

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-18

Foreword

I am pleased to present the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2017-18. The report contains a look back to scrutiny activity over the last year and what we will be doing in the coming year. First, a reminder of what the key aims of scrutiny work are in local councils:-

- Provide healthy and constructive challenge
- Give voice to public concerns
- Support improvement in services
- Provide an independent review

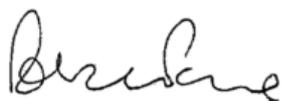
The past year has seen the implementation of a new Overview and Scrutiny committee structure and procedures following a review by a councillor working group. Fourteen recommendations were agreed by the Council in December 2016 which came into force in May 2017. What has been noticeable is

- the greater engagement firstly of Executive councillors with scrutiny committees and secondly of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board with the Executive through attending Executive meetings.
- that the development of the Executive and Scrutiny Protocol, *"Developing Effective Relationships Between the Executive and Scrutiny"* has helped to establish practical working arrangements between the Executive, scrutiny committees as well as the Council's senior managers which develops a unity of purpose. The Protocol provides a framework for positive relationships between the Executive and scrutiny committees. That said, its effectiveness is dependent on all councillors and officers accepting the principles underlying the Protocol.

The Council also agreed

- a revised three tier scrutiny committee structure, detailed on Page 4 of this Report. This Annual Report sets out the work of these new committees since the implementation of the revised committee structure.
- that the new scrutiny arrangements should be reviewed 12 months after implementation. This review will be undertaken over the next few months. I look forward to the outcomes and lessons learnt from this review and will be reporting back with progress made.

Should you want to know more about our overview and scrutiny work then please feel free to get in touch using the contact details at the end of the report.



Councillor Robert Parker
Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and scrutiny is the process whereby non-executive councillors of the Council examine the authority's functions and services, plus those of partner organisations. It is a function of local authorities in England and Wales. It was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 which created separate Executive and Overview and Scrutiny functions within councils. All non-Executive councillors are eligible to participate in the work of scrutiny. Joining them to scrutinise particular issues are parent governors, church representatives, councillors from the district councils and representatives from other local organisations.

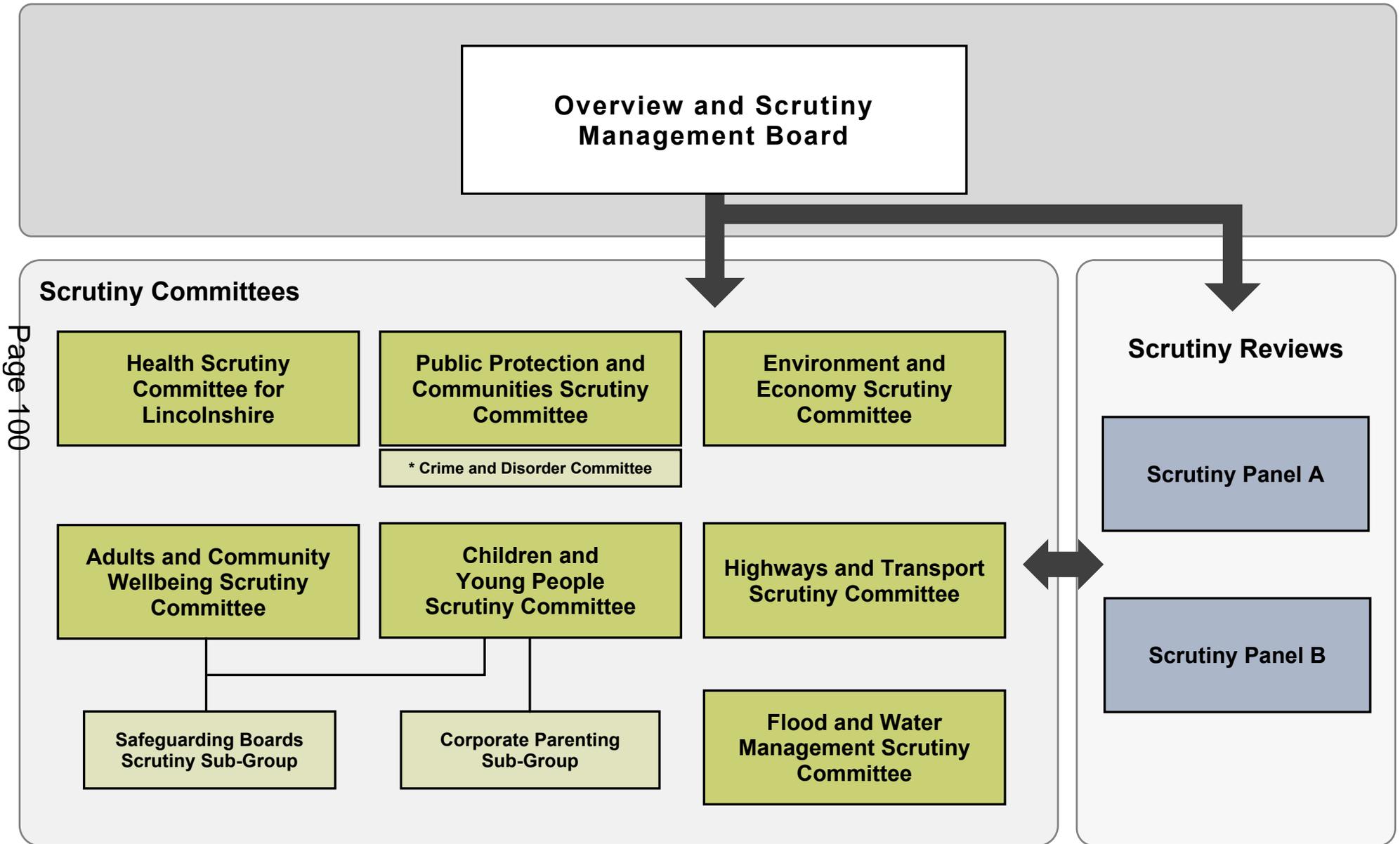
The Council has eight overview and scrutiny committees that consider new policies and strategies, existing policies to see how well they are working and performance information to check that the Council is meeting the standards that have been set.

