



Place Scrutiny Panel

Meeting Date: 02/03/2023
Portfolio: Cross-cutting

Key Decision:
Policy and Budget
Framework

No

Public / Private Public

Title: Overview Report and Scrutiny Annual Report
Report of: Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Report Number: OS.07/23

Purpose / Summary:

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Scrutiny Panel's work. It also includes a draft of this year's Scrutiny Annual Report for comment.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- Note the items within Panel remit on the most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions.
- Consider and comment on the appended Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23.

Tracking

Executive:	Not applicable
Scrutiny:	Place 02/03/23
Council:	Not applicable

1. Notice of Key Decisions

1.1. The most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions was published on 20 January 2023. This was circulated to all Members and is available on the CMIS section of the Council's webpages. The following items fall within the remit of this Panel:

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

- None

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

- None

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 reference	Action	Status
1	01/12/22	PLP.41/22	2) That the Policy and Scrutiny Officer provide a written response to the Panel regarding whether the Rural Strategy would continue to be a joint document with Eden District.	Pending
2	19/01/23	PLP.07/23	(2) That the Economic Assessment report be circulated to the Panel for their information.	Pending
3	19/01/23	PLP. 08/23	5. Requested that an update on the next phase of the design be brought back to the Panel if possible.	Complete Chair agreed that this would not be timely.

4. Scrutiny Annual Report 2022 – 23

4.1 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'.

4.2 The draft Scrutiny Annual Report, including the comments from the People Panel Chair, is provided as an appendix to this report. Members are asked to consider the information provided and comment on any amendments or further information that this report should provide.

5. Contribution to the Carlisle Plan Priorities

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

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**Appendices
attached to report:**

1. Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23

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 –

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23



Introduction

Carlisle City Council has three scrutiny panels:

- Place Scrutiny Panel
- People Scrutiny Panel
- Resources Scrutiny Panel

Resources Scrutiny Panel has oversight of budget matters and financial planning. Due to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Cumbria being due see Carlisle City Council merged into a larger Cumberland Unitary Authority in April 2023, there has not been a requirement for budget or development of financial plans during this scrutiny year.

Place and People Scrutiny Panels have met regularly over the year working with officers to ensure that their scrutiny activity is targeted at the most important issues and decisions that are facing the City Council as Carlisle responds to the rising cost of living, goes through the Local Government Re-organisation process 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.

Local Government Re-organisation

On 1 April 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 has existed that has included shadow scrutiny arrangements. The Shadow Scrutiny Committee has considered matters relating to the Shadow Cumberland Authority, while City Council Scrutiny Panels have considered matters within the remit of Carlisle City Council. As the LGR process has developed, the effective handover of services and strategic priorities has been a recurring theme in scrutiny discussions at the City Council.

The Chairs of Place and People Scrutiny Panel engaged with a Cumberland Shadow Scrutiny Task and Finish Group that was considering future scrutiny options for Cumberland Council. The Chairs shared their experiences of the Place and People scrutiny model at Carlisle, programme planning and lessons learned from the City Council's recent work in restructuring its scrutiny arrangements.

Comment from Leader of the Council, Councillor John Mallinson

It's been another busy year for all the Scrutiny Panels and a lot of hard work has gone into making a very positive contribution to various policies and work programmes that this council is undertaking.

There are many projects that have kept us busy including the Garden Village with its associated new Carlisle Southern Link Road and the very important Borderlands project which will deliver the Station hub as well as the rejuvenation of the Citadels and surrounding area. We also have the Towns Deal and the Future High Streets Fund. We look forward to seeing the redevelopment of the Central Plaza site and also to seeing the Hooper's building redeveloped. Carlisle City Council has been heavily involved, in many cases leading, on these projects.

The Executive have appreciated the Scrutiny Panels work in carrying out in-depth and forensic examinations as well as exploring all options and helping formulate policy; as well as keeping an eye on our day-to-day activities.

As we come to the end of the line for the City Council I hope that the new Cumberland Authority is able to continue that work that our Scrutiny Panels have done to add value to the work of this council; both Councillors and officers working on behalf of residents and the wider community, working with our partners to achieve this.

Once again, I would like to thank Scrutiny and the Officers on behalf of myself and my Executive Members for all the hard work you do and a particular thanks to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman who come along and report to our Executive Meetings on behalf of Scrutiny.

Place Scrutiny Panel Chair's Report, Councillor James Bainbridge

As Place Panel comes to the end of its final year, there are several themes that have come through in our consideration of the reports and the briefings we have received:

Let's take a moment to reflect on our success

We concluded the year with full occupancy of the Junction 44 project, and a new swimming baths. Both are commercial and large infrastructure projects that have come within budget and with only marginal slippages in timescale. Firm project management has been the key to much of this by experienced officers. Going forward, if the new Cumberland Council adheres to these principles across projects such as the Morton mixed use site, it will bode well for the City's prospects as a whole.

The challenge of inflation

With inflation in the construction sector having spiked in 2022, the scope for future projects may become more easier to quantify in terms of future costings for the coming year. The challenges of this has been a problem for the management of grant-led investment schemes and the ambitions of the City to grow outwards in terms of infrastructure and housing. This has also impacted the flow of information to the Panel. Officers have rightly held back on submitting reports, so that additional work can be undertaken, and this can be seen in several reports such as the High Street Fund and the Garden Village Delivery Vehicle, which have slipped in timescale to such an extent that they will feed into the new Cumberland Authority for scrutiny, rather than ourselves.

The need to move away from reports

Over the last we have, to some extent, tried to move away from being a Panel that receives reports as our sole source of information. We have benefited from presentations by Riverside over the regeneration of housing stock in the west of the city, and a field trip to Talkin Tarn was able to focus the Panel on the potential that investment in the site could release for the wider population.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank officers who have attended the Panel over the last 12 months, the panel members who have assiduously attended the panels and actively contributed on the issues. Lastly, if I could thank Rachel, Jacqui and Rowan for their work and support to the Panel. I am sure that we wish them all well in the new Cumberland Authority.

People Scrutiny Panel Chair's Report, Councillor Colin Glover

<<To insert>>

Comment from Portfolio Holder for Communities, Health and Wellbeing

I would like to put on record my thanks to the People Scrutiny Panel for all the positive work that you have done over the last twelve months. As a panel you have looked at issues that cut across over many portfolio areas but have an impact of Health and Wellbeing in the City

People Scrutiny Panel over the last year has looked at a large range of issues. The scrutiny work programme also includes Performance Reports to ensure that that the council is on track for continuous improvement within all service areas. It has helped me keep on track issues that have arisen in my portfolio area; so improving outcomes.

We have had some very good reports presented to People Scrutiny Panel from our Healthy City Team covering:

- World Health Organisation and work that this council has done and then been asked to present at an international conference on Health Issues that we have been able to take to the community.
- Healthy City Committee working with our NHS partners, Cumbria County Council Local Committee Team, Works and Pensions, the Third Sector and our Armed Forces.
- Children\ youths and their wellbeing.
- Various other issues too many to cover now but a big thank you for looking into them.

This list is in addition to all the various cross cutting items from other portfolio areas which have an input on our health and wellbeing.

To end, I would like to say thank you to the Panel for your hard work - it's a team effort and I really believe that your work has helped to form positive policy and working practices for our communities.

Resources Scrutiny Panel Chair's Report, Councillor Christine Finlayson

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