

Meeting Date: 5th March 2019

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel Chairman's Report – Councillor Paul Nedved**

The Panel met on the 17th January to scrutinise a Report providing an update on the St Cuthbert's Garden Village Project, a Task and Finish Group Report - an Efficiency and Efficacy Review of the Current Governance Arrangements of the Council and the Overview Report and Work Programme.

St Cuthbert's Garden Village Progress Update

The Panel has been provided with regular updates on this project since it was officially launched in 2018. This has been supplemented with feedback from a Members Advisory Group.

At the time of the Panel meeting news was still being awaited on whether Government grants would be awarded for the Carlisle Southern Link Road (CSLR) and Capacity Funding for the project.

While I was completing this Report we have since learnt that Housing Infrastructure Funding of £102m for the CSLR has been awarded and £300k Capacity Funding for the project.

Am sure the Panel will agree that Officers of the Council deserve our thanks and congratulations for their hard work in the part they have played to date in securing this funding alongside the Government, local MP, elected representatives and other stakeholders.

Visits had been made to several Garden Village sites including Buckshaw and Bournville by the Members Advisory Group and Officers.

Panel Members were made aware of the range of activity in the previous year which had included Stage 1 Masterplanning, development and submission of bids and public consultations. The Panel were also informed that a full Masterplan and draft Local Plan would be completed by the end of 2019. Was agreed that the Panel would continue to receive updates following a key project milestone or activity.

A detailed presentation was given by the Investment & Policy Manager outlining the key next steps and the programme of coming activity.

A series of wide-ranging questions by Members and detailed discussion as outlined in the Economic Growth Panel Meeting Minutes were forthcoming.

These included whether the Council intended to develop a Community Infrastructure Levy, Environment Agency Involvement to date, Social and Affordable Housing importance to the project, whether employment sites had been identified, early need for infrastructure, public transport provision, impact the project might have on the high street and whether community or cultural infrastructure were being developed in the Masterplan.

The Report was welcomed by the Panel and it was recommended to the Executive that an Informal Briefing on St Cuthbert's Garden Village be organised to keep all Members abreast of the project.

Task and Finish Group Report - Review of the Current Governance Structure of the Council

The Panel reviewed the initial findings of the Task and Finish Group and an update Report provided by the Policy & Communication Manager.

Key drivers for were seen as the Boundary Commission Review of Wards in the District and the reduction of Elected Members on the City Council from 52 to 39.

A detailed discussion was had over the number of Scrutiny Panels, membership, frequency of meetings and scrutiny effectiveness.

Concluding, the Panel agreed that further evidence be sought by the Task and Finish Group including further consultation with Groups and the other Panels.

Overview Report and Work Programme

Was agreed that a "lessons learned" Report from the 2015 flood event would be provided to the April meeting of the Panel by the Corporate Director of Economic Development.

Was also resolved that Representatives from the University of Cumbria and Carlisle College be invited to attend the Panel meeting on the 28th February to discuss Education and Skills and for the Chief Executive of the Cumbria LEP to attend to provide an update on the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership at the same meeting.

Full details of the discussions are to be found within the Minute Book

Cllr Paul Nedved
Chairman