



Report to

# Council

Meeting Date: 19 July 2022

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **People Panel Chair's Report – Councillor Colin Glover**

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The first meeting of the new People Scrutiny Panel provided members with an opportunity to examine a range of subjects and make recommendations, as the Council works towards Local Government Reorganisation and vesting day on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

### **Provisional Outturn Reports**

Members received comprehensive reports and updates, highlighting specific revenue and capital budget pressures and how processes might evolve as we approach transfer to the new Cumberland Council. Members sought reassurance on Homelessness Accommodation budget pressures and whilst recognising that Housing has been placed within the remit of the Place Scrutiny Panel, issues such as homelessness are clearly within the role of the People Panel and there may be opportunities for joint scrutiny or for this element of housing provision to be transferred to the People Scrutiny Panel. Members also explored how Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) received through the Better Care Fund are to be allocated.

### **Sands Centre Redevelopment – Programme Update and Plans for Reopening**

An update was received on progress by contractors to deliver the new Sands Centre facility, due for reopening later this year. Work is now at an advanced stage and planning for reopening. Planning for the transfer from the James Street Pools and Newman School site has commenced. Members were able to seek further information on final fit out and it is hoped that a site visit can be facilitated for panel members. Issues relating to pricing structure, liaison with various clubs and also the developing relationship for NHS facilities on-site were discussed. Members asked for an update on discussions with the Friends of the Turkish Baths and also potential transfer of the 1970's pools site to the Borderlands Partnership. It is anticipated that more detailed discussions with the Panel will happen at the August meeting.

## **Healthy City 2022/23 Programme and Opportunities for Broadening Approach Beyond 2023**

Members received a very positive presentation on the work of the Healthy City Team which highlighted excellent practice and activities that could be taken forward into the new Cumberland Council. As a World Health Organisation Healthy City, Carlisle has been influential in delivering a wide range of projects that impact on the wider determinants of health for individuals and communities. Plans for the future include exploring the potential for developing multi-agency health and wellbeing hubs, building on the work done by our community centres. These plans also have the potential to support our high streets and rural locations. The update and plans for the future in this report from our last meeting are inspirational and well worth reading.

## **Sickness Absence Report End of Year 2021/22**

The panel received the end of year report for 2021/22 and in doing so recognised the level of uncertainty that staff are likely to be experiencing as the council prepares for LGR. Members wished to see continued personal development opportunities being actively made available for staff and personal support for any staff who may need it.

## **End of Year Performance Report 2021/22**

Members received the end of year report and an update on work towards delivering the actions in the Carlisle Plan. There are significant capital projects at various stages of progress which will create new opportunities for people living, working and studying in Carlisle and also visiting the city and members look forward to hearing how these will be integrated into the future work plans. Members recognise the importance of green spaces to good health and wellbeing and also local cycling and walking infrastructure plans that have been published by Cumbria County Council following extensive consultation. The action plans provide strong opportunities to take this work forward with confidence.

## **Overview Report**

Although this is the first and last municipal year for the Carlisle City Council People Scrutiny Panel, members are keen to have a strong work programme and provide a valuable evidence base for Cumberland Council to build on. The next meeting will consider the impact on local people of the cost of living crisis and will receive valuable evidence from organisations who are working directly with those in need. It is hoped that the August meeting will receive information on discussions regarding the Turkish Baths and plans for the site. Members have also expressed a wish to include Youth Engagement in Civic Life in the work programme.