

Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:
A.3

Meeting Date: 13th February 2014
Portfolio: Cross Cutting
Key Decision: No
Within Policy and Budget Framework
Public / Private Public

Title: OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME
Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Report Number: OS 04/14

Summary:

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Community O&S Panel's work. It also includes the latest version of the work programme.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- Decide whether the items on the Notice of Key Executive Decisions should be included in the Panel's Work Programme for consideration.
- Note and/or amend the Panel's work programme

Tracking

Executive:	Not applicable
Overview and Scrutiny:	13th February 2014
Council:	Not applicable

1. Notice of Key Executive Decisions

The most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions was published on 10th January 2014. There are no issues which fall into the remit of this Panel.

2. References from the Executive

The following references have been received from the Executive following their meeting on 15th January 2014 and are attached at Appendix 1.

- Ex.07/14 Carlisle Sports And Physical Activity Strategy
- Ex.08/14 Private Sector Housing Enforcement

3. Update from Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Cumbria Police and Crime Panel

The Council's representative of these Committees, Cllr Bowditch, will attend the meeting to update Members on items discussed at the above Committees on 22nd January and 30th January respectively. The agenda and associated reports from the meeting can be found on Cumbria County Council's website.

Police and Crime Panel -

<http://councilportal.cumbria.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1000000007&MId=7265&Ver=4>

Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee -

<http://councilportal.cumbria.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=152&MId=7761&Ver=4>

4. Scrutiny Chairs Group

A meeting of the Chairs Group was held on 6th February 2014 and the Panel will be updated verbally on items discussed at the meeting.

5. Scrutiny Annual Report

All Scrutiny Members were sent an e-mail asking if there were particular issues they wished to see discussed in the annual report. If Members have not given their views yet, they are invited to do so at today's meeting or by e-mail soon afterwards. A draft of the annual report will come to the Panel's final meeting of this civic year, on Thursday 27th March 2014.

6. Community Centre Task and Finish Group

In order to continue to monitor the implementation of the Task Groups recommendations made in October 2012, Members of the Task Group attended the Community Centre Managers meeting on 11th February. Cllr Prest, Lead Member will update Members of the visit at the Panel meeting and a decision should be made as to whether this item should continue to be placed on the work programme.

7. Work Programme

The Panel's current work programme is attached at **Appendix 2** for comment/amendment.

Contact Officer:

Nicola Edwards

Ext: 7122

Appendices attached to report:

1. Notice of Key Decisions
2. References from the Executive
3. Community O&S Work Programme 2013/14

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

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2014

EX.07/14 **CARLISLE SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY**
(Key Decision – KD.029/13)

Portfolio Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.141/13, the Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder submitted report SD.01/14 returning the City Council's overall Sports and Physical Activity Strategy for 2013 – 17, and related Sports Facilities Strategy, to the Executive following consultation with the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Portfolio Holder reminded Members that the Sports and Physical Activity Strategy, attached at Appendix A, proposed the City Council's vision for Carlisle to become more active, healthy and successful by creating opportunities and overcoming barriers to the taking part in sport and physical activity. The Strategy was underpinned by and dependent upon specific work around the provision of indoor and outdoor facilities and pitches.

Turning to the Carlisle Sports Facilities Strategy 2013 – 23, attached at Appendix B, she reiterated that it proposed a framework for the development of indoor facilities across the City to successfully support and enable the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. The Carlisle Sports Facilities Strategy 2013 – 23 was therefore also included for approval and adoption by the Executive.

Whilst the two documents were stand alone texts, they were co-dependent and together formed a platform for an integrated sports development, participation and investment programme in future years. There was a third element to the Sports Development Strategic Framework, namely a Playing Pitch Strategy, which outlined the development needs and provision of outdoor pitches and facilities across Carlisle over the same period.

That was also in draft format, but was currently subject to final consultation with Sport England (who had offered some strategic planning related lessons learned from other authorities and were keen to offer that advice in direct relation to Carlisle's playing pitch strategy). The finalised Playing Pitch Strategy would be brought before the Executive as soon as that advice had been reviewed.

The Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder emphasised that the Sports and Physical Activity Strategy had been developed following a considerable amount of partnership working across the City. The associated health benefits and need to focus existing Council resources on areas of greatest need; bring partners together; and align resources towards shared and explicit resources were particularly important.

The Portfolio Holder thanked Kavanagh, Knight & Page; all partners and staff; and the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel for their work.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had considered the matter on 9 January 2014 and resolved:

- “1) That report SD.11/13 – Carlisle Sports and Physical Activity Strategy – be noted
- 2) That the Panel were concerned about the lack of clarity in respect of financial implications of the strategy.”

A copy of Minute Excerpt COSP.06/14 had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel said that Members generally welcomed the strategies, but discussed a central point of a need for extra resources to achieve the aims incorporated therein. They noted that informal conversations had been held with Sport England regarding how external funding might assist. A number of areas were identified in discussion and there would be others where that funding would be required.

For instance, in recent years, the weather and the climate changes would have thrown up problems in relation to drainage improvement on some of the Council’s outdoor pitches. Drainage improvements could cost considerable sums, into many thousands of pounds.

