

# Report to Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

Agenda  
Item:  
**A.5**

Meeting Date: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Portfolio: Cross-cutting  
Key Decision: No  
Within Policy and  
Budget Framework YES  
Public / Private Public

Title: Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18  
Report of: Policy and Communications Manager  
Report Number: OS 12-18

## Purpose / Summary:

The draft Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel sections for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18 are attached.

## Recommendations:

1. Consider and comment on the attached sections of the draft report

## Tracking

Overview and Scrutiny:	Business and Transformation 22/3/18 Health and Wellbeing 29/3/18 Economic Growth 5/4/18
Council:	24/4/18

## 1. BACKGROUND

The Constitution: Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees, 6.03 Specific functions [c] states that: ***‘Annual report. Overview and scrutiny committees must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate’***

This report contains this panel’s draft sections for the Annual Scrutiny Report 2017/18. A new layout for the report was discussed and agreed with Scrutiny Chairs Group, following the meeting in January. This layout is presented below:

1. Introduction
2. Panel(s)
  - 2.1. Personal view from the Chair
  - 2.2. Highlights
3. Call-ins
4. Leader’s view and Portfolio Holders’ views
5. Recommendations for the future work programmes
6. Amendments to working methods

## 2. CONSULTATION

Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel 22/3/18

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel 29/3/18

Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel 5/4/18

Scrutiny Chairs Group 9/4/18 : **A final draft version will be circulated to all panel members prior to this meeting.**

Council 24/4/18

## 3. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider and comment on the attached sections of draft report

<b>Contact Officers:</b>	<b>Steven O’Keeffe</b>	<b>Ext: 7258</b>
<b>Appendices attached to report:</b>	<b>Draft Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel sections for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18</b>	

**Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None**

## Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

Annual report to Council on the workings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels with recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

April 2018

## Introduction

Scrutiny is one of the main checks and balances to the power of the Executive and involves many of the Councillors who are not on the Executive.

The key roles of scrutiny are:

- Ensuring the Executive is accountable. This means questioning members of the Executive and senior officers about decisions that have been made or are about to be made. It also involves looking at how well the Council is doing against its policy objectives and targets for achievement.
- Reviewing and developing policies. In this role, scrutiny can help the Council to develop its policy and budgetary framework. This might involve research and consultation with the community and other agencies on policy issues, good practice and looking at alternative ways of doing things.
- Ensuring the continuous improvement of Council services. Scrutiny can make suggestions to the Executive for service reviews. Members of scrutiny panels are often involved in reviews where a service or function of the Council is thoroughly examined.

In Carlisle, scrutiny operates through three panels; Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel, Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel, Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel.

The Scrutiny Chairs Group (Chairs and Vice Chairs of the three Scrutiny Panels) meets to deal with any overarching scrutiny issues.

There are eight non-Executive members on each panel and each panel is politically balanced (i.e. The proportions of each political party on the panel are the same as on the Council as a whole). Individual Councillors are selected by their political parties to sit on the scrutiny panels.

This annual report provides an overview of the work of the scrutiny function during the 2017/18 civic year.

## Cllr Paul Nedved, Chair of Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

It has been a privilege to Chair the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel and can I extend my thanks to the Members of the Panel for their robust and focused scrutiny of key policy areas through wide-ranging reports and updates.

My thanks also to officers and Portfolio Holders for their attendance and input complimented by the unenviable task of the Committee Clerks and Member Support officers in their support of the scrutiny process.

We have been well supported by the Policy and Communication Manager and the Scrutiny Officer in a time of transition with new Panel names and remits allowing for more Member-led and focussed scrutiny of policy development and agendas.

Scrutiny training and workshops have been beneficial. Setting of work programmes at a Special Meeting at the beginning of the Civic Year with Officers has been really useful and work programmes have been regularly refreshed in line with the priorities of the Council as well as areas of interest outlined by Members.

Other improvements have been the tracking of resolutions and following a performance workshop, new service standards and KPI's. Overall the Panel has undertaken detailed questioning of Council policies and service delivery with meaningful recommendations to the Executive. There is considerable scope for Task and Finish Working in 2018/19.

Central themes of the Economic Growth Panel this Civic Year have been the developing Economic and Housing Strategies, the Garden Village Project, Borderlands Growth Deal and the continuing scrutiny of Future Flood Risk Management.

Personally this has been a most enjoyable and challenging year as Scrutiny Chair and I am extremely grateful for the support I have received from the Panel throughout the year.

### Economic Scrutiny Panel: Key highlights

- Economic Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Garden Village Project
- Borderlands Growth Deal
- Future Flood Risk Management
- Enterprise Zone
- Public Realm
- Tourism and Marketing Plan for the Tourist Information Centre
- Affordable and Specialist Housing Supplementary Planning Document

- Portland Square and Chatsworth Square Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
- Section 106 Monitoring Report
- Budget 2018/19
- Heritage Asset Plan
- Performance Monitoring Reports
- Relationship with Riverside

## Call-ins

- Councillors have called in the Scrutiny Portfolio Holder Decision PF.001/18 – Closure of Carlisle City Council Car Parks taken by the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

## Leader's view and Portfolio Holders' views

### Cllr Anne Quilter, Culture, Heritage & Leisure Portfolio Holder

Scrutiny is an important part of the decision-making process of the Council. Ensuring that the budget is spent wisely is important in the current climate of austerity. All members support Carlisle being ambitious in its plans for the future.

It is right and fair that the Scrutiny Panels robustly investigate Executive proposals.

I would like to thank all members and staff involved in Scrutiny for all their commitment and hard work involved. Let us continue to work together to deliver our ambitions and celebrate our achievements.

### Cllr Heather Bradley, Economy, Enterprise & Housing Portfolio Holder

The scrutiny panels play an important role within the Council, both in scrutinising Executive decisions and in aiding the development of policy. Over time, scrutiny members develop a level of interest and expertise in particular areas of Council responsibility. This experience proves very useful in contributing to the Council's work. I attend the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel and the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel. The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel has taken a special interest in our Homelessness and Prevention Services and allied issues. The Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel has been particularly involved in planning matters and its comments have been useful when consulted on planning documents, with its suggestions incorporated in the final document. I should like to thank the Chairs and panel members for the contribution they have made to the Council.

# Recommendations for the future work programmes

## Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2018/19

1. Economic Strategy
2. Housing Strategy
3. Borderlands Growth Deal
4. Public Realm Improvements
5. Future Flood Risk Management
6. City Centre vitality

## Amendments to working methods

There are no amendments to working methods proposed in this report for 2018/19.

In the new civic year, the Scrutiny Chairs Group will:

- Continue to review the number, frequency and remits of the three panels alongside the [Local Government Boundary Commission Review](#). The Scrutiny Chairs Group will consult with the three panels throughout 2018/19.
- Develop and agree a protocol for Joint Scrutiny Panel meetings for cross-cutting projects and issues.