

# AGENDA

## Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 14 April 2022 AT 16:00  
In the Flensburg Room, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG

**\*\*A pre meeting for Members to prepare for the Panel will take place 45 minutes before the meeting\*\***

The Press and Public are welcome to attend for the consideration of any items which are public.

### **Members of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel**

Councillor Brown (Chair), Councillors Ms Ellis-Williams, Mrs Glendinning, Meller (Vice Chair), Mrs McKerrell, Mrs Mitchell, Mitchelson, Sunter.

Substitutes:

Councillors Alcroft, Atkinson, Bainbridge, Birks, Collier, Mrs Finlayson, Glover, Lishman, Morton, Patrick, Robson, Shepherd, Miss Sherriff, Southward, Dr Tickner, Tinnion, Miss Whalen and Wills.

## **PART A**

**To be considered when the Public and Press are present**

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitutions

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and any interests, relating to any items on the agenda at this stage.

### **PUBLIC AND PRESS**

To agree that the items of business within Part A of the agenda should be dealt with in public and that the items of business within Part B of the agenda should be dealt with in private.

#### **A.1 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS**

To consider any matter which has been the subject of call-in.

#### **A.2 ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2021/22**

**5 - 10**

Portfolio:	Cross Cutting
Directorate:	Cross Cutting
Officer:	Rowan Jones, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Report:	OS.13/22 herewith

#### **Background:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer to submit the draft Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel section of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22.

#### **Why is this item on the agenda?**

Annual Scrutiny Report.

#### **What is the Panel being asked to do?**

Consider and comment on the attached section of the report.

### A.3 OVERVIEW REPORT

11 -  
14

Portfolio:	Cross Cutting
Directorate:	Cross Cutting
Officer:	Rowan Jones, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Report:	OS.12/22 herewith

#### **Background:**

To consider a report providing an overview of matters related to the work of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel.

#### **Why is this item on the agenda?**

The Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel operates within a Work Programme which is set for the 2021/22 municipal year. The Programme is reviewed at every meeting so that it can be adjusted to reflect the wishes of the Panel and take into account items relevant to this Panel in the latest Notice of Executive Key Decisions.

#### **What is the Panel being asked to do?**

- Note the items within Panel remit on the most recent Notice of Executive Key Decisions;
- Note the current Work Programme

## **PART B**

**To be considered when the Public and Press are excluded from the meeting**

### B.1 CENTRAL PLAZA UPDATE

*\*\*\* This report is not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as it contains exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).\*\*\**

Portfolio:	Economy, Enterprise and Housing
Directorate:	Economic Development
Officer:	Steven Robinson, Regeneration Manager
Report:	ED.10/22 herewith

**Background:**

The Corporate Director of Economic Development to submit a report which provides an update on the progress of the Future High Streets Fund Central Plaza project.

**Why is this item on the agenda?**

Requested by Officers as part of the project sign off process.

**What is the Panel being asked to do?**

- Note the progress with the development of the Central Plaza project with immediate next steps and focus on site preparation and stabilising the retaining walls of the site that adjoin West Walls and Victoria Viaduct;
- Note that a national marketing exercise will be undertaken to identify a private sector developer for the de-risked site;
- Note that a change control to the project may be required by the Future High Streets Fund central team, given the redevelopment of the site is now likely to happen after the end of March 2024.

Enquiries, requests for reports, background papers etc to:  
[committeeservices@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@carlisle.gov.uk)



# Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

Item  
A.2

Meeting Date: 14 April 2022  
Portfolio: Cross-cutting  
Key Decision: No  
Within Policy and  
Budget Framework  
Private/Public Public

Title: Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-22  
Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer  
Report Number: OS.13/22

## Purpose / Summary:

This report provides the draft Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel Section for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-22.

## Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- Consider and comment on the attached section of the draft report.

