

REPORT UNDER RULE 2(VI) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**Report by Councillor Chris Burke MBA, Chair of Policy Scrutiny Committee****Introduction**

This year's Policy Scrutiny Committee's membership consists of the following Councillors: Laura McWilliams, Andy Kerry, Ralph Toofany, Pat Vaughan, Christopher Reid, Bob Bushell, and Bill Bilton.

Substitute member(s): Councillors Gary Hewson and Kathleen Brothwell.

The vice-chair of the committee is Councillor Bill Bilton.

Officers attending include: Steve Bird, Heather Grover, Claire Burroughs, Joanne Crookes, Yvonne Fox and Martin Walmsley

The committee has been, since May, scrutinising and discussing major themes and making recommendations, among them:

- The City of Lincoln Council Fairtrade Policy and Fairtrade Audit.
- That the adoption of the Modern Slavery Statement and Charter Against Modern Slavery be supported.
- That the City of Lincoln new scheme for Mandatory Licensing of Homes in Multiple Occupation be supported and the enforcement of high standards be maintained including appropriate fines and controls on Rogue Landlords.
- A Commemorative Plaque Scheme for Lincoln proposed to recognise outstanding contributors to our City and be monitored to ensure women are recognised as much as men.
- Proposals to introduce a Public Space Protection Order to allow St Peters Passage Lincoln to be gated
- The work of the Protecting Vulnerable People Group
- The Joint Protocol on Unauthorised Encampments in Lincolnshire

The committee is also due to consider the Health and Environment Enforcement Policy and the Housing Strategy this municipal year.

As the range of subjects discussed above clearly shows this has been a hard working committee and I would like to thank members, officers and external contributors for their excellent standards of commitment to the Scrutiny process. The Committee had a number of recently elected councillors who stepped up to the plate very quickly and effectively showing a passion for fairness and the just treatment of our residents, particularly our more vulnerable ones.

The Committee highlighted that the proposed new scheme of Mandatory Licensing of Homes in Multiple Occupation not only implemented the recent legislative changes but also made best use of the Council's discretionary powers to set good standards of amenities and room sizes and use licence conditions to uphold good property management practices. This reflected the Council's Vision 2020 priorities to

improve the standard of private sector housing in the city and tackle rogue landlords. This approach was typical of our treatment regarding all of the matters before us.

I have also provided regular updates on the work of the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) held on 13 June, 11 July and 12 September 2018, which I attended on behalf of the City Council. The subjects and organisations scrutinised were:

- Children and Young Persons Service.
- Lincolnshire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership Update
- Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service for NHS Lincolnshire CCG's Thames Ambulance Service Limited.
- The 2017 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for Lincolnshire
- Children and Young Persons at Lincolnshire NHS Trust – Risk to Safety of the Services
- Review of Clinical Commissioning Group – Arrangements to Support Lincolnshire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership
- Future Model of Service Provision of Specialist Health Services to People with a Learning Disability
- Children and Young Persons at ULHT update
- United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust – Update on Care Quality Commission Inspection
- East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust Update
- Non-Emergency Patient Transport for Lincolnshire – Thames Ambulance Service Limited
- Renal Dialysis Services in Lincolnshire
- Lincolnshire Sustainability and Transportation Partnership – Acute Service Review Consultation Plan

It is worth noting that I supported the Health Scrutiny Committee in calling for the Non-Emergency Patient Transport for Lincolnshire service provided by Thames Ambulance Service to be made accountable. The HSC had serious concerns about how this service is being run and despite an improvement plan being put in place, we have no confidence that improvements will be made to deliver the service that our residents deserve.

As well as a vote of no confidence in the service, the committee also unanimously voted to request monthly updates on the performance of the non-emergency transport system in Lincolnshire.

Work Programme

The following items are programmed to be scrutinised for 2019. These include:

- Review of Mutual Exchange Policy
- Waste Strategy Public Consultation Survey
- Business Rates Growth Policy
- Fair Trade Policy
- Review of Fraud and Sanction Policy

- People Strategy Post Implementation Review
- Customer Experience Strategy Progress Report

I encourage Members of the Committee to identify future items from the new Executive Work Programme and elsewhere for inclusion in the work programme for 2019/20.

Summary

In my experience from 2014 until now this Scrutiny Committee has tackled issues from Article 4 (Houses in Multiple Occupation) to Rogue Landlords, looked at our approach to vulnerable people in a range of situations including our reflections on homelessness. This vital work continues to look at the need to radically update or introduce policy to meet the needs of a vibrant City experiencing constant changes and challenge. Policy Scrutiny, performing its effective role, ensures that the Executive receives an informed and well considered guide to its decision making function.

Councillor Chris Burke MBA
Chair of Policy Scrutiny Committee