

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2012 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Luckley (Chairman) Councillors Mrs Bradley, Collier, Mrs Prest, Scarborough, Mrs Stevenson, Mrs Vasey and Watson (as substitute for Councillor Miss Sherriff)

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Martlew, Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder - Observer
Councillor McDevitt – Observer
Councillor J Mallinson - Observer

COSP.38/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Miss Sherriff and the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder, Councillors Mrs Riddle.

COSP.39/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Stevenson declared a personal interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Agenda Item A.3 Corporate Plan: End of Year Performance Report. Her interest related to the fact that she was a Director Trustee on the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

COSP.40/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on 9 February and 22 March 2012 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

COSP.41/12 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS

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

COSP.42/12 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer (Mrs Edwards) presented report OS.14/12 which provided an overview of matters relating to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel's work and included the latest version of the work programme and Forward Plan items which related to the Panel.

Mrs Edwards reported that:

- The Forward Plan of Executive Key Decisions, covering the period 1 June to 30 September 2012 had been published on 18 May 2012 and there had been three items in the Forward Plan within the remit of this Panel:

KD.007/12 – Food Law Enforcement Service Plan – The Panel had previously agreed to receive the report for information only.

KD.014/12 – CDRP Partnership Plan – The Partnership Plan had been considered by the Joint Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Panel on 28 March 2012.

KD.018/12 – Cumbria Third Sector Compact – This had been removed from the Forward Plan and changed to a non key decision. The Communities and Health Portfolio Holder had offered to discuss the matter with any Members that wished to.

- A Minute Excerpt from the Executive held on 5 April 2012 had been included in the report:

EX.042/12 – Homelessness Task Group

The matter would be added to the Panel's Work Programme to allow the progress made against the recommendations to be monitored in six months time.

- The minutes of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel held on 28 March 2012 had been included in the report for the Panel's approval. Members discussed the outcomes of the Joint Scrutiny Panel and agreed that the current format was not the most effective way for Carlisle to scrutinise the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). They agreed that Carlisle's Membership should consider withdrawing from the Joint Scrutiny Panel and that the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel would scrutinise the work of the CDRP within Carlisle.

- The Work Programme for 2012/13 had been attached to the Overview report and would be discussed in more detail at the Panel's Development Session.

- Accommodation and Foyer Service Development for Young People – The opening of the Resource Centre had been delayed from April until October 2012. The Panel asked that a briefing note be submitted updating the Panel on the current situation with regard to the Centre and asked that a further update be submitted following the opening of the Centre.

- Affordable Warmth – The Panel asked for an update on the Affordable Warmth project including information on further funding and the success of the project.

- Working with Young People – The Panel agreed that an update on 'Working with Young People' should be brought earlier than January 2013.

RESOLVED – 1) That, subject to the issues raised above, the Overview Report incorporating the Work Programme and Forward Plan items relevant to this Panel be noted;

2) That the following Forward Plan items would not be considered by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel as an individual agenda item:

KD.007/12 – Food Law Enforcement Service Plan

KD.014/12 – CDRP Partnership Plan

3) That Minute Excerpt EX.042/12 – Homelessness Task Group from the Executive held on 5 April 2012 be noted;

- 4) That an update on the progress made against the recommendations of the Homelessness Task Group be submitted to the Panel in six months time;
- 5) That the Minutes of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel held on 28 March 2012 be approved;
- 6) That Carlisle City Council consider withdrawing their Membership from the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel and the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel would scrutinise the work of the CDRP within Carlisle.

COSP.43/12 CORPORATE PLAN: END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Policy and Performance Officer (Mr Oliver) submitted the end of year performance report against the 2011/12 Corporate Plan (PPP.07/12).

The Panel agreed to defer the item to a future meeting of the Panel to allow for the Director of Community Engagement to attend the meeting to answer the Panel's questions.

RESOLVED – That the Corporate Plan End of Year Performance Report be deferred to a future meeting of the Panel.

COSP.44/12 NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING

The Wellbeing Manager (Ms Pilkington) submitted report CD.13/12 which included the latest version of the work programme based on the recommendations set out by the Neighbourhood Working Task and Finish Group.

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- What was the Challenge and Change Group?

Ms Pilkington explained that the Challenge and Change Group had been set up by the Chief Executive to consider different ways of working. The Group was made up of a number of officers with different levels of responsibility. The first item to come from the Group was a Suggestion Scheme for staff. In response to a further question Ms Pilkington stated that there was not Union representation on the Group but any suggestions that would be implemented that were significant changes would be taken through the usual consultation process with Unions.

- Members were disappointed that only four Community Centres had taken part in the Carlisle Cooks project.

- What was the '6 steps' Funding Sessions?

Ms Pilkington explained that the CVS were developing training packages for all community centres and part of the training would be the '6 steps' Funding Sessions. The sessions helped Community Centres to plan, fund, deliver and sustain

successful projects and would help Centres identify and gather evidence needed for projects. The sessions would begin in September 2012.

- Members felt strongly that Community Centres should be able to access information regarding available funding themselves.

Ms Pilkington responded that the Council were working with the Local Federation of Community Organisations to create the ideal mechanism to disseminate information. Currently information came to the Council from the CVS and then the Council sent the information out. The Centres did not have their own access to information such as Grantfinder. Some Centre Managers had not felt able to complete applications and some Managers were very proactive and a number of Centres did not have business plans. The Council was trying to encourage Centres through the Federation to group together to apply for larger pots of money.

A Member commented that Centre Managers didn't always have the time or expertise to submit complicated grant applications and he felt that the Council should do more to assist them.

Ms Pilkington responded that the Council did not have the resources to complete funding applications for all of the Community Centres but did have the resources to train the necessary people so that they could complete application forms themselves. She reminded the Panel that most of the Centres also had Management Committees so it was not the responsibility of the Centre Manager alone to look for and apply for funding.

In response to a further question Ms Pilkington informed the Panel that due to budgetary restraints village and parish halls had not been included in the sessions but any information given out at the sessions could be sent to the villages and parishes for their information. She added that all villages and parishes were invited to the annual funding fair and CALC carried out training for Parishes.

- The Panel felt that the update provided was extremely informative and tied in with the recommendations of the Task Group.

RESOLVED – That the update on the recommendations from the Neighbourhood Working Task Group be welcomed.

(The meeting ended at 10.55am