## Tracking

Executive:	<b>Not applicable</b>
Scrutiny:	<b>EGSP 14/04/22</b>
Council:	<b>26/04/22</b>

## 1. Background

1.1 The Constitution: Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees, 6.03 Specific functions [c] states that:

*'Annual report. Overview and scrutiny committees must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.'*

1.2 This report contains this Panel's draft sections for the Annual Scrutiny Report 2021-22. Each Scrutiny Panel will consider their own sections of the draft report before recommending its acceptance to Council.

1.3 Members are asked to note the report contents, prior to it going to Council on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Panel note the appended draft report.

Contact Officer: Rowan Jones Email: rowan.jones@carlisle.gov.uk

Appendices attached to report: Draft General and Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel sections for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

### CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL -

FINANCE –

EQUALITY – This report raises no explicit issues relating to the public sector Equality Duty.

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE –

## **APPENDIX: Draft General and Economic Scrutiny Panel sections for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-22**

### **Introduction**

Carlisle City Council has three scrutiny panels:

- Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel
- Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel
- Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Over the course of the year each Panel has run a full and varied workplan, reflecting aspects of the City Council's function that fall within that Panel's remit. Members have looked carefully at their work programmes, working with council officers to ensure that their scrutiny activity is targeted at the most important issues and decisions that are facing the City Council as Carlisle continues to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, prepares for Local Government Re-organisation in Cumbria and builds upon the many opportunities that are open to us.

### **What is Scrutiny and why is it important?**

Scrutiny is a process to ensure that decisions taken by the Council reflect the needs and priorities of communities in Carlisle. Scrutiny is carried out by Councillors who understand and promote the concerns of the people who elected them, connecting decision makers to local communities.

Council decisions can be made by Council Officers, by the Council's 'Executive' (the political leadership) and by full Council (all Councillors).

Scrutiny Panels are made up of Non-Executive Councillors who work together, across political parties, to understand why decisions are made and how the Council is performing to deliver the best possible outcomes for Carlisle and its people. Scrutiny Panels do not have decision-making powers; their role is to challenge and make recommendations that influence decision makers.

### **Comment from Leader of the Council, Councillor John Mallinson**

*<<Comments to be inserted>>*

## **Public engagement in Scrutiny**

Scrutiny Panels are open to the public to attend at the Civic Centre, when Panels are meeting at a physical location. Panel meetings can be viewed online via the Council's website, whilst virtual meetings are taking place as part of Covid-19 social distancing measures.

Agendas, report and minutes from Scrutiny Panel meetings are available on the City Council website. Members of the public can also submit questions for meetings; these need to be submitted 11 full days before the Panel Meeting.

For more information on these meetings or on how to engage with the Scrutiny process, please contact: [scrutiny@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@carlisle.gov.uk).

## **Local Government Re-organisation**

In May 2023 Carlisle City Council will become part of a new Cumberland Council under Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) in Cumbria. Over this year, 2022-23, a Shadow Cumberland Authority will exist, which will run its own shadow scrutiny arrangements. A unique challenge for Scrutiny Panels at Carlisle in this coming year will be developing a constructive approach to working efficiently in tandem with shadow scrutiny arrangements. Good communication and robust work-planning will be key to this.

## **Future Scrutiny Arrangements for 2022 – 23**

During 2021-22 a cross panel working group was established to consider future scrutiny arrangements for the final year of activity at Carlisle City Council. A proposal has been made for a move to a two-panel system, this will be considered by Council on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Scrutiny will be well prepared and in a strong position for its final year of activity at Carlisle City Council, regardless of the outcome on the two-panel decision. During this current year there has been a focus on continuous improvement through a Scrutiny Improvement Plan.

## **Scrutiny Improvement Plan**

A Scrutiny Improvement Plan was developed in response to feedback on scrutiny from two Corporate Peer Challenges that took place in 2020, before the announcement on Local Government Re-organisation. Twelve actions address five recommendations for improvement:

- Provide Scrutiny Chairs with further dedicated support
- Officers working with scrutiny seek and share further learning on different ways of operating scrutiny



- Identify a senior officer champion for scrutiny
- Consider the structure of scrutiny and options for reducing the number of panels
- Have a scrutiny improvement plan in place

Progress against this scrutiny plan has been reported to Scrutiny Chairs at quarterly meetings. At their final meeting of the year in March 2022, Scrutiny Chairs were satisfied that delivery of this plan has been achieved.

