



Meeting Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel Vice Chairman's Report –  
Councillor Christine Finlayson**

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### **THE ANNUAL EQUALITY REPORT 2021 AND THE EQUALITY ACTION PLAN**

These Reports came to Scrutiny on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 for the Panel to consider and comment on the content of both Reports.

It was clear there is a lot of importance placed on both the Report and the Plan giving much confidence of Fairness all round in a safe environment for those who may be more vulnerable than others and may have had issues with discrimination in the past, a very reassuring Report.

### **COVID 19 RECOVERY STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The Cumbria Local Resilience Forum (CLRF) transitioned from response to recovery in April 2021, allowing other groups to take over and continue the completion of the Recovery Strategy.

### **NATIONAL INTEGRATED REVIEW AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY**

A new National Resilience Strategy is being developed including 'Community : A whole -of- society approach will be central to strengthening the UK's resilience, with a revived effort to inform and empower all parts of Society who can make a contribution.

### **SANDS CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted his Report on the current progress of the Sands Centre.

We had to marvel at the news of the progress that the whole project was only three days behind schedule. Considering so many elements that made progress difficult, i.e. shortage of building materials - workforce issues during lockdowns, its truly an amazing achievement to be so close to the target. Well done WAITES.

## **ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

The Council is in a good position to demonstrate it has due regard to the principles of the Covenant and how it will develop this work in the future. The Bill will incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into legislation.

## **ZERO CARBON CUMBRIA PARTNERSHIP**

The Policy & Communications Manager and the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership Manager presented their Reports to the Panel which detailed much of the work achieved since the set-up of Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP) adopted by the Council in 2019.

There are a wide range of organisations involved in the ZCCP with the hope of further organisations joining.

The Report provides an Assessment of the amount of carbon emitted from different activities in the County such as transport and energy consumption. The Report provides an important reference document on which to base future action to reduce carbon emissions in the County. It sets out different dates, scenarios, and pathways to achieving a net zero carbon position as a County, the target date being 2037 which is being worked towards.

The broader work of the Partnership will be communicated through newsletters and websites to enable the wider public to be kept informed of Project progress and targets.

The September Newsletter was provided with the Report to the Panel which outlined progress and updates, also other news.

## **HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS, DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS, REPAIR ASSISTANCE AND EMPTY PROPERTY GRANTS**

The Regulatory Service Manager updated the Panel on the work achieved so far on housing assistance grants, repair assistance, and the disability grants.

The Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2018 made the commitment that the Council would use its Discretionary Housing Grants to assist the Elderly, Disabled, and other vulnerable groups to live independently and to improve their living conditions and well-being.

Carlisle's Discretionary Housing Grants are targeted at making the homes of the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups, with qualifying health conditions, warm and safe thereby reducing the illness that may lead to hospital admissions.

Delayed transfer of care, people staying unnecessarily long in hospital has been a problem for Carlisle and the Housing Renewal Assistance Policy created the post of Homelife

Liaison Officer to liaise with the NHS and Adult and Social Care to assist in identifying where the DFG process, and other Grants, to help people move back into their homes.

There was a slight slow decrease due to the lockdown, the smaller grants were less affected as many contractors were still operating providing essential electrical or boiler repairs, insulation and heating works.

The Discretionary Housing Grant's offered by the City Council include:

- Safe and Warm Grants, Dementia Friendly Grants, and Energy Efficiency Grants
- Assistance with hospital discharge cases became a priority for the discretionary Grant's in 20/21

The Report also gave four case studies which included:

- Hospital Discharge: Furniture Move
- Hospital Discharge: Deep Clean
- Hospice Discharge: Boiler, Key Safe and Front Door
- Hospital Discharge: Lock Change, Key Safe & Deep Clean

Full details of this discussion can be found in the Minute Book.

**Cllr Christine Finlayson**  
**Vice Chairman**