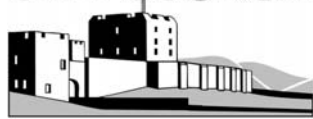


**CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL**



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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 24th March 2011

Title: Overview Report and Work Programme

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Report reference: OS 09/11

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:

- Note and/or comment on the content within the report.
- Note and/or amend the Panel's work programme (Appendix 2).

Contact Officer: Nicola Edwards

Ext: 7122

1. Forward Plan Items

The Forward Plan of the Executive covering the period 1st March – 30th June 2011 was published on 15th February 2011. There are no issues contained in this Forward Plan that fall into the remit of this Panel.

2. 50+ Work

Panel Members were informed previously that Cllrs Clarke and Riddle met with the Health Improvement Officer on 8th December to pick up on this piece of work which was put in abeyance earlier in the year due to a change in personnel. At this meeting it was agreed that a further update would be given in February.

A detail of ongoing and future work is detailed below and Members of the Panel are required to decide whether this piece of scrutiny work should continue in the next Civic year.

Ongoing project development

- A key project funded and taken forward is the 50+ project. This received additional funding from the SPAA (Sport and Physical Activity Alliance) and has taken a partnership approach in its development.

So far

- Within the City element there are 131 names signed up on the database
- It has engaged 19 volunteers
- The oldest attendee is female and aged 88.
- A free open taster day was held on Thursday 27th January – 70 people attended.
- Activities include: Drawing workshop, Ballroom Dancing, Cookery sessions, Driving range, Tai Chi, Badminton, Spinning (as examples).
- The cost is £3.00 and an individual can access as many activities during the day as they wish (City element is held on a Thursday). A deal has also been offered for individuals to access a hot drink to encourage a social element.

What next?

- The Rural element officially started on 25th January.
 - Areas include 9 village halls; Low Row, Lanercost, Halbankgate, Castle Carrock, Crosby on Eden, Great Corby, Walton, Brampton, Gilsland.
 - Activities offered include walking, Salsa and Tai Chi – of the sessions ran the average attendance is 7. Health trainers will be linking into the project, as will benefits advice. 60 workshops have been planned and 4 speaker sessions.
- 50+ is additionally developing and linking into housing (Riverside) – with activities and an open day planned for Freshfield Court.
- Another project being developed is an Allotment project – again this is taking a collaborative approach with a variety of partners and a steering group has been set up.

3. Shop Doctor

The Chairs of both Community O&S and Environment & Economy O&S were due to meet with the Economic Development Portfolio Holder on 9th March to discuss the work of the Shop Doctor. Unfortunately this meeting was postponed and arrangements are currently being made to reschedule the meeting.

4. Scrutiny Chair Group Meeting 1/3/11

A meeting of the Chairs Group was held on 1st March 2011. Notes of this meeting are attached at Appendix 1 for information.

A meeting of the Chairs Group and the Executive is due to be held on 16th March 2011 and a verbal update of this meeting will be provided for the Panel.

5. Work Programme

The current work programme is reproduced in Appendix 2 for consideration and/or amendment.

1 March 2011 at 12 noon

Attended: Councillor Allison, Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Councillor Mrs Clarke, Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Councillor Mrs Bradley, Vice-Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Councillor Mrs Luckley, Vice-Chairman of Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Nicola Edwards, Scrutiny Officer
Sheila Norton, Committee Clerk
Maggie Mooney, Town Clerk and Chief Executive (until 12:50)
Jason Gooding, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director
Darren Crossley, Strategic Director

01/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Layden and Mrs Rutherford.

Councillor Clarke was appointed Chair for the meeting due to the absence of Councillor Rutherford.

02/11 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

AGREED – That the minutes of the Scrutiny Chairs Group held on 8 November 2010 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Executive were asked to consider moving JMT and Executive briefing meetings as there were a number of occasions where they clashed with, in particular, scheduled Resources Overview & Scrutiny meetings. As there had been no movement on the matter the Chief Executive agreed to discuss the issue with Executive members.

The Strategic Director had agreed to provide Members with the new structures and contact details for staff in each directorate following the transformation process. The Strategic Director confirmed that he would pass on that information once the transformation process was complete.

The Scrutiny Officer confirmed that the provision for officer support for the Joint Scrutiny Committee would not continue after this civic year but stated that joint scrutiny would remain in a less formal arrangement.

03/11 REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN

The Strategic Director advised Members that the Corporate Plan was currently under review and that officers were refreshing the key actions to reflect the last 12 months and the meet the actions over the coming 12 months. Once the Corporate Plan had been finalised it would be presented to the Senior Management Team and Portfolio Holders for their comments before being presented to the Scrutiny Chairs Group.

