



Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
Date:	30 September 2021
Subject:	Proposals for Scrutiny Reviews

Summary:

At its meeting on 17 June 2021, the Board considered a report to identify and agree potential topics for in-depth scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by the two Scrutiny Panels. The Board agreed to invite each scrutiny committee to identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews for submitting to the Board for consideration at its meeting on 30 September 2021.

This report enables the Board to consider an evaluation of all of the potential topics for scrutiny reviews that have been identified and to agree which reviews should be undertaken by the Council's two Scrutiny Panels.

Actions Required:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited:

- (1) to agree topics for future scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels.
- (2) to agree the draft terms of reference for the scrutiny reviews subject to a final version being agreed with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board.

1. Background

One of the essential roles of overview and scrutiny is to carry out in-depth reviews where the outcomes can clearly influence and improve policy and service delivery for the people of Lincolnshire. This is carried out by the two Scrutiny Panels, Scrutiny Panel A and Scrutiny Panel B.

Scrutiny Panels represent an opportunity for scrutiny councillors to delve deeper into a particular subject or issue to find out more, speak to the individuals responsible and recommend any ways in which things might be improved at a level of scrutiny not always possible within the time limits and formal setting associated with Committee meetings.

Scrutiny Panel A and Scrutiny Panel B will conduct each review in accordance with the following principles:

- Scrutiny Panels should aim to collect a broad range of evidence on the particular review, interviewing interested parties, and engaging local communities, where this is feasible.
- Scrutiny Panels should focus on developing realistic recommendations for improvement in relation to the topic under review.
- Scrutiny Panels will submit their draft reports to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration, approval and onward referral as appropriate.

Scrutiny Panel A and Scrutiny Panel B will undertake in-depth scrutiny reviews in accordance with the terms of reference and timetable determined for each review by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Establishment of a Scrutiny Panel

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will decide when a Scrutiny Panel is needed by determining whether a scrutiny review will proceed using the Prioritisation Matrix attached at Appendix A.

Each Scrutiny Panel will have up to eight members including the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The membership should be politically inclusive and all non-executive councillors (and added members for education reviews) are eligible. Nominations for membership of the Scrutiny Panels will be sought from the leader of each political group.

The membership will be agreed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

Identifying Potential Scrutiny Review Topics

A Scrutiny Panel should only be set up when a suitable topic for a scrutiny review is identified by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board using the Prioritisation Toolkit.

Suggestions for scrutiny reviews may come from a variety of sources such as the scrutiny committees, other non-Executive Councillors, Executive Councillors, and senior officers.

When considering a potential topic for a scrutiny review, it is important that the Board ensures that the potential scrutiny review will not be duplicating any review work that is being undertaken by officers or external partners.

The remit for the potential scrutiny review should be focussed and not too broad, so that an in-depth review can be completed within a set timescale and will lead to achievable outcomes.

Following consultation with each of the Council's scrutiny committees a number of potential topics for scrutiny review are set out below:

- **Lincolnshire Agricultural Sector Support**
- **Town Centre Improvements**
- **Capital Programme Planning**
- **Young Carers**
- **Restoring Family Relationships**
- **Recycling Rates in Lincolnshire**
- **Traffic Speed Management Review in Lincolnshire**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Increased numbers of Domestic Abuse during the Covid-19 pandemic: support available to families**

For each of these potential topics sufficient information was provided to develop draft terms of reference which is set out at Appendix B to the report.

Once assigned to a Scrutiny Panel, the terms of reference will be finalised by the Scrutiny Panel, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Prioritising Topics for Scrutiny Reviews

Prioritisation is a key tool for successful scrutiny. Selecting the right topics where scrutiny can add value is essential for scrutiny to be a positive influence on the work of the Council. Scrutiny committees must be selective about what they look at and need to work effectively with limited resources. Scrutiny activity should be targeted, focused and timely and include issues of corporate and local importance, where scrutiny activity can influence and add value.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's scrutiny prioritisation toolkit has been applied to all of the suggested topics for scrutiny to produce a priority matrix which is set out at Appendix A.

