

Meeting Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel Chairman's Report – Councillor  
Paul Nedved**

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The Panel met on the 30th November 2017 with an Agenda consisting of the Overview and Work Programme, the Budget Reports 2018/19, updates on Housing Delivery and St Cuthbert's Garden Village and finally the Quarter 2 Performance Report 2017/18.

### **Overview Report and Work Programme**

The two key outcomes of the Overview Reports were that the Panels would now be tracking information on Scrutiny resolutions with the inclusion of a timeline for future Reports and that two Members of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel would join the Business and Transformation Task and Finish Group ongoing work relating to the Council's Asset Transfer Policy.

### **Budget 2018/19**

The Panel gave detailed consideration of the Budget Reports that fell within its remit with a series of recommendations forwarded to the Executive.

***THE FULL DETAIL OF THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTAINED IN THE MINUTE BOOK.***

The Panel thanked the Chief Finance Officer and her Team for the work they had undertaken preparing the Budget Reports.

### **Housing Delivery and St Cuthbert's Garden Village Updates**

The Panel received updates on these two key remits which were provided by the Policy & Investment Manager.

Members had been involved in the detailed scrutiny of the Local Plan both at Panel Meetings and some Members continue to be involved in the Local Plan Working Group. Housing Delivery was a key component of this.

Equally the newly constituted Garden Village Working Group had recently met and been appraised of the Project. This Panel would also be receiving regular update Reports as to the emerging thinking and progress as to St Cuthbert's Garden Village.

Detail was provided as to the Council's Developing Housing Strategy, the provision of a Prospectus for Investors and Housing Developers and information as to net completions for new homes.

Members raised a series of questions in relation to historic and projected population figures, whether there would be the necessary population to sustain the City's economic growth and the Garden Village. The matter of construction on flood plains was also queried and the provision of future flood resilience measures in the District.

Some discussion on the types of housing provision was undertaken which would in part be covered by the Panel in January when the Council's Draft Affordable and Specialist Housing SPD would be an Agenda item.

An overview of progress on the Garden Village was provided which outlined the governance arrangements and the support to the County Council on the feasibility work on a new Carlisle Southern Link Road. At the time of the Panel Meeting news was still being awaited as to whether the Council's bid for additional capacity funding had been successful.

Overall the Panel were generally highly supportive of the Garden Village Project and the opportunities it afforded, and praised the Officers for the work already undertaken on the Project.

Members commented that this Project would allow for a rebalancing of the City, attract people in conjunction with other economic development from elsewhere from other urban areas and requesting more information as to Employment Sites contained in the Draft Vision. Consultation /public engagement with residents was also emphasised.

Regular feedback was requested on the GV Project as well as updates from the Member Working Group.

### **Quarter 2 Performance Report 2017/18**

The Members were provided with a Report from the Policy &Performance Officer with the new Service Standards and Key Performance Indicators, including a new KPI dashboard.

A series of questions and comments arose from the Carlisle Plan Key Actions. They related to the recent flooding issues experienced earlier in the month, progress on the street signage installation and the future plans for replacing the Bandstand in the City Centre.

Can I wish all involved with the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel “Best Wishes for 2018” and thank you for all the considerable contributions and enthusiasm over the last year.

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

**Cllr Paul Nedved**  
**Chairman**