

Meeting Date: 28th March 2023

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Place Panel Chairman's Report – Councillor James Bainbridge**

The most recent and final meeting of the Place Panel was much briefer than normal, with two main Agenda items for consideration. The first being a presentation by the LEP Chief Executive on the work being done by the LEP. It would be considered fair comment that with the LEP having now been in existence for almost a decade, to coin a phrase often used on reality shows has "been on a journey". It was interesting to see from a clear and knowledgeable presentation, the LEP is trying to position itself firmly within the context of LGR, devolution deals and a series of challenges and policy changes announced over the last two years. This is in addition to the business support it offers.

Secondly, after a number of altered deadlines we had sight of the Rural Strategy. I think it is fair to say that this is a strategy that has some way to evolve further, with ourselves having sight of an early draft. Cumberland Council will naturally be picking up the process of shaping the strategy further. We did offer constructive suggestions as to potential additions, however like a game of Pass the Parcel, it will shortly leave us for new hands to unravel it's potential.

Members did wish to see the position of Section 106 Agreements in Carlisle and whilst this should have been an agenda item, it has been firmly requested for circulation outside of the meeting.

Might I lastly take the opportunity to thank Members, past and present for their contributions, and thank Officers for attending to give informed updates on topics as they pass through the Council process. Lastly, can I thank Rowan, Rachel and Jacqui for their professionalism and wish them well in the new Cumberland Council.

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

Cllr James Bainbridge
Chairman