The Council's Policy Unit has been consulted on the proposals and has supported the prioritisation of topics for consideration by the Board through the additional of local and national policy context as part of the matrix.

2. Conclusion

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is asked to agree two potential topics for in-depth scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels, using the Prioritisation matrix attached at Appendix B and amend and agree the draft terms of reference for each review to be progressed.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Prioritisation Toolkit
Appendix B	Proposed Terms of Reference for <i>Lincolnshire Agricultural Sector Support</i> Scrutiny Review

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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Scrutiny prioritisation

	Does the topic affect a number of people living, working and studying in Lincolnshire?	Is the issue strategic and significant? (Very High, High, Moderate, Low)	Is there evidence to support the need for scrutiny that can add value? (Very High, High, Moderate, Low)	Is the Scrutiny timely or duplicating other work?
Agricultural Sector Support	Yes- A central part of the local economy which is going through a period of change with potential implications for work force, skills and research and development.	<p>Very High</p> <p>National policy is going through significant change as the UK transitions away from the Common Agricultural Policy and trials numerous pilot schemes such as the seasonal worker pilot and a move away from the Basic Payment Scheme towards new policies that will be tested together with farmers, land managers and experts, directly affecting Lincolnshire farmers.</p> <p>Support for the sector is a priority and the corporate plan has acknowledged the sector as a mass contributor to the mixed economy of Lincolnshire. There is now also push for more green methods of farm working as part of the governments 'Path to Sustainable Farming' by 2028.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Scrutiny can significantly help the implementation of these schemes. Members can identify specific areas of need, e.g., education and training to help aid the sector during this period of seismic change and to put in place possible support mechanisms to enable disruption to the sector to be kept to a minimum.</p>	Yes- This would not be duplicating other scrutiny work and would provide timely support to a fundamental part of many Lincolnshire Communities during a period of significant change.
Town Centre Improvements	Yes- Key to economic sustainability and recovery in Lincolnshire, post pandemic to help stimulate a visitor economy as well as supporting job creation in town centres.	<p>Very High</p> <p>Town Centre improvements is a fundamentally significant part to the governments 'Levelling Up' agenda with a designated Towns Fund which has promised up to £25 million each for 5 locations across Lincolnshire.</p> <p>The Corporate Plan discusses the strategic investment of capital not only in the physical and aesthetical improvements of the county's towns but also the importance to merge the strength of local and digital commerce to create a better connected, digitally enabled high street.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>The pandemic has significantly impacted on trade and footfall across Lincolnshire's High Streets and resulting changes in behaviour, shopping and emerging technologies may fundamentally alter the future role and design of the High Street.</p> <p>Members can seek to identify what our future policy position should be in response to these changes, whether existing funding/projects contribute towards this and ensure that the pipeline of future improvements, funding bids and infrastructure investments are aligned to a sustainable future for town centres.</p>	<p>Yes- This would not be duplicating other work and is extremely timely in line with the government's rollout of the towns fund in combination with the publication of the 'Levelling Up' White Paper.</p> <p>This is the main policy focus of central government therefore it's important to ensure frequent and up to date scrutiny to stay aligned with the progress of 'Levelling Up' ensuring that Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the discussion.</p>

