



Full Council

10 November

Subject: Review of Working Groups

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

This report sets out work and arising recommendations following a review of the working Groups, Boards and Panels currently in existence. The work has been undertaken in response to a recommendation arising from the Peer Review in January 2025.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

(1) That the Groups/ Boards/ Panels shown in Grey on Appendix 1, namely: -

- **Markets Working Group**
- **Cross Party Flooding Group**
- **Scampton Local Plan Group**
- **Transport Working Group**
- **Sports and Physical Activity Task and Finish Group**
- **Community Awards Panel**

cease.

(2) That the Groups/ Boards/ Panels shown in Peach on Appendix 1, namely: -

- **LCET (Leisure Culture Events and Tourism Working Group**
- **Environment and Sustainability Working Group**
- **Savings Board**

be reworked and refocussed, and this work be undertaken and reported through the relevant parent Committee

(3) That the Groups/ Boards/ Panels shown in White on Appendix 1, namely: -

- Lincolnshire Show Group Task and Finish Group**
- Funding Consultative Panel**
- Community Rights Panel**
- Editorial Advisory Board**
- Appeals Board**
- Community Grants Panel**
- Member Development Group**
- Honours Panel (inc Freeman/Freedom of District)**

Continue and Members be appointed thereto, as set out in the table at Appendix 2 until the Annual General Meeting in May 2027.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

Financial : FIN/115/26/DN

No financial implications

Staffing :

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Data Protection Implications :

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

Health Implications:

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

☐

No

☐

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

☐

No

☐

1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Council underwent a Peer Review process in January 2025 which resulted in a number of recommendations.
- 1.2 The Council has developed an Action Plan in response to the recommendations, and Members have been receiving updates on progress made.
- 1.3 One such recommendation was: -

Recommendation Seven – review the number and frequency of your meetings: The number of committees, boards, meetings and report requirements are increasing. This is negatively impacting on some officer workloads and raising questions about the value of all this work. So review the number and frequency of your meetings to ensure they are as effective as possible. You may also wish to review the purpose, objectives and other issues related to this work to make the most of this opportunity.

- 1.4 The actions agreed to address the recommendation included reviewing the number and purpose of Member Working Groups, with the purpose of the Review being to streamline decision- making and reporting requirements and ensure that capacity for both staff and members was delivery focused.
- 1.5 This report sets out the outcome of that review and makes a number of recommendations as to which Groups should continue, which Groups should remain but be refocussed, and which should cease.

2. Review process.

- 2.1 A total of 17 meetings were identified which could fall into the Working Group, Task and Finish Group, Member Panel or Member Board Category.
- 2.2 These are listed in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The Administration Group Leaders were provided with background information as to when each Group had been established, how often it was meeting, and any information considered pertinent to the review, including the views from the assigned Lead Officer for each Group, where appropriate.

3. Summary of Arising Recommendations

- 3.1 Arising from the work the 17 Groups have been divided into 3 Categories, those which are recommended to remain (shown in white on Appendix 1), those recommended to cease as the work has either completed or can be channelled into another meeting (shown in grey on

Appendix 2) and those recommended to continue but where further work should be undertaken to refine and refocus the purpose of the meeting.

- 3.2 If the recommendations are accepted, the review would see 6 Groups disbanded, 3 Groups refined and refocused, and 8 continuing.
- 3.3 However of the 8 remaining, 4 are Boards/Groups/Panels that only meet as and when required. Their removal would see the need for a Group/Panel/ Board to be established on each occasion the need arose, creating an administrative burden. The Administrations' view, shared through the review process was that they would prefer to have a Board/Group/Panel, established and held in abeyance, as opposed to having to establish one on each occasion. The other 4 in the "remain" category primarily only require support from one team each, and the Lead Officers of these Groups have indicated they find their existence of assistance in undertaking their role.
- 3.4 The Administration also indicated they would wish to re-appoint to those Groups/ Panels and Boards which remain post the review, as these appointments were not re-visited at the AGM or subsequently, pending this review.
- 3.5 Revised appointments to those Groups/ Panels and Boards recommended to remain or be refocussed are detailed in Appendix 2 for Approval

4. Recommendations

- (1) That the Groups/ Boards/ Panels shown in Grey on Appendix 1, cease.
- (2) That the Groups/ Boards/ Panels shown in Peach on Appendix 1, be reworked and refocussed, and this work be undertaken and reported through the relevant parent Committee.
- (3) That the Groups/ Boards/ Panels shown in White on Appendix 1, Continue and Members be appointed thereto, as set out in the table at Appendix 2, until the Annual General Meeting in May 2027.