

# **ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL**

**DATE** 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
**REPORT OF** Assistant Chief Executive (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)  
**SUBJECT** Tracking the recommendations of the Economy Scrutiny Panel  
**STATUS** Open

## **CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIM**

The scrutiny panels act as a reviewing mechanism for decisions made relating to the strategic policy, performance and resources required to deliver the ambitions of the council and the strategic partnership. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the Council being effective and efficient, and therefore it is integral to the delivery of the Council Plan.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

## **MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION**

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

### **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

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

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

Appendix 1 of this report lists the recommendations previously made by and which fall within the terms of reference of this Economy Scrutiny Panel.

### **2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

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

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include risk assessment(s) by the author(s) concerned

### **3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

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

#### **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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

#### **5. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include climate change and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

#### **6. MONITORING COMMENTS**

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead.

#### **7. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Potentially impacts on all wards.

#### **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minutes from the Economy Scrutiny panel

<http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/committees/committees.aspx?commid=69>

#### **9. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

Anne Campbell, Scrutiny and Committee Advisor  
Telephone number : 01472 326132

**HELEN ISAACS**

**Assistant Chief Executive**  
**(Statutory Scrutiny Officer)**

DATE	RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	RESPONSIBLE	PROGRESS/COMMENTS
30 June 2020	<p><b><u>SPE.8 – Local Plan Review</u></b>            A timeframe of key milestones and anticipated scrutiny involvement in the review of the local plan to be forwarded to the panel.  <u>Position at 3 November 2020</u> – Local plan review ‘on hold’ pending outcome of Government’s ‘Planning for the Future’ white paper. The paper sets out proposals for planning reforms including stringent changes to planning processes. NELC’s responses to consultation have been submitted. We await response from Government.</p>	Clive Tritton, Interim Director Economy and Growth	<p><u>Position at 25 February 2021</u>            Scrutiny briefing note attached at appendix 2.</p> <p><u>Suggested: delete tracked item and add Local Plan review to 2021/22 work programme</u></p>
8 September 2020	<p><b><u>SPE.32 – Energy Carbon Roadmap Development</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular updates to be provided to panel on the roadmap and associated projects.</li> </ul>	Assistant Director Environment	<p><u>Suggested : delete tracked item and add planned update to 2021/22 work programme.</u></p>
8 September 2020	<p><b><u>SPE.35 – Affordable Housing</u></b>            A further report be presented to scrutiny providing more information on social housing in North East Lincolnshire and the application and impact of the policy.</p> <p>Any emerging legislative or policy changes would of course be brought to the panel in due course.</p>	Assistant Director Housing, Highways, and Transport.	<p><u>Delete – completed.</u>            Update on empty homes and social housing will be presented to this panel at its meeting to be held 9 March 2021. Subject specific updates on the delivery of the Housing Strategy Action Plan (HSAP) to be determined in 2021/22 work programme.</p>

End.

The Economy Scrutiny Panel has asked for an update on the following issues. This briefing contains the latest position as at 10 February 2021.

## Subject : Local Plan Review Update

Key issues:

- ❖ Local Plan review triggered by cabinet decision June 2020 (Economy Scrutiny Panel considered the report pre-cabinet)
- ❖ Planning white paper published 6 Aug 2020, with sweeping reforms to the planning system, including reforms to the local plan process
- ❖ Council responded to white paper raising some concerns/queries/clarification points to many aspects of the reforms
- ❖ Government received over 40,000 responses many of them critical to aspects of the reforms
- ❖ Government has yet to publish its responses to the consultation.
- ❖ The reforms if introduced as proposed would radically affect the process of preparing a local plan, streamlining and simplifying; the evidence required to support the plan, assessments required and reducing the content of the plan
- ❖ Work on the local plan review is currently on hold pending a clearer picture of what reforms will be pursued by Government.
- ❖ Government timescales for implementing the changes are already being affected by implications of addressing COVID-19 and Brexit changes
- ❖ Work is ongoing to examine the options at this time, but this is difficult given the uncertainty as to the Government response to the consultation.

Tracked item SPE.8 – Local Plan Review refers.

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**If you require any further information please contact the named officer or alternatively,  
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If you would like to find out more about scrutiny you can contact us:

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