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Family Relations	Yes- There is a recognised need to promote a consistent and more preventative approach to promoting family stability which reduces the prospect of youth homelessness and also avoids late entrants into care in the county.	High Strong family foundations are incredibly significant to ensure children stay in high quality education as well as parents who are committed to getting the best for their children. Where this isn't the case, the council has the responsibility to mediate and support the families in accordance to key aims of the corporate plan to create a thriving environment and the opportunity to enjoy life to the full.	High Scrutiny would add value as it has been discovered in presentations by young people that a breakdown in family relationships the main cause of youth homelessness so there is no doubt about the evidence showing the scale of this issue within the county. Scrutiny from members could seek to look into how well Restoring Family Relationship Teams and Future4me are working as an integrated body and whether the service on offer is covering a broad enough set of circumstances which family relations often cover and whether their response is timely enough. Also, it should be considered as to how successful this support is in restoring family relationships.	Yes- Scrutiny once would be timely due to the strain on many family relations caused by the effect of the pandemic where domestic incidents have been on the rise. Potentially could duplicated some work with the scrutiny on young carers if run at the same time as there can be in some cases a direct correlation between the two.
Young Carers	Caring is a significant factor in the lives of many Lincolnshire families, with an estimated 7,000 young carers in the County.	High This is significant issue as it is a key aim of the council's corporate plan to "help our young people achieve". With so many acting as young carers it's essential that the support is in place to ensure that education isn't compromised, and young carers are aware of the support for them. Universal high-quality education can only be achieved if the most vulnerable in Lincolnshire are being supported. The Corporate Plan acknowledges these concerns, and as the pandemic comes into the endemic stage it is notable that 40% of young carers feel that their mental health has suffered.	High Members can add value in analysing whether current practices go far enough and to consider if service provision both face to face and virtual is accessible and relevant to those who need it most, particularly if family members are drug and alcohol misusers or have mental health issues.	Yes- Timely as evidence of the effect of the pandemic on young carers is coming to light Scrutiny could potentially be duplicated within family relations and/or domestic abuse work if reviewed at the same time.

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Traffic	Yes- Speeding issues are a reoccurring topic at Parish Council meetings and local community forums and are raised directly with Members and the Council as a concern by residents across the county.	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Lincolnshire has the third most dangerous roads in the country statistically but it's difficult to quantify this as a result of speeding. Road speeds are a significant issue to residents especially on a parish/ward level and conversely can be an issue for business where delays are caused to delivery and supply chains by accidents, congestion, or too lower speed.</p> <p>This is not currently a national or regional government priority, nor is it a specific commitment in the Corporate Plan.</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>A potential scrutiny review by members could consider what the challenges and opportunities are for effective speed management around the county.</p> <p>Soft approaches include; availability of resources and funds, engaging with the public and specific hard measures to inhibit speeding, such as; installation of Speed Indicator Devices, use of Covert Surveillance, Community Speedwatch and enforcement.</p>	No- Not the timeliest of proposed topics for scrutiny with priorities in other areas for the council in the short to medium term. Possible to consider this in the longer term. It would not be duplicated in other work.
Domestic Abuse	Yes- Another topic area which has been widely accelerated within the county by the pandemic. EDAN Lincs Domestic Abuse Service is a registered charity covering the whole of Lincolnshire.	<p>Moderate</p> <p>There has been significant national policy development in successive Queen's Speeches which have focused on domestic abuse with legislation published this year after initially being promised in 2017 focusing on broader legal protections for victims.</p> <p>Within the council's corporate plan this is not a topic area that has been widely covered, however the council does offer resources and services online for residents about help and support they can receive.</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>This is a topic of concern for residents and scrutiny could seek to implement more concrete policies into the corporate plan with the full emergence of figures from the pandemic to see the true extent of the issue.</p> <p>There are already some initial plans in place for October to clear the backlog with a report from the Police and Crime Commissioner looking at piloting a "Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Court".</p>	Partial- Whilst reviewing this topic would be timely at this point in the pandemic the Council is already progressing work and an item is due to come to the Board in October.

