

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	23 rd February 2023
REPORT OF	Assistant Chief Executive (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
SUBJECT	Tracking the recommendations of the Communities Scrutiny Panel
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

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 so that they can 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 A lists progress on tracked items within the terms of reference of this new panel.

Appendix B lists the remaining recommendations from a review of environmental street scene.

Appendix C lists the nine recommendations from the enforcement scrutiny working group.

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. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable to this report.

4. 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.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on Children and young people as a direct result of this report. The reports that these tracked items have come have been assessed for impact on children and young people.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

7. 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.

8. 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 (legal), Section 151 Officer (finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead (human resources).

9. WARD IMPLICATIONS

Potentially impacts on all wards.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes from the Communities Scrutiny Panel -
<http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/committees/>

11. CONTACT OFFICER

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(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)

TRACKING OF RECOMMENDATIONS – COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE	PROGRESS/COMMENTS
16.9.21	<p><u>SPC.22 Registered Housing Provider</u></p> <p>A report be brought back to a future panel meeting on the progress of registering to become a housing provider.</p>	Assistant Director Housing, Highways and Planning	<p>Update on 3.11.22</p> <p>This project is to progress Q3/Q4 this year and Homes England are satisfied that we are making progress.</p>
8.09.22	<p><u>SPC.22 Council Plan Performance Report 2022/23 Q1</u></p> <p>That members are provided with an update on what action was being taken to reduce the number of empty properties across the borough.</p>	Assistant Director Policy Strategy & Resources	Complete: Data circulated to panel on 9 th November 2022.
05.01.23	<p><u>SPC.46 Tracking the Recommendations of Scrutiny</u></p> <p>One Member wished to query the progress on Recommendation 5 around availability of digital training for elected members and in particular where we were with the Customer Portal. Ms. Issacs confirmed that Officers would look to provide an update to the Panel via a briefing note to Panel Members.</p>		Complete: Briefing Note circulated to Panel Members on 13 th January 2023.
05.01.23	<p><u>SPC.48 Financial Monitoring report 2022-23 – Quarter 2</u></p> <p>A Member made reference to the Council’s Reserves in particular the Council Tax Hardship Fund and asked how many residents had applied for this. Mr Lonsdale advised that he did not have the figures to hand but would provide this information back to the Panel .</p> <p>A Member asked whether for the household support fund the panel could receive a ward breakdown of figures. Ms Issacs</p>		Complete: Information circulated to Panel on 6 th January 2022.

	<p>confirmed that this information could not be provided until the end of March at which time this could then be circulated to Members.</p> <p>A member made reference to the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Grant of £111k within the Capital Programme and asked how this money was being utilised. Mrs Isaacs confirmed she would speak to the Councils housing team and provide the panel with a response.</p>		<p>Update: That a request be made for a breakdown of spend for the Household Support Fund after the end of March 2023.</p> <p>Complete: Email sent to Panel on 16th January 2023</p>
05.01.23	<p><u>SPC.49 Council Plan Performance Report 2022-23 – Quarter 2</u></p> <p>A Member made reference to the fifteen different categories of empty properties and asked whether this information could be provided to the Panel. Mr Thorpe would circulate this information after the scrutiny meeting.</p> <p>Members queried how many of the empty properties were paying the additional premium with regard to council tax and asked for a breakdown of this information. Mr Lonsdale confirmed he would provide this to Member via email.</p> <p>Members asked for Information/figures around the number of council tax cases that had gone to court and the number of out of town landlords.</p>		<p>Complete: Empty Property Strategy emailed to panel on 11th January 2023.</p> <p>Complete: Email sent to panel Members on 5th January 2023.</p> <p>Update: Email sent to panel Members on 9th January 2023.</p>

APPENDIX B ENVIRONMENTAL STREET SCENE

Summary of recommendations and outcomes from a special meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Panel held on 5th December 2019. The meeting was called to consider a 12 month update on progress made following the recommendations of a select committee looking at the quality of the local street scene in North East Lincolnshire. Only unresolved/work in progress/ new recommendations are listed

Reference	Recommendation	Updated 6th January 2023
	2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 4.2.1, 4.2.3,5.2.1 5.2.3	Complete: The Panel agreed to close off on mass all 9 outstanding recommendations from the Environmental Street Scene Select Committee.

APPENDIX C - ENFORCEMENT SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

Summary of nine recommendations from the Enforcement Scrutiny Working Group of the Communities Scrutiny Panel. Final recommendations were ratified by the panel on 4th June 2020 and adopted by Cabinet at its meeting of 8th July 2020. The Director of Growth and Economy was authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities, to implement such recommendations subject to internal governance and controls. (DN.138 refers)

Reference	Recommendation	Updated on 6th January 2023:
	1 – 8	Complete: The Panel agreed to close off on mass all 8 outstanding recommendations from the Enforcement Scrutiny Working Group.