



# Report to Resources Panel

Meeting Date: 5 January 2023  
Portfolio: Cross-cutting  
Key Decision: No  
Within Policy and Budget Framework: Yes  
Public / Private: Public

Title: Overview of Panel Remits and links to LGR Programme  
Report of: Head of Policy & Communications  
Report Number: OS 02/23

## Purpose / Summary:

The purpose of the report is to update the Panel on their remits and the links to the LGR Programme.

## Recommendations:

That the Panel are asked to note and comment on the report.

## Tracking

Executive:	N/A
Scrutiny:	Resource Panel
Council:	N/A

## 1. Overview

- 1.1. This is the first report requested for the Resource Panel for the Civic Year. The Panel has not needed to meet due to the changes to the Council's budget planning processes, because of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
- 1.2. The LGR Programme has developed a set of Service blueprints which provide the current picture of how each service is delivered and how it could be dis-aggregated, aggregated or shared between the new councils to be ready for vesting day. There are over 80 blueprints covering all the services provided by all seven councils. These blueprints were considered by the two Shadow Executives when they meet formally on 20 July for Cumberland and 22 July for Westmorland and Furness. The Service Blueprints for Cumberland can be accessed at:  
<https://cumberland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s349/Appendix%20%20-%20Service%20Baseline%20Blueprints%20Shadow%20Executive%20Report%20v%200.1%20006.pdf>
- 1.3. The LGR Programme reports updates and progress to the Cumberland Council Shadow Executive and Shadow Scrutiny, the majority of these reports are in the public domain (Part A) and these reports have formed the basis for the links to the Resource Panel remits. A regular agenda item for the Cumberland Council Shadow Executive is the update report.
- 1.4. The purpose of the update report is to comply with The Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022 to deliver a sustainable Unitary Council, and a sustainable Fire and Rescue Service, in an economic, efficient, effective, safe, legal and seamless fashion, delivering both benefits from Vesting Day and the foundation for further transformation in the future.
- 1.5. Since July 2022, a number of service areas have been reviewed by the LGR Programme Member Implementation Board (MIB). Following the review of each service the MIB has made informed decisions based on officer recommendations, on the need to host the service, the intended period of hosting and which unitary council will be the host authority.

## Panel Remits

- 1.6. The following areas are listed as the Panel's remits in the Constitution:
  - Asset Management Plan
  - Budget development and framework
  - Capital Investment Strategy
  - Corporate Charging Policy
  - Medium Term Financial Plan
  - Strategic Finance

- Strategic Financial Planning Group
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement

## **Panel Remits and LGR Programme**

1.7. The Panel's remit make-up the entirety of the Budgetary Framework of the Council's Policy and Budgetary Framework (Constitution Article 4). These key documents are interlinked and can be viewed as the core information for strategic financial planning.

1.8. In terms of the LGR Programme, these remits are covered by the following Service Blueprints:

- Accountancy and Financial Planning
- Cumbria Local Government Pension Scheme
- Treasury Management, Banking & Insurance
- Corporate Estate and Capital Programme

1.9. The defining design principle has been for separate services for the two new unitary councils. Within all the Service Blueprints there are sections that highlight whether there is a need to host the service, the intended period of hosting and which unitary council will be the host authority. Subsequently, the Member Implementation reached their decisions based on officer recommendations.

## **Panel Remits and Cumberland Shadow Executive**

1.10. The Cumberland Shadow Executive have then considered these recommendations to reach their decision on the service arrangements. One of the most significant decisions, relating to the Panel remits, is that Cumberland Shadow Executive agreed that Westmorland & Furness Council would be the Administering Authority for Cumbria Local Government Pension Scheme from 1 April 2023.

1.11. An update on the Strategic Financial Planning for Cumberland Shadow Executive was discussed on 20 July 2022. The report sets out the proposed financial disaggregation and aggregation process from a funding, revenue cost and balance sheet perspective to give initial potential funding envelopes for the Unitary Councils and Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.