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Recycling Rates	Yes- This is an issue which is consistently of interest and where it is key to engage with the public to educate on recycling in order to get the overall rates up and waste figures down across the county.	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Recycling is certainly a significant issue in accordance with the councils 'Green Masterplan' as an issue very high up on the strategic agenda as well as working in collaboration with the government's policies for a 'Green Industrial Revolution' and green recovery.</p> <p>Some districts have begun the rollout of further bins for separated recycling, North Kesteven Purple Bins will be for paper and card and the council wants this across the whole county by 2024. The council also works with the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) which in 2020-21 ensured that of the 350,000 tonnes of waste dealt with by them, 40% was recycled, reused, or composted and it's important to ensure that this is conveyed to the public at large to ensure Lincolnshire County Council has a green image and reputation.</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Scrutiny would allow members to see whether targets are being met or how feasible they are to achieve.</p> <p>Recycling and having a 'green' approach, is a topic of discussion which is evolving and changing all the time and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>It's important that the council keeps up to date with the latest information and technology in the green industry particularly in recycling, which scrutiny will be able to assist in doing.</p>	<p>Yes- Scrutiny isn't likely to be duplicated within other work unless covered when discussing certain elements of agricultural sector support and approaches to green farming.</p> <p>Specifically recycling seems to be in a position for timely review as a single issue, with the current rollout of the new purple bins across the county.</p> <p>A significant part of service provision for recycling is provided by district and borough and there is potential for duplication with their scrutiny functions.</p>
Capital Programme Planning	Yes- Capital Programming is fundamental to the services that are provided by the council and often where the organisation is judged publically especially through highways and road quality.	<p>Moderate</p> <p>The current capital programme encompassed a spend of £119m in 2019/20 and a further £146m in future years.</p> <p>Investment in capital programmes is a major part of the 'Levelling Up' agenda. The council submitted bids prioritising road improvement and development particularly in the south-east of the county around the A16 totalling around £20 million.</p> <p>Within the council's budget it has been proposed that funding for the net capital programme will be primarily from borrowing £111.213m 2021/22 which is a significant vote of confidence in investing in the vision for Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Scrutiny has already identified and submitted the capital programme. Outside of the 'Levelling Up' fund the budget moved £12.300m from the existing New Developments Capital Fund to create a Rural Road Fund. Subsequently it will be difficult for scrutiny to enforce any changes or developments to already enacted policy especially on such a financially large scale.</p>	<p>Partial- Scrutiny would not be duplicating other specific work however it does already have a role to play in scrutinising the Council's budget which can include the capital programme. With the Council's next Government funding settlement not due until the Winter it would not seem timely to progress this review.</p> <p>With this financial year, projects have already been decided on and in some cases commenced. It may not be prudent to begin scrutiny until the preceding months prior to a new budget.</p>

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Community Engagement	Yes- Community Engagement is an important part of having positive relations with local residents.	<p>Low</p> <p>A key strategic aim of the Corporate Plan is to "Provide good-value council services". However resident involvement with surveys and verbal responses is statistically very low.</p> <p>Undoubtedly community engagement is significant in providing the council with legitimacy and transparency, but this should not be considered a significant priority at this moment in time with key policy changes in key areas influencing the county coming up in the short-term.</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Scrutiny can seek to identify what modes of communication with the community can increase resident participation; and how to improve on the low levels of response to recent surveys.</p> <p>Possible improvements to direct communication channels between the council and communities could be addressed, but other topic areas are likely to be of greater significance to not only the council but also due to their impact on the community.</p>	<p>No- Scrutiny is not particularly timely in relation to any national or local policy requirements.</p> <p>Scrutiny would potentially duplicate work that is being commenced through the community strategy to improve the Council's engagement activity.</p>

Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of *Lincolnshire Agricultural Sector Support*

Purpose of the Review

To review the impact of the introduction of the Agriculture Act 2020 on Lincolnshire farmers regarding new approaches to farm payments and land management, producing “public goods” and improving fairness in the agricultural supply chain and on the operation of agricultural markets.

To consider how Lincolnshire County Council may develop its leadership and support to the agricultural sector in Lincolnshire.

Terms of Reference

- (1) To examine ways of developing support to meet the unmet needs of the agricultural sector in Lincolnshire, including mental health and any hardships arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and the EU Transition.

The Council should take into close consideration the short- and medium-term changes and implications under the new legislation replacing the Common Agricultural Policy which supplied 1.9 billion euros in subsidy. The government has identified the Path to Sustainable Farming by 2028.