The Group acknowledged that the document was a work in progress and agreed that it should be available for consideration at each Scrutiny Panel to ensure the Plan was aligned with the work of the Panels.

Councillor Luckley asked for an assurance that work on Healthy City would be included in the Plan as she believed it was a major policy for the Council and that it would affect the work of the Council for the coming 4 years. She stated that she wished to see the issue referred to in Panels to monitor progress and challenge actions if necessary.

The Strategic Director confirmed that the revised document did pick up the Healthy City issue. There was currently nothing in the Forward Plan in relation to the scrutiny of the Corporate Plan. Some of the actions listed had sub-actions and the Strategic Director believed that it may be of interest to know how the actions would be delivered and how they could be part of scrutiny. There was the opportunity for useful dialogue with partners on delivery of the actions and also how scrutiny could work with the Assistant Directors and Portfolio Holders.

The Group believed it would also give the opportunity for scrutiny to work with people representing public agencies and deal with health inequalities. As there would be limited financial resources available in coming years partnerships needed to be strengthened. The Group agreed that it would be useful for Councillor Luckley to attend Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel meetings when Healthy City was being considered.

The Group also agreed that it was useful to have Portfolio Holders having more input into the actions in the Corporate Plan.

AGREED – That the Scrutiny Chairs Group would consider the revisions to the Corporate Plan when available.

04/11 MEETING WITH THE EXECUTIVE

The meeting of the Scrutiny Chairs Group and the members of the Executive had been arranged for 16 March 2011. The Group discussed items to be put forward for consideration at that meeting. They included:

- Protocol on Relations Between Overview and Scrutiny and the Executive
- Forward Plan
 - Timing and development of the Forward Plan
 - Opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny to be involved at an earlier stage
- Policy Review
- Involvement in Policy Working
- Speed of Executive meetings

The Group believed that there had been better working with Portfolio Holders over the last year but were concerned that many of the recommendations referred to the Executive were 'noted'.

The Chief Executive stated that the protocol was drawn up in 2007 and was appropriate for the time. She believed that Senior Officers had a role to play with the Executive on behalf of the Scrutiny Panels but stressed that they also worked with all Councillors.

Councillor Clarke stated that the support from the Senior Management Team enabled Scrutiny Panels to be better equipped to provide a different response to the Executive and believed that there had been a positive outcome. The support of the Senior Management Team had been included in the job descriptions of those officers. Councillor Bradley stated that the Panels needed to make it clear what support was required and an assurance that if they asked officers for information it could be provided without prior consultation with the Portfolio Holders. The Panels needed to develop confidence with officers and Members. She added that she believed that the current arrangement with the Executive was not ideal to encourage trust.

Councillor Clarke discussed the impending reviews to the Policy Framework and a Member believed that, due to those changes, the Executive should be encouraged to involve and inform Scrutiny of their work.

With regard to the Forward plan the Group believed that Scrutiny were involved too late and that it would be useful to discuss issues with the Executive before they went

into the Forward Plan. If it was not possible to scrutinise items in the Forward Plan earlier there would be an increase in call-ins as the Group believed that would be the only way they could be involved.

The Group agreed that a basic framework should be established for safe and simple dialogue for Scrutiny and the Executive, to allow dialogue to move forward without compromise to either party.

The Group were pleased that senior officers were attending the Neighbourhood Forum meetings and stated that they found their presence very useful. They also believed it was useful for the officers to have a flavour of the residents' problems.

The Group agreed that performance should be high on the Scrutiny agenda. They believed that it was too early to determine the success of the new management structure as yet and that Scrutiny could play a more active part in the success of the Corporate Plan over the coming year.

The Chairman asked members of the Group to look through the Scrutiny protocol devised in 2007, and advise of any areas to be reviewed, removed or amended so it would be ready for discussion at the meeting with the Executive on 16 March 2011. The Chief Executive agreed to look at the final version prior to the meeting.

A Member was concerned at the speed of the Executive meetings and that there was insufficient time to have a significant input as part of that meeting.

AGREED – 1) That Members of the Group would look at the 2007 protocol and send any amendments to Councillor Clarke.

2) The Chief Executive would provide the necessary support to assist Members in that task.

3) That the issues to be raised at the meeting with the Executive were:

- Protocol on Relations Between Overview and Scrutiny and the Executive
- Forward Plan
 - Timing and development of the Forward Plan
 - Opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny to be involved at an earlier stage
- Policy Review
- Involvement in Policy Working
- Speed of Executive meetings

The Scrutiny Officer advised that the report would be considered by all three Scrutiny Panels to fill in any gaps and that the Scrutiny Chairs Group would consider it again before going to full Council in May.

The report presented an update of the implementation of the recommendations from the Annual Report 2010/11 and proposed development for 2011/12.

