

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 7th June 2012

Title: Overview Report and Work Programme

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Report reference: OS 14/12

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:

- Decide whether the items on the Leader's Forward Plan should be included in the Panel's Work Programme for consideration.
- Note and/or amend the Panel's work programme (Appendix 3)

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1. Forward Plan Items

The Forward Plan of the Executive covering the period 1st June – 30th September 2012 was published on 18th May 2012. The following issues fall into the remit of this Panel and full details are attached at Appendix 1:

KD 007/12 Food Law Enforcement Service Plan – *Members of the Panel last year resolved that this item should be circulated to the Panel for information. If any Member of the Panel has any concerns of the content of the Plan there will be an opportunity to raise this within the Panel meeting.*

KD.014/12 CDRP Partnership Plan – *The Joint Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Panel considered the Partnership Plan at their meeting on 28th March 2012. (see para 3 below). The minutes from this meeting, once approved, will be forwarded to the Executive for consideration/information prior to the Plan being presented to Council.*

KD.018/12 Cumbria Third Sector Compact -

2. References from the Executive

The following item was considered by the Executive at their meeting on 5th April 2012:

EX042/12 Homelessness Task Group

The Executive response to the Homelessness Task Group final report is attached at Appendix 2. Members will note that the Executive agreed to implement all of the Task Groups recommendations. Members of the Panel may wish to consider how the implementation and impact of the recommendations will be monitored throughout the year. Members should consider requesting that an action plan is formulated in order to assist with this monitoring.

3. CDRP Joint Panel

The *Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel* was held on 28th March 2012. The minutes of this meeting are attached at Appendix 3 and Members of the Panel are requested to formally approve the minutes.

Members of the Panel area also asked to nominate three Members and three substitute Members from this Panel to sit on the Joint Panel for the 2012/13 Civic Year. Members should note that the Chairmanship of the Panel is rotated and Carlisle will hold the Chair during this year.

4. Work Programme

The Panel's current work programme is attached at Appendix 4 for comment/amendment. A short session will be held on the rise of the Panel to discuss and develop the work programme for 2012/13. Members of the Panel, Portfolio Holders and Senior Officers are asked to give some thought to issues which scrutiny could add value to during the current Civic Year and should consider adding to their Work Programme.

FORWARD PLAN
Index of Active Executive Key Decisions relevant to:
Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Appendix 1

Key Decision Ref Nos:	Subject:	Date of Executive Meeting
KD.007/12	Food Law Enforcement Service Plan	2 July 2012 1 June 2012
KD.014/12	Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Plan 2012/13	2 July 2012 1 June 2012
KD.018/12	Cumbria Third Sector Compact	2 July 2012

FORWARD PLAN
Active Executive Key Decisions relevant to:
Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Ref: KD.007/12 **Portfolio Area:** Environment and Housing

Policy and Budget Framework Matter: Yes

Subject Food Law Enforcement Service Plan

Key Decisions: To decide the Environmental Health Department's inspection and educational priorities for improving food safety in Carlisle during 2012/13

To be considered initially by Executive: 1 June 2012

Decision to be taken at Executive on: 2 July 2012

Consultees:

Date for Consultees' comments:

Relevant reports/background papers which are available:

The Director of Local Environment's report will be available five working days before the meeting

Further Information From:

Director of Local Environment, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG

Ref: KD.014/12 **Portfolio Area:** Community Engagement

Policy and Budget Framework Matter: Yes

Subject Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Plan 2012/13

Key Decisions: Comment on and recommend adoption of the Partnership Plan by full Council

To be considered initially by Executive: 1 June 2012

Decision to be taken at Executive on: 2 July 2012

Consultees: CDRP network and the Joint CDRP Scrutiny Panel

Date for Consultees' comments: January to March 2012

Relevant reports/background papers which are available:

The Director of Community Engagement report will be available five working days before the meeting

Further Information From:

Director of Community Engagement, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG

Ref: KD.018/12

Portfolio Area: Community Engagement

Policy and Budget Framework Matter: No

Subject Cumbria Third Sector Compact

Key Decisions: To comment on, and recommend adoption of the Cumbria Compact

To be considered initially by Executive:

Decision to be taken at Executive on: 2 July 2012

Consultees:

Date for Consultees' comments:

Relevant reports/background papers which are available:

The Director of Community Engagement's report will be available five working days before the meeting

Further Information From:

Director of Community Engagement, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE**

HELD ON 5 APRIL 2012

EX.042/12 HOMELESSNESS
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Housing

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute COSP.34/12, consideration was given to a reference from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 22 March 2012 regarding the final report of the Homelessness Task and Finish Group. The Panel had resolved:

"That the Homelessness Task and Finish Group report be forwarded to the Executive for their comments on the recommendations."

Copies of Report OS.12/12 and the Minute Excerpt had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Homelessness Task and Finish Group was in attendance at the meeting. The Chairman began by placing on record her thanks to Members of the Task and Finish Group, the Homelessness Team, and especially the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, for their input. She explained that the Task and Finish Group had considered a wide range of information and data as set out on page five of the report, all of which would be lodged together with a copy thereof.

The Chairman then outlined in some detail the Task Group's recommendations, together with the rationale therefor:

1. That a system is developed for and with other departments (in particular Revenue and Benefits) in the Council to identify those people at risk of homelessness so that appropriate preventative work can be undertaken.
2. That procedure is reviewed so that front line Officers from Housing Community and Health are able to verify claims from people who have presented themselves as homeless.
3. That the Council facilitates the forming of an informal network group to include representatives from public and third sector organisations who provide services and support for homeless people.
4. That the Authority works with Cumbria County Council in the provision of accommodation for 16-17 year olds who do not want to enter foster care or children's homes. Consideration

should be given to involve a young person's advocacy service to support and guide 16-17 year olds who present as homelessness.

5. That the Council gives due consideration to care leavers when considering policies relating to welfare reform.

6. That the Council looks at initiatives to involve young people in projects and/or access schools and colleges in order to prevent youth homelessness.

7. That the Council monitors representations from young people, particularly 16-17 year olds, together with move on information and investigate any significant upturns in figures.

In conclusion, the Chairman expressed the hope that the Executive would agree that the above recommendations were both achievable and sensible. The only aim was to improve the service available to people in Carlisle.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel said that the Chairman of the Task and Finish Group had provided a comprehensive report on the matter. She felt that the report, along with the final report of the Disabled Facilities Grants Task and Finish Group considered by the Executive in December 2011, demonstrated good examples of scrutiny.

The Chairman wished to thank the Chairman and Members of the Homelessness Task and Finish Group for their work and hoped that their recommendations would receive serious consideration.

The Performance and Development Portfolio Holder referred to recommendation 5 and section 5.40 which stated "Task Group Members were further informed that Care Leavers are eligible for exception for single room rates (Housing Benefit) up until the age of 21. There is discussion about this being increased to the age of 24 in line with leaving care legislation" It was his understanding that Welfare Reform would not change the rates, but extend them.

In response, the Director of Community Engagement confirmed that the issue referred to was not the cause of recent legislative changes.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder stated that the Executive welcomed submission of the final report and the time taken to compile it. Turning to the recommendations (as detailed above), he moved that:

- Recommendation 1 - be agreed
- Recommendation 2 - be agreed
- Recommendation 3 - be agreed
- Recommendation 4 - the authority should work with Cumbria County Council as suggested, and encourage the YMCA and Housing Associations (in addition to Riverside Carlisle) to also become involved
- Recommendation 5 - be agreed
- Recommendation 6 - be agreed

- Recommendation 7 - be agreed

In conclusion, the Portfolio Holder commented that the written response requested would take the form of a Minute Excerpt of this item of business.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive had considered the final report of the Homelessness Task and Finish Group attached to Report OS.12/12; and responded to the recommendations as detailed above.