There are several different schemes within the new legislation that will directly affect Lincolnshire farmers and it should be closely considered how the council communicates the greatest changes that the industry has faced in over 40 years. There is a move away from the Basic Payment Scheme towards new policies that will be tested together with farmers, land managers and experts. Direct Payments are to be reduced over the next four years and further reductions will be applied until the last payments are made in 2027.

The new implications upon the supply of labour are not clear now freedom of movement has ended. Due to COVID travel restrictions, it has been a challenging harvest season for Lincolnshire farmers. The government increased the number of visas available under the Seasonal Worker Pilot (SWP) from 10,000 in 2020 to 30,000 this year which could be seen as a possible longer-term solution in Lincolnshire to deal with any labour shortfalls.

It may be important to consider mental health implications on those within the industry. The Lincolnshire Rural Support Network says it's seen an increase in the number of farming families seeking support, from 193 to March this year as opposed to 160 for the same period last year in figures released in June 2021. A pre-pandemic survey by the Farm Safety Foundation found 84% of farmers aged under 40 believe mental health is the biggest hidden problem they face which would only have been exasperated by the pandemic. Therefore, the council need to continue the commitment to road

improvements in the most rural of areas and continuing the rollout of superfast broadband which currently to ensure that the most isolated are well connected.

- (2) To examine and review what skills and training provision is required for agricultural businesses, as well as to seek ways to disseminate best practice amongst these.

The key role of the council within these times of change is to maintain strong communication and relationships with an industry which contributes so heavily to the regional economy. A possible advisory board could be put in place by the council specialising in these areas of legislative change which would give the agricultural business's a direct contact for queries. Also, the council could offer possible training and course enrolment to those who may require more detailed information and education on the broad scale changes that have been seen over the past 18 months and will continue into the future.

- (3) To consider ways of supporting/encouraging farms 'Going Green' (i.e., incentives for environmental improvements, reducing CO2 emissions etc.) in line with the Lincolnshire Green Masterplan.

Within the governments Agricultural Transition Plan there are changes to ensure that farmers can sustainably produce healthy food profitably without subsidy, whilst taking steps to improve the environment, improve animal health and welfare and reduce carbon emissions. The Sustainable Farming Incentive pilot will reward farmers for managing their land in an environmentally sustainable way supporting the aims of the Lincolnshire Green Masterplan particularly within carbon management. Lincolnshire County Council has been awarded over £280,000 for farmers and landowners in the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This will be for projects that support nature recovery, mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide opportunities for people to discover and to support nature-friendly sustainable farm businesses. There are possible opportunities for further funding and investment from DEFRA in the future, therefore 'Going Green' has to be a major incentive for farmers.

Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify how Lincolnshire County Council can support one of the most important sectors in the county. Benefits of this review include:

- (1) Enhancing the Council's leadership role in terms of engaging with farmers on a wide variety of topics, such as retirement, changing careers, diversification, alternative land use, tackling red tape, benefits of small farms joining together, succession planning and adapting to changes.
- (2) To identify if there is a need for a Lincolnshire agricultural masterplan, to build upon the environmental role of Lincolnshire farms, to sit in parallel with the Lincolnshire Green Masterplan.

- (3) To review ways of reducing the carbon footprint of Lincolnshire farms and encourage farm owners to 'Go Green' in line with the Lincolnshire Green Masterplan.
- (4) The identification of key skills and training required and how these can be delivered in partnership with key stakeholders.
- (5) Identification and dissemination of best practice and success stories as well as setting benchmarking examples.
- (6) Identification of gaps in support for the farming industry could be used for lobbying the government.

Exclusions from Review

This review will focus on the agricultural sector and the support available to Lincolnshire farmers. All other types of businesses outside the agricultural sector will be excluded from the review.

Completion Dates

Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee – 12 April 2022

Executive – 7 June 2022

Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of *Lincolnshire Town Centre Improvements*

Purpose of the Review

To review the changing role of the high street; infrastructure needs; and the use and impact of Town Fund Deals on the revitalisation of town centres around the county to create welcoming and safe centres for a post pandemic Lincolnshire.

