

Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Agenda
Item:
A.2**

Meeting Date: 23rd April 2015
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 09/15

Summary:

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Economy & Environment 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

1. Notice of Key Executive Decisions

The most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions was published on 9th March 2015 and was circulated to all Members. The following items are within the remit of this Panel and are to be considered by the Executive at their meeting on 7th April 2015:

- **KD.06/15 Release of capital for Vehicle Replacement 2015/16** - The Executive will be asked to release Capital budget provision for 2015/16 of £1,109,000.00 to provide vehicles and plant in accordance with the 5 year plan.
- **KD.07/15 Public Realm** - the Executive will be asked to consider a number of public realm improvements and the item is on this meeting of the Panel.
- **KD.08/15 Durranhill Industrial Estate** - the Executive will be asked to accept the funding offer from Cumbria LEP and vary the existing HCA funding and also approve the release and leasehold disposal of sites on final terms to be agreed by the Directors of Economic Development and Governance. The item is on the agenda of this Panel meeting.
- **KD.09/15 Carlisle Old Town Hall Phase 2 - Contract Variations and Emergency Repairs** - the Executive will be asked to note the recent Portfolio Decision, and reasons supporting this, which approved the drawing down of an additional £90k from the overall allocated budget, necessary to fund emergency repairs; and approve an additional draw down of up to £52k from the overall allocated budget for progression of optional 'fit-out' improvements to the Assembly Room and Tourist Information Centre necessary to maximise future usage. The item is on the agenda of this Panel meeting.

2. References from the Executive

The Executive met on 7th April 2015 and the following references fall into the remit of this Panel.

- **EX.36/15 – Litter Bin Task and Finish Group** – The initial response to the Task Groups report and recommendations is attached at Appendix 1 and Members of the Panel are requested to consider monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

3. Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15

The draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report has been emailed to Members of the Panel for comment on 26th March 2015 and 8th April 2015. A verbal update of comments received will be given at the Panel meeting and discussion is welcomed on the process of work planning and training for scrutiny members in 2015/16.

4. 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. Economy & Environment Work Programme 2014/15

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

Minute from Executive meeting held 7th April 2015-04-09**EX.36/15 LITTER BIN TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Environment and Economy

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EEOSP.14/15, consideration was given to a reference from the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel regarding the final report of the Litter Bin Task and Finish Group. The Panel had resolved:

“1. That the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group be submitted to the Executive for consideration and await feedback to this Panel.

2. That the Technical Officer circulates details of the audit in respect of the usage of litter bins.”

Copies of Report OS.06/15 and the Minute Excerpt had been circulated.

In moving the report the Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder thanked Members of the Task and Finish Group for their work. She added that a very full discussion had taken place at the meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 12 March 2015.

The Deputy Leader noted that the final paragraph on the first page of Minute Excerpt EEOSP.14/15 (page 75 of the document pack) recorded that she had advised that the Council would look at the use of the Big Belly Solar Bins. Clearly there were cost implications and the Deputy Leader clarified that she had in fact stated that the Council could (without prejudice) look at the use of those bins.

The Deputy Leader added that the report was very comprehensive, represented an ongoing piece of work, and she recommended the conclusions contained therein to the Executive.

The Lead Member of the Litter Bin Task and Finish Group (Councillor Bloxham) was in attendance at the meeting. He began by thanking his colleagues on the Task and Finish Group, together with the Officers within Local Environment for their tremendous support and assistance.

Referring to page 5 of the final report, the Lead Member clarified that the word “borough” should in fact have read “district”.

With reference to the use of Big Belly Solar Bins, the Lead Member stated that the Task Group had recommended (and the Deputy Leader agreed) that more work needed to be done to determine whether the use of such bins was correct. He added that information was required from other authorities/areas to evidence whether such use would stack up financially. The Task Group agreed that it was an ongoing project.

The Lead Member then drew Members’ attention to the conclusions, together with the following recommendations made by the Task Group:

“1. That following the completion of the audit of public litter bins and GIS mapping, each bin should be individually numbered with disc (similar to street lighting columns throughout the district) so that location of bins is easily identifiable.

