

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 11 JULY 2019 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: Councillor Paton (Chairman), Councillors Mrs Bradley, Collier (as substitute for Councillor Mrs McKerrell), Dr Davison, Mrs Finlayson, McNulty, Rodgeron (as substitute for Councillor Mrs Atkinson), and Tarbitt.

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Mallinson – Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
Councillor Christian – Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder
Councillor Ellis – Deputy Leader and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder
Mr Glendinning – Principal, Carlisle College

OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive
Carlisle Partnership Manager
Policy and Communications Manager
Principal Health and Housing Officer
Policy and Performance Officer
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

HWSP.41/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Atkinson and Mrs McKerrell.

HWSP.42/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

HWSP.43/19 PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was agreed that the items of business in Part A be dealt with in public and Part B be dealt with in private.

HWSP.44/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2019 be approved.

HWSP.45/19 CALL IN OF DECISIONS

There were no items which had been the subject of call-in.

HWSP.46/19 CARLISLE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Carlisle Partnership Manager submitted report CS.21/19 – Carlisle Partnership Update, and introduced Mr Glendinning, Principal, Carlisle College and Co-Chair of the Partnership to the Panel.

Mr Glendinning and the Carlisle Partnership Manager delivered a presentation covering: the proposed purpose of the partnership and its evolution over the preceding 5 years; diagnostic tools used by the Partnership; Place Standard; examples of projects undertaken by the

Partnership including Public Health Strategy and Big Lunch; Funding applications and, next steps for the Partnership.

The report recommended that the Panel offer its suggestions for the most effective methods of partnership working and the future topics that the Partnership should focus on.

In considering the report and presentations Members raised the following comments and questions:

- How did the Partnership intend to include grassroots organisations such as the Solway Coast AONB and the East Fellside Project?

The Partnership Manager responded that currently the Partnership worked with key strategic partners, however, it was feasible for an item on the matter to be included on an agenda of a future meeting for the Partnership to consider the issue.

- Was the Partnership aware of the Climate Change motion passed by the Council and what action was taking place in relation to it at a Partnership level?

The Deputy Chief Executive emphasised that the two organisations were separate and distinct, therefore it was important not to conflate the two. The Council was in the process of setting up a Working Group to consider the matter, the Partnership also intended to set up a group on Climate Change and had considered the matter prior to the Council's motion. It was anticipated that the two groups would meet, but arrangements were yet to be made.

The Partnership Manager added that the Partnership's identified priorities as shown in the presentation were all of equal value, and that the organisation had the option to effectively cascade information to all partners. Furthermore, the Partnership was looking to co-opt a climate change expert to the organisation.

- A Member noted the Partnership's key strategic approach fed into other plans, Cumbria County Council did not participate in the Partnership Board.

The Partnership Manager agreed that Cumbria County Council was a key partner, she confirmed that whilst the organisation had a seat on the Partnership Board and were sent all reports and paperwork associated with those meetings, as yet a consistent attendee from the organisation had not been present. It did however participate in the Partnership's sub-groups and projects.

As part of its current review and restructure, the Partnership was considering taking on a themed method for addressing issues and hoped to extend its reach with a holistic and place-based approach.

A number of Members expressed strong concerns and disappointment that Cumbria County Council was not actively participating with the Partnership.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that Officers felt they had exhausted all avenues in attempting to engage the organisation with the Partnership Strategic Board.

The Chairman undertook to write to the Leader of Cumbria County Council to express the Panel's concerns about its lack of participation in Carlisle Partnership Strategic Board.

- Did the Partnership take into account the Borderland Inclusive Growth Deal?

Mr Glendinning confirmed that the Partnership was mindful of the work being undertaken in relation to the Borderland Inclusive Growth Deal, particularly in relation to skills development.

- In relation to the Big Lottery Funding bid, a Member was concerned that such a financial model may lead to issues being identified but no work to address them were funding not to be secured.

The Partnership Manager advised that as part of its review, consideration was being given to how able Partnership organisations were able to contribute to the work of the body. It was possible that partner organisations could support in-kind and would be able to pass on skills to communities so that they were able to address issues affecting them independently.

