
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2010

COSP.89/10 CARLISLE COMMUNITY PLAN (SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY) 2011-16

The Assistant Director (Community Engagement) (Mr Gerrard) submitted report PPP.42/10 (amended) concerning the Carlisle Community Plan (Sustainable Community Strategy) 2011-16.

He advised Members that the existing Community Plan (Sustainable Community Strategy) for Carlisle expired in 2010 and, at the last meeting of the Carlisle Partnership Executive a process for development of a new Community Plan for Carlisle was agreed, details of which were provided. The process had seen the content of the Community Plan developed directly by partners from across the LSP within the Partnership's Working Groups and a draft Community Plan 2011 - 2016 had been developed, a copy of which was appended to the report.

The Plan had appeared before the Carlisle Partnership's Executive on 15 November 2010 when a number of changes had been agreed.

Mr Gerrard further reported that the proposed Carlisle Community Plan 2011-16 would effectively be a live document as soon as the City Council adopted it onto their Policy Framework in the New Year. A formal launch was proposed for March 2011. He added that the Plan would be reviewed on an annual basis at the Carlisle Partnership AGM (June each year), and a performance report detailing progress against the headline measures contained within the Plan would also be produced for that meeting. Whilst those headline measures would be used to assess progress made towards delivering the Community Plan on an annual basis, the Partnership's Executive remained keen to instil a more focussed and performance orientated culture within the Partnership. All of the Priority Working Groups were in the process of developing delivery plans to support and deliver the aims of the Community Plan, which would be reported to the Executive on a quarterly basis.

In response to a question, the Assistant Director and Carlisle Partnership Manager (Mr Capstick) advised that a verbal update on the changes agreed at the Carlisle Partnership's Executive would be provided to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel, in addition to which a revised report could be provided.

The matter had been considered by Executive on 22 November 2010 (EX.194/10).

The Executive resolved:

“That the Executive :

1. Received the proposed Community Plan, its vision, ambition and aims for Carlisle, as appended to Report PPP.42/10.
2. Referred the draft Community Plan to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel for consideration.
3. The Executive would consider feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel at a meeting in December 2010, following which the draft Community Plan would be recommended to the City Council for formal adoption onto the City Council's Policy Framework.”

Mr Capstick advised that a new Community Strategy was developed in May 2010 following a review of statutory evidence and a workshop. Following the workshop the document was produced and presented to the Carlisle Partnership Executive then to the relevant working groups. There had been extensive input and in the last few weeks it had been discussed by the Carlisle Partnership Executive and approved as a travelling document. One of the issues that had been picked up was that the document referred to Carlisle. Mr Capstick confirmed that the document related to Carlisle and the districts.

Mr Capstick explained that housing targets were not included in the document as they were included in the core strategy and the development framework. He stated that officers would have to ensure that the document reflected the priorities of the CDRP and that work would be ongoing.

In considering the Carlisle Community Plan a Member raised the following comments and questions:

- Would the County Planning Group be picking up work with children and young people?

Mr Capstick advised that such groups would re-emerge as they were 2-3 years ago. There had been a divergence in priorities as part of the Community Plan but those issues were no longer on their agenda so were being brought back again to ensure that the work was part of the aims of the Carlisle Strategic Partnership. That would be for a 12 month trial period. If the group could not deliver the work then the Children and Young Peoples Group would be re-established.

- Is the structure of the Carlisle Partnership still in place as indicated in the report?

Mr Capstick advised that the structure was still in place but that it would change.

- The Children's Trust was a countywide initiative. Would a local team be involved? Would the Overview and Scrutiny Panels have sight of any delivery plans, particularly on the operational side?

Mr Capstick advised that it would remain countywide. He confirmed that the delivery plans would be available for scrutiny and that the community plan should be a vision for Carlisle in the medium/long term. If the right delivery plans were not in place then the vision would be worthless. The priority working groups and sub groups were working to ensure the plans were SMART. The groups welcomed the input of scrutiny but that community planning needed to come first and then it would be brought to the Panel when it was developed.

- When the targets are filled in, what will happen if the target is close to being met? Will there be a compulsion to achieve that target? There was concern that that may be difficult in the poorer wards. What can Members do to help to achieve those targets?

Mr Capstick explained that in the past there was the Local Area Agreements but as they had now gone all councils had to sign up and agree and that all partners would be held to account for decisions.

Mr Gerrard advised that some of the strategic and substantive issues would be done by partners and that they would benefit from the partnership.

Ms Mooney added that the City Council had made its own commitment in its Corporate Plans and had provided the funding. Most partners were focussing on more deprived areas. Scrutiny would now scrutinise the decisions before being considered by the Executive.

- With regard to higher education there had been a low take up of places and the partnership needs to keep a close eye on the numbers of young people leaving university and provide funding to assist young people coming out of university with large debts.
- Another issue that had been raised a number of times was the number of young carers in the community and that their needs were not met through the social care assessment. There was a fear that young people would be forced into caring for siblings/parents/grandparents and would miss out on things that young people do unless support was provided.

Mr Capstick agreed to take the concerns of Members on the issue of Young Carers back to the Partnership and reinforced that the move would be back to partnership working and that partners had a big stake in dealing with those issues before being taken back to the local planning groups. With regard to targets Mr Capstick advised that there would be a common approach in relation to targets. In the past the Local Area Agreement and statutory targets were set over a 4-5 year period that made it ambitious to maintain the targets.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Panel accepted the comments made and they appreciated that it was a work in progress.

2) The new delivery plans are to be presented to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Panel in February.