

Report to Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:
A.3

Meeting Date: 22 March 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 10-18

Purpose / Summary:

The draft Business & Transformation 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

Contact Officers:	Steven O’Keeffe	Ext: 7258
Appendices attached to report:	Draft Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel sections for the 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

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.

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 Jessica Riddle, Chair of Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel

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. Therefore, 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
- Sands Centre Redevelopment
- Asset Recovery and Reinstatement: Civic Centre & Bitts Park Lodge
- Customer Services
- Performance reporting

Cllr Les Tickner, Finance, Governance & Resources Portfolio Holder

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 has to 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.

Recommendations for the future work programmes

Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2018/19:

- Corporate Plan
- Customer Service Charter
- Sands Centre Redevelopment
- Workforce Plan

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.