



Resources Panel

Date: Thursday, 05 January 2023

Time: 16:00

Venue: Flensburg Room

Present: Councillor Mrs Christine Finlayson, Councillor Michael Mitchelson, Councillor Peter Sunter, Councillor Dr Les Tickner, Councillor Christopher Wills
Councillor Keith Meller (for Councillor Ms Jo Ellis-Williams)

Officers: Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
Head of Policy and Communications
Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Democratic Services Support Officer (Observing)

REP.01/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Jo Ellis-Williams and the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

REP.02/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

REP.03/23 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED - That any items in Part A be dealt with in public and any items in private be dealt with in Part B.

REP.04/23 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS

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

REP.05/23 OVERVIEW OF PANEL REMITS AND LINKS TO LGR PROGRAMME

The Head of Policy and Communications submitted an update on the Resources Panel remit and the links to the LGR Programme (OS.02/23).

The Panel discussed, in some detail, their disappointment that the remit of the new Resources Panel had been confined to scrutinising the City Council's budget in a year when the City Council would not be producing a budget. They noted that the report had focused on the budget process for Cumberland Council and therefore the Panel had nothing to scrutinise within their remit.

The Panel expressed concern that members of the public would have expected the Panel to scrutinise the matters within their remit and there was some apprehension that the strategic financial planning documents had not been scrutinised.

The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources clarified that the City Council had not produced the strategic financial planning documents as this was now the role of the Shadow Authority for Cumberland. She assured the Panel that budget monitoring reports had been the subject of regular scrutiny by the People Panel.

Members queried their role in the setting of the Cumberland Council budget and how the City Council could raise issues should there be some concerns about the proposed budget.

The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources responded that the Cumberland Council budget for 2023/24 would be subject to a consultation period. During the consultation Members, as residents of the area, could submit their response to the budget. There was no role for the City Council Scrutiny Panels in the setting of the Cumberland Council Budget.

A Member highlighted the Cumberland Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme that had been included in the report and asked how the City Council Cost of Living Task and Finish Group work would feed into the Cumberland Council Scrutiny Cost of Living work.

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer explained that the City Council Task and Finish Group would be an additional resource for the Cumberland Council work. It was expected that the Cumberland Council work would take into consideration similar reports and documents from all of the sovereign Council's to inform their work.

RESOLVED - That the overview report (OS.02/23) be noted.

REP.06/23 OVERVIEW REPORT

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer submitted an overview of matters related to the Panel's work (OS.03/23).

RESOLVED - That the Overview Report be noted (OS.03/23)

The Meeting ended at: 16:31