



**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL
2004/2005**

CAPACITY AND RESOURCES DSP

Chairman: Councillor Reg Lovelock

Vice Chairman : Councillor Mrs Angeline Percival

Much of this DSP's work was concentrated on the financial and budgetary side of Council activities.

Meeting Date	Commentary
22 nd July 2004	The Work Programme for the year was agreed. At this meeting the Panel examined the local lobbying strategy and "missing millions" campaign. Recommendations were made to Cabinet which were subsequently taken on board.
30 th September 2004	The major item at this meeting was Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) funding. CAB officers were closely questioned about their bid for funding in 2005/6 and about the work of the CAB. Recommendations were made to Cabinet which were subsequently taken on board. There was also an update on the local lobbying campaign. At this meeting, first consideration was given to budget planning for 2005/6. The DSP agreed to schedule an additional meeting for this purpose. The principle of a budget based on a 6% increase in council tax was supported.
29 th October 2004	This was a meeting convened to consider the call-in of the decision to sell Star Lane toilets in Stamford. The Leader of the Council attended this meeting. The DSP recommended that the decision be reconsidered but the original decision was not changed.
1 st November 2004	At this meeting the E government and Customer Services Working Group gave a presentation on their work. The DSP supported the Working Group's recommendation, these were in turn supported by Cabinet and Full Council. The DSP was advised of this year's budget timetable and the key issues to be addressed. A financial summary for 2003/4 was considered. The DSP scrutinised a report of the Business Services Manager on the Council's Procurement Strategy, which was endorsed.

6 th December 2004	At this meeting detailed work was carried out on the budget including the 2004/5 settlement, a pension fund update, special expense areas, salaries and other expenses. The financial aspects of Recycling were also considered.
20 th January 2005	There was further detailed work on the budget, members of the Budget Working Group were in attendance (representatives of the other DSPs)
10 th February 2005	There was scrutiny of the draft 2005/6 Budget including the Capital Programme. Also considered were the financial aspects of the Stock Option Appraisal process.
17 th March 2005	A review of the Council's priorities was considered as were aspects of the financial implications of the Stock Option Appraisal process.
8 th April 2005	Joint meeting with Community DSP (independently chaired) closely scrutinised the Stock Option Appraisal process and could not find a flaw in this process (the merits or otherwise of SOA were not part of this scrutiny)

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT DSP

Chairman: Councillor John Hurst, then Councillor Michael Taylor

Vice Chairman: Councillor Michael Taylor, then Councillor Mano Nadarajah (from January 2005)

SKDC Priority: Access

Meeting Date	Commentary
26 th July 2004	<p>A report on E government was considered and an E government and Customer Services Working Group was established.</p> <p>A letter from British Telecom re the proposed removal of payphones in the District was referred to the DSP by the Portfolio Holder for technology. Recommendations were made to the Portfolio holder regarding a reply to BT, these were accepted by the Portfolio Holder (Cllr Carpenter).</p>
16 th September 2004	<p>The Chairman reported on the action he had taken regarding the proposed withdrawal of the 24 hour GP service from South Kesteven.</p> <p>There was a presentation on completing the Council's prioritisation process.</p> <p>The DSP set up a working party on the Council's generic equalities scheme with a view to the Council achieving level 2.</p>
18 th November 2004	<p>The Freedom of Information Act and its implications for the Council were considered as were the new national. Firework Regulations.</p> <p>Further reports were received from the working groups on E government and equalities.</p>
13 th January 2005	<p>There was a lengthy discussion on Community Forums and in particular the on-line forums. The latter were recommended for closure because of the possibility of misuse.</p> <p>The Panel interviewed the Director of the Lincs Ambulance Service on the management of non serious 999 calls. An invitation to visit the Ambulance Control Centre in Lincoln was accepted.</p> <p>The DSP discussed diversity and discrimination as part of its review of the generic equalities scheme.</p> <p>The DSP considered and endorsed the new local performance indicators.</p>

10th March 2005

There was a review of the operation of the local area assemblies. A further report on equalities was considered as was correspondence from a member of the public regarding the on line forums.

