

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Date: Thursday, 25 November 2021

Time: 10:00

Venue: Cathedral Room

Present: Councillor Mrs Christine Finlayson, Councillor Colin Glover, Councillor Mrs Ann McKerrell, Councillor John Paton, Councillor David Shepherd, Councillor Peter Sunter, Councillor Miss Jeanette Whalen
Councillor John Collier (for Councillor Mrs Valerie Tarbitt)

Also Present: Ms Parker, Cumbria County Council
Mr Mackay, Tullie House
Ms Smalley, Tullie House

Councillor J Mallinson, Leader
Councillor Ellis, Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder
Councillor Mrs Mallinson, Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
Councillor Christian, Environment and Transport
Councillor Nedved, Economy, Enterprise and Housing
Councillor Higgs, Culture Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder

Officers: Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
City Engineer
Health and Wellbeing Manager
Neighbourhood Services Manager
Principal Health and Housing Officer

HWSP.70/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Valerie Tarbitt.

HWSP.71/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillor Glover declared an interest in relation to agenda item A.3 - Tullie House Business Plan 2021 - 2030 (22/23 revision). The interest related to his being appointed by the Council as of Trustee of Tullie House.

HWSP.72/21 PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

HWSP.73/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED - 1) It was noted that Council, on 9 November 2021, received and adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2021. The Chair signed the minutes.

2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2021 be agreed.

HWSP.74/21 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS

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

HWSP.75/21 LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS (LCWIPS) AND THE HADRIAN'S WALL CYCLING AND WALKING CORRIDOR PROJECT

The Panel welcomed Ms Parker from Cumbria County Council to the meeting.

The City Engineer submitted the Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the Hadrian's Wall Cycling and Walking Corridor Project (CS.43/21). The report provided details of the LCWIP proposals which were currently the subject of public consultation. The report was a final opportunity to comment on the proposals before the final plan was prepared early next year.

The second project was a plan to develop the Hadrian's Wall Cycling and Walking Route between Millom and Gilsland. The aim was to provide a route which was off-road wherever feasible. Details were currently being developed and further details would be presented as they developed. At this stage outline proposals are being presented.

Ms Parker gave a presentation to the Panel setting out the national and local context; the national vision and benefits of cycling and walking; details of cycle design standards; details of the Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan and how this fit in with the cycling and walking vision; the Cycling and Walking Programme and background information on LCWIPs. The presentation then detailed the LCWIPs plans for the area along with the consultation process and timeline for delivery in Carlisle.

Ms Parker went on to detail the Hadrian's Walking Cycling and Walking Project including the objectives; progress and timeline. The presentation also highlighted funding opportunities for both projects and how they would be promoted.

In considering the report and presentation Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Had consideration been given to the installation of cycle for hire at the railway station?

Ms Parker responded that the idea was being looked into and storage may also be available.

- Where could local businesses find out about cycle network connectivity gaps?

- Ms Parker advised that the information was available on Cumbria County Council's website along with a contact email address for enquiries.

- The East / West cross county connectivity only referred to the A66, where there plans to

include the A69 / A689?

Ms Parker stated that the strategic corridors including East / West were currently evolving and invited the Member to feed his comments into the LCWIP consultation via the City Engineer.

- Was data available on the numbers using cycle lanes in the city?

Ms Parker responded that census data provided an average figure in comparison to national average date, but in order to get more up to date information, counting equipment would need to be installed on the cycle ways.

- Was there any discussions taking place with other authorities to create cycle connectivity beyond the county?

Ms Parker advised that Officers within the Borderlands Partnership held regular meetings, it was possible that some of the Partnership's projects may include cycle parking provision.

The Member welcomed the plans for segregated cycles lanes as they would make people feel safer and hopefully increase usage.

- What consultation had been undertaken with disability groups?

Notification of the consultation had been circulated to disability groups. Government strategy stated that cycling provision had to be accessible for all, consideration was currently been given to the types of improvements needed which would require additional engagement with the appropriate groups.

In response to a comment from the Leader about the need to incorporate maintenance of the existing cycle paths, the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder stated that government funding was able to be used to bring the existing network in line with current standards as that would assist in the creation of a coherent network.

A Member felt that the LCWIP would provide a key role in supporting Carlisle as a place, he suggested that the Panel consider scrutinising how Carlisle as a place could be supported along with its residents.

The Chair thanked Ms Parker for her presentation.

RESOLVED - The Panel noted the contents of report CS.43/21 and associated presentation regarding the ongoing work to develop the Carlisle Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and to develop the Hadrian's wall Cycling and Walking Project.

