance of this work

and that the recommendations needed to be time-bound and the need for ownership by Executive Board.

The impact of caravan sites on existing communities was also referred to. The Chairman reiterated the need to send a strong message to the Executive Board. In response to the Vice-Chairman's question regarding other councils' best practice, Councillor Makinson-Sanders noted the possibility of selling the expertise of the team to other parts of the country to fund the team's expansion as they already 'cornered the market'. Another Member highlighted the link with the Planning Framework as this also dictated the placement of caravans.

- A Member queried when Members would receive a copy of the Floodex Report, following which the Chairman asked that a copy of this be circulated in the Members' Point Brief.
- In relation to Recommendation 4, the Vice-Chairman queried what specific deadline should be attributed to 'a matter of urgency'. There was discussion amongst Members regarding the links between these communities, the council and other agencies and whether these could be strengthened.
- A concern was expressed regarding timing of reports of this importance when there were upcoming elections. The Scrutiny Officer explained that regarding timelines, once the report had been presented to Executive Board or Council it then went back to the relevant portfolio holder for consideration and those recommendations agreed would be added to the tracker with appropriate deadlines.

The Chairman thanked the enforcement team and the Panel Chair Members and highlighted the importance of panel members attending meetings on a regular basis.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

- That the draft report of the 'To explore the issues surrounding caravan licensing and enforcement' Scrutiny Panel be noted.
- That Overview Committee recommended the report for consideration at the next Executive Board meeting.

(C) FINAL REPORT - JOINT SCRUTINY OF THE DIGITAL STRATEGY AND ICT ROADMAP FOR SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP:

Councillor Jackson advised Members that this was a short scrutiny panel held over two in-depth meetings and once concluded it was

recommended to repeat this panel every two years. Councillor Jackson ran through the issues covered and the recommendations, in particular highlighting recommendation numbers 2 and 3 and the importance of data protection. Following the scrutiny, the Panel was reassured that this strategy followed the right path which was reflected in the low number of recommendations.

The Assistant Director, Corporate advised that this had been a cross partnership scrutiny, and all four recommendations had been accepted by the portfolio holders and had been factored into the relevant Council's draft Cabinet/Executive Board reports for approval.

With regards to usability, testing and improving customer experience, Members discussed the importance of volunteers being used to test out the website, particularly to benefit those with fewer internet skills and additionally to ensure Members had reliable internet connection back up.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

1. That the attached report (at Appendix A) and associated recommendations be noted.

That a Task Group to meet every two years to review progress be agreed.

(D) INTERIM REPORT OF THE JOINT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SCRUTINY TASK GROUP:

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Brewis, South Holland District Council, to the meeting. Councillor Brewis outlined the background to the Task Group and the report, and why it was interim at this current time. Councillor Brewis highlighted that the topic was widely consulted on and passed on his thanks to all district councils and officers involved. The Panel concluded that there was a need to look at this issue in the short, medium and long term.

Richard Hodgson, Assistant Director, Strategic Projects detailed the future actions set out within the report and welcomed any thoughts from the Committee.

Discussion ensued amongst Members about the viability and affordability of electric vehicles, as well as the related existing infrastructure. There was also debate amongst Members about the cost of public transport and it was highlighted that this has not been addressed.

A Member noted the power of joint scrutiny when there was a cross-partnership problem, where speaking as one voice was more effective.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the attached report (at Appendix A) and associated recommendations be noted.

(E) STANDING REFERENCE GROUP - MOBI-HUB PROJECT UPDATE:

The Assistant Director, Strategic Projects outlined progress to date on the project. Members were advised that a meeting was held on 14th February 2023 where he delivered a short presentation, followed by a question and answer session and general discussion with Members. The meeting notes and presentation were circulated to Overview Committee Members electronically and also forwarded to the political project sponsor, Councillor Ashton for information.

93. SCOPING OF SCRUTINY AND POLICY TOPICS:

(A) SCOPING DOCUMENTS FOR 2023/24:

Members considered the following scoping documents:

Review of the Carbon Reduction Plan and associated carbon reduction activity at ELDC.

The Officer noted that carbonisation issues relating to Magna Vitae needed to be picked up. The Chairman advised that this was a piece of work for the new Council.

Community Safety Strategy Review

A Member highlighted how much of this was out of the control of ELDC. Another Member queried if there would be debate around the policing budget and whether the PCC would attend again. Members were advised that this would be picked up during the discussion around the lines of enquiry and for the Panel to consider.

(B) TOPIC SUGGESTION FORM - 2023/24:

Members received a Topic Suggestion Form on the following item:

- To review the business activities of Invest East Lindsey.

N.B. At this point in the Meeting, the Chairman declared her interest as a Member of the Invest East Lindsey Advisory Board

There was discussion between Members on the potential overlap with Invest East Lindsey and the need to encompass the current issues highlighted for Kingfisher Caravan Park within this The Scrutiny & Procurement Officer agreed to provide an amalgamated copy of the two existing documents.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the combined scoping document will be brought back to the first Overview Committee for approval.

94. DRAFT PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24:

The Chairman advised Members that the work programme was also shared with South Holland District Council and Boston Borough Council. A Member observed that it would be useful to view progress on this and the Chairman advised that there was a mechanism in place to check this.

95. PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK:

The Assistant Director, Corporate, took questions on the metrics and trend indicators for the Performance and Governance Framework, Quarter 3. He advised that the Framework was signed off the previous week at Full Council. The Chairman highlighted that this had been to Executive Board and the comments from the Overview Committee could be fed back.

There was some debate around the report's statistics and there was a request for clarification on some points, particularly regarding customer complaints and the importance of improving customer experience. The Assistant Director, Corporate advised that officers were being encouraged to have greater telephone contact.

There was some discussion amongst Members regarding the KPIs for Kingfisher and how the financial data was presented. The Assistant Director, Corporate advised that he would look at the representation of data for future reports in order to make it easier to understand.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the Performance and Governance Quarter 3 2022/23 report be noted.

96. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKER:

Members were referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker and were invited to review the tracker and put their comments and questions forward.

No further comments or questions were received.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker be noted.

97. EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN:

The Chairman advised Members that the Forward Plan had been completed apart from one item, and that would be noted as a discussion for the new Council.

Following which it was,

RESOLVED:

That the Executive/Council Forward Plan 2022-23 be noted.

98. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed at the AGM to be held on 24 May 2023.

The Meeting closed at 2.22 pm.