The Group agreed that the Panels needed to be more businesslike and that the quality of the resolutions had improved although the responses from the Executive were often slack.

The Group acknowledged that there had been some improvement in the working relationship and that the Scrutiny Panels and Executive were working more as a unit. There was a concern that Scrutiny Members were still asking questions of officers in meetings rather than Portfolio Holders. Scrutiny Chairs agreed to look at improving that issue for future meetings.

The Group were concerned that there were often time constraints on members of Panels either as County Councillors or holding full time employment. The Group agreed that it was essential that members prepared fully for meetings and that it was important that Chairs of Panels were selected carefully at the start of each municipal year.

With regard to involving members of the public and partners in Scrutiny meetings, there had not been a significant amount of progress but the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had held a meeting at Harraby Community Centre and the Neighbourhood Working Task and Finish Groups had been attended by a number of external partners. The Panels had extended an invitation for non-scrutiny members to be part of Task and Finish Groups but the Group agreed that there was room for improvement.

AGREED – 1) That the draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12 be presented to the next round of Scrutiny Panels for consideration.

2) That the Scrutiny Chairs Group would meet again to consider the final draft that would be referred to Council.

(The meeting ended at 12:55pm)

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

Date last revised: 14 March 2011

Issue	Type of Scrutiny						Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Forward Plan Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/External Agency	Monitoring			10 Jun 10	15 Jul 10	26 Aug 10	7 Oct 10	25 Nov 10	13 Jan 11	10 Feb 11	24 Mar 11
CURRENT MEETING - 24th March 2011															
Scrutiny Annual Report			✓		✓		Draft report for comment before Chairs Group							✓	
Transformation Programme for Carlisle City Council		✓	✓				Update on Transformation on service areas within remit of Panel				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Services to NEETs					✓		To receive report on the services to young people NEET							✓	
TASK AND FINISH GROUPS															
Neighbourhood Working			✓				Draft report to be presented to the Community O&S and E&E O&S			✓				✓	
50+ Policy Work			✓				To receive update on work within Overview Report							✓	

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Customer Service Shared Business Case			✓				Joint Task Group with ROSP, looking at the draft business case - currently on hold						✓		
FUTURE MEETINGS															
Carlisle Partnership	✓						Monitoring progress but also opportunity to do more detailed work.								
FINISHED ITEMS															
Play Strategy	✓		✓				Quarterly monitoring of Action Plan including rural/urban split. Details of Youth Exchange including funding.	✓		✓			✓		

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Play Areas							Quarterly monitoring. Update on Playbuilder funding			✓			✓		
Accommodation and Foyer Service Development for Young People		✓					Update of development of project expected Autumn 2010			✓					
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	✓		✓				Select 3 Members and 3 Substitutes for the Joint Carlisle and Eden CDRP Scrutiny Panel	✓							
Performance Monitoring Reports (PIs)	✓						Reporting of PI's relevant to remit of Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Comprehensive Equality Scheme Performance Report	✓						To receive feedback following assessment.		✓	✓			✓	✓	

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Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	✓		✓				Feedback from first meeting of Carlisle and Eden CDRP Scrutiny Panel to be held 27/1/11.	✓						✓	
Migrant Workers			✓				Update of the implementation of Task Groups recommendations						✓		
Carlisle Youth Zone							Chief Executive, Youth Zone to be invited to Panel						✓		Jan 12
Riverside Carlisle: Partnership agreement and Action Plan				✓			Role is monitoring progress under the partnership agreement	✓					✓		
Housing Strategy Action Plan							Monitoring Role						✓		
Carlisle Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-16		✓					To scrutinise LSP draft version of Community Plan					✓			

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Tullie House Governance Options and Development Plan Proposals		✓	✓				To consider report proposing move to Trust Status	✓				✓			
Budget		✓	✓				Consideration of service implications					✓			
Policy Framework		✓					To consider proposed changes to the Policy Framework					✓			
Local Enterprise Partnership/Regional Growth Fund		✓					To consider The 'Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership' outline proposal and the consultation response on the Regional Growth Fund				✓				
Community Empowerment Pilot			✓				To receive update on pilot special meeting to be held	✓			Special meeting 12/10/10				

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Affordable Warmth		✓					Panel would like to meet Post holder and discuss progress.				✓				
Rural Strategy	✓		✓				Monitoring Role				✓				
Women and Facilities Replacement Homelessness Accommodation		✓	✓				To consider report on the project to provide accommodation for women & families who are homeless.			✓	✓				
Annual Equality Report	✓						Monitoring role.				✓				
Carlisle & Eden Partnership Plan		✓		✓			Report of plan for 2010/11	✓							

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS	
Details	Date Circulated
Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	26 th October 2010