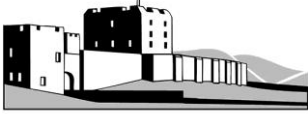


**CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL**



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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 22nd March 2012

Title: Overview Report and Work Programme

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Report reference: OS 09/12

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)

Contact Officer: Nicola Edwards

Ext: 7122

1. Forward Plan Items

The Forward Plan of the Executive covering the period 1st March – 30th June 2012 was published on 16th February 2012. There are no issues contained in this Forward Plan that fall into the remit of this Panel.

2. References from the Executive

The following items were considered by the Executive at their meeting on 13th February 2012 and the relevant excerpts from the minutes are attached at Appendix 1.

- EX016/12 Housing Strategy 2012-16
- EX023/12 Disabled Facilities Grants

3. Homelessness Task and Finish Groups

The Task Group have now completed their evidence gathering and a report is currently being drafted. This will be circulated separately to Panel Members if the drafting is completed prior to the panel date.

4. Women & Families Accommodation

A briefing note from the Director of Community Engagement which updates Members of the Panel of the current position of the replacement Women and Families Accommodation is attached at Appendix 2 for information.

5. Scrutiny Annual Report

The Scrutiny Annual Report is currently being drafted and will follow. Panel Members are asked to comment on the draft which is being considered by all three O&S Panels. The report will then be formally approved by the Scrutiny Chairs Group at their meeting on 11th April 2012.

6. Work Programme

The Panel's current work programme is attached at Appendix 3 for comment/amendment.

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE
HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

EX.016/12 HOUSING STRATEGY 2012-16
(Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Housing

Subject Matter

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor has agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Pursuant to Minute EX.129/11, the Deputy Chief Executive submitted report CD.19/12 presenting the Housing Strategy 2012 - 16 which would provide the principles for housing development in Carlisle during that period.

He reminded Members that the Housing Strategy superseded the previous Strategy and was a key document identifying the housing needs, challenges and solutions to be taken forward for the Carlisle district area. The Strategy Vision, which included the Council's vision, priorities and key actions, was presented in the corporate format at Appendix 1.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had on 24 November 2011 considered the matter and resolved:

"1) That the Housing Strategy 2011-15 and Action Plan be welcomed and the comments of the Panel, as set out above, be referred to the Executive.

2) That the Strategic Director and the Assistant Director (Community Engagement) submit an update on the accommodation for the University of Cumbria to a future meeting of the Panel."

A copy of Minute Excerpt COSP.88/11 had been circulated.

The Deputy Chief Executive further reported that the Housing Strategy 2012 - 16 had been revised to take account of comments received during the consultation period; feedback from representatives attending the Local Strategic Partnership event on 22 November 2011; and the Government's published Housing Strategy. In conclusion, he recommended that the revised Housing Strategy be approved for submission to Council.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel thanked the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder for his contribution to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and outlined the following matters which Overview and Scrutiny would like to be involved in at an early date:

- The link between the Economic Growth of the City and the housing needs that would be required;
- How other lenders could be encouraged to provide more support to people in low cost housing;
- How the housing needs of the growing older and vulnerable population within Carlisle would be addressed;
- How the issue of appropriate student accommodation within the City would be addressed.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder said that he appreciated the support of Overview and Scrutiny then moved the revised Housing Strategy 2012-16 following final consultation.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the revised Housing Strategy 2012-16 following consultation, as attached to Report CD.19/12, be referred to Council for approval.

Reasons for Decision

To enable the Housing Strategy 2012 - 16 to be taken forward

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE**

HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2012

**EX.023/12 REFERENCE FROM THE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
PANEL – DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS**

(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Housing

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute COSP.10/12, consideration was given to a reference from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 12 January 2012 concerning Disabled Facilities Grants. The Panel had resolved -

"1) That the Executive be thanked for their detailed response to the Disabled Facilities Grants Task and Finish Group recommendations.

2) That the actions set out in the Executive's response be made into an action plan for monitoring purposes.

3) That the Director of Community Engagement report back to the Panel on the additional Disabled Facilities Grants funding received from Central Government."

A copy of the Minute Excerpt had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel thanked the Executive for their response to the recommendations of the Disabled Facilities Task and Finish Group and asked that the actions which had been set out in the Executive's response be made into an action plan for scrutiny purposes.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder commented that work would be undertaken with Overview and Scrutiny to develop an action plan.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the comments of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel be received.

Reasons for Decision

To respond to a reference from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel concerning Disabled Facilities Grants.

Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel – 22nd March 2012

Briefing Note

Replacement Women and Family accommodation update

This briefing note provides an update regarding the development of replacement temporary accommodation for women, families and children who are experiencing homelessness. It details the rationale, work to date, key timescales for development and next steps.