To consider how Lincolnshire County Council may develop its leadership and support to the Tourism and Hospitality sector in Lincolnshire following the impact from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Terms of Reference

1. Understand changes in behaviours, shopping, land use and the impact of technology on the future of high streets across Lincolnshire and how that changes the infrastructure and services needed in town centres.
2. Consider delivery of existing Towns Fund deals; future project pipelines and the ways in which the Council could effectively support such changes and projects.
3. To examine how the Council can support the needs of the hospitality sector in town centres, including hardships arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and the EU Transition.
4. To identify the best practice of supporting green recovery of the high street.

Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify how Lincolnshire County Council can support one of the most important sectors in the county. Benefits of this review include:

1. Enhancing the Councils awareness of the need to create diverse and successful town centres on a long-term basis by recognising what makes Lincolnshire's town centres special.

Design should celebrate the historical character and local identity with high-quality streets and public realm, creating a sense of pride and belonging in the local area. Recent figures show that 57% of total spending in the UK made during heritage-related visits is from inbound visitors. The Councils £22m renovation of Lincoln Castle alone doubled tourism alone, giving an indication of prediction if other aspects were to also be renovated.

2. Identification of the importance to merge the strength of local and digital commerce to create a better connected, digitally enabled high street. Technology could allow for high-street shoppers to encounter an experience better tailored to their preferences, drawing their attention and creating suggestions which may have not been considered previously. The enhancement of re-establishing local high streets allows for everyday services to become more accessible, amplifying the importance to shop local to the public.

Restaurants, cafes, pubs, cinemas and other important non-retail services need to similarly be able to maximize opportunities offered by digital technology to understand and target customers better. Lincolnshire's digital strategy should link the understanding of underperforming sectors with an understanding of identity, branding and place marketing as well as wider pooling and sharing of data. The local leadership of a place-based digital strategy should also consider the role of digital as part of local stakeholder engagement.

3. To review how Town Centres can become a community hub where people "work, rest and play", not just centres for retail.

The success of local high streets must offer the public experiences which cannot be purchased online. On a practical level, small independent food retailer could offer cookery classes, or a music retailer could create in-store gigs, providing shoppers with an enjoyable, rewarding and personalised experience.

The Council's use of the £30m Changing Places Fund announced in March 2021 to increase the provision of Changing Places toilets in public building further allows for accessible facilities allowing for the public to enjoy the Town Centre for longer periods of time.

4. Identification and dissemination of best practice and success stories as well as setting benchmarking examples.
5. The identification of key skills and training required and how these can be delivered in partnership with key stakeholders.
6. To review emerging future plans revolving around the Town fund and whether such projects are compatible with current transport infrastructure.
7. To review ways of reducing the carbon footprint of Lincolnshire's towns by adapting to a greener way of travelling to and from town centres in line with the Lincolnshire Green Masterplan.

Neighbourhood planning principle adopts that stance that town centres should have accessible vital services within a short walk or cycle. This would allow for the public to have access to their everyday needs and services closer to home, resulting in less individuals relying on the efficiency of online shopping. 30% of retired people and a large number of non-retired do not have access to a car. This includes many essential workers which the county has relied upon over the last few months. Rather than giving up on public transport, it is important that we create a safe and reliable public transport system. Enabling safe travel between

transport hubs, including train and bus stations and park and ride (cycle) alongside safe connecting cycle routes into town centres is vital. By reducing private car traffic on the roads of Lincolnshire, congestion will subsequently be reduced which is often the main cause of unreliable public transport services.

Exclusions from the Review

This review will focus on the improvements of Lincolnshire's Town Centres and the support to those affected. All other types of business outside the sector will be excluded from the review.

Completion Dates

TBC

Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of *Children and Young People: Young Carers*

Purpose of the Review

To review and consider whether the balance of awareness raising both within the Local Authority, and with partners communities, is appropriate; and whether service provision both face to face and virtual is accessible and relevant to those who need it most.

Terms of Reference

1. Following the increased identification of young carers since the Covid-19 Pandemic, consider ways in which the Council could effectively support the needs of those new and old to role of caring in Lincolnshire.
2. To examine ways of which the Council can develop further media coverage of the issues to ensure all young carers know where to access information and support for themselves and their families.

Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify how Lincolnshire's County Council can support the increasing number of young carers in the county. Benefits of the review include:

1. Enhancing the Councils awareness of the increase of young carers since the Covid-19 Pandemic and how the support they receive has had to adapt to the changing circumstances of family life.
Some children have begun caring for the first time and others have had their caring role change or increase during lockdowns. Our own staff and schools have responded to the additional challenges posed by Covid-19 restrictions.
2. Identification of the need to develop further support for the increasing number of young carers within Lincolnshire.

Young Carers' rights were strengthened under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014. Since this time the service has been integrated within Children's Services Early Help, whilst also maintaining support to partners in identifying and supporting young carers and their families. The service also works collaboratively with Adult Services and Public Health. Caring is a significant factor in the lives of many Lincolnshire families, with an estimated 7,000 young carers in the County.

Media and social media coverage of the issues for young carers has increased nationally and locally. As well as the challenges faced by young carers, Lincolnshire has tried to maintain a positive message to young carers and our young carers have been proud to tell us about their roles.

Our young carers participation group is going from strength to strength; and our young people, their families and our staff, would value the opportunity to tell their

stories, and be recognised by councillors for the positive contributions they are already making. There is however more for us to do.

3. To review the need to have tailored methods of accessible information and support for young carers as each young carer's situation is unique.
4. We need to ensure all young carers know where to access information and support for themselves and their families. In particular, we recognise that children and young people caring for family members with mental health problems, or who misuse drugs or alcohol, are less likely to identify as a young carer or access support. We also know that early identification of support for young carers at the point of diagnosis of their parents or carers would ensure need is met early and our engagement with wider partners, in particular GPs, would enable this to happen consistently.

Exclusion from the Review

This review will focus on the development of Lincolnshire's County Councils tailored support to young carers due to the increase following Covid-19. All other types of business outside the sector will be excluded from the review.

Completion Dates

TBC

Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of

Children and Young People: Restoring Family Relationships

Purpose of the Review

To review the outcome following the work of the RFR developed in late 2020 and whether the suitable young people are being provided with the necessary timely support and advice whilst considering what amendments should be considered to create a more efficient approach and outcome.

Terms of Reference

1. To review whether the work of the RFR team with young people provides them with the necessary timely support and advice whilst ensuring that a relationship-based approach exists between a young person and their practitioner.
2. To identify how preventative work with young people and their family networks can de-escalate conflict and promote reconciliation and stability within the family home.
3. To consider the views of parents and carers in how they have been supported and the outcomes that have been achieved through a collaborative and restorative approach.

Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify how Lincolnshire's County Council can further support the Restoring Family Relationships Team:

1. To review the current significant impacts of the recently developed RFR team and to establish how their work can be further expanded to provide timely necessary support at the early stages of the breakdown in family relationships.

The Restoring Family Relationship (RFR) Team is integrated within Future4me and was established in late 2020. There was a recognised need to promote a consistent and far more preventative approach to promoting family stability to mitigate the prospect of youth homelessness and also avoid where possible late entrants into care. Evidence captured through presentations by young people indicates that a breakdown in family relationships is the main cause of youth homelessness.

Despite having only been established for a short period of time through Department for Education (DfE) funding, the team has a critical role to play in ensuring our response to family breakdown is timely, promotes restorative principles, ensures that parents and carers adopt appropriate accountability and works to achieve stability and reconciliation.

2. Enhancing the Councils awareness and need of the procedures put in place to build relationships with young people and their family network to avoid conflict and promote reconciliation and stability within the family home.

The commissioned housing service delivered by NACRO for 16/17-year-olds provides a key option within our accommodation pathway and gives invaluable support to young people whilst residing there. However, it is vital that the accommodation is only utilised where absolutely necessary and decisions to utilise it are crucially led by young people's needs.