14th April 2005

Feedback was received from the Cabinet regarding its decision on the local area assemblies.
There was further discussion on the community portals and on-line forums with the relevant corporate director in attendance to answer questions.

COMMUNITY DSP

Chairman: Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth

Vice Chairman: Councillor Mrs Joyce Gaffigan

SKDC Priority: Anti Social Behaviour

Meeting Date	Commentary
28 th June 2004	The first meeting of this DSP was called to consider a call-in request in respect of a Cabinet Member decision on the Council's door replacement programme. The relevant Portfolio Holder attended (Councillor Martin-Mayhew). Having considered the evidence the Panel agreed to take no further action on the call-in request.
8 th July 2004	The DSP set its Work Programme for the Year including the establishment of working groups on street drinking and affordable housing.
23 rd September 2004	The Panel devoted this meeting to an in depth scrutiny of housing management issues. Relevant officers and the Portfolio holder were interviewed. Amongst the issues considered were the ongoing problems at Newton Court Colsterworth. A voids and difficult to let working group was established to examine these issues.
11 th November 2004	The Panel considered a call-in request on a non key decision taken regarding Newton Court, Colsterworth. The relevant portfolio holder (Councillor Martin-Mayhew) attended the meeting. Having listened to the evidence the DSP agreed to take no further action on the call-in request. A report was on the new fireworks Regulations was considered. The RSPCA "Quiet Please" campaign was supported (by a majority). Affordable Housing was also considered, it was agreed to revisit this issue in the future. A report was received from the Street Drinking Working Group.
29 th November 2004	This was a special meeting called at short notice to consider an item newly appeared on the Forward Plan – Anti Social Behaviour Policy for Housing Management, a Category A priority for the Council. The Portfolio Holder (Councillor Martin-Mayhew) attended at short notice. Some

suggested amendments to the draft policy were made which were taken on board by the Cabinet. A progress report was also received from the voids and difficult to let working group.

6th January 2005

The Panel received a detailed presentation on stock option appraisal from the Corporate Director Regulatory Services, which outlined the four options available to the Council. The meeting received a visit from Boston Borough Council officers who were looking at scrutiny at other authorities.

3rd March 2005

The Panel received a presentation from Lincolnshire Police on a range of issues including anti social behaviour, street drinking and crime statistics for the area. The Council's Community Safety Manager attended and outlined the new anti social behaviour enforcement policy, a category A priority for the Council.

5th April 2005

This was a call-in meeting, a request for call-in of a non key decision on housing adaptations had been received. The portfolio holder attended the meeting and outlined the reasons for his decision. On hearing the evidence, the Panel decided to take no further action. The Panel was also consulted by the Cabinet on its proposals for affordable housing. On examining the report the DSP decided to refrain from comment until it had received further information later in the year.

8th April 2005

Joint meeting with Capacity and Resources DSP on stock option appraisal process. The joint meeting decided that all procedures had been followed correctly and there had not been any flaws in the process that had led the Stock Option Appraisal Commission (SOAC) to reach its decision. Nb the actual decision of the SOAC was not subject to scrutiny.

ECONOMIC & CULTURAL DSP

Chairman: Councillor John Nicholson

Vice Chairman: Councillor Jeff Thompson

SKDC Priority: Grantham as a Sub Regional Centre

Meeting Date	Commentary
20 th July 2004	Work Programme for the year determined: Initial topics for consideration were Small Business Units Grantham Canal Basin Markets
23 rd September 2004	Councillor Selby presented a report on the work of the Markets Working Group. A number of recommendations to the Portfolio holder were agreed. The Panel considered a Department for Culture, Media and Sport Publication <i>Culture at the heart of Regeneration</i> .
23 rd November 2004	In response to public concerns, the Panel interviewed officers from Transco on the street works currently going on in Grantham. Having questioned the Transco officers the Panel was satisfied with the answers given. The Portfolio holder (Councillor John Smith) attended for a follow-up on the Markets Working Group report. Some of the Group's recommendations were taken on board by the Portfolio holder.
21 st January 2005	This was a special meeting called to consider a Call-in request re the purchase and refurbishment of Thurlby Youth Hostel. The Leader of the Council attended on behalf of the Portfolio holder who was unavailable and stated that she welcomed the chance to revisit this particular decision. The Panel recommended that the Portfolio holder reconsider the original decision.
1 st February 2005	Reports on the Local Development Framework and Small Business Units Working Group were considered.

