

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2020 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: Councillor Paton (Chairman), Councillors Mrs Atkinson, Dr. Davison, Mrs Finlayson, Mrs McKerrell, McNulty, Tarbitt and Miss Whalen.

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor Ellis, Deputy Leader and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder
Councillor E Mallinson, Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
Councillor Nedved, Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder

OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive
Health and Wellbeing Manager
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

HWSP.21/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence submitted.

HWSP.22/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

HWSP.23/20 PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was agreed that the items of business within Part A be dealt with in public and Part B be dealt with in private.

HWSP.24/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED – 1) it was noted that Council, at its meeting on 3 March 2020, received and adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2020. The Chair will sign the minutes at the first practicable opportunity.

2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2020 be agreed.

HWSP.25/20 CALL IN OF DECISIONS

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

HWSP.26/20 HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICE

The Health and Wellbeing Manager presented report CS.06/20 which updated the Panel on the recently formed Health and Wellbeing Service in Community Services along with areas of work streams in sport and physical activity that the Health and Wellbeing Service was leading on.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager reported that Community Services had undertaken a restructure in 2019 in order to better align services for delivering on the Health and Wellbeing Agenda. The Health and Wellbeing Manager set out the Health and Wellbeing Team structure and work areas stating that the Team would present further reports to the Panel in the future regarding Active Spaces, Community Centres and the Health City Strategy. He added that the Team was looking to deliver improvements in the uptake of sport and physical activity, full

details were set out in the report, and he asked the Panel for feedback on the work and any other opportunities the Team may explore to encourage the uptake of physical activity.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder highlighted the joint work that was being undertaken through the Carlisle Resilience Team, adding that the Panel could scrutinise the development of the work if they so wished.

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

- A Member asked for further information on the results of the Social Prescribing initiatives including the number of referrals and what areas were involved.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager agreed to ask Carlisle Health Care and circulate information to the Panel.

- The Panel supported the vision of GPs prescribing allotments for physical and mental wellbeing along with encouraging more people to grow their own food.
- Did the City Council engage with local Schools or Carlisle Youth Zone to support socially distanced activities for young people over the summer period?

The Health and Wellbeing Manager responded that GLL were preparing a programme of activities for young people in the summer period. In addition, the Council could provide some grants to support organisations such as the Carlisle Youth Zone to provide summer activities.

- The Panel thanked the Health and Wellbeing Team for their ongoing work in keeping as many green spaces as possible open for residents to enjoy under such difficult circumstances.
- The popularity of walking and cycling had increased dramatically during the lockdown period, the Panel felt that it was important that the Council worked in partnership to encourage the continuation of the culture to support the Climate Change Strategy and increase the health and wellbeing of the District.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder commented that the green spaces in the City were outstanding and people were enjoying the space. The Government had recognised this and had provided funding to improve the cycling opportunities in the City. The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder was leading on this work for the City Council.

The Deputy Leader and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder recognised the increase in recreational activities in the City and commented that this would change as more people returned to work. He felt it was time to reopen the economy and start to encourage car parks and shopping centres to fill up, encourage businesses into empty shops, open the airport and help industry to working again. He added that economic activity was the core of what the Council did, and it was important to get the City operating again.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder reassured the Panel that the Council was working jointly on transport and movement studies to encourage walking and cycling throughout the city. The Garden Village also gave the Council the unique opportunity to develop cycling networks which fed into the City.

A Member felt strongly that the City Council should review the definition of 'growing the economy' and what it meant for the City Council. The economic model the Council followed was the root of the climate and environmental crisis. She felt it was important for the Health and

Wellbeing Team to consider how they could continue to encourage people into active travel and use walking and cycling as ways to get to work other than driving. She felt that filling up car parks would encourage more traffic and prevent those that wanted to walk or cycle from having safe routes, retaining some of the good habits from the pandemic would change the obesity and poor health issues in the City. She urged the Executive to reconsider the economic model to be sustainable and protect the environment.

The Deputy Leader and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder clarified that the Executive had no intention of changing the economic model.

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the County Council, as the upper tier authority, had primary responsibility for Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans in the City, however, they did work in partnership with Active Cumbria and district councils to develop the Plans. The Plans were a Central Government initiative designed to allow people to make informed choices about when they might wish to use cycling and walking infrastructures.

The Deputy Chief Executive chaired a City Council Group which had been established to ensure that the City Council delivered their part of the Plans. The initiative predated the Covid 19 pandemic and had a limited amount of funding, which was separate to the emergency funding which had been released for temporary cycle lanes. The City Council had not yet committed in an official capacity but was mindful of the resources that may be put into the cycling infrastructure, they did, however, have comprehensive plans for how the network may be extended. There had been some delay to work due to the pandemic, but the next step was a comprehensive approach to the physical infrastructure which would be required to persuade people to use alternative ways to move around the city.

Although Carlisle already had a good cycle route the Council was mindful that it was not always the most direct route, and this would require some rationalisation of the highway structure. The Deputy Chief Executive informed the Panel that the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans would be available for Scrutiny.

- A Member reminded the Panel that a number of alternative sports were being carried out in the City and asked that some of the hard to reach groups were included in any future development work.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager reassured Members that the Sport and Physical Activity Development covered a broad spectrum of physical activity including active spaces such as the skate park, he added that he was open to discussion with any groups to increase participation.

- Had the focus of the Health and Wellbeing Team changed due to the Covid 19 pandemic?