Committees can also establish working groups to work in a less formal way either working independently or in collaboration with Council officers. These working groups have responded to national consultations, reviewed existing policies and looked to develop new policies in conjunction with officers.

The Council also has two scrutiny panels to undertake reviews that focus on a particular issue and consider it in greater detail than is possible at Committee. These reviews will typically last around six months and will include a mixture of interviews with relevant council officers, research of best practice elsewhere, meetings with service users and community groups and consultation with wider parts of the community. These reviews culminate in a final report with recommendations which are then presented to a meeting of the Council's Executive.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY STRUCTURE

May 2017



* The Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee also serves as the Crime and Disorder Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



Chairman

Councillor Robert Parker



Vice-Chairman

Councillor Ray Wootten (from December 2017)



Councillor Lindsey Cawrey (up to December 2017)

Communication between the Executive and Scrutiny has improved markedly over the first 12 months of the new structure. The attendance at scrutiny committee meetings of Executive councillors and/or Executive support councillors has helped in this regard. In addition, the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board now attends each meeting of the Executive. On a practical level, this allows the Chairman to convey in person some of the feelings of the Board and not simply the formally resolved outcome. Scrutineers can be reassured that the Executive has been made fully aware of their views and comments before decisions are made. The importance of this was underlined when during adverse weather conditions, a scrutiny committee meeting was cancelled and the views of the committee were sought by email and reported to the Executive before decisions were made. The Chairman's attendance at the Executive meetings has an additional benefit of being a visible presence of the Scrutiny function at a meeting that is usually attended by media representatives.

During the year, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has paid particular attention to:-

- monitoring the performance of the Council by receiving the Council Business Plan outcomes, updates on the Treasury Management performance, and commented on regular quarterly reports on the financial performance of the Council; in short finding out whether our performance was in line with targets.
- monitoring the performance of the Corporate Support Services contract which is being delivered by Serco on behalf of the Council. We have received regular updates on the performance of this contract and due to the close monitoring and challenge by the Board, Serco is now delivering all the key performance indicators (KPIs) in relation to this contract.
- scrutinising the 150 Information Management Technology (IMT) projects which are being delivered by Serco. Examples of IMT projects include online and phone fault reporting for highways faults; new website and replacement web hosting platform; and replacement of Children's Services system Edica which is used by parents for schools admissions.
- monitoring and co-ordinating the scrutiny activity of each of the scrutiny committees by receiving quarterly in-depth updates from the chairmen of each scrutiny committee. The Review of Scrutiny Working Group felt that the new

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board should take a stronger lead in the prioritisation of scrutiny topics and delivery of the scrutiny work programmes. This is now happening at every Board meeting with more attention being given to the outcomes that are to be achieved in scrutiny committees. This enables some "peer review" of how the scrutiny committees are monitoring performance within the Council, which is part of the Scrutiny function, and how the committees themselves are working. This has resulted in more inclusion and information sharing amongst members of the Board in relation to work that is going on in other scrutiny committees.

