

Meeting Date: 28th February 2023

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Resources Scrutiny Panel Chairman's Report – Councillor Christine Finlayson**

Resources Panel has not been required to meet in 2022 due to the changes to the Council's Budget Planning processes because of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The Panel chose to meet in January 2023 to receive an update on how issues within their area of remit, such as budget setting, are being picked up by the Shadow Cumberland Council.

The LGR Programme reports updates and progress to the Cumberland Council Shadow Executive and Shadow Scrutiny, the majority of these Reports are in the public domain. (Part A). These Reports have formed the basis for the links to the Resources Panel Remits. A regular agenda item for the Cumberland Council Shadow Executive is the LGR Programme Update Report, which is also provided to Shadow Scrutiny. The purpose of the update Report is to comply with the Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022 to deliver a sustainable Unitary Council, and sustainable Fire and Rescue Service, in an economic, efficient, safe, legal, and seamless way, delivering both benefits from Vesting Day and the foundation for further transformation in the future.

Since July 2022 a number of service areas have been reviewed by LGR Member Implementation Board (MIB). Following the review of each service the MIB have made informed decisions based on Officer recommendations on the need to host the service, the intended period of hosting and which Unitary Council will be the host authority. The Cumberland Shadow Executive have then considered these recommendations to reach their decision on the service arrangements. One of the most significant decisions relating to the Resources Panel remits, is that Cumberland Shadow Executive agreed that Westmorland and Furness would be the Administering Authority for Cumbria Local Government Pension Scheme from 1st April 2023.

I note that Cumberland Council have run a budget consultation exercise that will close on 31st January. This asked for views on proposals for Council Tax harmonisation and a proposed increase in Council Tax for 2023/24.

WIDER SCRUTINY WORK

I was pleased to attend People Panel in January and receive a Report on Carlisle Youth Council (CYC), among Reports on a full Agenda.

In 2022 CYC celebrated a decade of Carlisle young people sharing their views and having a voice in matters that affect them, the age range is from 11yrs to 18yrs. This year young people have contributed to the projects on: youth sexual health education and treatment services, youth events linked to the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.

CYC have participated in the national referendum of teenage opinion 'Make Your Mark' and members have been invited to take part in the forthcoming UK Parliament election 'Post Pandemic'.

Youth Engagement Officers report that there have been good opportunities to reconnect with colleagues at groups including Carlisle Carers, Carlisle College, William Howard School, Carlisle Matters, Morton Academy, People First, Carlisle Young Farmers, Barnardo's, and Carlisle United Trust. Many more establishments have requested to link in with Carlisle Youth Council.

CYC are currently recruiting and rebuilding a new team, they will attend the Carlisle's Skills Fair to recruit and consult; I wish them every success.

Full details of the discussions are to be found within the Minute Book.

Cllr Christine Finlayson
Chairman