The Health and Wellbeing Manager explained that a review of the Team Service Plan was being carried out to take account of the change in peoples' habits and this has altered the agenda for the sport and physical activity development work.

- A Member asked for more information with regard to the Carlisle Resilience Team (CRT) including:
 - was there a Member of the Health and Wellbeing Team on the CRT?
 - were Members able to be involved in the work?
 - did the work include sustainability matters such as growing food?

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder responded that she was a member of the CRT along with a City Council officer who co-chaired the Team with a County Council officer. The CRT involved over thirty different organisations which covered all areas of sport,

health and wellbeing, social prescribing, food deliveries and schools. The work of the CRT had moved to recovery following the pandemic and had been broken up into more meaningful areas of work. She noted that the community had come together to provide support to each other and those in need and the work of volunteers had been excellent, this work should be built on and continued. She informed the Panel she would prepare a briefing note on the work of Healthy City and Sustainable Food Carlisle should they so wish.

- How would an increase of growing spaces be achieved, was it through more allotments or helping those with gardens to utilise them to grow their own food?

The Health and Wellbeing Manager clarified that there was some space available to become growing space and work has been undertaken with different groups to develop this further. In addition, information was being prepared to advise those who wanted to grow their own food at home.

- The Chair thanked the Crematorium Team for the excellent and considerate service that they had continued to provide during the pandemic.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Health and Wellbeing Service report be noted (CS.06/20)

2) That the Health and Wellbeing Team be thanked for their excellent work throughout the pandemic.

3) That the Health and Wellbeing Manager seek details from Carlisle Health Care of the Social Prescribing initiatives including the number of referrals and what areas were involved and circulate to the Panel.

4) That the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder provide the Panel with a briefing note on the work of Healthy City and Sustainable Food Carlisle.

5) That the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans be added to the Panel's work programme for future meeting.

HWSP.27/20 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented the draft Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel section for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20. (OS.10/20)

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reported that the Constitution requires that overview and scrutiny committees report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate. The Scrutiny Annual Report was prepared to meet this requirement.

The last meetings of the 2019/20 Scrutiny year were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to reduce face to face contact. Remote working practices were being established to allow Scrutiny Panels to operate in Carlisle City Council. Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 set out the guidance that allowed Councils to operate public meetings in virtual, rather than physical locations.

In discussing the potential items for the Panel in 2020-21 the Panel acknowledged that the Covid 19 pandemic should change their focus and agreed the following should be listed as the focus of their work for 2020-21:

- Emergency Planning and Resilience

- Impact of Covid 19 on health issues in Carlisle
- Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy

The Panel also asked that the following item be added to their Work Programme:

- Impact of Covid 19 on
 - Disabled Facilities Grants
 - Homelessness
 - Domestic Abuse

RESOLVED – 1) That the Scrutiny Annual Report (OS.10/20) be agreed with the following matters listed under 'Potential items for Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel in 2020-21':

- Emergency Planning and Resilience
- Impact of Covid 19 on health issues in Carlisle
- Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy

2) That the following items be added to the Panel's Work Programme:

- Impact of Covid 19 on
 - Disabled Facilities Grants
 - Homelessness
 - Domestic Abuse

HWSP.28/20 OVERVIEW REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented report OS.11/20 providing an overview of matters relating to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reminded the Panel that the Carlisle Corporate Peer Challenge, which had taken place at the start of 2020, was positive and highlighted a number of strengths for the Council. The report also made some comments about the role of scrutiny. The full report had been attached to the report and suggested that decision making processes could be more streamlined with a clearer purpose for Overview and Scrutiny. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer commented that the Panel may wish to consider this matter more closely in the coming year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer drew the Panel's attention to their proposed Work Programme for 2020/21. She explained that the draft Programme had been based on previous Programmes and asked the Panel to consider how the work Programme could be amended to reflect the response to the current situation and virtual meetings. In addition to the items listed a further item would be included for the July meeting regarding the Allocations Policy and Equality Impact Assessment.

The Panel considered the notes of the Scrutiny Chairs Group as attached to the report and felt that the Panels should continue to have 8 Members as they felt reducing the number of Members involved in Scrutiny would reduce the effectiveness and representation across the Panels. The Panel also agreed that they would continue to meet at 10.00am.

The Deputy Leader and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder reminded the Panel that wider issues needed to be considered for Scrutiny when considering the number of Members on Panels. There had been attendance issues for each Panel in the last twelve months following the reduction in the number of Members on the Panel and this should be considered when making recommendations.

A Member commented that in depth discussion was required for the future of Scrutiny following the Corporate Peer Challenge feedback and the matter should be added to the Work Programme.

The Panel discussed the Work Programme and agreed it needed a more flexible and proactive approach due to the Covid 19 pandemic and agreed that the Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback report would be added to the Programme along with the items agreed in HWSP.27/20.

The Panel also requested that some consultation take place with Tullie House Museum and GLL for the most appropriate timing for their reports to be submitted for Scrutiny.

Following further debate, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Panel would focus on Emergency Planning and Resilience and would include details on the emergency planning response, homelessness impacts, cross partner work of the local resilience group and lessons learned. The Panel would also scrutinise the Allocations Policy and Equality Impact Assessment.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Overview Report incorporating the Work Programme and Key Decision items relevant to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel be noted (OS.11/20);

2) That the following amendments be made to the 2020/21 Work Programme:

- July meeting
 - Emergency Planning and Resilience
 - Allocations Policy and Equality Impact Assessment
- Future meeting
 - Peer Challenge Feedback document

[The meeting ended at 11.50am]