Mr Glendinning added that the feedback from Big Lottery in relation to the Partnership's current funding application had been very positive.

- As part of the Partnership's refresh, was it anticipated that Key Performance Indicators (KPI) would be included in the organisation's new phase and was there a timescale associated with that?

The Partnership Manager responded that work was being undertaken to identify measurable data sets to inform the new Partnership Plan, however, there was often a significant lag time from the data being collected to it becoming available.

The Member responded that he felt that the Place Standard should be taken forward as a method of work, with relevant KPI to monitor the impact.

The Chairman thanked Mr Glendinning and the Partnership Manager for their presentation and report.

RESOLVED – 1) That Carlisle Partnership Update (CS.21/19) be noted.

2) That the Chairman write to the Leader of Cumbria County Council to express the Panel's concerns about its lack of participation in Carlisle Partnership Strategic Board.

3) That the Panel supported the Big Lottery Funding grant application.

4) That the Panel supported the use of the Place Standard and associated Key Performance Indicators.

HWSP.47/19 AIR QUALITY

The Principal Health and Housing Officer submitted report GD.38/19 – Air Quality which provided information on the major air pollutants affecting the health of residents in the District. At its meeting of 4 October 2018, the Panel had considered a report on Air Quality where the Members had requested that "... future reports to the Panel focus on the Air Quality Action Plan and health impacts related to air quality." (Minute HWSP.63/18 refers).

The Principal Health and Housing Officer explained that whilst there were numerous case studies illustrating the impact of air quality on human health, it had not been feasible to co-analyse the air quality data with medical admissions records for the District. The report detailed a range of pollutants and their known impacts on health.

A number of Smoke Control Areas operated within the District, the Principal Health and Housing Officer noted that there was anticipation that the government would provide additional guidance

or legislation to manage or monitor the emissions from wood/log burners. The Principal Health and Housing Officer further advised that the 6 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the district were currently under review along the Air Quality Action Plan, and that those matters would be considered through the Council's democratic processes in due course.

Overall the air quality in the District was improving as a result of factors such as the Carlisle Northern Development Route which had decreased the amount of vehicles travelling through the city centre. There were two standards for Air Quality: A United Kingdom government measure and, a World Health Organisation measure. Air Quality in the city consistently achieved the level required by the United Kingdom government, there were some occasions when the level of particulates exceeded that stipulated by the World Health Organisation. However, the district complied with the standard of air quality required.

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

A Member expressed concern that the amount of data relating to air quality may be confusing for people.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder responded that public health messages could seem contradictory, but therefore it was important to help people understand the issues through clear explanation of the data.

In response to a Member describing what she considered to be an air quality issue as a result of vehicle engines idling in her ward, the Principal Health and Housing Officer explained that in order to conduct an effective analysis, five years' worth of data was required. Fixed Penalty Notices were issuable to those drivers idling their engines, however, the charge was quite low and therefore not a very effective deterrent.

- How did the building of an energy from waste incinerator in the city fit with efforts to address air quality in the city?

The Principal Health and Housing Officer explained that the incinerator at Kingmoor Park had been approved by Cumbria County Council's and would be issued operational permit(s) by the Environment Agency. The City Council had responded to the consultation on the planning application where issues relating to the cumulative impact on air quality in the district were raised. With the exception of dealing with any Statutory Nuisances, the City Council had no regulatory powers in respect of the facility.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder understood both the views of those who supported the incinerator and those who did not. He felt it was important that the Council concentrated its limited resources on those areas it was able to affect.

- How would the "Free After Three" trial car parking scheme impact air quality?

The Principal Health and Housing Officer noted that the team had discussed the trial and considered that as the car parks in the scheme were on the edge of the city centre it had the potential to decrease the number of vehicles in the city centre and encourage the number of people walking into the centre.

The Deputy Chief Executive added that the Officer had provided a clear response in accordance with her role, however any further considerations or comments on that scheme ought to be taken up with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Responding to a further question from the Member as to whether the report's conclusion and recommendation could do more to encourage moving people away from car use, the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder advised that the report related to air quality only. He reminded the Panel that he was setting up a Climate Change Working Group which Members had been invited to participate in. The Working Group would consider the authority's response to Climate Change and report back to the Executive, the issue was multi-faceted and complex and required all factors to be considered.