HWSP.76/21 TULLIE HOUSE BUSINESS PLAN 2021 - 2030 (22/23 revision)

The Chair welcomed Mr Mackay, Ms Proud and Ms Smalley from Tullie House to the meeting.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager submitted report CS.44/21, the purpose of which was to introduce and allow consideration of the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust 2022/23 Business Plan in order that the Council may, in due course, agree core funding for the Trust. That was in line with Section 5 of the Partnership Agreement between the Council and Tullie House Trust, which stated that the Business Plan submitted by the Trust should be used as the basis for agreeing future years funding.

Details of the background position; core grant; lease arrangements; building and collection financial implications; impact of COVID-19 and impact of the proposals put forward by Tullie House Trust were provided within the report.

The Executive had considered the matter at its meeting on 25 October 2021 (EX.118/21 referred) and referred the report to the Panel for their review and recommendations.

Mr Mackay advised that the Business Plan as presented in the report had been predicated on the securing of £21.4M of grant funding for the capital development scheme Project Tullie, however, the application had been unsuccessful. Accordingly, the Trustees intended to develop a new Business Plan.

2022/23 was the second in a three year reduction of the grant funding received from the Council. In order to address the reduced level of monies from the Council, Tullie House Trust had taken steps to increase income and reduce costs in relation to its management fee. The restrictions placed on the facility in relation to Covid 19 had also had a negative impact, whilst restrictions were now lifted visitor number had not yet returned to the same level as they had been pre-pandemic. The facility was now only opening 6 days per week; without securing additional funding it was possible that a further reduction in opening hours would be needed. Mr Mackay stated that in order for the Trust to remain financially stable it may need to use its reserves, secure additional capital development grant funding or match funding from the Council. The Trust proposed that the revenue funding from the Council be reduced annually by £200,000 rather than the £300,000 put forward by the authority.

In considering the report and presentation Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Why was the Guildhall not open to the public

Mr Mackay advised that there were a number of structural and DDA non-compliance issues that meant that the facility could not be open to the public. The Heritage Officer had latterly undertaken a visit to the site which was an important Listed Building feature within the city; a further meeting with a group of Conservation Officers was scheduled for early in the new year, and it was hoped that solutions would be identified that would enable the Guildhall to be publicly accessible in the future.

- Was there any government funding that the Trust may access, perhaps in relation to Covid 19

Mr Mackay responded that the Trust had received some Covid 19 funding from government, however, such monies were disbursed at a sector level rather than to individual facilities. The Trust was part of the Destination strand of the Borderlands project, it was hoped some investment may be forthcoming from that involvement.

Following a question from a member of the Executive to Tullie House discussion arose as to the role of Executive members in Scrutiny meetings. Further discussion then ensued between some members of the Panel and the Executive regarding the history of decision making in respect of the level of funding support the Council provided to Tullie House.

- What measures were Tullie House Trust taking in respect of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Cumbria

Mr Mackay advised that he was having regular contact with Officers on the matter.

The Deputy Chief Executive added that legal contracts existed between the Tullie House Trust and the Council, as part of LGR, the appropriate legal processes would be enacted to ensure the proper transfer of the Trust to the new local authority.

RESOLVED - That the Panel had received report CS.44/21 and the proposed Business Plan.

HWSP.77/21 BUDGET 2022/23 - 2026/27

The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources submitted the annual budget reports, noting that the Panel's consideration marked the beginning of the process for setting and approving the Council's Budget.

HWSP.78/21 BUDGET UPDATE - REVENUE ESTIMATES 2022/23 TO 2026/27

The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources submitted report RD.46/21 providing a summary of the Council's revised revenue base estimates for 2021/22, together with base estimates for 2022/23 and forecasts up to 2026/27 for illustrative purposes. Potential new spending pressures, bids and savings had also been considered in the report. The Panel's agenda set out the matters which fell within the remit of the Panel.

The report set out known revisions to the MTFP projections, although there were a number of significant factors affecting the budget that were currently unresolved and which would be considered as the budget process progressed (paragraph 1.3 referred).

Details of the outstanding key issues and resource assumptions were set out at Section 4 and details of the income and budget monitoring shortfalls were documented at paragraph 5.7. Section 8 of the report set out the funding requirements for the Local Government Reorganisation.

The Executive had on 22 November 2021 (EX.128/21) received the report and resolved:

"That the Executive:

1. Noted the revised base estimates for 2021/22 and base estimates for 2022/23.
2. Noted the current Medium Term Financial Plan projections, which would continue to be updated throughout the budget process as key issues became clearer and decisions were taken.
3. Noted the initial budget pressures, bids and savings which needed to be taken into account as part of the 2022/23 budget process.
4. Noted the review of the earmarked reserves as outlined in paragraph 9 and Appendix F to Report RD.46/21."

