

Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

Date: Thursday, 14 April 2022

Time: 16:00

Venue: Flensburg Room

Present: Councillor Lisa Brown, Councillor Ms Jo Ellis-Williams, Councillor Mrs Anne Glendinning, Councillor Keith Meller, Councillor Mrs Linda Mitchell, Councillor Peter Sunter Councillor John Collier (for Councillor Mrs Ann McKerrell), Councillor David Shepherd (for Councillor Michael Mitchelson)

Also Present: Councillor Ellis, Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder
Councillor Mrs Bowman, Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder

Officers: Corporate Director of Economic Development
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

EGSP.23/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf on Councillor Ann McKerrell and Councillor Michael Mitchelson.

EGSP.24/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

EGSP.25/22 PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

EGSP.26/22 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS

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

EGSP.27/22 ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2021/22

The draft Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel section for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021 - 22 had been circulated (OS.13/22).

RESOLVED - That the Panel noted the draft Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel section for the Scrutiny Annual report 2021-22 (OS.13/22).

EGSP.28/22 OVERVIEW REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted the report OS.12/22 providing an overview of matters relating to the work of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel and the Panel's Work Programme.

The Corporate Director of Economic Development gave a verbal update on each of the six objectives of the Economic Strategy Action Plan and agreed to circulate a copy of the action plan to the Panel.

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

- Was the Southern Relief Ring Road fully funded?

The Corporate Director confirmed that the project was not fully funded, however, work was ongoing in partnership to continue to phase 1 and the project would be re-tendered.

- The Borderlands Digital Programme sought to contribute to the development and delivery of a 4G mobile infrastructure, should the project now be considering 5G?

The Corporate Director acknowledged that technology had progressed quickly and work would continue to match up to new technology. She added that the preparation of the Rural Strategy would support some of the digital programme work in rural areas.

- How did the work of the Carlisle Ambassadors tie in with the work of the Economic Strategy?

The Corporate Director explained that the Economic Strategy would compliment the work of the Ambassadors. The Corporate Director was unclear about the future of the Ambassadors following the local government reorganisation, however, she hoped that the Ambassadors were stable enough to continue in their own right.

- A Member commented that the projects in the town centre were important but felt it was important to remember the areas people lived in.

The Corporate Director agreed and outlined the project Riverside was working on to regenerate their housing stock.

- Carlisle was part of the Historic Cities group, how did Carlisle compare in promotion costs to other historic cities such as York?

The Corporate Director explained that Carlisle were very lucky to be involved in the Historic Cities group and were the only local authority in the group. The rest of the group was made up of Destination Management Offices (DMOs). The group allowed Carlisle to benefit from overseas promotion and learn what worked in terms of promoting a city. She did not know the difference in promotional funding but reminded the Panel that DMOs were usually privately funded by businesses.

The Panel discussed the future work programme and agreed to add the following for 2022/23:

Riverside Housing Association

Rural Strategy

Feedback from the YK's Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF) to be held in Leeds in May.

RESOLVED - 1) That the Overview Report incorporating the Work Programme and Key Decision items relevant to the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel be noted (OS.12/22).

2) That the Corporate Director of Economic Development circulate the following information to the Panel:

- i. a copy of the six Economic Strategy Action Plan objectives;
- ii. details of the funding for the promotion of Carlisle compared to other historic cities such as York.

3) That the following items be added to the Panel's 2022/23 work programme:

- Riverside Housing Association
- Rural Strategy
- Feedback from the YK's Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF) to be held in Leeds in May.

EGSP.29/22 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Public and Press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph numbers (as indicated in brackets against the minutes) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

EGSP.30/22 CENTRAL PLAZA UPDATE

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of paragraph 3)

The Corporate Director of Economic Development submitted an update on the progress of the Future High Streets Fund Central Plaza project and outlined the site stabilisation investigations that formed the next stage of the activity (ED.10/22).

The Corporate Director reminded the Panel of the background to the project and gave an overview of the Future High Street Fund Project and the next steps / timeline.

The Panel discussed the update and the Corporate Director provided clarity on ownership and charges on the land. She gave an overview of a previous development scheme and the reasons that it could not be progressed and detailed how the Future High Street Funding would be used to help find an investor in the site.

The Corporate Director agreed to circulate further information with regard to the costing of the site preparation / stabilisation works.

RESOLVED - 1) That the Panel:

- i) noted the progress with the development and preparation of the Central Plaza project, with immediate next steps and focus on site preparation and stabilising the retaining walls of the site that adjoined West Walls and Victoria Viaduct;
- ii) noted that a national marketing exercise would be undertaken to identify a private sector developer for the de-risked site;

iii) noted that a change control to the project may be required by the Future High Streets Fund central team, given that the redevelopment of the site was likely to happen after the end of March 2024.

2) That the Corporate Director of Economic Development provide the Panel with further information regarding the costings for the site preparation / stabilisation works.

The Meeting ended at: 16:42