



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## **TOURISM AND VISITOR ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL**

**18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 10.00 a.m.**

### **Present:**

Councillor Parkinson (in the Chair)  
Councillors Callison, Cairns (substitute for Brookes), Freeston, Hogan, Mickleburgh, Reynolds and Robinson

### **Officers in attendance:**

- Damien Jaines-White (Assistant Director for Regeneration)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets (Monitoring Officer))
- Mark Nearney (Assistant Director Housing, Highways, Transportation and Planning)
- Wendy Fisher (Head of Estates and Business Development)
- Luke Greaves (Infrastructure Project Director – EQUANS)
- Carol Heidschuster (Townscape Heritage Project Manager)
- Drew Hughes (Head of Transformation)
- Helen Thompson (Strategic Lead for Culture)
- Guy Lonsdale (Head of Finance)
- Laura Cowie (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)

### **Also in attendance:**

- Councillor Stewart Swinburn (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport)
- Councillor Stan Shreeve (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets)

There was also one member of the press in attendance.

### **SPTVE.31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Brookes for this meeting.

## **SPTVE.32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

## **SPTVE.33 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

A further update on the Grimsby Minster's clock was requested by a panel member, this would be picked up with the member directly.

## **SPTVE.34 QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public for this meeting.

## **SPTVE.35 FORWARD PLAN**

The panel received the current Forward Plan and members were asked to identify any items for examination by this Panel via the pre-decision call-in procedure.

Miss Cowie advised the panel that any items identified specifically for this panel had either been considered at a joint special scrutiny panel meeting earlier in the month or were on the agenda for today's meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be noted.

## **SPTVE.36 GRANT STREET CAR PARK**

The panel considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport seeking Council investment in the redevelopment of Grant Street car park to create a single storey extension, ahead of proposed decision by Cabinet.

The panel welcomed the report and investment into additional car parking spaces in Cleethorpes, including the provision of electric charging points. It was questioned if the provision for electric charging points could be expanded in the future, to which members were advised the current estimated provision was based on current demand but yes, future expansion could be possible when required. Councillor Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport added that there was on-going work which would deliver adequate provision across the rest of the borough, over a period of time.

One member felt that the use of trains into the resort should be explored and considered more in the future but agreed that this report was welcomed. Mr Nearney acknowledged the comments and agreed to feed this back to the Cleethorpes Masterplan consultants.

The panel asked if residents and local businesses would be able to purchase a parking permit for the new car park at a discounted rate. In response the panel were advised that this would be considered as part of the Parking Strategy and engagement feedback; but that parking schemes were currently available in the resort to help underutilised car parks.

Members queried if the single storey car park could, at a later date, be extended to include additional levels. Mr Greaves explained that this was considered in the pre-planning stage and officers were advised against it due to the impact on local habitats. There was also not the demand at this stage, and the additional cost to deliver would be challenging.

In response to a question on the reopening of public toilets in this area, it was confirmed that this was not being considered at this time. Mrs Fisher advised that the council endeavoured to find alternative provision within the resort, specifically along the North Promenade.

Members had concerns regarding the security of the car park, the potential for increased anti-social behaviour and also the aesthetics of the car park. Mr Greaves reassured members that the car park would be sufficiently covered by CCTV to allow full coverage of the area; they would also work in partnership with partners, such as Community Safety and Humberside Police on the matter. With regards to the designs for the car park, Mr Nearney agreed to bring back the final designs of the car park to this panel at a future meeting for their consideration.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the designs for the car park be brought back to a future meeting of this panel.

### **SPTVE.37 TRACKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY**

The panel received a report from the Assistant Chief Executive tracking the recommendations of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That the tracking report be noted, and those actions marked as complete be removed.

### **SPTVE.38 QUARTER TWO FINANCE MONITORING REPORT**

The panel received a report providing key information and analysis of the Council's position and performance against its Finance Commissioning Plan for the second quarter of 2021/22, as referred by Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

The panel were discombobulated around the £40k increase for Cleethorpes Public Art, in terms of where it came from and what it would

be used for. Mrs Thompson and Mr Lonsdale agreed to take this away and come back to the panel with an answer.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

### **SPTVE.39 COUNCIL LAND USE POLICY**

The panel received an update from the Assistant Chief Executive on the Council Land Use Policy.

The panel noted the update and felt that a further update in a years' time would be appropriate, given that not many events had been held this year as a result of the pandemic.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Council Land Use Policy remain on this panel's work programme for 2022/23.

### **SPTVE.40 MOTORHOME AIRE UPDATE**

The panel received an update from the Head of Estates and Business Development on the motorhome aire site in Cleethorpes.

The panel welcomed the update and queried why the facility could not be hosted at Wonderland; as the owners had previously offered to host a site. Mrs Fisher acknowledged this and was aware they had previously suggested they may want to see a site on their land. However, following discussions with colleagues it was felt that the Cleethorpes Masterplan may have greater aspirations for that area.