Going forward, the Board will

- identify the top 20 IMT projects which we consider to be of the highest priority for the Council to ensure that these are delivered within agreed timelines.
- work more closely with the Audit Committee around information sharing and joint working in relation to monitoring the performance of the Council.
- determine new topics for deliberation within the Scrutiny Panels. It is acknowledged that lessons are still being learnt about the way these should work, but there is a sense that they will become a good mechanism to being more proactive in Scrutiny. More discussion on this subject area can be seen on page 19.
- continue to ensure that all Scrutiny work provides healthy and constructive challenge, gives voice to public concerns, supports improvement in services and provides an independent review of Executive actions.

Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee



Chairman

**Councillor Hugo
Marfleet**



Vice-Chairman

**Councillor Mrs Elizabeth
Sneath**

The 'community wellbeing' element of the Committee's name refers to the County Council's public health function and this represents the first time that adult care and public health have been combined in the same scrutiny committee.

The consideration of procurement proposals for adult care and community wellbeing services has been a recurring theme for the Committee. The Committee has considered the following procurement pre-decision scrutiny items over the last year meetings: Local Stop Smoking Service; NHS Health Check Programme; Shared Lives Services; Strategic Market Support Partner; and Domestic Abuse Support Services. In addition to this, the Committee has considered the overall contract management arrangements, included the expected items subject to procurement in the coming year.

Adult care and community wellbeing constitute the largest budget area for the County Council (£183.066 million during 2017-18), and because of this, the Committee receives regular budget monitoring reports. These reports include the Better Care Fund allocations, which provided £33.27 million to the County Council during 2017-18.

The Committee has adopted a themed approach to the reporting of performance. In effect, rather than focusing on a range of indicators for re-ablement, non-elective admissions and delayed transfers of care; services for carers; and the health check programme. This approach has been beneficial in enabling the Committee to explore how the indicators relate to the service areas in question.

The Committee receives regular report from the Care Quality Commission on its overall findings for residential and nursing homes in Lincolnshire. In November 2017, the Committee was advised that 79% of residential and nursing homes were rated as 'good' or 'outstanding'. The Committee was made aware of the support given to those homes in the 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate' categories.

In terms of volume of material the most significant item considered by the Committee was an item on the 'usual costs' paid by the Council for residential and nursing care. As part of this item, the Committee considered a proposed decision by the Executive Councillor, on the proposed levels of 'usual costs'. As part of this item, the impact of increased agency nursing costs on nursing homes was highlighted by the Lincolnshire Care Association, which has led some of these homes to deregister their nursing beds. Potentially the Health and Wellbeing Board could become involved, with a view to engaging the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Care Quality Commission on their approach to registered nursing care.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee



Chairman

Councillor Robert Foulkes



Vice-Chairman

Councillor Robert Kendrick

One key issue that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has considered over the past year is the review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school provision across Lincolnshire. In March 2017, the Department for Education announced the High Needs Strategic Review instructing all local authorities to review provision for pupils with SEND in order to ensure that there are sufficient good school places which meet the changing needs of pupils with SEND. The SEND review has looked at how the 20 special schools in Lincolnshire can supply provision for all types of SEND across the county. In December 2017, the Committee strongly supported the strategic vision of SEND provision, as detailed in the *Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy*, before a decision was taken by the Executive to go out to formal consultation between January and March 2018. The proposed strategy has many aims including reducing the length of journeys to school for pupils with SEND by ensuring all special schools can meet all types of need and disability, so pupils can go to their nearest school. The Committee received an update in April 2018 on the consultation process, initial outcomes from the consultation and the timeline on the next steps. In October 2018, the Committee will scrutinise the final version of the *Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy*, before it is approved by the Executive in November 2018.

