

Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:
A.2

Meeting Date: 27th February 2014

Portfolio: Cross Cutting

Key Decision: No

Within Policy and
Budget Framework

Public / Private Public

Title: OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Report Number: OS 06/14

Summary:

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Environment & Economy O&S Panel's work. It also includes the latest version of the work programme.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- Decide whether the items on the Notice of Key Executive Decisions should be included in the Panel's Work Programme for consideration.
- Note and/or amend the Panel's work programme

Tracking

Executive:	Not applicable
Overview and Scrutiny:	27th February 2014
Council:	Not applicable

1. Notice of Key Executive Decisions

The most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions was published on 7th February 2014. The following issues fall into the remit of this Panel and are attached at **Appendix 1**.

KD.01/14 – Environmental Health - Business Support Strategy – on the agenda of the Panel.

KD.03/14 - Title: Public Realm: Signage and Interpretation -The Executive will be asked to approve the release of £100,000 identified in the Capital Programme for the delivery of a Public Realm Programme.

2. References from the Executive

The following references have been received from the Executive following their meeting on 15th January 2014 and are attached at **Appendix 2**.

- Ex.09/14 Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation – Stage Two
- Ex.08/14 Private Sector Housing Enforcement

3. Scrutiny Chairs Group

A meeting of the Chairs Group was held on 6th February 2014 and the Panel will be updated verbally on items discussed at the meeting.

4. Scrutiny Annual Report

All Scrutiny Members were sent an e-mail asking if there were particular issues they wished to see discussed in the annual report. If Members have not given their views yet, they are invited to do so at today's meeting or by e-mail soon afterwards. A draft of the annual report will come to the Panel's final meeting of this civic year, on Thursday 10th April 2014.

5. Work Programme

The Panel's current work programme is attached at **Appendix 3** for comment/amendment.

Contact Officer:	Nicola Edwards	Ext: 7122
Appendices attached to report:	1. Notice of Key Decisions	
	2. References from the Executive	
	3. E&E O&S Work Programme 2013/14	

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

APPENDIX 1

Items relevant to the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive

The following key decision is to be made on behalf of Carlisle City Council:

Key Decision Reference:	KD.01/14
Decision Title:	Environmental Health - Business Support Strategy
Decision to be taken:	The Executive will be asked to endorse the Environmental Health Services' Business Support Strategy. The Strategy outlines how the Environmental Health Service will meet the requirements of the revised Regulators' Code 2013 ensuring an open and constructive relationship between the Environmental Health regulatory service and those Carlisle businesses it regulates.
Date Decision to be considered:	
Date Decision to be taken:	10 March 2014
Is the Decision Public or Private?:	The decision will be taken in public
Documents submitted for consideration in relation to the Decision:	The report of the Director of Local Environment will be available five working days before the meeting
Contact Officer for this Decision:	Director of Local Environment, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
Relevant Portfolio Area:	Environment and Transport (Councillor Mrs Martlew)
Relevant or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

All public reports can be viewed in the Customer Contact centre of the Civic Centre, Carlisle, the Public Library and on the Council's website www.carlisle.gov.uk.

Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker. These, if available, may be obtained by contacting the named contact officer.

APPENDIX 1

Items relevant to the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive

The following key decision is to be made on behalf of Carlisle City Council:

Key Decision Reference:	KD.03/14
Decision Title:	Public Realm: Signage and Interpretation
Decision to be taken:	The Executive will be asked to approve the release of £100,000 identified in the Capital Programme for the delivery of a Public Realm Programme.
Date Decision to be considered:	
Date Decision to be taken:	10 March 2014
Is the Decision Public or Private?:	The decision will be taken in public
Documents submitted for consideration in relation to the Decision:	The report of the Director of Economic Development will be available five working days before the meeting
Contact Officer for this Decision:	Director of Economic Development, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
Relevant Portfolio Area:	Environment and Transport (Councillor Mrs Martlew) and Economy and Enterprise (Councillor Mrs Bradley)
Relevant or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE
HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2014**

EX.08/14 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT
(Key Decision – KD.033/13)

Portfolio Communities and Housing

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.160/13, the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder submitted report ED.05/14 seeking approval of the Enforcement Policy for Private Sector Housing.

The Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder gave an overview of the background to the matter reminding Members that, the draft Enforcement Policy attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 1a outlined how the Council proposed to utilise fairly and consistently all the powers contained within the Housing Act 2004 to achieve improvements to housing, health and the environment in the City. She added that the policy would ensure that the authority protected vulnerable occupants and provided the foundation for strategic targeted enforcement.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had scrutinised the matter on 9 January 2014 and resolved:

- “1) That Report ED.03/14 – Private Sector Housing Enforcement – be noted.
- 2) That the Executive be requested to re-examine the current charges for HMO registration fees to ensure enough income was generated to enable Officer to carry out the necessary functions. “

A copy of Minute Excerpt COSP.07/14 had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel reported that the Panel recognised the importance of the service performed by that Section in relation to the standards required in rental properties and, particularly, those classified as HMOs. The private sector rental market had expanded in recent years, an increase which was expected to continue.

As it was, it was the landlord that was licensed by the Council, rather than the property, which could throw up problems in keeping the Council's information on rented

APPENDIX 2

properties up to date. Members felt that an aid to tenants making them aware of the conditions which should be in place in rented properties would be of use.

The Panel suggested that the Council consider:

- (a) Producing a leaflet setting out the above mentioned information, which would be available to both tenants and letting agents; and
- (b) Providing simpler and clearer information on the Council's web pages setting out the hazards which classified as Category I or II, hazards which should be eliminated.