### **Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel (EGSP)**

#### **Chairs Report, Councillor Lisa Brown**

As we have cautiously returned to normal after the pandemic disrupted the first half of last year, it has as always been a pleasure to Chair the EGSP. My thanks go to Cllr Mellor as Vice Chair for stepping in whilst I had a brief period away from duties over Christmas to give birth to my daughter Ellie-Jayne. We had a few changes to Members of the panel this year and I hope that they all felt that they had lots of opportunities to get to grips with responsibilities we have as Scrutiny Members to be a critical friend to the Executive.

With large investment coming into the city, I would like to praise the officers involved in the bids for their hard work and success in the processes. The majority of items coming to the panel are the many key projects for across the City. Our focus has really been to look at these in a new light as we try to ensure Carlisle recovers quickly from the Coronavirus pandemic.

The panel received a report on the draft Economic Strategy. Members explored the scope of the plan and raised many questions on whether it met the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as opportunities for the future and priorities for coming years.

We also focused a lot on Tourism and Events this year. It is vital that we see an increase in visitor numbers post-pandemic and it is pleasing that many events are returning the city centre.

We must use all the tools available to reduce poverty and improve quality of life for each person living in the urban or rural parts of the district. It is clear that the Council benefits from some dedicated and experienced members of staff; their ambition for Carlisle is obvious when reading the reports to the panel.

As Chair I have found great value in the meetings with Senior Management Team to develop our work programme. These meetings have helped focus our agendas and avoid

duplication, making the EGSP work programme efficient and effective and giving Members more time to ask important questions.

The panel has had one extra meeting this year, receiving the Towns Deals business cases before they went to Executive and then Government. Throughout there were many questions on how Local Government reorganisation could affect the Towns Deal. The Panel felt assured that these challenges had already been looked and planned for.

We are in the final year of Carlisle City Council, and at the time of writing scrutiny may look different in a few short weeks. Whichever form next year's panels take we look forward to seeing Carlisle evolve into a blossoming city, attracting more investment to create well paid jobs and a vibrant local economy.

#### Comment from Councillor Marilyn Bowman, Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and Housing

*<<Comments to be inserted>>*

#### Potential items for Scrutiny in 2022 - 23

The following items are topics that Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel have identified that are likely to have significance in 2022-23:

- Continued oversight of major economic development projects and implications of LGR for these
- Engagement with strategic partners such as LEP and Riverside
- Events, tourism, high street vitality

# Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

Item  
A.3

Meeting Date: 14/04/2022  
 Portfolio: Cross-cutting  
 Key Decision:  
 Policy and Budget Framework: No  
 Public / Private: Public

Title: Overview Report  
 Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer  
 Report Number: OS.12/22

**Purpose / Summary:**

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Scrutiny Panel’s work. It also includes the latest version of the work programme.

**Recommendations:**

Members are asked to:

- Note the items within Panel remit on the most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions
- Note the current work programme

**Tracking**

Executive:	<b>Not applicable</b>
Scrutiny:	<b>EGSP 14/04/22</b>
Council:	<b>Not applicable</b>

## 1. Notice of Key Decisions

1.1. The most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions was published on 18 February 2022. This was circulated to all Members and is available on the CMIS section on the Council's webpages. The following items fall within the remit of this Panel:

Items that are included in the Panel's work programme:

- Central Plaza Development Site Options
- Carlisle Town Deal

Items that are not included in the Panel's work programme:

- Town Deal Start with the Park Project
- Central Plaza Project

## 2. References from the Executive

2.1. None

## 3. Progress on resolutions from previous meetings

3.1. The following table sets out the meeting date and resolution that requires following up. The status is presented as either "completed", "pending" (date expected), or "outstanding". An item is considered outstanding if no update or progress has been made after three panel meetings. All the completed actions will be removed from the list following the meeting.

