

**REPORT UNDER RULE 2(vi) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES REPORT
BY COUNCILLOR BILL BILTON, CHAIR OF POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

My last report to Council was delivered on 23 February 2021 during the third national lockdown. I was pleased to be able to report then that the Policy Scrutiny Committee had carried on undertaking its duties throughout the challenges of the previous year.

I am glad to be able to report that, again, despite the various changes to ways in which the Policy Scrutiny Committee could meet over the past year, it has continued fulfil its role. We have continued to scrutinise a wide variety of council business without diminishing the important role of the committee is holding decision-making bodies to account and trying to ensure the right decisions are made for Lincoln.

This year the committee has considered the following topics, alongside its regular items for update and review:

- Management of Change in Development Management
- Public Conveniences Service Review
- Environmental Policy
- Corporate Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2021 - 2025
- Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Consultation Draft
- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Renewal of Public Spaces Protection Order allowing for the Gating of St Peters Passage
- CCTV Update
- Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23
- Draft Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan Report
- Resident Engagement, Building Safety

As part of my role as chair, I am nominated as the Council's nominee on the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire. The joint committee's principal role is to scrutinise substantial developments or variations to NHS services in Lincolnshire.

Members will need no reminding of the challenges faced by the NHS this year across the country. Lincolnshire has faced particular challenges, some driven by the coronavirus pandemic and others exacerbated by it.

While the opportunity to provide input to and receive reports from those managing local health services is useful, there is of course limited scope within the Health Scrutiny Committee to effect substantial change.

As such, I am keen to see the Policy Scrutiny Committee take on and expand its role in scrutinising the impact of the Council's services on local people's health and wellbeing.

The committee has recently highlighted its interest in what the Council is doing to tackle the significant disparities in the health of people living in different wards in and outside Lincoln. The problem is undoubtedly a very complex one, rooted in the development of the city and the country over many years.

While members will be aware of the limits of both the Council's powers and budgets to tackle healthcare issues, it is vital that we do all we can both to target our resources as effectively as possible and to use our influence to bring Lincoln to the top of the agenda for other bodies.

Throughout the coming year I am sure members will have particular regard to the potential impact of proposed policy changes upon health and wellbeing. In addition, we look forward to receiving data in the near future which will allow members to consider the health disparities in further detail and to understand better the factors which have led to them.

I would like to offer my grateful thanks to all councillors who have contributed to the committee's work over the past year, as well as to officers for the reports and support provided to the committee during that time.

Members of every party continue to have a crucial role to play in bringing their local knowledge and experience to bear on the significant policy decisions which are brought to the committee for scrutiny.

I hope the coming year will allow the committee to continue its role in supporting the Council to deliver the best services possible for the people of Lincoln.

Councillor Bill Bilton
Chair of the Policy Scrutiny Committee