Another key issue for the Committee has been pupil exclusions from schools. The Committee received updates in July 2017 and January 2018 on the Inclusive Lincolnshire Strategy, which was implemented in 2016/17 to address the problem of a rising and unsustainable rate of permanent exclusions from Lincolnshire schools. The Committee decided in March 2018 to establish a working group to look into the work being undertaken by officers and schools to reduce pupil exclusions in Lincolnshire. The Committee looks forward to receiving the outcomes from the working group and any recommendations on how pupil exclusions in Lincolnshire could be addressed at a future meeting.

To improve the understanding of the Committee of pupil exclusions, Members have undertaken visits to providers of alternative provision. The providers of alternative provision deliver education for young people excluded from school. Visits were arranged for the Committee members to visit Bridge House Independent School in Boston, First Steps Vocational Training Centre in Hubberts Bridge, Boston, and Gelders Group in Sturton by Stow, Lincoln as providers of alternative provision.

The Committee has raised a number of concerns over the last year regarding the high number of juvenile first time offenders. For October 2015 - September 2016, there were 266 juvenile first time offenders, although this was a reduction on previous years. To address the high level of juvenile first time offenders, the Council has launched a new diversionary project in Lincolnshire in conjunction with the Police. Young people who offend at a low level for the first time and accept that they

have committed the offence will be diverted through local Restorative Panels which will try to prevent young people from getting a criminal record. The Restorative Panels pilot started in July 2017 and the Committee is looking forward to receiving the outcomes from the Restorative Panels pilot at its meeting in July 2018.

Going forward, the Committee will consider an item on Prevent and the implications for children and young people. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent duty which came into force on 1 July 2015. Specified authorities include local authorities, NHS trusts, schools, and also providers of certain services to those authorities. The Committee will learn about the statutory requirements around Prevent since 2015 and the implications for children and young people. The Committee will also consider how the Council is responding to the Prevent duty in relation to children and young people and see if there are any recommendations it could make.

Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee



Chairman

**Councillor Tony
Bridges**



Vice-Chairman

**Councillor Barry
Dobson**

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee combines two areas of responsibility (Protecting & Sustaining the Environment, Sustaining & Growing Business & the Economy) to provide an opportunity to join these areas and encourage a more holistic approach and a greater focus on strategic outcomes.

The Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy has been a key area of interest and the Committee continues to engage with officers during the development process to offer advice/support during the preparation of the local industrial strategy and ensure the strategy responds effectively to local priorities.

The Committee has also engaged and considered key topics in relation to the Midlands Engine, which provides a good opportunity to deliver the council's growth priorities. As part of the consideration of this topic the Committee supported that a strong economic narrative for Lincolnshire projects continues to be articulated to the Midlands Engine partnership in order to attract resources into Lincolnshire as a whole. In addition, the Committee supported the improvements to the A1/A17/A46 junction at Newark as a project which could have economic benefits as a gateway to Lincolnshire, and highlighted the Port of Boston as an important consideration for the Midlands Engine. The Committee continues to strongly highlight the need to ensure the whole of Lincolnshire benefits from the work of the Midlands Engine.

The Committee has continued to monitor the progress of Brexit and the National Productivity Investment Fund which is proposed will replace EU funding going forward. The Committee has highlighted to officers that future transitional arrangements, through the Brexit process, were key in ensuring the economy remained stable throughout this process. In addition the Committee continues to emphasise the importance of a localised focus on future funding arrangements.

In October 2017 the Committee visited the Eventus Business Centre in Market Deeping. The Committee toured the Eventus site and reviewed the inclusive managed workspace on offer for small to medium enterprises. The Committee held a networking session with some of the Businesses currently occupying the centre to better understand the added value provided by the Business Centres across the county.

The Committee has also considered DEFRA'S twenty-five year plan to improve the environment and how the vision for long term environmental improvement can be implemented within the Council's Commissioning Strategies. Because of the wide-ranging scope of the Environment Plan, the Committee will look to consider further exploration of specific subject areas at future meetings as the County Council develops its response to this new policy direction.

Looking ahead, the Committee will continue to have input into the development of a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Lincolnshire and the development of the Third Carbon Management Plan. In addition, the Committee has also identified the need for a greater focus on Utility provision in Lincolnshire, including rural broadband as a key priority for the coming years.

Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee



Chairman

**Councillor Daniel
McNally**



Vice-Chairman

**Councillor Paul
Skinner**

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee considers Lincolnshire County Council's delivery of its local leadership role in relation to flood and water management. The Committee also considers the effectiveness of the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership and related partnership developments.

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee meets on a quarterly basis.

Lincolnshire has a wide range of potential flood risk and extensive existing infrastructure & water level management systems. The Committee continues to include key partners from Internal Drainage Boards, the Environment Agency and Anglian Water to build an effect partnership approach.

The Committee continues to scrutinise Section 19 investigations undertaken to resolve flooding incidents. The majority of S.19 investigations relate to surface water flooding and at the July meeting the Committee requested future reports pay more attention to the outstanding recommendations arising from completed investigations.

The Committee received a presentation as part of the review of the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership. Lincolnshire has a unique Joint Scrutiny Committee reflecting the Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership. The Committee highlighted the need for economic growth and water management to be considered together in order to develop long term protection measures that would be necessary for the coast.

The Committee has also considered detail on the Water Resources East project and supported the work to develop a long-term, multi-sector, water resource strategy. The Water Resource Management Plan will look to ensure Lincolnshire is correctly positioned to exploit the wider opportunities to deliver benefits to the environment, flood risk management, the agri-food and tourism sectors.

The Committee continues to engage with the Environment Agency and has had consultation input into the review of the management of coastal flood risk on the Lincolnshire coast between Saltfleet and Gibraltar Point.

Looking ahead, the Committee will look to consider the work being undertaken as part of the River Maintenance Transfer (De-maining) pilots in Lincolnshire. In addition the Committee are keen to undertake an Environment Agency visit to the Boston Barrier site works.

Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire



Chairman

**Councillor Carl
Macey**



Vice-Chairman

**Councillor Chris
Brewis**

The Lincolnshire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) has been a dominant feature of the Committee's work programme in the last year. In addition to consideration of quarterly reports on the overall STP, the Committee has focused on four of the STP's priorities: Mental Health; Operational Efficiency; the GP Forward View; and Integrated Neighbourhood Working. A key development for the Lincolnshire STP has been its preparation of an Acute Services Review in early 2018. The content of the Acute Services Review is not yet known, but it is understood that this will impact on the timing of the elements of STP's activities that are due for full public consultation. The absence of meaningful consultation, compounded by the Acute Services Review, continues to be a frustration for the Committee.

Despite assurances in November 2017 that the required threshold for middle grade doctors would be reached to enable Grantham A&E to open overnight, a decision was made in December 2017 to continue with its overnight closure. This followed a review by the East of England Clinical Senate and a change to the staffing threshold. As a result in January 2018, the Health Scrutiny Committee referred the matter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the grounds of absence of consultation. A determination from the Secretary of State is awaited.

Responding to a consultation on the proposed closure of the Lincoln Walk-in Centre was the first major activity for the Committee, which has followed this through with further consideration of the alternatives to the Walk-in Centre, such as extended GP opening hours; same-day appointments being made for children with urgent care needs; and alternative provision for students in Lincoln.

Non-emergency patient transport has been a major concern for the Committee and monthly reports on performance of the provider, Thames Ambulance Service Ltd (TASL), have been submitted each month since December 2018. Whilst there has been some improvement, TASL is still not meeting the key performance indicators.

The Committee has continued to receive regular reports from the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). Revised national ambulance performance standards were introduced in July 2017, but EMAS has advised the Committee that it is not currently commissioned by the clinical commissioning groups in the East Midlands to meet these standards and additional resources would be required to meet the standards in full. A continuing concern is the time taken to handover patients at Lincolnshire hospitals, which exceed the regional and national average.

In the coming year, the Committee is expecting to respond to formal consultation on the elements of the STP where this is required. Services such as Grantham A&E, and maternity services in Pilgrim Hospital are expected to form part of this formal

public consultation. In addition to this, the Committee will continue to focus on other elements of the STP, where consultation is not legally required. A further concern for the Committee is the likelihood of decisions to temporarily suspend services on the grounds of patient safety, owing to a lack of staff, as previous experience of this at Grantham A&E in fact led to a temporary closure becoming permanent in all but name.

Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee



Chairman

**Councillor Michael
Brookes**



Vice-Chairman

**Councillor Chris
Brewis**

The Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee considers key areas of public interest including Highway Network Management, Highways maintenance, transport commissioning and new transport investments such as highways improvements.

The development of a replacement for the Lincolnshire Highways Alliance contracts from 2020 has been a key priority in 2017/18 and the Committee has continued to support the involvement of councillors in the process to develop an effective replacement. The Committee continues to scrutinise regular updates on the progress towards Lincolnshire Highways 2020 and considers key milestones in the project as required. Highways 2020 is a key priority for Lincolnshire County Council going forward and effective scrutiny involvement is key to ensure local priorities are realised.

The major highways schemes are a key priority for Lincolnshire and the Committee continues to receive regular updates as part of the quarterly performance report. These schemes include the Lincoln Eastern Bypass, which is currently the County Council's largest Highway scheme. The committee will continue to review the progress towards the Lincoln Eastern Bypass going forward. In addition, the Committee continues to review the progress made towards the Grantham Southern Relief Road, Boston Distributor Road, Spalding Western Relief Road, North Hykeham Relief Road and Lincolnshire Coastal Highway.

The Committee continues to review and monitor quarterly performance information, including performance of the long standing Lincolnshire Highways Alliance which delivers the majority of highway services through a number of contracts. In addition, the Committee continues to monitor and review the winter maintenance arrangements for the County on a regular basis.

The Committee has also had input into the Department for Transport (DfT's) proposal to create a Major Road Network (MRN) comprising the most economically important local authority A Roads. This work looks to attract funding support for major improvements and is an area the Committee will continue to monitor moving forward and is a key area to highlight the importance of the Coastal Highway.

In November 2017 the Committee considered reports on the control of weeds within the public highway and the maintenance of highway grass within the public highway. These items were presented following a request from the Committee to review these areas of policy. The Committee resolved to support a formal recommendation to the Executive / Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT that the current Highways weed spraying single-spray policy be reviewed and consideration given to increase the number of treatments as part of the budget setting process for 2018/19.

The Committee has also requested future updates on changes to the Well Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice to give forward visibility of the potential changes to the Highways Asset Management Plan. The Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee will continue to consider this area as it is important to have good forward visibility of the likely proposed changes and the impacts these may have on services.

After successful lobbying, the Committee welcomed Network Rail in November 2017 to review the current Rail Plan and Joint Schemes in Lincolnshire. It is hoped that the Committee will build on this relationship to continue to engage positively with Network Rail on an annual basis to promote the delivery of key rail schemes within the County.

Looking ahead, the Committee plans to continue to consider areas of key local interest, including reviewing proposals to deliver improved transport corridors across the County. The Committee aim to review the progress against the actions in the various local Transport Strategies and the work being undertaken towards developing the Boston Distributor Road and Coastal Highway.

In addition, the Committee will look to have greater focus on Passenger Transport issues over the coming year, as well as considering the value for money assessment of the New Highways Operating Model. Effective Highways Communication will also be considered later in 2018 as part of work being undertaken to improve Highways fault reporting system.

Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee



Chairman

**Councillor Nigel
Pepper**



Vice-Chairman

**Councillor Adam
Stokes**

The Committee continues to scrutinise the services covered within Public Protection and Communities remit. This includes County Public Protection, Community Resilience and Assets and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

The Committee has continued to fulfil its role in scrutinising performance of the outsourced Library Contract to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL). At the meeting in July 2017 the Committee supported the ongoing development of the library service by GLL, including a set of proposed 'Year 2 Developments' which included delivering the Arts Council funded 'ForgingLincs' project and implement revised District Mobile Library routes.

The Committee has continued to have input into the future of the Heritage Service and formed a Working Group to explore potential future options of reducing the costs of the Heritage Service, whilst improving and enhancing its public offer and becoming financially self-sustainable. The Committee endorsed the need for officers to focus on the offer the County Council wanted to make and what the service would look like before considering what the best delivery model would be. The Committee expects further updates on the Heritage Service later in 2018.