In considering the report, Members raised the following questions and comments:

- Was the Council able to get the financial support it needed from government in relation to Covid 19?

The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources advised that the Council had received £1.8M funding in 2020/21 and £616,000 in 2021/22; the funding settlement for 2022/23 was expected to be announced in late December 2021.

- How was the Council addressing the Covid 19 impact on the Sands Centre Redevelopment Project?

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the Council was currently in discussions on the matter with the contractor.

RESOLVED - That report RD.46/21 Budget Update - Revenue Estimates 2022/23 to 2026/27 had been submitted to the Panel.

HWSP.79/21 INDIVIDUAL CHARGES REVIEW - COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted report CS.37/21 setting out the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 relating to those services falling within the Community Services Directorate. The report proposed a varied approach to the charges for the use of the city centre. To encourage the use of commercial pitches, pavement cafes and Farmers Markets it was proposed to maintain the rates at the current rate and the remainder of charges would increase by 3%. It was also proposed that 10p be added to all tariffs across all car parks and an increase of 10p per day to permit prices.

Details of the other proposed charges in relation to City Centre usage by external organisations; events; digital banner; Old Fire Station; allotments; use of parks; sports pitches; Talkin Tarn; Bereavement Services; Waste Services and Garage charges were also provided.

The original 2021/22 budgets and 2022/23 forecast income levels based upon the current charge structure and forecast volume were as detailed in the table in section 11 of the report. The charges highlighted within the report would result in an anticipated level of income of £2,810,500 against the MTFP target of £3,196,200. That represented a shortfall of £385,700 against the MTFP target.

The Executive had considered the report at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.129/21 referred) and resolved:

"That the Executive:

1. Had reviewed the proposed charges as set out in the body of Report CS.37/21 and relevant appendices with effect from 1 April 2022, noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report.
2. Made the report of proposed charges available to relevant Scrutiny Panels for their review and comment."

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

- A Member commented that, in their view the £30 charge for streaming a funeral service was expensive.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager advised that the streaming service was provided by a third party who levied the charge, the Council had simply passed this on at cost. Benchmarking data with other Cumbrian local authorities indicated that the cost of the service was comparatively reasonable in Carlisle.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder stated that there were various reasons which may prevent a person attending a funeral service, he was of the view that the streaming charge was reasonable.

- What was the rationale for adding a further daily watersports permit charge at Talkin Tarn.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager responded that the existing charge applied to larger water craft, given the rise in popularity of paddleboarding it was felt that a new, smaller charge for paddleboarders was appropriate.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager responded to the question from the Chair on the use of electric vehicles in the Council's refuse and recycling fleet, noting that the Council's fleet comprised the most environmentally friendly vehicles (Euro 6). Replacing the largest vehicles in the fleet with electric alternatives was currently cost prohibitive.

RESOLVED - That the Panel had received the Individual Charges Review Community Services (CS.37/21).

HWSP.80/21 INDIVIDUAL CHARGES REVIEW - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Corporate Director of Economic Development submitted report ED.39/21 setting out the proposed fees and charges for areas falling within the responsibility of the Economic Development Directorate.

The proposed charges in relation to Planning Services included Development Control income; Building Control income; Building Control Discretionary Charges; Shop Mobility and Investment and Policy Income.

Acceptance of the charges highlighted within the report would result in an anticipated level of income of £656,000 against the Medium Term Financial Plan target of £656,000.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.131/21) and resolved:

"That the Executive agreed the charges, for consultation, as set out in Report ED.39/21 and accompanying Appendices, with effect from 1 April 2022; noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report."

RESOLVED - That the Panel had received the Individual Charges Review - Economic Development (ED.39/21)

HWSP.81/21 INDIVIDUAL CHARGES - GOVERNANCE AND REGULATORY SERVICES

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services submitted report GD.55/21 concerning the proposed fees and charges for areas falling within the responsibility of the Governance and Regulatory Services Directorate.

The report set out the proposed charges relative to Environmental Health and Housing; Homeless, Prevention and Accommodation Services; and Legal Services.

The introduction of the proposed charges was forecast to generate income of £802,800 in 2022/23 as summarised in the table at paragraph 5.11.1 of the report.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.131/21 referred) and resolved:

"That the Executive agreed for consultation the charges as detailed within Report GD.55/21 and accompanying Appendices, with effect from 1 April 2022; noting the impact those would have on income generation as detailed within the report."

