

Scrutiny Topic Suggestion Form

Please complete the sections below if you wish to suggest a topic for scrutiny or policy development. If you require assistance whilst completing this form, please contact the Scrutiny & Policy Officer on:

Telephone: 01507 613410 / 07766 421653

Email: rebecca.james@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Suggested topics must meet one or both of the following criteria:

A. High level/strategic topics that impact on how services are delivered and/or how the council works

B. Issues that have a significant impact on the East Lindsey community

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| 1. Topic Title | Councillors, Constitution and Democracy |
| 2. Which of the above criteria does your topic suggestion meet – A or B (please highlight one or both) - and explain how. | Both A and B |
| 3. Reasons why the subject should be reviewed. If applicable, please state what type of scrutiny – (a) post-decision scrutiny; (b) pre-decision scrutiny; (c) policy development. | East Lindsey remains a sovereign council within the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership. It is governed by a constitution which from time to time is reviewed by a small group which is part of the Audit and Governance Committee. However, it is now felt a cross party Scrutiny should look at issues arising from a view that the Constitution is not upholding democratic decision making as well as it might on behalf of residents. |
| 4. What is the relationship to the sub-regional, corporate or local priorities as identified in the Sub-Regional Strategy? | The constitution and governance underpin all the work of the Council. |
| Portfolio Responsibility if known | Councillor Craig Leyland |
| 5. Evidence (What evidence is there to support the need for scrutiny? What are the facts?) | <p>The Scrutiny will investigate aspects of our constitution to measure if it is fit for purpose to uphold democratic decision ensuring best value and transparency for our ratepayers. Of late a number of key financial decisions have been taken without the involvement of backbench councillors; all political parties have had motions withdrawn at the eleventh hour; questions to council have increased; councillors have not been informed in a timely manner of matters which will affect their Wards.</p> <p>The Panel will seek to understand the background to why this is happening and how things could be improved going forward. They</p> |

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| | would also investigate how democracy works in our sister councils in the Partnership and what we might learn by their approach. |
| 6. Desired Outcomes (What would be achieved for the council or district by undertaking this topic?) | To ensure ELDC have a constitution that is fit for purpose. |
| Topic proposed by: | The Independent Group |
| Date: | 2 nd April 2024 |
| <u>Office use only</u> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview Meeting: 16th April 2024 • Accept/ Reject: • | |
| Please note, if you wish to see more details about how Overview Committee assesses scrutiny topics, please ask the Scrutiny & Policy Officer for a copy of the Scrutiny & Policy Panel Operational Guidelines. | |