The Committee has also scrutinised the progress made against the Retained Duty System (RDS) improvement action plan; following on from a report presented in November 2016 on the RDS Improvement Strategy. The Committee paid particular attention to how Fire and Rescue could get across the message to larger employers of the benefits of releasing staff to become retained fire fighters and received reassurance that Fire and Rescue continues to be a priority service area.

The Committee continues to consider the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) Annual Report which provided the committee with the opportunity to review detailed information on the fatal, and killed and serious injury (KSI) casualty figures for Lincolnshire. The report also provided data on trends, comparisons and areas of priority for the Road Safety Partnership moving into 2018. The Committee continues to endorse the work of the Road Safety Partnership and requested to continue to review this information on an annual basis.

The Fire and Rescue Fire Peer Challenge has also been an area of review following a Local Government Association and National Fire Chiefs Council Fire Peer Challenge in September 2017. Feedback from the Peer Challenge was generally positive and the Committee considered the development of an action plan to address the 'areas for consideration' identified in the report. The action plan will be presented to the Committee later in 2018 for review.

Sitting as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee the Committee has reviewed information on the delivery of Assisting Rehabilitation through Collaboration (ARC), and how it is reducing offending by the most prolific offenders in Lincolnshire through the use of a multi-agency approach. The Committee endorsed the excellent progress made by the scheme to reduce offending throughout the county.

Looking ahead, the Committee plans to consider the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper consultation, published by the government in March 2018, and provide feedback as part of this consultation. In addition, the Committee will consider the Fire and Rescue Wellbeing Strategy developed to promote health and wellbeing within the Fire and Rescue workforce.

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Priority areas will be considered as part of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee role. The work being undertaken Supporting Volunteers will also be a key area of consideration later in 2018.

SCRUTINY PANELS



**Chairman of Scrutiny
Panel A**

**Councillor Mrs Jackie
Brockway**



**Vice-Chairman of
Scrutiny Panel A**

**Councillor Sarah
Dodds**



**Chairman of Scrutiny
Panel B**

**Councillor Mrs Angela
Newton**



**Vice-Chairman of
Scrutiny Panel B**

**Councillor Stephen
Kirk**

In July 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed the first topics for the two Scrutiny Panels.

Scrutiny Panel A, chaired by Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway, was tasked with looking at the impact of current IT provision on council working practices with particular reference to the potential for enhancing roles by means of updated IT provision. From the outset of the review it became apparent that certain building blocks needed to be in place before consideration of future technologies could be properly considered. Whilst the emphasis of the review was on future IT provision, it was not possible to separate past and present circumstances from future plans.

In March 2018, the Board decided that a six-month scrutiny review did not allow sufficient opportunity to delve into the detail of the topic and that a greater contribution could be realised through a more in-depth study within a working group setting. As a result, the Board agreed to establish a working group to continue the work undertaken by Scrutiny Panel A. The Board will receive the outcomes from the working group at a future meeting.

Scrutiny Panel B, chaired by Councillor Mrs Angela Newton, was tasked with looking at the impact of the change in the Street Lighting Policy to turn street lights off in certain areas between midnight and 6am. The review considered topics including the environment, road collisions, crime rates, fears about safety and crime, emergency services, health and public health services, the impact on businesses and the night time economy. A key aim of the review was to ensure that the Council's Street Light Policy in relation to part night lighting was being managed to minimise any adverse impact on the communities in Lincolnshire affected by the changes.

From the start of the review, Scrutiny Panel B agreed that a key priority was to engage and listen directly to the people who live and work in Lincolnshire. A survey was developed to invite views from members of the public and was promoted via County News at the end of November 2017. The survey attracted in excess of 5,000 responses. The Scrutiny Panel also heard a range of evidence in order to form a

better understanding of the matters relating to part night street lighting. A final report setting out the Scrutiny Panel's findings and five recommendations was considered by the Board in April 2018 where it was approved (*subject to approval at the April meeting*) for submission to the Executive for its consideration and response. The Board will receive the Executive's response at a future meeting and then monitor the implementation of the recommendations which are accepted by the Executive.

In March 2018, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed that the next topics for the Scrutiny Panels would be Roundabout Sponsorship and Transitions.

The scrutiny review on Roundabout Sponsorship will focus on reviewing the current 'Sponsorship of Highway Planting' policy. The current policy dealing with the sponsorship of roundabouts (HAT 63/1/10) has been in existence since 1996. It is proposed that the scrutiny review will consider and develop the policy to enable effective management of roundabout sponsorship in Lincolnshire.