22nd March 2005

Pre decision scrutiny was carried out on proposals for a science discovery centre and on Leisure Connection.

An explanation was given on the Urban Capacity Study and Interim Housing Policy.

Councillor Selby made a presentation on Skillington in Bloom.

19th April 2005

The Panel received a presentation on the possible formation of a Leisure Trust. There was an update report on markets.

Further reports were received from the working groups relating to small business units and the Grantham Canal Basin.

ENVIRONMENT

Chairman: Councillor George Waterhouse

Vice Chairman: Councillor Nick Craft

SKDC Priorities: Street Scene and Recycling

Meeting Date	Commentary
21 st June 2004	The meeting was convened to consider a call-in request in respect of Car Parking Charges at the multi storey car park in Grantham. The Portfolio holder, Councillor Auger, attended the meeting. Having listened to the evidence, the Panel agreed to take no further action on the call-in request.
13 th July 2004	The Work Programme for the Year was set. This would include Recycling, Street Scene issues and consideration of the draft Lincolnshire Waste Local Plan. A recommendation was also made to the Portfolio holder that spot fines for litter dropping should be implemented across the District.
26 th August 2004	The Chief Executive made a presentation on completing the Council's Prioritisation process. There was a presentation and discussion on waste management and recycling. The portfolio holder reported that he had accepted and actioned the request made at the last meeting in respect of fines for litter dropping.
28 th October 2005	This meeting was called to consider a call-in request in respect of a Cabinet member decision to declare the toilets in Star Lane, Stamford, surplus to requirements. The Portfolio holder (Councillor Martin-Mayhew) attended the meeting. The DSP recommended that the Portfolio holder reconsider his decision; this recommendation was not accepted by the Portfolio holder.
9 th November 2004	Pre decision scrutiny was carried out on the issue of disposal of council car parks, a number of recommendations were made to the Portfolio holder. The Panel revisited its work programme for 2004/5. A report was received from the Street Scene working Group. The issue of universal superloos in Stamford was

considered and a recommendation made to the Cabinet to discontinue the contract for this service.

18th January 2005

There was further discussion on toilet provision in Stamford and the recommendation made to Cabinet in November was reaffirmed. The question of fines for litter dropping was reconsidered. It was agreed that the DSPs concerns should be forwarded to the Police. Pre decision scrutiny was carried out on alternative uses of Watergate Car Park in Grantham, it was recommended that the car park should be retained as a source of income to the Council. In response to concerns locally the DSP considered the issue of Grantham bus services, including written representations from the County Council who were unable to attend.

15th March 2005

The Panel considered a report on a review of the Council's priorities and corporate planning arrangements. Other issues considered were the river care scheme and chewing gum removal machines.

21st March 2005

This was a special meeting called to consider a call-in request in respect of the provision of an attended toilet facility in Grantham. The portfolio holder (Councillor Martin-Mayhew) attended the meeting to answer questions. After much consideration the Panel agreed to ask the Portfolio holder to reconsider his decision regarding the location of the toilet.

31st March 2005

This was a special meeting called to address urgent items that had recently been included in the Forward Plan, namely the future of Watergate and East Street Car Parks and the Housing Needs Survey. In both cases the DSP made recommendations which were accepted by the Cabinet.

12th April 2005

The new Bourne Bypass was considered, aspects considered were HGV usage in villages, speeding and volume of traffic. There was further consideration of recycling, the Lincolnshire Waste Plan and automatic public conveniences. There was a presentation on energy use by the Council's Energy Manager and the Head of Property Services.