Reasons for Decision

To respond to a reference from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel Minutes

Date: 28 March 2012

Venue: Committee Rooms B & C, Civic Centre, Carlisle

Time: 2.00pm

Present:

Carlisle City Council: Councillor Mrs Luckley

Councillor Mrs Parsons

Cumbria County Council: Councillor J Stephenson

Council:

Eden District Council: Councillor J Thompson (Chair)

Councillor S Orchard

Officers: Mrs N Edwards (Scrutiny Officer, Carlisle City Council)

Mr K Gerrard (Director of Community Engagement, Carlisle City Council)

Mr G Capstick (Carlisle Local Strategic Partnership Manager, Carlisle City Council)

Democratic Services Officer: Ms R Rooney (Lead Committee Clerk, Carlisle City Council)

CEJS.01/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Prest, Carlisle City Council, Councillor Harding, Eden District Council, Christine Egan, Cumbria Police Authority, Jane Muller, Chair of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership and Samantha Bagshaw, Eden District Council.

CEJS.02/12 Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest, either personal or prejudicial, submitted at this meeting.

CEJS.03/12 Declaration of Whip

There were no declarations of Whip at this meeting.

CEJS.04/12 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that there were no items on the agenda that were confidential and that press and public should be allowed to remain within the meeting.

CEJS.05/12 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held 17 November 2011 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

CEJS.06/12 Update on Police and Crime Commissioners and Police Crime Panels

An update on the Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels was submitted.

The update outlined the key roles of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) which would be voted for in November 2012 and would replace the Police Authority. The Commissioner would be scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel who had the power to request relevant information, review the draft police and crime plan, consider the PCC's annual report, veto the PCC's proposed precept or proposed appointment for Chief Constable and could hold a confirmation hearing in relation to a proposed appointment by a PCC of a Chief Finance Officer, however the PCC did not have to act on the recommendations.

Preparations for the incoming PCC were underway and were being overseen by the Police Authority's Transition Board which included representatives of the County and District Councils.

Work was underway in Cumbria to establish the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) through a working group made up of officers representing the County Council, the District Councils and the Police Authority. The work was being overseen by the Cumbria Leadership Board and the Leaders and Chief Executives of the councils met on 29th February to discuss the hosting and membership of the panel.

The working group would have to give consideration to the links between the work of the Police and Crime Panel, which would be solely responsible for scrutinising the Commissioner, and that of the council scrutiny panels which scrutinise work on community safety by their own organisations and wider partners through the CSPs.

Councillor Thompson had attended a workshop by the Home Office and gave a brief outline of the information provided at the workshop. He informed the Panel that the PCP would not execute its functions until the PCC had been appointed. The funding for the PCP would begin in October 2012 and consisted of £53,500 for admin support and £920 per member for expenses, there would be no member allowance paid.

RESOLVED – That the update on the Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels be noted.

CEJS.07/12 Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership – Partnership Plan 2012-13

The Director of Community Engagement (Mr Gerrard) presented the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) - Partnership Plan 2012/13.

Mr Gerrard reported that the CDRP Partnership Plan was produced each year based on the Strategic Assessment which had been approved by the Panel at its meeting in November 2011. He informed the Panel that the CDRP Partnership was faced with many challenges in the coming year and they had been reflected in the Plan.

The CDRP Leadership Group had resolved to continue working with the large reduction in funding and the partners had been very proud of the priorities and felt that the funding had been used effectively. He added that the reduction in funding would affect how the CDRP tackled the priorities as set out in the Plan.

The Carlisle Local Strategic Partnership Manager (Mr Capstick) added that the funding for 2011/12 had been £80,000 and the reduction for 2012/13 meant that funding for 2012/13 was zero. He asked Members not to underestimate the value of the money that had been spent but reminded the Panel that the work of the CDRP came from the good will and revenue budgets of the partnership organisations and there was no indication that this would change.

In response to Members questions Mr Capstick reported that there was a small amount of money left but the entire budget had been committed. The CDRP also had some small assets which would remain.

The Panel were encouraged to hear that the CDRP intended to continue and congratulated them on their successful work.

In considering the Partnership Plan Members raised the following comments and questions:

Had the 'target activity to address ASB, criminal damage and deliberate fires' began and could the work be monitored?

