



REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	10 th January 2024
SUBJECT:	SCRUTINY REPORT - Joint Scrutiny of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
PURPOSE:	To review the Partnership's progress against opportunities identified in the business case and key lines of enquiry.
KEY DECISION:	No
REPORT OF:	This report has been prepared by the Joint Scrutiny Task Group as set out in the attached report.
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees of Boston Borough Council, South Holland District Council, and East Lindsey District Council commissioned a joint Scrutiny Task & Finish Panel to undertake a review of the progress on the opportunities identified in the approved business case for the South & east Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

Note: All content is contained in the attached member report and not summarised in this covering report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To note the attached report (**Appendix A**) and associated recommendations;
- For the Executive to agree the recommendations contained within the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To continue to learn, build on our experiences and continue our success as a Partnership of Councils.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

1. REPORT

1.1 This report brings forward a joint scrutiny report at **Appendix A**. The scope of this work was set out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees at ELDC, SHDC, and BBC and is attached at **Appendix B**.

1.2 This report has been presented to each of the Partnership Councils' relevant sovereign scrutiny committees before being brought to Executive Board for consideration. The scrutiny work undertaken was required under the Partnership's Memorandum of Agreement and is an annual commitment.

1.3 All content is contained in the attached member report (**Appendix A**) and not summarised in this covering report. **Appendices C – E** contain background information gathered by the panel.

1.4 The Overview Committee wanted to pass on the following comments to the Executive Board:

Overview Comments	Initial response / update
Disappointment there has not been more progress on ICT concerns.	ICT is a complex and costly area of work. Good progress has already been made to facilitate collaboration across the Partnership and a roadmap is in place as part of the Digital Strategy. Service specific system alignment will take place when existing contracts expire.
Disappointment the shared pay and T&C work was not started sooner.	Shared Officer pay – we have a job evaluation scheme for shared officers below CMT in development at present. This is a lengthy piece of work and will require Union involvement before a scheme can be implemented. Aligned Terms and Conditions (where possible) – this project has commenced and phase 1 is underway.
Concern over multiple mentions of capacity issues and hope these will be addressed.	We have received many opportunities as a Council, and this has resulted in significant increases in work in some areas. We are using capacity funding to bolster resources where additional support is needed and for any new initiatives, officers are required to identify the capacity they have to deliver within the committee report. Officers are aware that additional capacity can be considered if needed.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The opportunity for the Partnership to learn from its experience and continue to build on its success as it moves forward.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

Only those considered by the Panel in the attached report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Only those considered by the Panel in the attached report.

STAFFING

Only those considered by the Panel in the attached report.

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

Only those considered by the Panel in the attached report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Only those considered by the Panel in the attached report.

DATA PROTECTION

None.

FINANCIAL

Only those considered by the Panel in the attached report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Consultation with a number of councillors and officers was undertaken and helped form the basis of the final report and recommendations. Details of the questionnaire undertaken with all Councillor across the Partnership can be found at **Appendix C**.

REPUTATION

Only those considered by the Panel in the attached report.

CONTRACTS

None.

CRIME AND DISORDER

None.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

None.

ACRONYMS

None.

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	Report of the panel
APPENDIX B	Scoping document
APPENDIX C	Questionnaire Themes
APPENDIX D	Partnership Progress Document 1
APPENDIX E	Partnership Progress Document 2

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Name of body	Date
Overview	28 th November 2023
Full Council	14 th December 2022
Overview Committee	29 th November 2022

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Councillor Chris Brewis (SHDC) on behalf of the Partnership Scrutiny Task Group
Signed off by:	Rebecca James, Scrutiny & Policy Officer
Approved for publication:	James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate