



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022

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

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 10.00 a.m.**

### **Present:**

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

### **Officers in attendance:**

- Helen Thompson (Strategic Lead for Tourism)
- Wendy Fisher (Head of Estates and Business Development)
- Lisa Logan (Strategic Environmental Lead)
- 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)
- Councillor Green (Ward Councillor for Sidney Sussex)

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### **SPTVE.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received for this meeting from Councillor Freeston.

## **SPTVE.27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

## **SPTVE.28 MINUTES**

The panel received the minutes of its meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

A member referred to minute SPTVE.20 (Quarter One Council Plan Performance Report) and requested an update on whether funding for the bus improvement plan had been confirmed. Mr Windley informed members he would check and report back to the panel.

At minute SPTVE.24 (Motor Caravan Parking Site Pilot Scheme), the Chair stated that he had asked Ms Fisher in the meeting to confirm that the gates at Thrunscoe Land car park would be locked at night for the duration of the pilot scheme and that she had confirmed that would be the case. The Chair asked that the minutes be updated to reflect this.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be agreed as a correct record, subject to the amendment of SPTVE.24 as noted above.

## **SPTVE.29 QUESTION TIME**

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

## **SPTVE.30 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.31 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

Councillor Green enquired to the portfolio holder about whether the Council had plans to re-apply for the Blue Flag award.

Councillor Furneaux stated that officers were constantly monitoring the water with the prospect of re-applying for the Blue Flag award. He informed Councillor Green that whilst the Council wanted to apply, they had to wait until the water quality was at an excellent level and that the level could be maintained. He stated that the water quality was showing currently as at a good level. Councillor Furneaux explained that the

Council had to wait for the right time to apply as, if they weren't successful, then we must wait a period of three years to re-apply.

Councillor Green asked what the Council was currently doing to improve the quality of the water. Councillor Furneaux stated that the Council was in contact with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency and that officers do send them samples of the water for inspection, if the samples weren't of a quality that would be expected. Councillor Furneaux stated that he had been assured that local pollution was not causing any issues regarding water quality and that officers were doing everything they could, so that in the future the Blue Flag award could be applied for.

There was a wider discussion around the Blue Flag scheme and the water quality. A member stated that whilst he welcomed the discussion, it was not on the agenda for the meeting, and recommended that the issue of water quality be an agenda item for a future meeting to allow for more discussion.

### **SPTVE.32 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.33 QUARTER 2 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE 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 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

### **SPTVE.34 QUARTER 2 FINANCE MONITORING REPORT 2022/23**

The panel received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets which provides key information and analysis of the Council's position and performance against its Finance and Commissioning Plan for the second quarter of the 2022/23 year. This report was referred to all scrutiny panels by Cabinet at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **SPTVE.35 TENNIS FUNDING AND OPERATION**

The panel considered a report from the Executive Director of Environment, Economy, and Resources on a proposed application for grant funding to the Lawn Tennis Association which would provide an important opportunity to improve the condition of tennis courts within North East Lincolnshire.

The Chair expressed concern regarding potential vandalism of the courts and queried how officers were planning on dealing with this.

Mr Browning stated that as part of the investment, there would be new fencing put up particularly at the Barrett's Recreation Ground and Sussex Recreation Ground locations. He informed members that the gates would be controlled by a booking system and only those who had booked would have access. Mr Browning stated that the operator of the courts would have to manage this.

A member asked how much it would cost to have a court along the Cleethorpes Sea Front.

Mr Browning stated he could find out the cost of doing so but reiterated that the funding for the courts in the report was based on restoring existing provision and therefore Cleethorpes Sea Front would not qualify for the funding.

There was a wider discussion touching on issues such as the procurement process to get an operator to manage the courts, the booking system, lighting at the courts and the current security provisions at the locations.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **SPTVE.36 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN CLEETHORPES**

The panel received a briefing paper providing an update on the provision of public conveniences in the resort of Cleethorpes.

Ms Fisher stated that she had been informed that a business case to provide additional toilets in the resort would be unlikely to be supported and she reiterated that providing toilets was not a statutory requirement. She said she had spoken to the owner of the North Promenade toilets who had informed her he was going to be submitting a planning application which would include the provision of a public toilet.

The Chair sought clarification on whether the application would include provision of one toilet or whether it would be for more than one.

Ms Fisher said she would clarify and report back to the panel.

The Chair stated an application including only one toilet would be completely unsatisfactory to serve the thousands in the area.

There was a wider discussion around toilet facilities with members expressing the need for more provisions in the resort.

RESOLVED – That the briefing paper be noted.

### **SPTVE.37 TOURISM AND VISITOR ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL-WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW**

The panel considered a report from the Assistant Chief Executive (Statutory Scrutiny Officer). This report reflected on progress with the panel's work programme at the half-year stage and provided a formal opportunity for the panel to update its work programme as it considered appropriate.

A member recommended that the Blue Flag Scheme and the issue of water quality be added to the work programme.

A member asked for an update regarding how the council was helping to market the smaller businesses in the area.

A member recommended that the issue of toilet provisions in the resort be added to the work programme. Mr Windley noted the budgetary restrictions highlighted in the previous item and suggested that this be mentioned at the forthcoming budget scrutiny sessions if it was felt that further funding was required.

A member queried why the public toilets were no longer open at the Cleethorpes Library. Mr Browning stated he would find out and report back to the panel.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Blue Flag scheme continue to be monitored by this panel as part of its future work programme.
3. That a briefing paper be provided for this panel regarding the marketing of small business in the area.
4. That Mr Browning report back to this panel regarding the closure of the toilets at the Cleethorpes Library.

### **SPTVE.38 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 10.53 a.m.