- Were the roadworks on Warwick Road likely to cause a decrease in air quality in the area as a result of vehicle engines idling?

The Principal Health and Housing Officer drew Members' attention to the graph on page 31 of the document pack, and the data relating to Bridge Street, and explained that the spike in pollutants in 2009 had been due to roadworks in the area. In terms of Warwick Road, it was likely that the roadworks were having an impact on the air quality in the area, but the Council was not able to apply sanctions against vehicles waiting at traffic lights.

- Was the Air Quality data for 2018 available?

The Principal Health and Housing Officer advised that the 2018 data had not been included in the report as it had not been compiled and analysed in advance of the committee report deadline. The information was now available, and she undertook to circulate the data tables to the Panel.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Air Quality Report (GD.38/19) be received.

2) That the Principal Health and Housing Officer circulate the 2018 air quality data tables to the Panel.

HWSP.48/19 ANNUAL EQUALITY REPORT 2018/19 AND EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2019

The Policy and Performance Officer submitted the Annual Equality Report 2018/19 and the Equality Action Plan 2019 (PC.09/19) which provided an overview of the equality work undertaken within the organisation that comprised: workforce profile; employee support; customer satisfaction; complaints; consultation and engagement.

The Equality Policy and Equality Objectives (2016 – 19) required updating with work commencing later in the year. The Policy and Performance Officer invited Members of the Panel to take part in a Task and Finish Group on the matter.

In considering the report, Members raised the following questions and comments:

- Did the percentages of different ethnic groups working in the organisation reflect the proportions in the census?

The Policy and Performance Officer responded that in the last census survey, the population of Carlisle was noted as being 91.8% white, whereas the ethnicity information detailed in the report showed the percentage white people in the Council's workforce as 89.8%. The census was compiled once every ten years, with the previous survey having taken place in 2011, as such the data contained therein was likely to be out of date.

The information regarding ethnicity was self-reported therefore was dependent on how the individuals who had responded identified themselves. Consideration was being given to how

the data was able to be collected from individuals applying to work at the Council, and how that information could be reported in the future.

- In relation to Equality Impact Assessments, and consultation and engagements, did the Council include Young People and Children in those processes?

The Policy and Performance Officer confirmed that Children and Young People were included in the work carried out by the Council and should Members require that data in future reports, it would be included.

In response to a question from the Chairman as to whether the workforce data in the report pertained to the whole city, the Policy and Performance Officer advised that the report related to the Council's workforce only.

The Chairman noted that the report invited the Panel to form a Task and Finish Group to revise the Equality Objectives.

A Member suggested that the invitation be extended to all Scrutiny Members. The Policy and Performance Officer undertook to circulate an invitation accordingly.

RESOLVED 1) That the Annual Equality Report 2018/19 and the Equality Action Plan 2019 (PC.09/19) was received.

2) That an invitation to participate in a Task and Finish to refresh the Equality Objectives be circulated to all Scrutiny Members.

HWSP.49/19 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented report OS.17/19 which provided an overview of matters relating to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel.

The report detailed the most recent Notice of Executive Key Decisions, copies of which had been circulated to all Members, which had been published on 21 June 2019: there were no items which had been included in the Panel's Work Programme.

The current Work Programme had been appended to the report and Members asked that the following item be added: Sports Development. The Panel indicated its agreement.

The Chairman requested that a report on Climate Change be presented to the 10 October 2019 meeting of the Panel. He further requested that reports on The Sands Centre Redevelopment and Green Spaces Strategy be submitted to the 20 February meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Overview Report and Work Programme (OS.017/19) be noted.

2) That Sports Development be added to the Panel's Work Programme.

3) That a report on Climate Change be submitted to the 10 October 2019 meeting of the Panel.

4) That reports on The Sands Centre Redevelopment and Green Spaces Strategy be submitted to the 20 February 2020 meeting of the Panel

(The meeting ended at 12:18pm).