Members are asked to note the current and next steps / timescales for development of the accommodation

1. Background information

- 1.1 The current hostel at London Road is no longer suitable for its purpose. It has no accessible accommodation for people with disabilities / mobility problems and requires residents to share facilities and rooms. It is unsuitable for families with children and inadequate for the needs of single women. Limitations of the building include: small rooms, inadequate communal space and the control of access to and from the building. Replacement accommodation is needed to improve the living conditions for residents, the quality of service provided to women and families' experiencing homelessness and to address equality/accessibility issues.
- 1.2 It is envisioned that the new accommodation will form a complex of supported provision designed with enough flexibility to enable a variety of use according to the needs of clients. There will be 10 cluster units providing flexible accommodation of 1 – 4 bedroom units replacing the capacity to accommodate up to 24 people within the current provision. There will be communal areas, private 1:1 space, play facilities, laundry and an office on the site. The total estimated cost of the complete project including all associated costs is £1.8 million. It will be funded through a combination of capital receipts from the current building and City Council funding.
- 1.3 Report CD 18/10 that went to Executive on 25th October 2010 gave details of the site selection process, scoring rationale and consultation carried out on the highest scoring site at Water Street. The recommendations within the report were agreed: the development of the accommodation for women and families who are homeless on the land at Water Street was approved, and agreement was given to the release of the land for this purpose.
- 1.4 Day Cummins Ltd. Cokermonth has been commissioned to develop the complete design commission of the Women & Family Accommodation scheme at Water Street.
- 1.5 Project meetings have been held regularly to develop the specification of the project to be developed with the design team. The aims are to ensure that the scheme delivers value for money and that the project is delivered within budget and on

schedule. During this period we will continue to consult with key stakeholders to ensure that the design adequately reflects the needs of the current and future service users ensuring the building has adequate flexibility to meet all of the needs and priorities of the support provision.

- 1.6 Plans were submitted for planning on 30th September 2011 and were approved on 16th December 2011 by the DC panel subject to a discussion on that element of land outside the wall boundary. It was approved with delegated powers to A/D J Meek, to discuss this area of land. These discussions have taken place and are resolved.
- 1.7 As part of the tender negotiations to contractors we will be looking to replicate the successful Supported Employment Project with the build of the Shaddon Gateway Resource Centre. This successful project has enabled two long term unemployed people who have previously experienced homelessness, to be employed full time, receive construction training and support for the duration of the build.
- 1.8 The tenders to contractors went onto the CHEST and 5 returns were received on Monday 5th March 2012. These submissions are currently being reviewed by the external design and resource planning teams.

2. Next Steps and Timescales

- 2.1 The anticipated next steps and timescales for the development of the build project are as follows:

Key Steps	Anticipated timescales
Review tenders	Mid March 2012
Award construction contract	End of March 2012
Start on site at Water street	End of April 2012
Completion	End of March 2013
Anticipated completion	End of February 2013

Assistant Director (Community Engagement)

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

Date last revised: 13 March 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			9 Jun 11	14 Jul 11	1 Sept 11	6 Oct 11	24 Nov 11	12 Jan 12	9 Feb 12	22 Mar 12
CURRENT MEETING - 22nd March 2012															
Affordable Warmth		✓	✓				Update on developments		✓					✓	
Welfare Reform & Localisation of Council Tax			✓				To receive a report on the benefit changes							✓	
Women and Families Accommodation		✓	✓				Monitoring of project	✓		✓				✓	
Scrutiny Annual Report			✓		✓		Draft report for comment before Chairs Group							✓	
Equalities Duty	✓						Draft objectives report			✓		✓		✓	
TASK AND FINISH GROUPS															
Neighbourhood Working			✓				Monitor implementation of recommendations	✓	✓				✓		

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			9 Jun 11	14 Jul 11	1 Sept 11	6 Oct 11	24 Nov 11	12 Jan 12	9 Feb 12	22 Mar 12
Disabled Facilities Grant			✓				To monitor implementation of recommendations				✓	✓	✓		
Homelessness			✓				Draft report to panel				✓				✓
Supporting the Elderly at Home			✓				To undertake review next civic year								
COMPLETED ITEMS															
Rural Strategy	✓		✓				Monitoring Role								
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	✓		✓				To receive minutes of Joint Carlisle and Eden CDRP Scrutiny Panel.			✓			✓		June 12
Riverside Carlisle: Partnership agreement and Action Plan				✓			Monitoring progress under the partnership agreement		✓					✓	Sept 12
Performance Monitoring Reports	✓						Reporting of performance relevant to remit of Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓	

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			9 Jun 11	14 Jul 11	1 Sept 11	6 Oct 11	24 Nov 11	12 Jan 12	9 Feb 12	22 Mar 12
Revenue & Benefits Shared Service							Outcome of actions detailed in Meritec report							✓	June 12
Transformation Programme for Carlisle City Council		✓	✓				Update on Transformation on service areas within remit of Panel			✓		✓		✓	
Housing Strategy Action Plan		✓										✓			
Accommodation & Foyer Service Development for Young People		✓					Update of development		✓			✓	✓		Sept 12
Carlisle Youth Zone				✓			Chief Executive & Chair of Youth Zone to be invited to update Members					✓			
Working with Young People			✓		✓		To receive report on the services to young people including those NEET and the LSP C&YP Group					✓			Jan 13

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			9 Jun 11	14 Jul 11	1 Sept 11	6 Oct 11	24 Nov 11	12 Jan 12	9 Feb 12	22 Mar 12
Healthy City					✓		To receive presentation on the Healthy City initiative						✓		
Play Areas					✓		Update report								June 12?
Play Strategy	✓		✓				To receive copy of final report to Big Lottery Fund and exit strategy			✓					
Tullie House		✓	✓				To receive draft 3 year Business Plan				✓	✓			
Budget		✓	✓				Consideration of service implications					✓			
Discretionary Rate Relief Policy			✓				To consider amendments to Policy		✗		✓				
Food Law Enforcement Service Plan		✓					Report outlining EH inspection and educational priorities		✓						