

**REPORT UNDER RULE 2(vi) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES****Report by Councillor Bill Bilton, Chair of Policy Scrutiny Committee**

Madam Mayor – Members of the Council:

I am sure I will not need to remind members of the dramatic changes that have taken place since my last report to Full Council in January 2020 as Chair of Policy Scrutiny Committee. The impact of coronavirus has significantly affected both the way in which our committee carries out its business and the approach of members to the topics we scrutinise.

I would like to thank members and officers for their support and efforts in allowing Policy Scrutiny Committee to continue its work in acting as a critical friend to the Council. All members of the committee regardless of political background are committed to trying to deliver the best outcomes for the city and guiding the development of policy towards achieving the Council's strategic priorities.

Our committee has had a typically broad range of policies and strategies to scrutinise this year including the following topics:

- Vision 2025
- Allocations Policy
- Motion to Reduce and Regulate the use of Fireworks
- Modern Slavery Charter and Statement Review
- Lincoln Social Responsibility Charter
- Review of the Trusted Landlord Scheme
- Public Space Protection Orders
- Planning White Paper Consultation
- Draft Housing Strategy 2020-25
- Built Facilities Strategy
- Physical Activity Strategy
- Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22
- Temporary Accommodation Strategy
- Environmental Policy

An ongoing and recurring theme has been the challenge posed by cars parked on grass verges in different areas of the city. Members are understandably concerned about the impact this can have in disrupting the flow of traffic through key areas of the city. There is a particular concern regarding the impact on vulnerable people who may be unable to catch buses or use footpaths as a result of obstructions caused by these parked cars.

Officers have sought to engage with the issue both through the Council's own resources and by talking to partner organisations across the city. I am sure members

will recognise that there are no easy answers to this problem and I have little doubt that it will continue to be a topic for much more debate in the coming year. I would like to thank the Lincoln Tenants' Panel for its valuable input and efforts in taking the matter forward for consultation.

I continue to act as the Council's representative on the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire, which is hosted by Lincolnshire County Council. After an interruption of several months during the first stages of the pandemic, the Health Scrutiny Committee resumed its meetings in June 2020 and has continued to meet regularly since then.

I provide regular updates to Policy Scrutiny Committee regarding the Health Scrutiny Committee's work. As members of Full Council will appreciate, the last year has been a time of unprecedented challenges for the National Health Service and many other organisations devoted to public health. I am sure all members would join me in thanking healthcare workers for their devotion and hard work throughout the last year battling against huge difficulties under incredible pressure.

The Health Scrutiny Committee has attempted to understand and to provide input into the delivery of health services across the county. While coronavirus has with good reason often dominated the discussion of healthcare, we will all recognise that there remain many other health challenges, whether pre-existing or affected by the current crisis that the Health Scrutiny Committee should strive to keep on its radar.

I am sure the coming year will be another unpredictable and demanding one. Our council, city, and country all face many different challenges and the role of the Policy Scrutiny Committee will remain to give members an opportunity to shape the Council's response to these challenges in the most effective way. Thank you again to all officers and members who have assisted us in trying to do that this year.

**Councillor Bill Bilton**  
**Chair of the Policy Scrutiny Committee**