

# Report to Council

Agenda  
Item:

**12**

Meeting Date: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Portfolio: Cross Cutting  
Key Decision: No  
Within Policy and Budget Framework No  
Public / Private Public

Title: SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18  
Report of: Scrutiny Chairs Group  
Report Number: OS 13/18

## Purpose / Summary:

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/2018 summarises the work of the scrutiny panels over the last year.

## Recommendations:

That Council formally accept the report.

## Tracking

Overview and Scrutiny:	Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel 22 <sup>nd</sup> March. Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel 29 <sup>th</sup> March. Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel 5 <sup>th</sup> April. Scrutiny Chairs Group 9 <sup>th</sup> April.
Council:	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2018

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## Appendices

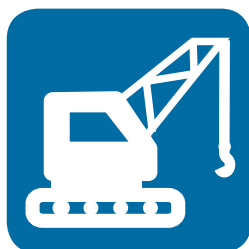
attached to report:

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

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

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 and 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.

The Annual Report to Council is an overview of the workings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels during the 2017/18 civic year. It also provides recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

# Scrutiny Panels

## Chair of Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel, Cllr Jessica Riddle

The Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel plays an important role in reviewing and questioning council policy and service delivery, thereby leading to recommendations back to the Executive that could improve policy performance and service delivery.

This year efforts were made to achieve more focused agendas omitting many items that were solely to be noted and the recurring items that did not need fresh scrutiny.

In this way scrutiny panel members were able to be more outcome-focused and provided greater scrutiny of critical issues.

My thanks to scrutiny staff who supported the panel so well over the year.



## Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel:

### Key highlights:

- Street Trading Policy.
- Community Asset Transfer Policy Task & Finish Group.
- The Sands Centre Redevelopment.
- Asset recovery and reinstatement of the Civic Centre and Bitts Park Lodge.
- Customer Services.
- Performance reporting.

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

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 KPIs. 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 St Cuthbert's 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 Growth Scrutiny Panel:

### Key highlights:

- Economic Strategy.
- Housing Strategy.
- St Cuthbert's Garden Village.
- Borderlands Inclusive 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.

## Chair of Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel, Cllr Jack Paton

The Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel has been an amazing experience and I have learned so much and enjoyed every minute. The work we have done and the recommendations we have sent to the Executive will hopefully improve performance.

We have had some lengthy debates resulting in positive outcomes from the Members.

I have been very fortunate that Cllr Rob Burns has been a great help, the staff have been incredible and supported the panel so well over the past year. My thanks go out to all who have made this past year possible.



## Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel:

### Key highlights:

- Leisure Contract.
- The Sands Centre Redevelopment.
- Greenspaces Strategy Task & Finish Group.
- Interagency Homelessness Strategy.
- Public Space Protection Order.
- The Old Fire Station.

## 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

## Leader of the Council, Cllr Colin Glover

As another municipal year comes to a close, we look back at the challenges we have faced and the achievements that have been realised, through a lot of planning and hard work by so many people.

It is no secret that public services are under pressure from various directions as finances reduce and demand increases. This means that we have to remain focussed on our priorities and sometimes make difficult decisions as we seek to take Carlisle forward and create a positive future for those who live and work here and who visit our city.

Just because we face those challenges, it does not mean that we should shy away from having a bold and ambitious vision for the future and a programme of work that delivers that vision.

The Council is leading, together with our partners, transformational work that is firmly placing Carlisle in the thoughts of others, as a place with a can-do attitude that delivers. Exciting growth and regeneration initiatives are taking place.

Carlisle is at the heart of the Borderlands initiative, five Councils working together cross-border and this work has now received positive recognition by both UK and Scottish Governments, opening up the opportunity for a growth deal that will be transformational for the region. Plans to deliver St Cuthbert's Garden Village continue at pace with active participation by public and private partners and the local community in helping to shape that vision. The Enterprise Zone at Kingmoor Park is now established and growing and in June this year Carlisle Airport will see the first commercial flights for many years arriving and departing.

Public realm is much improved and our parks and green spaces are benefiting from investment and our work to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Carlisle is showing positive and welcome benefits.

Of course, none of this just happens by itself. It takes a great deal of planning, scrutiny and close working with partners to secure the best outcomes that we can. We are right to be proud of our staff and to thank them for all their hard work, delivering services and making a difference in our city.

