



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 15th December 2022

TOURISM AND VISITOR ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL

29th September 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Councillor Brookes (in the Chair)
Councillors Callison, Freeston, Farren, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Parkinson and Westcott (substitute for Cairns).

Officers in attendance:

- Helen Thompson (Strategic Lead for Tourism)
- Wendy Fisher (Head of Estates and Business Development)
- Damien Jaines-White (Assistant Director of Regeneration)
- Lisa Logan (Strategic Environmental Lead)
- James Trowsdale (Strategic Lead for Culture)
- Guy Lonsdale (Finance Group Manager)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)
- Sophie Pickerden (Committee Support Officer)
- Nick Browning (Head of Culture, Heritage, Leisure and Tourism)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Furneaux (Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy)

There was two members of the public in attendance.

SPTVE.13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence received from Councillor Cairns for this meeting.

SPTVE.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

SPTVE.15 MINUTES

The minutes of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel meetings held on 28th July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

SPTVE.16 QUESTION TIME

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

SPTVE.17 FORWARD PLAN

The panel considered the current Forward Plan and were asked to identify any items for examination by this panel via the pre-decision call-in procedure. No such items were identified.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be noted.

SPTVE.18 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.

SPTVE.19 QUARTER 1 FINANCE MONITORING REPORT 2022/23

The panel received a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing providing elected members with oversight of performance against the plan. This report was referred to all scrutiny panels by Cabinet at its meeting on 8th September, 2022.

Panel members enquired about any increase in costs for the Grant Street Car Park project. Mr Lonsdale confirmed that the cost outlined in the report had not changed. Whilst there was not a fixed price contract in place at this stage, Mr Lonsdale added that a further review would be undertaken due to the current financial climate and any potential increase in construction costs.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPTVE.20 QUARTER 1 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23

The panel received a report from the Chief Executive outlining the performance against the council plan for the period of April – June 2022.

A panel member asked when the council was likely to receive confirmation of funding for the bus improvement plan. Mr Jaines-White stated that an update was expected this autumn.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPTVE.21 TOURISM DASHBOARD UPDATE

The panel received a report from the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources summarising data and statistics for the 2021 tourism season in North East Lincolnshire.

A panel member referred to the visitor feedback that had been received in 2021 which showed that 47% felt that Cleethorpes required more toilet facilities. She had been approached by many businesses in the resort area expressing their concerns around the number of toilets in the resort. Councillor Farren queried whether anything was being done to increase the provision.

Ms Fisher stated that there was not a statutory requirement to have a specific number of toilets in the resort and there were budget considerations if the council was to provide more facilities. However, there were ongoing discussions with businesses located in the North Promenade of the resort regarding the issue as well as the Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway about their plans at the southern end. Ms Fisher said that there were also discussions with event organisers, through the Event Safety Advisory Group process, around making sure there were sufficient toilets at the larger events that take place within the resort.

There was a wider discussion around toilet facilities within the resort touching on issues such as vandalism, charging, and local businesses opening up their facilities.

Councillor Furneaux stated the number of toilets at the resort was an issue predominantly in the high season and that there was also an issue with vandalism of the toilet facilities. He informed members that the issue would be looked at thoroughly and that there maybe be further opportunities through the Cleethorpes Masterplan. Councillor Furneaux stated that the survey results highlighted the importance of the issue for the public and would be looked at in detail.

The Chair asked that this be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of this panel and asked for a particular update with regard to an agreement with a previous operator who had offered to provide additional facilities in the resort.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that an update on the provision of toilet facilities in the resort of Cleethorpes be submitted to the next meeting of this panel.

SPTVE.22 CREATIVITY STRATEGY

The panel received a report from the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Resources providing an update on the development of the Creativity Strategy and presenting the accompanying action plan for consideration.

The Chair referred to the list of initiatives undertaken to date, as set out in paragraph 1.6 of the report, and noted that there was little mention of Cleethorpes.

Mr Trowsdale responded that, at present, this was a result of investment coming mainly from Grimsby Creates art funding.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPTVE.23 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

There were no questions submitted for the portfolio holder at the meeting within the allotted timeframe. Councillor Farren had submitted a number of questions beyond the deadline, one of which related to toilet provision and that matter had already been considered (minute SPTVE.21 refers). She agreed to receive a written response from the portfolio holder to her remaining questions.

SPTVE.24 URGENT BUSINESS – MOTOR CARAVAN PARKING SITE PILOT SCHEME

The panel received a briefing note providing members with information regarding the provision of parking for motor caravans in the resort of Cleethorpes.

Ms Fisher explained that there would need to be planning permission granted prior to the proposed trial, but that the trial would hopefully commence during the Easter period next year. She explained that the site identified as Thrunscoc Land car park had been selected as it was close to local amenities, and it was of an appropriate size. Ms Fisher explained that there would be a fee for Motorhomes using the site. She informed members that enforcement would need to be undertaken to stop Motorhome drivers from using the Meridian Showground which does not have planning permission therefore is unlawful, and that a height restrictor would be put in place to prevent access. A key will be provided for waste collection and emergency vehicles Ms Fisher stated that a review would be undertaken after the 12-month period to see if the trial had been a success.

Members discussed the proposed trial period and sought clarification on a number of matters but agreed, in principle, to the proposal.

RECOMMENDED TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT – That the proposal for a pilot motor caravans scheme be supported, in principle, and subject to a 12 month trial period.

SPTVE.25 CALLING IN OF DECISIONS

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

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.00 a.m.