

# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/2023



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## The Role and Function of Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny is about improving performance and providing better services for local people.

During 2022/2023, most Council decisions were taken by a Cabinet of 10 members (including the Leader of the Council). The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to hold the Cabinet to account for its decisions, develop policy and monitor performance.

Whilst Overview and Scrutiny committees cannot compel change, their power of influence is through the making of recommendations based on reviews and investigation.

At South Holland District Council (SHDC), the scrutiny of existing and new policies is undertaken by the Policy Development Panel whilst the review of performance is the function of the Performance Monitoring Panel.

The Policy Development Panel and the Performance Monitoring Panel occasionally meet together as a joint panel to review and investigate issues of mutual/overlapping interest such as the scrutiny of the Council's proposed budget.

A framework for joint scrutiny activity across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership's (S&ELCP) three constituent authority areas, of South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey, has been developed to enable members to scrutinise matters of common strategic interest which would benefit from a partnership approach.

## Introduction from the Chairman of the Performance Monitoring Panel

Over the past year, the Performance Monitoring Panel has continued its role as the authority's Critical Friend. The Panel receives regular reports and reviews the performance of the authority against a variety of performance indicators, feeding back advice as a result.

There have also been several joint panels held, together with Policy Development Panel, to consider subjects of common interest, like budget preparation.

As part of the partnership working with Boston and East Lindsey some joint scrutiny has been undertaken, including joint task groups.

Task Groups continue to be one of the most valuable parts of the panel's work and included the South Holland Centre with a variety of recommendations going forward to Cabinet. The panel will continue to monitor delivery of those recommendations.

During the last year of a Council term, it is always difficult to keep the enthusiasm of members to contribute particularly when the demands have been increased because of added workload due to the Partnership demands. However, I would like to thank, particularly my Vice Chairman Councillor Michael Booth for his total support, members of the panel, support officers, members and officers who have appeared before us for their assistance. A special thank you to members of the public who have assisted by giving evidence before task groups.

As one council term closes and a new one opens, only time will tell what the future holds for PMP.

Councillor Bryan Alcock  
Performance Monitoring Panel Chairman



## Introduction from the Chairman of the Policy Development Panel

A lot has changed since writing my last report, with the most notable change being the new Joint Partnership with Boston Borough and East Lindsey District Councils.

With this came the joint scrutiny across the partnership and in many cases aligning previously held sovereign Council policies with new policies brought together through the partnership. I am sure there is a cost saving to this, both to each Council and ultimately the taxpayer.

Joint Scrutiny has also brought the 3 authorities together by way of Task Groups.

With the introduction of the Joint Partnership, we now work with two Policy registers - one for the Partnership and one for SHDC as Sovereign Council. Prior to the partnership, we have held a proud record of being on top of our SHDC Policy register and making sure it is always current and up to date. This continues for SHDC own policies, but some have been delayed where there is alignment across the Partnership and will iron themselves out as the Partnership evolves.

We continue to work in partnership with our fellow Scrutiny members on the Performance Monitoring Panel and I thank the Chairman Councillor Bryan Alcock and Vice-Chairman Councillor Michael Booth for allowing us to work in a collective and positive manner. Similarly, a joint scrutiny panel Task Group to look at the South Holland Centre has been established and is currently still running.

In closing, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to my previous Vice-Chairman Glynis Scalese and new Vice-Chairman Cllr Laura Eldridge for their support, to Corey Gooch for keeping the Policy Registers updated, the officers for all the work they do behind the scenes and finally to members past and present in allowing me the honour to be Chairman. As we now have a new administration with several new members, I look forward to new ideas and the scrutiny process being used to maximum effect for the benefit of SHDC, its residents, and those included in the wider partnership.

**Councillor Andrew Woolf**  
Policy Development Panel Chairman



## Committee Memberships 2022 / 2023

### Policy Development Panel

Cllr Andrew Woolf *Chairman*

Cllr Glynis Scalese *Vice Chairman*

Cllr James Avery

Cllr Allan Beal

Cllr Francis Biggadike

Cllr Henry Bingham

Cllr Michael Booth

Cllr Harry Drury

Cllr Rob Gibson

Cllr Manzur Hasan

Cllr Jack McLean

Cllr Paul Redgate

Cllr Joanne Reynolds

Cllr Graham Rudkin

Cllr Sally Slade

Cllr Simon Walsh

### Performance Monitoring Panel

Cllr Bryan Alcock *Chairman*

Cllr Michael Booth *Vice Chairman*

Cllr Chris Brewis

Cllr Tracey Carter

Cllr Anthony Cronin

Cllr Harry Drury

Cllr Jane King

Cllr Jack McLean

Cllr Nigel Pepper

Cllr Paul Redgate

Cllr Glynis Scalese

Cllr Andrew Tennant

Cllr Jack Tyrrell

Cllr Simon Walsh

Cllr David Wilkinson

As the role of Scrutiny is to hold Cabinet to account, neither panel can include membership from the Cabinet.

## Corporate Management Support

During 2022/2023, each committee was sponsored by a member of the Corporate Management Team to offer support on relevant matters as these arose.

Support for the Policy Development Panel was provided by :



Emily Spicer  
Assistant Director  
for Wellbeing and  
Community Leadership

Support for the Performance Monitoring Panel was provided by :



Matthew Hogan  
Assistant Director  
for Strategic Growth  
and Development

## Committee Meetings and Summary of Work

Both committees have undertaken a full programme of work across the municipal year.

In addition to the consideration of standing items, such as upcoming Key Decisions, the Panels received reports and debated items which were relevant to their specific function.

### Policy Development Panel

During 2022/2023, the Policy Development Panel met 5 times to review existing policies and assist in the shaping of new policies.

The Panel considered the SHDC and S&ELCP Policy Registers at each meeting and the following gives a brief summary of additional work activities undertaken during the year:

Policy Development Panel Meeting Dates	Items and Reports Considered
24 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of HR Policies (Batch 1) including the Disciplinary Policy and Grievance Policy</li> <li>• Records Management Policy</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy and Procedures</li> </ul>
12 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of HR Policies (Batch 2) including Managing Sickness Absence and Probation</li> <li>• Debt Management Policy</li> <li>• Sustainable Products Policy <i>N</i></li> <li>• Draft SHDC Derelict and Untidy Sites Policy <i>N</i></li> </ul>
4 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charitable Street and House to House Collections Policies <i>N</i></li> <li>• Review of HR Policies (Batch 3) including Maternity Policy and Adoption Policy</li> <li>• South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Strategy <i>N</i></li> <li>• Draft Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy</li> <li>• Graffiti and Street Art Management Policy 2022 <i>N</i></li> </ul>
13 December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of HR Policies (Batches 4 &amp;5)</li> <li>• Draft S&amp;ELCP Asset Management Strategy 2023-2028</li> <li>• Spalding Cemetery</li> <li>• Draft Litter and Fly-Tipping Engagement and Enforcement Strategy <i>N</i></li> <li>• Housing Comments, Compliments, Complaints and Compensation Policy <i>N</i></li> </ul>
28 February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spalding Cemetery</li> <li>• Health and Wellbeing Strategy <i>N</i></li> <li>• Industrial Units Letting Policy</li> <li>• Housing Tenancy Management Policy</li> </ul>

*N = New Policy*

# Committee Meetings and Summary of Work

## Performance Monitoring Panel

During 2022/2023, the Performance Monitoring Panel met 5 times to review performance and receive requested updates. The meeting held on 14 September 2022 was adjourned following the death of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II and reconvened on 19 October 2022

The following outlines the programme of work activities during the year:

Performance Monitoring Panel Meeting Dates	Items and Reports Considered
15 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q4 Council Performance 2021/2022</li> <li>• Waste Collection Services from Private Roadways</li> <li>• Public Conveniences Refurbishment</li> <li>• Corporate Enforcement</li> <li>• Crime and Disorder</li> <li>• Q4 Swimming Pool and Leisure Facilities Task Group 2021/2022</li> <li>• Annual Joint Scrutiny Task Group for the S&amp;ELCP</li> </ul>
14 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting adjourned</li> </ul>
19 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q1 Council Performance 2022/2023</li> <li>• Animal Welfare Inspections</li> <li>• Q1 Swimming Pool and Leisure Facilities Task Group 2022/2023</li> </ul>
29 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q2 Council Performance 2022/2023</li> <li>• Workforce Development Strategy</li> <li>• Review of Implemented Planning Decisions</li> <li>• Marketing and Renovation of Industrial Units</li> <li>• South Holland Centre Action Plan</li> <li>• Sir Halley Stewart Planning Field Task Group</li> <li>• Investigation of network outage impacting SHDC and the wider Partnership in September 2022</li> </ul>
24 January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime and Disorder</li> <li>• Review of Implemented Planning Decisions</li> <li>• Economic Development and Inward Investment</li> </ul>
14 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q3 Council Performance 2022/2023</li> <li>• Q2 &amp; Q3 Swimming Pool and Leisure Facilities Task Group 2022/2023</li> <li>• Sustainable Products Policy Monitoring Measures</li> <li>• Joint Scrutiny of Public Transport in the S&amp;ELCP area</li> </ul>

## Budget Scrutiny



Examining the Council's proposed budget is one of the most important roles that Overview and Scrutiny undertakes. In January 2023, the Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel held a joint meeting to look at the Budget Overview 2023/2024 and Draft Budget.

Scrutiny councillors considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Development and made a number of recommendations for consideration prior to the budget being presented to the Council for approval.

## Other items considered by the Joint Panel

During the 2022/2023 municipal year, the Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel also met jointly to consider the South Holland Centre Task Group Final Report and the Draft Partnership Digital Strategy and ICT Roadmap.





Scrutiny activity is not limited to committee meetings. Over the last year or so, scrutiny committee members have visited a number of sites around the district to obtain first-hand experience of issues being scrutinised in order to make informed recommendations.

### Review of Implemented Planning Decisions Tour



A function of the Performance Monitoring Panel is to 'revisit a number of implemented planning decisions' so that the quality of Planning decisions and development can be assessed.

During October 2022, members of the Panel visited 9 such sites across the district, of which 7 were residential and 2 were commercial.

The Panel reported 10 positive aspects and suggested 23 areas for improvement. These were then considered by the Planning Committee.

### Shadowing Police Officer Shifts

In Spring 2022, members of the Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel shadowed Police Officer shifts around the district, in order to obtain a better understanding of their work and challenges.

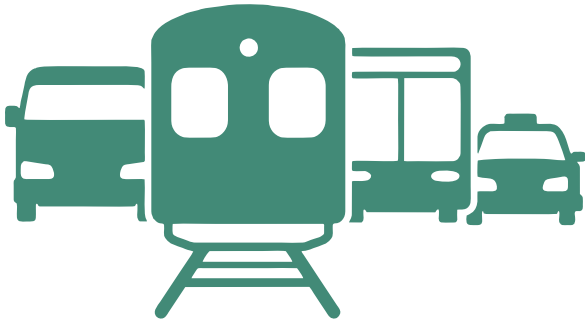
### Task Groups and Site Visits

The following site visits were undertaken by members of Task Groups which had been set up to review and examine issues in greater depth:

- A 'front of house' and 'behind the scenes' tour of the South Holland Centre to inform the work of the South Holland Centre Task Group.
- A tour of the facilities of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field site to assist with the understanding of issues and help to shape the recommendations of the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Task Group.
- A tour of a potential site to help identify the suitable positioning of a Street Art wall.

## Partnership Scrutiny

In addition to SHDC Task Group activities, representatives from the two scrutiny Panels met with their counterparts from Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council to jointly investigate the following areas of mutual interest across the S&ELCP region:



- ▶ Public Transport
- ▶ The South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (S&ELCP)
- ▶ The draft S&ELCP Digital Strategy and ICT Roadmap

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For more information of issues covered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels, please visit the Committees and Democracy page of the SHDC website:  
[www.sholland.gov.uk/councilelections](http://www.sholland.gov.uk/councilelections)

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## Contacting Us



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