In response to a question from a Member regarding the competitiveness of the Pest Control Service with commercial providers and whether means testing had ever been considered for these services, the Principal Health and Housing Officer responded that the service was less

costly than a number of other providers, means testing would not be cost effective to implement.

RESOLVED - That the Panel had received the Individual Charges - Governance and Regulatory Services (GD.55/21).

HWSP.82/21 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 AND PROVISIONAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2026/27

The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources submitted report RD.47/21 detailing the revised Capital Programme for 2021/22, now totalling £29,917,200, together with the proposed method of financing. The summary of the revised programme for 2021/22 showed a potential borrowing requirement in the sum of £28,794,905.

Also summarised was the proposed programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 in the light of the new capital proposals identified, together with the estimated capital resources available to fund the programme.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 22 November 2021 (EX.133/21 referred) and resolved:

"That the Executive:

1. Noted the revised capital programme and relevant financing for 2021/22 as set out in Appendices A and B to Report RD.47/21 including approval of the reduction of £1,894,800 to the 2021/22 capital programme;
2. Had given initial consideration and views on the proposed capital spending for 2022/23 to 2026/27 given in the report in the light of the estimated available resources;
3. Noted that any capital scheme for which funding had been approved by Council may only proceed after a full report, including business case and financial appraisal, had been approved."

In response to a question from a Member regarding capacity at the Cemetery, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that it was reviewed on an annual basis.

RESOLVED - That the Panel had received the Revised Capital Programme 2021/22 and Provisional Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27 (RD.47/21)

HWSP.83/21 REGULATORY REFORM (HOUSING ASSISTANCE) (ENGLAND AND WALES) ORDER 2002 - CHANGES TO EXISTING HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY

The Principal Health and Housing Officer presented a review of the existing Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) Housing Renewal Assistance Policy which was last updated in 2018 and approved by Council in January 2019. Revisions had been necessary to ensure the Housing Renewal Assistance Policy was fit for purpose as an offer for residents and reflected the current demands on the service. The revised Policy had been attached to report GD.70/21 as an appendix.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 25 October 2021 (EX.115/21 referred) and resolved:

"That the Executive:

- i) had considered the proposed revised Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2022 (appendix 1 of report GD.70/21)

ii) referred the said Policy to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel for consideration in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework;

ii) that the City Council used its discretionary powers under the Regulatory Reform Order to further broaden the scope of the Disabled facilities grants (DFGs) and allow specific DFG funding to be used for grants to assist the elderly, disable or other vulnerable groups to live independently and to improve their living conditions and well-being. Specifically, minor works that supports ill health prevention, promote independence and delay transfer into care."

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:
A Member commended the support the Council provided to those requiring an adaptation to their property upon leaving hospital, he asked how quickly the service was able to respond to such requests.

The Principal Health and Housing Officer reported that such requests were dealt with as a priority, and often required liaison with external bodies such as Adult Social Care, as such response times varied; she provided an example where such a request had been responded to and the adaptation installed within a week.

RESOLVED - That the Panel had received the proposed revised Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2022 in appendix 1 of report GD.70/21 in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

HWSP.84/21 LOCAL AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Principal Health and Housing Officer presented the latest review and and assessment of air quality in the District (GD.83/21). The report discussed the 4-declared air quality management areas (AQMA) and the most recent data from the Annual Status Report 2021, which covered data collected during 2020.

The Chair asked whether the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions was likely to lead to increased levels of air pollution

The Principal Health and Housing Officer responded that there were differing views on what impact the lifting of restrictions would create as working patterns were now changed for many people. In addition the phasing out of older diesel engine vehicles would generate a decrease in emissions.

RESOLVED - That the Panel had received the most recent air quality monitoring data (GD.83/21).

HWSP.85/21 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21

The Policy and Performance Officer submitted the Quarter 2 2021/22 performance against the current Service Standards and a summary of the Carlisle Plan 2021-23 actions as defined in the Plan. Performance against the Panel's 2021/22 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were also included (PC.38/21).

In response to a question from a Member regarding the impact of the shortage of HGV drivers in respect of refuse collection vehicles, the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder advised that the service remained short of 1 driver, but he hoped that levels of service would return to normal in the near future.

RESOLVED - 1) That report PC.38/21 be noted.

HWSP.86/21 OVERVIEW REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted report OS.27/21 providing an overview of matters relating to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel. Further to the publication of the report a further Notice of Executive Key Decisions had been published on 19 November 2021 it contained no items that fell within the remit of the Panel.

RESOLVED - That the Overview Report incorporating the Work Programme and Key Decision items relevant to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel be noted (OS.27/21).

The Meeting ended at: 12:52