1.12. This report also provides clarity on the decisions required by each Unitary Council and Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service to deliver the strategic planning process to enable the development of their 2023/24 revenue and capital budgets and Medium Term Financial Plans. The report can be accessed at:

<https://cumberland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s360/Item%2010%20Cumberland%20Strategic%20Financial%20Planning%20Report.pdf>

1.13. The Cumberland Shadow Executive considered a report on the Fees & Charges Harmonisation at the meeting on 5 October 2022. The purpose of the report is to agree the principles to be applied to the harmonisation of fees and charges to enable the preparation of 2023-24 Fees & Charges Schedules, for the Council, in line with the timeline for approval as part of the budget setting process.

1.14. On 20 October 2022 the Cumberland Shadow Executive considered a report which provided an update on progress on producing a draft 2023/24 revenue budget and medium term financial plan for the new Cumberland Council. The report sets out the latest estimated funding position, budget pressures, key financial risks and challenges influencing the development of the financial plans for 2023/24 and the ongoing financial impact of those plans. The report can be accessed at:

<https://cumberland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s656/Cumberland%20Shadow%20Executive%2027%20October%202022%20CN.pdf>

### **Panel Remits and Cumberland Shadow Scrutiny**

1.15. The Cumberland Shadow Scrutiny Committee Work Plan is attached as Appendix A, the budget scrutiny is planned for 1 February 2023. Shadow Scrutiny are due to receive a verbal financial update from the Interim Section 151 Officer and the Shadow Portfolio Holder at their meeting on 21 December 2022.

1.16. Shadow Scrutiny also instigated a budget training session for all non-Executive Cumberland Members on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

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**Appendices attached to report: Appendix A: Cumberland Shadow Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 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

## Appendix A: Cumberland Shadow Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2022/23

Meeting Date	Item	Lead Officer
25/05/2022	Induction Session for Scrutiny Members – Introduction to Scrutiny at the Shadow Authority	Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS)
20/06/2022	Scrutiny Terms of Reference and Induction Update	Scrutiny Officer/ Interim Monitoring Officer
	Local Government Re-organisation Programme Status Report	Programme Director
	Scrutiny Overview and Work Plan Report	Scrutiny Officer
22/06/2022	Induction Session for Scrutiny Members – Work Programming	CfGS
10/08/2022	Draft Cumberland Council Plan	Interim Head of Paid Service
	Local Government Re-organisation Programme Status Report	Programme Director
	Scrutiny Overview and Work Plan Report	Scrutiny Officer
26/08/2022	Draft Cumberland Plan – virtual workshop - plan development	
23/09/2022	Cumberland Plan – feedback from Scrutiny workshop and consultation findings.	Interim Head of Paid Service
	Local Government Re-organisation Programme Status Report Including risk register (if possible – Panel requested)	Programme Director
	Scrutiny Overview and Work Plan Report	Scrutiny Officers
23/09/2022	Scrutiny Committee “away day” afternoon	Scrutiny Officers
Sept-Oct '22	T&F Group – Future Scrutiny Arrangements	Scrutiny Officers
02/11/2022	Task and Finish Group Report - Future Scrutiny Arrangements for Cumberland Council	Scrutiny Officer
	Local Government Re-organisation Programme Status Report	Programme Director
	Scrutiny Overview and Work Plan Report	Scrutiny Officer
25/11/2022	Budget workshop	S.151 Officer
21/12/2022	Finance Update	S.151 Officer
	Local Government Re-organisation Programme Status Report	Programme Director
	Scrutiny Overview and Work Plan Report	Scrutiny Officer
01/02/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Draft Cumberland Council Constitution</i></li> <li>• <i>Budget 2023/24 consultation (subject to timings)</i></li> </ul>	<i>Possible – dependent upon timings</i>
	Local Government Re-organisation Programme Status Report	Programme Director
	Scrutiny Overview and Work Plan Report	Scrutiny Officer
	Update on Scrutiny Activity on Cost of Living Crisis in Sovereign Councils	Scrutiny Officers
22/03/2023	Local Government Re-organisation Programme Status Report	Programme Director
	Shadow Scrutiny Annual Report	Scrutiny Officer
	Scrutiny Overview and Work Plan Report	Scrutiny Officer