In terms of practical requirements, another factor was that up and down the country more and more women and girls were participating in what were seen in the past as strictly male outdoor sports, such as football and cricket. That participation called for appropriate changing facilities to serve both genders, and resources would have to be found to carry out those needs. Something that both the Council and the private clubs would have to provide.

The strategies stressed that equity in sport was part of their aim. Sport could contribute to improving health and wellbeing, and disabled people were encouraged to take part in sport. According to the report the percentage of disabled people enjoying sport in Carlisle at present was small and it was hoped that figure would grow as a result of the strategies. Extra provisions would, however, be required which would need funding.

The Chairman added that the Panel felt that there was a lack of clarity or explanation as to what and from where the funding needed for those practical aspects would come and who would provide the necessary resources. Accordingly they had inserted a request

for further clarification on those questions within the final resolution, recognising that may take some time to produce.

In response, the Portfolio Holder stated that she had read the Minutes with interest and did consider the issues raised. The Portfolio Holder was in agreement with greater engagement, especially with disabled people. An Action Plan was in the course of development which would encompass all comments raised.

In conclusion, the Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder moved the recommendation which was duly seconded by the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder.

The Leader thanked the Chairman and Portfolio Holder for their input.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive had considered and approved both the Carlisle Sports and Physical Activity Strategy and the Sports Facilities Strategy.

Reasons for Decision

Approval of both the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and the Sports Facilities Strategy would support increased participation in sports and physical activity across the district, together with the well documented health and wellbeing benefits that brought to all communities

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2014

EX.08/14 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT
(Key Decision – KD.033/13)

Portfolio Communities and Housing

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.160/13, the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder submitted report ED.05/14 seeking approval of the Enforcement Policy for Private Sector Housing.

The Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder gave an overview of the background to the matter reminding Members that, the draft Enforcement Policy attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 1a outlined how the Council proposed to utilise fairly and consistently all the powers contained within the Housing Act 2004 to achieve improvements to housing, health and the environment in the City. She added that the policy would ensure that the authority protected vulnerable occupants and provided the foundation for strategic targeted enforcement.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had scrutinised the matter on 9 January 2014 and resolved:

- “1) That Report ED.03/14 – Private Sector Housing Enforcement – be noted.
- 2) That the Executive be requested to re-examine the current charges for HMO registration fees to ensure enough income was generated to enable Officer to carry out the necessary functions. “

A copy of Minute Excerpt COSP.07/14 had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel reported that the Panel recognised the importance of the service performed by that Section in relation to the standards required in rental properties and, particularly, those classified as HMOs. The private sector rental market had expanded in recent years, an increase which was expected to continue.

As it was, it was the landlord that was licensed by the Council, rather than the property, which could throw up problems in keeping the Council’s information on rented

properties up to date. Members felt that an aid to tenants making them aware of the conditions which should be in place in rented properties would be of use.

The Panel suggested that the Council consider:

- (a) Producing a leaflet setting out the above mentioned information, which would be available to both tenants and letting agents; and
- (b) Providing simpler and clearer information on the Council's web pages setting out the hazards which classified as Category I or II, hazards which should be eliminated.

Finally, in order to adequately fund the service provided by the Council's Team, the Panel requested that the Executive re-examine the charges made for registration as a licensed HMO.

In response, the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder believed that the Panel had raised a number of interesting points which had been answered by Officers. The Portfolio Holder was very aware of the work undertaken by the Team, adding that current charges could be re-examined as requested.

The Director of Governance clarified that the draft Policy attached to the report should in fact have been dated 2014 (rather than 2013).

In conclusion, the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder recommended that the Executive approve the Enforcement Policy for Private Sector Housing. The Deputy Leader; and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder seconded the recommendation.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Enforcement Policy for Private Sector Housing 2014, attached at Appendix 1 to Report ED.05/14, be approved.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure a consistent, proportionate and transparent approach to private sector housing enforcement

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

Date last revised: 30 January 2014

Issue	Type of Scrutiny						Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Key Decisions Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Monitoring	Budget		30	11	22	3	19	9	13	27
								May	Jul	Aug	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar
CURRENT MEETING - 13th February 2014															
Riverside Carlisle			✓					✓					✓		
Performance Monitoring Reports	✓						✓		✓		✓		✓		
Community Safety Partnership	✓		✓										✓	✓	
TASK AND FINISH GROUPS															
Hate Crime			✓						✓					✓	
Customer Access Strategy			✓						✓				✓		

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Date last revised: 30 January 2014

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								May	Jul	Aug	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Carlisle's Play Provision Action Plan											✓					
Revenue & Benefits Services											✓					
Benefits Advice Service											✓					
Localisation of Council Tax											✓					
Transformation					✓	✓					✓					

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Date last revised: 30 January 2014

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								May	Jul	Aug	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar
							13	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	
CCTV		✓				✓	To monitor any effects of the reduction of CCTV provision			✓					
Shaddongate Resource Centre					✓		Update on provision, services and financial plan	✓							
Regulatory Reform Order – Empty Property Policy Amendments		✓					Consideration of Executive Report	✓							