2. That the Litter Bin Guidelines which have recently been drafted include information and guidance on how the Council address the issue of what service will be provided to large new housing developments and employment sites.

3. That the education and enforcement undertaken by the Directorate continues and that action is taken against those members of the public and businesses who misuse public litter bins.
4. That the use of Big Belly Solar Bins is further explored for areas of high useage.
5. That income generation by advertising on litter bins should be further explored if the barrier to maximising income is due to costs of planning applications that a full explanation is provided to Members along with potential solutions.
6. That Ward Councillors should be sent a GIS map of the location of litter bins in their ward and are kept involved, consulted with and informed of changes.”

In conclusion, the Lead Member stated that the Litter Bin Task and Finish Group had found the review to be a good exercise. Each of the Members had joined the operatives for a morning on their rounds which had been noticed. Bins should be located in parks and areas which people frequented. A list detailing all bins had been prepared and would be circulated to Members. Accordingly he recommended the report to the Executive.

In response, the Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder stated that the review had identified that municipal litter bins were on occasion misused and used for the disposal of trade and household waste. The Executive was looking to address that issue.

The Deputy Leader emphasised that, although no additional bins would be provided, bins could be relocated. If individual Members could advise of instances where they considered that bins could be located more appropriately that would be welcomed.

The Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder concluded by stating that, notwithstanding the current difficult economic climate, a positive outcome would emanate from the review.

The Leader seconded the above response, commenting that Ward Members had a key role to play in the identification of appropriate sites for litter bins. He welcomed the opportunity for Members’ input towards resolving the issues identified.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

1. That the Executive had considered the final report of the Litter Bin Task and Finish Group.

That the Executive’s response to the Task Group’s recommendations, as detailed above, be submitted to the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 23 April 2015.

Reasons for Decision

To consider and respond to the recommendations of the Litter Bin Task and Finish Group

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

Date last revised: 10 April 2015

Issue Portfolio Holder & Lead officer	Type of Scrutiny					Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Key decision Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Monitoring		3 Jul 14	14 Aug 14	25 Sep 14	21 Oct 14	27 Nov 14	22 Jan 15	12 Mar 15	23 Apr 15
CURRENT MEETING – 23 rd April 2015														
Carlisle Story Cllr Bradley & Glover/Jane Meek				✓		Update on scheme		✓						✓
Re-thinking Waste Project Cllr Martlew/Angela Culleton		✓	✓	✓	✓	Sept – Presentation on project Nov – Meeting dedicated to waste issues Apr – update on project			✓		✓			✓
Durranhill Industrial Estate						Report detailing project and funding								✓
TIC and Public Realm		✓			✓	Update on projects –reports to Executive 7/4/15				✓				✓
Scrutiny Annual Report			✓		✓	Draft report for comment before Chairs Group								✓
TASK AND FINISH GROUPS														
Litter Bin Review			✓			Report to Executive 7 th April		✓			✓		✓	✓
Business Support			✓			Evidence Gathering				✓	✓	✓		

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COMPLETED ITEMS														
Performance Monitoring Reports Steven O'Keefe/all PH	✓				✓	Monitoring of performance relevant to the remit of Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Section 106 Agreements Jane Meek/Cllr Bradley					✓	Panel requested report detailing outstanding Section 106 agreements – to receive annual report on monies spent							✓	
Clean-up Carlisle	✓				✓	Update of project							✓	
Local Plan Cllr Bradley/Jane Meek		✓				August – City Centre Development Framework September – evidence base for the revised housing target and the SHMAA		✓	✓			✓		
Budget Peter Mason/Darren Crossley/All Portfolio Holders		✓	✓			To consider budget proposals for 2015/16					✓			

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Business Support				✓		Open session with partners at BIC				✓				
Talkin Tarn Cllr Martlew/Angel Culleton			✓			Interim report August. Business Plan in October	✗	✓		✓				
Claimed Rights Angel Culleton/Cllr Martlew		✓				Monitoring of Highways services following transfer to Cumbria CC	✓							
Recycling			✓			Executive response to Task Group Report	✓							