

Carlisle City Council

Report to Council

Report details

Meeting Date:	11 October 2022
Portfolio:	Finance, Governance and Resources
Key Decision:	
Policy and Budget Framework	Yes
Public / Private	Public
Title:	Proposed Change to Scrutiny Panel Remits
Report of:	Monitoring Officer
Report Number:	GD.54/22

Purpose / Summary:

People Scrutiny Panel intend to run Cost of Living Task and Finish Group during Autumn 2022. In order for this Task and Finish Group to operate effectively, it is proposed that three housing related items are transferred from the remit of Place Panel into the remit of People Panel. Changes to Scrutiny Panel remits require a revision to the Council's Constitution. This report brings the matter before Council for a decision.

Recommendations:

That Council:

1. Endorse and approve the changes set out in the report

OR

2. Reject the changes set out in the Report

Tracking

Executive:	N/A
Scrutiny:	People 25/08/2022, Place 01/09/2022
Council:	11 October 2022

1. Background

1.1. People Scrutiny Panel have resolved to establish a “Cost of Living” Task and Finish (T&F) Group. In order to take a broad and effective view of the cost of living crisis, it was agreed that some housing issues would need to be considered by the T&F group. The Chairs of People and Place Scrutiny Panel discussed how it would be most effective for the People T&F group to consider housing issues, and for People Panel to make recommendations on the resulting report.

1.2. The Chairs agreed that three housing related items that currently fall within the Place Panel Remit would be moved into the People Panel Remit in order for the T&F group to be able to operate most effectively.

1.3. The proposal by the Chairs was discussed at the most recent scrutiny panel meetings and agreed by both People and Place Panels at their meetings of 25/08/22 and 01/09/22 respectively.

1.4. People Panel resolved (PEP.36/22):

That Panel agree the amendments to the Scrutiny Panel remits: removal the following items from the Place Panel remit and adding them to the People Panel remit:

- Homelessness (strategy, hostels and prevention);
- Housing - empty properties, standards and improvements; and,
- Housing advice and support

1.5. Place Panel resolved (minute reference to follow):

That the Panel agree the amendment to the Scrutiny Panel remits: removal of the following items from the Place Panel remit and adding them to the People Panel remit:

- Homelessness (strategy, hostels and prevention);
- Housing - empty properties, standards and improvements; and,
- Housing advice and support

1.6. Article 15.02 of the Constitution states that “[o]ther than changes made in accordance with paragraph (b), changes to the Constitution will only be approved by the full Council after consideration of the proposal by the monitoring officer and after receipt of a report from him/her on the proposal. The monitoring officer will also consider and report to the full Council on any proposals for changes to the Constitution received in writing from any Councillor.”

1.7. In this context the resolutions of People and Place Panels have been regarded as a proposal for change received in writing.

2. Proposals

2.1 It is proposed that the following items move from the remit of Place Panel to People Panel:

- Homelessness (strategy, hostels, prevention)
- Housing – empty properties, standards and improvements
- Housing advice and support

3. Comments from the Deputy Chief Executive

3.1 The Deputy Chief Executive has responsibility for the council's Overview and Scrutiny Function and his analysis of the proposal is as follows:

Housing is a cross cutting issue that can have relevance to many scrutiny workstreams. In view of the proposed Cost of Living Task and Finish Group, it is beneficial that People Scrutiny Panel can consider, comment and make recommendations on housing matters relating to homelessness, housing standards and improvements, and housing advice. This will allow the T&F group to take a holistic view of cost of living issues in Carlisle and make effective recommendations.

I am happy to advise that these proposals are suitable for meeting the scrutiny requirements of Carlisle City Council.

4. Risks

4.1 There is a risk that without the proposed change of panel remits, the People Panel will not be able to make recommendations on housing related matters based upon the findings of the Cost of Living T&F Group.

5. Consultation

5.1 Both People and Place Scrutiny Panels have been consulted on these proposals.

6. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

6.1 The Council is able to endorse and approve the proposed changes of remit or it may reject the proposed changes.

7. Contribution to the Carlisle Plan Priorities

7.1 The Council is required to have appropriate overview and scrutiny arrangements to assist in the development of policy and hold the Executive to account. These important aspects ensure that the Council is best able to deliver its Carlisle plan priorities.

Contact details:

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Appendices attached to report:

- None

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

Corporate Implications:

Legal - The legal comments are incorporated within the body of the report

Property Services – N/A

Finance -

Equality - There are no equality implications arising from the proposal. Although, supporting an effective Cost of Living T&F group is likely to consider issues that disproportionately affect some protected characteristic groups.

Information Governance-

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PEOPLE PANEL HELD ON 25 AUGUST 2022

PEP.36/22 OVERVIEW REPORT

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer submitted report OS.20/22 which gave an overview of matters relating to the People Panel. The Panel had agreed to conduct a Task and Finish Group into the 'Cost of Living Crisis', invitations for an initial meeting in September would be circulated in the coming week.

Paragraph 4 of the report set out potential changes to the Scrutiny Panel remits in relation to housing: Homelessness (strategy, hostels and prevention); Housing - empty properties, standards and improvements; and, Housing advice and support move from the Place Panel remit to the People Panel remit. The respective Chairs had met and agreed the changes. The Policy and Scrutiny Officer advised that the next step was to formally write to the Monitoring Officer with the request that the Constitution be updated with the changes. The Panel indicated its assent.

RESOLVED - 1) That the Overview Report be noted (OS.20/22)

2) That the Policy and Scrutiny Officer write to the Monitoring Officer requesting that the Council's Constitution be amended by removing the following items from the Place Panel remit and adding them to the People Panel remit:

- Homelessness (strategy, hostels and prevention);
- Housing - empty properties, standards and improvements; and,
- Housing advice and support

3) That the thanks be given to the Chair and members of the Place Panel for agreeing to the amended remits.

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PLACE PANEL HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2022

PLP.26/22 OVERVIEW REPORT

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer submitted report OS.21/22 which provided an overview of matters related to the work of the Place Panel.

In considering the Work Programme the Panel asked that the draft Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan be added to the Work Programme if the next meeting fell within the consultation period. the Panel also asked that the Market Square consultation be added to the work programme.

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer drew the Panel's attention to section 4 of the report. She reminded the Panel that they had recommended at their meeting in July that the Chair of both the Place Panel and People Panel meet to discuss potential changes to the Scrutiny Remits. The meeting took place and the Chairs agreed that the following items be moved from the Plane Panel remit to the People Panel remit:

- Homeless (strategy, hostels, prevention)
- Housing - empty properties, standards and improvements
- Housing advice and support

If the Panel agreed to the changes a report would be submitted to Council to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

RESOLVED - 1) That the Overview Report incorporating the Work Programme and Key Decision items relevant to the Place Panel be noted (OS.21/22);

2) That the following items be added to the Panel's work Programme if the consultation periods allowed it:

- Draft Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation
- Market Square Consultation

3) That the following items be moved from the Place Panel remit to the People Panel's remit:

- Homeless (strategy, hostels, prevention)
 - Housing - empty properties, standards and improvements
 - Housing advice and support
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