



Meeting Date: 28th March 2023

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Resources Scrutiny Panel Chairman's Report – Councillor Christine Finlayson**

People and Place Scrutiny – Key Points

Towards the end of February People Panel received an update on the Leisure Contract with GLL The Sands Centre Redevelopment. The new facility became operational in Autumn 2022, delivering a state-of-the-art Leisure Complex for the City that combines NHS physiotherapy on site with enhanced health and wellbeing facilities that will provide service improvement opportunities into the future.

In early March, Place Panel received a comprehensive update from Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). We heard about many aspects of what is required for Cumbria to continue to succeed in future. There are a number of challenges we have to meet in order to improve, we had the examples of the task of enabling growth in our region due to:

- Reduction in working age population
- Productivity
- Economic output and structure
- Innovation

All these aspects are proving to be challenging in Cumbria being we are below national average. The growth approach led by data and analysis identifies a need to build on competitive advantages and identifying investment sources, to name a few.

Opportunities for Carlisle

The Council continues to be an integral part of the Borderlands partnership with four other authorities across the Border Region. The UK and Scottish governments announced an initial funding deal worth £345 million. Progress continues to be made on the delivery of the projects allocated to the Carlisle area.

The Council have been allocated a share £9.1 million of the Future High Streets Fund also an allocation of £19.7 million of the Town Deal funding, and £0.518m for the Shared Prosperity Funding 2022/23 with a further indicative allocation of £3.6 million for future years.

These schemes are progressing with detailed business cases being created and submitted to Government for final sign off before delivery can proceed.

Scrutiny Annual Report

The final Scrutiny Annual Report for the City Council has been produced and includes my reflections on Scrutiny activity from a Resources Panel perspective over the past year, and looking forwards to Cumberland Council.

Full details of the discussions are to be found within the Minute Book.

Cllr Christine Finlayson
Chairman