Our scrutiny panels diligently carry out their important role, ensuring accountability of those who make decisions and contributing to the development of policy, priorities and work programmes across the Council. Thank you to elected members and officers who continue to work so hard to ensure that scrutiny panels make an effective contribution to the work of the Council. Thanks too to partner organisations who regularly give up their time, to attend scrutiny meetings and provide valuable input.

The year ahead will bring its own challenges, but it will also bring new opportunities. We will face both with the same energy and determination, to make a positive difference for Carlisle.



## **Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance & Resources, Cllr Les Tickner**

This has been a challenging year for the Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel due to the number and ambition of the Executive proposals. I am pleased by the level of detailed challenge into the proposals particularly where the investment required for the business case must be justified.

I would also like to place on record my thanks and appreciation to the scrutiny staff for their tireless work behind the scenes researching for the task and finish projects, preparing the panel and facilitating the meetings.



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

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.



## **Portfolio Holder for Communities, Health & Wellbeing, Cllr Lee Sheriff**

It's been another year of robust debate on the scrutiny panels. Scrutiny panel members have, again, asked the questions that have needed to be asked to provide the correct checks and balances.

Executive members, senior officers and outside partners have worked well with scrutiny panel members to provide answers to questions, further information and clarity. The City Council is involved in so many aspects of what goes on in Carlisle, much of which is in conjunction with partners, scrutiny panels give the opportunity to highlight this work.

The support staff who enable the scrutiny panels to function should be commended. They are professional and organised and, without their input, scrutiny would not be as effective as it is.



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

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 & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel.

The Health & 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 would like to thank the Chairs and panel members for the contribution they have made to the Council.



## **Portfolio Holder for Environment & Transport, Cllr Chris Southward**

Overview and Scrutiny is a vital piece in the democratic process. As the Council is run on a 'cabinet' style basis, it is essential that the Executive can be held to account.

As Portfolio Holder I welcome this safeguard and I value the input from Overview and Scrutiny Members prior to major policy decisions being taken by the Executive.



# Recommendations for the future work programmes

## Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2018/19:

1. Corporate Plan.
2. Customer Service Charter.
3. Sands Centre Redevelopment.
4. Workforce Plan.

## Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2018/19:

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

## Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2018/19:

1. Cultural Strategy.
2. Greenspaces Strategy.
3. Interagency Homelessness Strategy.
4. The Sands Centre Redevelopment.

## 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.

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## **EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND TRANSFORMATION SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 22 MARCH 2018**

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### **BTSP.31/18      DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2017/18**

The Policy and Communications Manager submitted the draft Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel sections for the scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18.

The Policy and Communications Manager reminded the Panel of the Constitutional requirement for Scrutiny to report annually to full Council on their workings and to make recommendations for future work programming and amended working methods if appropriate. He added that the Scrutiny Chairs Group had agreed a new layout for the annual report details of which were included in the covering report.

A Member commented that the two previous agenda items had been very important and the two relevant Portfolio Holders had been unable to stay for the duration of their items. In addition there was no other representative of the Executive in attendance for the rest of the agenda items. The Panel agreed that representatives of the Executive should be in attendance at all Scrutiny meetings and it was

RESOLVED – 1) That the draft Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel sections for the Scrutiny Annual report 2017/18 as attached to report OS.10/18 be agreed.

2) That Chairman of the Panel write to the Leader expressing the Panel's disappointment that Portfolio Holders were not able to stay for the scrutiny of their items and that no other representative of the Executive had been in attendance at the meeting.

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## **EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 29 MARCH 2018**

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### **HWSP.30/18 DRAFT SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

The Policy and Communications Manager submitted the draft Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel sections for the scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18 (OS.11/18).

The Policy and Communications Manager reminded the Panel of the Constitutional requirement for Scrutiny to report annually to full Council on their workings and to make recommendations for future work programming and amended working methods if appropriate. He added that the Scrutiny Chairs Group had agreed a new layout for the annual report details of which were included in the covering report.

The Members noted the report.

The Chairman thanked the Panel Members, Policy and Communications Manager and the Committee Clerk for their work in support of the Panel over the previous year.

**RESOLVED** – That the Draft Annual Scrutiny Report (OS.11/18) be noted.