The Restoring Family Relationships Team seeks to offer a consistent preventative approach to those young people presenting as Youth Homeless at District Councils across the County and look at mediation and family relationship so wherever possible families remain together with support. The team has continued to work within the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and has a broader remit to promote young people's aspirations and focus on education, work, social opportunities and their mental health and well-being wherever needed.

Work in this area is demanding and resource intensive, and actions and decisions have significant consequences both in terms of long-term outcomes for children and young people and financial implications for the Local Authority. As a consequence, the teamwork within complex and sometimes volatile dynamics which require a dedicated and proportionate focus and expertise.

Exclusion from the Review

This review will focus on the development of Lincolnshire's County Councils support to the Restoring Family Relationships Team. All other types of business outside the sector will be excluded from the review.

Completion Dates

TBC

Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of
Traffic Speed Management Review in Lincolnshire

Purpose of the Review

To review and consider what the challenges are and what opportunities exist for effective speed management around the county to be achieved.

Terms of Reference

1. To consider and develop approaches to ensure sensible driving, availability of resources and funds, engagement with the public as well as specific measures and enforcement to inhibit speeding.

Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify how Lincolnshire's County Council can further support the reoccurring issue of speeding regularly raised at Parish Council meetings and on local community forums:

1. To identify and consider the potential further deterrents likely to decrease the number of speeding incidents and complaints concerning residents across the County.

This may include the installation of Speed Indicator Devices, use of Covert Surveillance and Community Speedwatch along with other initiatives being considered and assessed as part of the review and of the new policy development.

Exclusion from the Review

This review will focus on the development of Lincolnshire's County Councils support to create effective speed management around the county due to the ongoing concern. All other types of business outside the sector will be excluded from the review.

Completion Dates

TBC

Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of

Increased numbers of Domestic Abuse during Covid-19 Lincolnshire

Purpose of the Review

To review the increased numbers of domestic abuse cases during the Covid-19 Pandemic and consider the potential support of the Council to those concerned.

For the purpose of this review, the term Domestic Abuse includes both male and female victims as well as children.

Terms of Reference

1. To consider the need of an in-depth analysis of how domestic abuse figures were captured in data and how they were incorporated in systems to ensure that issues were addressed effectively during the pandemic and beyond.

Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify how Lincolnshire's County Council can further support those affected by domestic abuse during the pandemic and beyond:

1. Enhancement of the Councils awareness of the increase of domestic abuse during the pandemic and to consider how the Council can support those involved.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic there is a notable increase in Domestic Abuse cases not only in Lincolnshire but also across country. This increase is linked to the constraints endured by individuals in terms of previous lockdowns and social distancing restrictions (amongst other reasons).

Exclusion from the Review

This review will focus on the awareness of the increase in Domestic Abuse cases during and following the Covid-19 Pandemic and how the Council can further support those affected. All other types of business outside the sector will be excluded from the review.

Completion Dates

TBC

Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of *Community Engagement*

Purpose of the Review

To review how the delivery of the County Council's engagement service and implementation of improvements set out within the Community Strategy.

Terms of Reference

1. To identify the potential reasons for low participation the recent surveys and how Community engagement can be improved.
2. To consider whether proposed improvement plans will deliver effective change in engagement activity and any additional needs.

Benefits of the Review

This review will help to identify the explanation for such low participation with the Council and to consider methods to increase community engagement:

1. To identify the concerns raised surrounding the Community Strategy and methods employed in engaging with local communities and particularly with those more challenging areas across the county.

Participation in the survey for the Community Strategy was low (39 individuals in total) which raised questions around the effectiveness of reaching out to consult the population of Lincolnshire and approach the communities to gauge and capture their views.

2. To review and consider the adaptation of alternative methods of the Council to increase community engagement.
Community engagement was thought to be far from satisfactory and therefore a better way to move forward would be sought through this review.

Exclusion from the Review

All engagement activity will be included, but changes to the recently completed Community Strategy will be excluded from the review.

Completion Dates

TBC