	Meeting date	Minute ref	Action	Status
1	17/06/21	EGSP 37/21	3) That the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan be circulated to Panel Members when it became available.	Pending Draft plans are available in the public consultation section of the County Council website: <a href="#">Cycling and walking in Cumbria   Cumbria County Council</a>
2	02/12/21	EGSP 78/21	2) The Corporate Director of Economic Development circulate the following information to the Panel: - a diagram of the overall structure of the Development Corporation; - the notes of the Members Advisory Group	Complete
3	20/01/22	EGSP 06/22	2) That the Head of Regeneration circulate a copy of the City Centre Strategy Vision to the Panel:  3) That the Corporate Director of Economic Development circulate the following to the Panel - Town Investment Plan; - Links to the background documents used in the	Complete

			report; - A copy of the Summary of Key Findings, Opportunities and Challenges chart.	
4	20/01/22	EGSP 07/22	2) That the Head of Regeneration circulate a written response to the Panel detailing which of the items listed under the outputs and outcomes of the England's Historic Cities Consortium programme of projects related to Carlisle.	Pending
5	03/03/22	EGSP 14/22	2) That Ms Lappin provide the Panel with the following information: - Copy of the Digital Strategy - Definition of seasonally adjusted - resident based	Complete

#### 4. Contribution to the Carlisle Plan Priorities

4.1. The overview and scrutiny of the Carlisle Plan items that fall within the remit of this Panel contribute to ongoing policy development.

**Contact Officer: Rowan Jones**

**Ext: 7257**

**Appendices  
attached to report:**

**1. Draft Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2021-22**

**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 –**

**PROPERTY SERVICES -**

**FINANCE –**

**EQUALITY – This report raises no explicit issues relating to the public sector Equality Duty**

**INFORMATION GOVERNANCE –**

## APPENDIX 1: Draft Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2021-22

Date	Title	Type of Scrutiny	Lead Officer
17/06/2021	End of Year Performance Report	Monitoring	Gary Oliver
	Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy	Policy develop't	Steven O'Keeffe
29/07/2021	Draft Carlisle Plan	Policy develop't	Steven O'Keeffe
	Events - planned events and how they can support city centre vitality	Policy update	Paul Walker/ Zoe Sutton
	Draft Economic Strategy and Action Plan	Monitoring	Steve Robinson
	High Street Task Force - quick wins for the City Centre	Policy develop't	Jane Meek
09/09/2021	Covid-19 Recovery Update - focus on Economic Growth	Policy update	Jane Meek
	Economic Development Programme Management Office	Policy update	Jane Meek
	Performance Report - Q1	Monitoring	Gary Oliver
18/10/2021	Site visit to Victorian Baths - joint with HWSP		Steve Robinson
21/10/2021	Housing Delivery and Partnerships	Policy update	Jeremy Hewitson
	Sustainable Warmth Competition (Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 3 and Home Upgrade Grants (HUG))	Policy update	Emma-Kate Bishop
02/12/2021	Flood Risk Management	Partnership	Jane Meek/ Stuart Mounsey E.A.
	Performance Report - Q2	Monitoring	Gary Oliver
	Delivering SCGV - resources and skills/ Development Corporation	Policy develop't	Jane Meek/ Neil Cole
	Budget	Budget	Alison Taylor
	Infrastructure for connectivity	Policy develop't	Jane Meek/ Steve Robinson
20/01/2022	City Centre Report	Policy develop't	Steve Robinson
	Tourism - delivering this strand of the Economic Strategy	Policy develop't	Jane Meek
03/03/2022	Performance Report - Q3	Monitoring	Gary Oliver
	LEP - Partner Update	Partnership	Jane Meek
	Economic Development Programme Management Office	Policy update	Jane Meek
17/03/22	Town Deal Business Cases	Policy update	Steve Robinson
14/04/2022	Scrutiny Annual Report	Policy develop't	Rowan Jones
	Economic Strategy Action Plan - performance monitoring	Monitoring	Steve Robinson
	FHSF Project: Central Plaza Development site options - Part B	Policy update	Zoe Sutton