A member asked if there would be a limit to the number of motorhomes allowed on the site. In response, Mrs Fisher confirmed that it would be dependent on the site's location and we would also need to understand the level of demand. There was a strong message both locally and nationally for provision in the area. The member had concerns over congestion and asked that this be considered when looking for a site. The panel also asked that officers don't dismiss the idea of the site being on the outskirts of the town or resort, as in many places this seemed to be common practice. Mrs Fisher acknowledged and agreed to ensure this would be considered.

The panel were happy with the recommendation from officers, that the provision for a motorhome aire site in the borough be included as part of the Cleethorpes Masterplan.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted and the panel monitor this item via the Cleethorpes Masterplan.

## **SPTVE.41 RNLI DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The panel received a briefing paper presenting the latest position with the development of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution Lifeboat Station.

The panel welcomed the updated and looked forward to seeing it come to fruition. A query was raised regarding the location of the station and the launch bay; Mrs Thompson agreed to try and locate some visuals to share with the panel.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

## **SPTVE.42 CLEETHORPES MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

The panel received a briefing presenting the latest position with the Cleethorpes Masterplan.

Members were pleased to hear of the progress being made with the Cleethorpes Masterplan and felt that the work was visionary; a member suggested that officers considered taking the consultation into schools to obtain feedback from our younger generations. A member felt that if a small reward could also be offered, for example, being entered into a draw to win a voucher, this would increase the uptake. The panel wholeheartedly agreed. Mrs Thompson explained that she was working with colleagues in the communications team to ensure that the consultation was advertised far and wide; but welcomed the suggestion and agreed to take this back to explore.

Members were keen for the resort to be an all year round attraction and, in response, Councillor Shreeve, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, advised that work was being considered to correct the level crossing and extend the light railway. The panel asked if the pier was also included in the scope; Mrs Thompson confirmed that the full resort and town centre was in scope.

Mr Jaines-White explained to members that as a result of the masterplan they were looking for projects which were deliverable; a whole suite of them would be put forward by the consultants and it would be for the council to identify which projects would fit best for our resort. It would also be dependent on what funding was available. Not all projects would come to fruition, but there was clear aspiration and determination to ensure as many as possible did.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

## **SPTVE.43 SEA ROAD DEVELOPMENT**

The panel received a briefing paper presenting the latest position with the redevelopment of the Sea Road site.

In response to members queries, Mrs Thompson confirmed that the ground floor of any new building on the site would be reserved for council services, which could potentially include details on high and low tides as suggested by the panel. The upper floors would be reserved for commercial use. Concerns were raised by the panel regarding traffic and pinch points along Sea Road and any future development.

The panel were disappointed that, to date, no interest had come forward but were hopeful that the new marketing exercise would be successful, and that site would also be considered as part of the Cleethorpes Masterplan.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

#### **SPTVE.44 TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE PROJECT**

The panel received a briefing paper presenting the latest position with the ongoing Townscape Heritage Project for Cleethorpes.

The panel asked, in regard to the historic paint analysis survey, what colours had come back and what colour would the balcony blocks be painted. Mrs Heidschuster advised the panel that only one block had shown evidence of being the traditional blue, and this block was proposed to be painted in dark air force blue with cream details. The other blocks would be dark red and dark green.

The panel asked if there had been a lot of sign up to the project. In response, Mrs Heidschuster explained that owners put 100% of their costs upfront. The grant would only cover roughly 20 – 25 properties out of the 78; and due to COVID and increased costs it was likely to cover less priorities. Members were also informed that as part of the Cleethorpes Masterplan there would be policy changes for heritage areas giving the council more control over those properties that hadn't yet come forward for the grant.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

#### **SPTVE.45 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

There were no questions for the portfolio holder at this meeting.

#### **SPTVE.46 CALLING IN OF DECISIONS**

There were no formal requests from members of this panel to call-in decisions taken at recent meetings of Cabinet.

#### **SPTVE.47 PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY UPDATE**

The panel received a briefing paper from the Head of Transformation providing an update on the Playing Pitch Strategy, ahead of proposed decision by Cabinet.

The Cabinet report which was marked as copy to follow on the agenda was tabled at the meeting. Mr Hughes explained the recommendations and it was noted the content of the report mirrored the briefing note with the exception of the recommendations. The report was seeking permission to phase the works and commence procurement activity which would allow a greater clarity of costs involved.

In comparison to other areas, the borough was significantly lacking 3G pitches, which now needed to be addressed. There had been engagement with Sports England and national governing bodies for a £1 million investment. The panel asked if this investment had to all be spent on football or whether we could explore climbing walls or skate-boarding provisions for example. Mr Hughes confirmed that these activities hadn't been considered as part of this investment, and noted that there was a sports hall already used to provide a whole range of activities.

At this point it was moved and seconded to go into closed session.

**RESOLVED –**

That the press and public be requested to leave on the grounds that discussion of the following business was likely to disclose exempt information within the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The panel considered the closed appendices accompanying the report.

The members raised concerns over the increase in costs but were reassured by Mr Hughes and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets where these had come from and that adequate challenge to partners had been put forward.

The members wanted to recommend to Cabinet that every effort be made to reduce the cost of the overspend on the project. Upon a vote, this was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED –** That the report and briefing note be supported.

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET –** That Cabinet make every effort to reduce to cost of the overspend on the project.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.