The scrutiny review on Transitions will focus on young people as they transition from Children's Services to Adult Services, in relation to SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) including Learning Disability and Autism, and Looked After Children. As part of the review, there will be engagement with young people and their carers, as well as consideration of services in other local authority areas and best practice. In relation to Looked after Children, the scrutiny review will also take account of the implications of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, which increases the age of eligibility for support for care leavers, from the age of 21 to 25.

SUB GROUPS

Corporate Parenting Sub Group



Chairman

**Councillor
David Brailsford**



Vice-Chairman

**Councillor Clio
Perraton-Williams**

The Corporate Parenting Sub Group is an internal meeting which meets on a quarterly basis and reports into the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. Its role is to scrutinise and monitor services provided for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. This includes receiving regular reports on fostering, adoption, residential homes, health and education relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers, and the leaving care service provided by Barnardo's. The Sub Group was pleased to learn that this year there was 20 care leavers who were now attending university. The Sub Group also considers quarterly updates regarding Visiting Members and their visits to residential homes and the work of the V4C (Voices for Choices), which is Lincolnshire's Children in Care Council, from the V4C representative on the Sub Group.

Over the past year, the Corporate Parenting Sub Group has contributed to the development of the refreshed *Corporate Parenting Strategy* and the *Looked After Children and Care Leaver Strategy*. The Sub Group established a working group to provide councillor input into the draft strategies. The *Corporate Parenting Strategy* provides direction and focus for the Council's work, and guides the Council as to how Looked After Children and Care Leavers in will be supported and championed. The *Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy* sets out Lincolnshire's ambitions for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Lincolnshire over the next three years. Both strategies will now be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in June 2018 before the *Corporate Parenting Strategy* is approved by the County Council in September 2018 and the *Looked After Children and Care Leaver Strategy* is approved by the Executive in July 2018.

Members of the Corporate Parenting Sub Group regularly attend events with Looked After Children and Care Leavers. This includes attending the BIG Conversation 14 and 15 events in October 2017 and February 2018 to work with Looked After Children and Care Leavers on different issues. In addition, the FAB! Awards held in July 2017, which celebrate the achievements of Looked After Children and Care Leavers, were attended by several members of the Corporate Parenting Sub Group. The Sub Group is also keen to have councillor representation at all V4C meetings to input into their discussions and hear about any issues which are raised, and as a result the members of the Sub Group are invited to attend all the meetings of the V4C.

Going forward, the Corporate Parenting Sub Group will continue with its activities across all the areas outlined above.

Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group



Chairman

**Councillor Sarah
Dodds**



Vice-Chairman

**Councillor Robert
Foulkes**

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group is an internal meeting which meets on a quarterly basis. Its role is to scrutinise and monitor the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB).

At each meeting there is a general update report from both the LSCB and LSAB. In addition, a member of the Sub Group regularly attends each meeting of the LSCB and LSAB as an observer. Both the general update report and the attendance of a Sub Group member enables the Sub Group to confirm that the agencies and organisations represented on each board are working well together.

The LSCB is responsible for serious case reviews and the LSAB is responsible for safeguarding adult reviews. In every instance final reports are brought to the Sub Group, and the Sub Group seeks reassurance that both the LSCB and the LSAB are taking forward any required actions and recommendations.

Going forward, the Sub Group will monitor the outcomes and impact from the Wood Review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards in 2016, which has led to a number of changes being enacted through the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Sub Group has been reassured that the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board and structure would remain largely unchanged due to the strong partnerships with agencies already being in place.

The Sub Group has also considered the outcomes of a thematic review of financial exploitation relating to 39 individuals in a Lincolnshire town. The report made five recommendations overall, and in addition to the individual agencies making further recommendations. The Sub Group will continue to monitor the implementation of these recommendations.

Contact Us

If you have any questions regarding the overview and scrutiny process, or any of the work we have undertaken then please get in touch with one of the officers listed below.

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- Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
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- Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
- Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
- Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group

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- Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
- Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
- Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee
- Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Or write to us at The Scrutiny Team, Lincolnshire County Council, Room 5, County Offices, Lincoln, LN1 1YL

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