Mr Capstick responded that the work had begun and activities were being carried out in areas with the most need. He added that Carlisle's Problem Solving Groups were based on Police intelligence for an evidence lead approach to identifying hotspots.

Members felt that the Joint Scrutiny Panel could contribute to the work of the Problem Solving Groups by examining and monitoring their work.

Mr Capstick agreed to submit a performance report on the work of the Problem Solving Group to their next meeting. In response to a further request Mr Capstick also agreed to provide a review of the work of the four Task Groups.

At the request of the Panel Mr Gerrard gave an overview of the Strategic Assessment and how it fed into the Partnership Plan.

What was involved in the co-ordinated approach to environmental crime and its enforcement?

Mr Capstick outlined a number of activities which were being undertaken within Carlisle in respect of fly tipping and industrial waste dumping. He added that the Partnership allowed for a targeted and co-ordinated approach to enforcing environmental crime.

The Panel requested a copy of the Cumbria Domestic Violence Business Plan and more information on the North Cumbria Domestic Violence Champions Network.

RESOLVED - 1) That the Panel supported the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Plan 2012/2013.

2) That performance reports on the work of the Problem Solving Groups and the four Task Groups over the previous twelve months be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

3) That a copy of the Cumbria Domestic Violence Business Plan and more information on the North Cumbria Domestic Violence Champions Network be circulated to all Members of the Panel.

CEJS.08/12 Review of Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel

The Terms of Reference for the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel had been circulated and Members were asked to give consideration to the work of the Panel over the last twelve months and if they felt the Panel added value and if it should continue.

The Terms of Reference would require some amendment in line with the changes that had happened to the CDRP structure and the loss of the staffing support.

Members agreed that the Panel should continue in its current format as there had been value in the open communication between authorities.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel continue, in its current format, into 2012/13.

2) That the Terms of Reference for the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel be amended to reflect the changes in support to the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

3) That a Member from Carlisle City Council chair the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel for 2012/13.

CEJS.09/12 Date of Next meeting

RESOLVED – The meetings of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel would take place in August 2012, November 2012 and March 2013.

The meeting closed at 2.45pm

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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAME 2011/12

Date last revised: 24 May 2012

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			07 Jun 12	19 Jul 12	06 Sep 12	11 Oct 12	22 Nov 12	10 Jan 13	14 Feb 13	28 Mar 13
CURRENT MEETING															
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	✓		✓				To receive minutes of Joint Carlisle and Eden CDRP Scrutiny Panel.	✓							
Performance Monitoring Reports	✓						Reporting of performance relevant to remit of Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓	
TASK AND FINISH GROUPS															
Neighbourhood Working			✓				Monitor implementation of recommendations	✓							
Disabled Facilities Grant			✓				To monitor action plan of task group recommendations		✓						
Homelessness			✓				Executive response to recommendations	✓							
Supporting the Elderly at Home			✓				Task Group?								

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				07 Jun 12	19 Jul 12	06 Sep 12	11 Oct 12	22 Nov 12	10 Jan 13	14 Feb 13	28 Mar 13
FUTURE MEETINGS															
Riverside Carlisle: Partnership agreement and Action Plan				✓			Monitoring progress under the partnership agreement		?					?	
Accommodation & Foyer Service Development for Young People		✓					Opening 1 /4/12 Six month update				✓				
Annual Equality Report	✓						Monitoring role.								✓
Affordable Warmth		✓	✓				Update on developments								
Welfare Reform			✓		✓		To have regular updates of implementation of policy changes	Chairs Group to determine appropriate scrutiny							
Rural Issues	✓		✓				Need to give consideration on what Members wish to do in this area								

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			07 Jun 12	19 Jul 12	06 Sep 12	11 Oct 12	22 Nov 12	10 Jan 13	14 Feb 13	28 Mar 13
Working with Young People			✓		✓		To receive report on the services to young people including those NEET and the LSP C&YP Group						✓		
Budget		✓	✓				Consideration of service implications					✓			
Scrutiny Annual Report			✓		✓		Draft report for comment before Chairs Group								✓

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

Details

Date Circulated

Food Law Enforcement Service Plan

24th May 2012