Finally, in order to adequately fund the service provided by the Council's Team, the Panel requested that the Executive re-examine the charges made for registration as a licensed HMO.

In response, the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder believed that the Panel had raised a number of interesting points which had been answered by Officers. The Portfolio Holder was very aware of the work undertaken by the Team, adding that current charges could be re-examined as requested.

The Director of Governance clarified that the draft Policy attached to the report should in fact have been dated 2014 (rather than 2013).

In conclusion, the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder recommended that the Executive approve the Enforcement Policy for Private Sector Housing. The Deputy Leader; and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder seconded the recommendation.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Enforcement Policy for Private Sector Housing 2014, attached at Appendix 1 to Report ED.05/14, be approved.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure a consistent, proportionate and transparent approach to private sector housing enforcement

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2014

EX.09/14 LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION – STAGE TWO
(Key Decision – KD.034/13)

Portfolio Economy and Enterprise

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Environment and Economy

Subject Matter

The Leader submitted report ED.01/14 presenting the Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation – Stage Two which had been updated in response to the consultation held over the summer.

In addition, copies of an amended Table 16 and an additional housing site at Burgh by Sands (omitted from the original document) had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

The Leader outlined the background to the matter commenting that the consultation on the first stage of the Preferred Options (referred to above) had resulted in 1138 comments, objections, suggested sites for development and expressions of support. Those had all been assessed and had resulted in a number of suggested changes, details of which were provided.

One of the key outcomes from the previous consultation was the opinion that the housing target for the District should be raised to 665 dwellings per annum over the Plan period, matching the growth projections from the Housing Needs and Demands Study.

Appendix 1 showed the preferred locations for a range of housing to meet the needs of current and future population. The sites had all been assessed against a range of factors including location, landscape, biodiversity, heritage, access, flooding etc. Those allocations would be shown on the Local Plan Policies Map, which would also show existing established land uses such as areas of housing, employment, retail etc, and areas of land which were protected such as parks, playing fields, other protected landscapes and sites which are important for nature conservation.

In addition, work on the City Centre Masterplan had progressed and had been incorporated within the Local Plan. The intention was therefore to allow the public to view and comment upon the updated Local Plan Preferred Options – Stage Two, before progressing towards Publication in the summer of 2014.

In conclusion, the Leader moved the recommendation, which was seconded by the Deputy Leader; and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Carlisle District Local Plan Preferred Options – Stage Two be made available for consideration by the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel and that, subject to any additional information arising from the Scrutiny Panel, be reported back to the Executive on 10 February 2014 to consider referral to Council on 4 March 2014 for approval to commence public consultation on 10 March 2014.

Reasons for Decision

Approval for the Preferred Options – Stage Two would enable the Local Plan to meet the timescale set out in the Planning Service Project Plan. Having an up to date Local Plan was a central requirement of Government Planning policy, and provided an effective policy framework to guide development over the plan period, and on which to make decisions on planning applications. It also gave certainty and confidence to developers and the community

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

Date last revised: 12 February 2014

Issue	Type of Scrutiny					Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Key decision Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/External Agency	Monitoring		13 Jun 13	25 Jul 13	12 Sep 13	17 Oct 13	21 Nov 13	16 Jan 14	27 Feb 14	10 Apr 14
Portfolio Holder & Lead officer														
CURRENT MEETING – 27th February 2014														
Tourism Jane Meek/Cllr Quilter						Update report			✓				✓	
Environmental Health Business Support Plan Angela Culleton/Cllr Martlew						Key decision							✓	
Performance Monitoring Reports Steven O'Keefe/all PH	✓				✓	Monitoring of performance relevant to the remit of Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Improved Staff Structure in Neighbourhood Services Angela Culleton/Cllr Martlew						Presentation from the Director							✓	
Section 106 Agreements Jane Meek/Cllr Bradley						Panel requested report detailing outstanding Section 106 agreements							✓	

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TASK AND FINISH GROUPS														
Recycling			✓			Evidence Gathering Cllrs Whalen/ McDevitt/Nedved/ Bowman			✓					✓
Talkin Tarn			✓			Monitoring of implementation of recommendations	✓	✓				✓		June 2014
How will T.I.C look in the future?			✓			Task Group to receive update September 2013			✓					
FUTURE MEETINGS														
Carlisle Economic Partnership Jane Meek/Cllr Bradley				✓		To receive an update report on the work of CEP		✓						✓
LEP				✓		To receive a report detailing the changes to the LEP – invitation				✓				✓
Scrutiny Annual Report			✓		✓	Draft report for comment before Chairs Group								✓

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COMPLETED ITEMS														
Waste Services Cllr Martlew/Angela Culleton			✓	✓	✓	Presentation regarding review of Waste Services	✓					✓		
Environmental Performance of the Council Arup Majhi/Cllr Tickner			✓		✓	Annual Monitoring of performance.						✓		
Local Plan Cllr Glover/Jane Meek		✓	✓			Preferred Options – Stage 2	✓	Special mtg 25/6/12		✓		✓		
Botchergate Cllr Bradley/Jane Meek						Update on Action Plan					✓			
Claimed Rights Angel Culleton/Cllr Martlew		✓				Monitoring of Highways services following transfer to Cumbria CC					✓			June 2014
Budget Peter Mason/Darren Crossley/All Portfolio Holders		✓	✓			To consider budget proposals for 2013/14					✓			

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Parking						To receive an update of implementation of Parking strategy and income.					✓			
Old Town Hall		✓				Update on Phase 2 of scheme				✓				
Business Interaction Centre						To receive an update on progression of the BIC Visit arranged 6/11/13			✓					July 2014