

Carlisle City Council

Report to Council

Report details

Meeting Date: 13 September 2022
Portfolio: Finance, Governance and Resources
Key Decision:
Policy and Budget Yes
Framework
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:	13/09/2022

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-