

Meeting Date: 14 September 2021

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel Chair's Report – Councillor Lisa Brown**

Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 29th July 2021 AT 4.00 pm

The Panel had a busy agenda for its second meeting back in the chamber. After consultation between this meeting and the last, the Economic Strategy for the City was brought to the Panel before it is taken to Full Council this September.

The Strategy set out the Council's priorities, objectives and actions to drive economic growth and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic for the next five years. The Strategy had been developed in consultation with the Executive, the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel who attended a virtual workshop and fed in ideas and comments, and the Senior Management Team.

Other agenda items included the Carlisle Plan, and as stated in the minutes there were feelings against using terms in the vision that were not evidence based mainly that the plan says 'prosperity being the most important determinant of health and wellbeing'. However, as the Panel had two different resolutions moved, the resolution of the Panel was to support the wording unedited.

Moving on we had reports on events in the city. The Corporate Director of Economic Development gave an overview on the city centre along with details of the City Centre Economic Recovery Action Plan. The Corporate Director of Economic Development summed up by setting out why events would be important in city centre vitality and detailing the events planned for the forthcoming year.

The resolutions from the Panel can be found in the minutes, we have had one written response so far to EGSP 46/21: 3) That the Corporate Director of Economic Development provide the Panel with a written response setting out details of the 26 towns that had been ranked most vulnerable post covid and how they compared to Carlisle. A report outlining the ranking was provided to members on 28/08.

We also had a report on the new High Street Taskforce that was being set. The Panel had a number of questions and felt strongly about the membership of the Task Force so as not to just using existing contacts familiar faces, and wondered if there was a possibility of including the public?

The Corporate Director of Economic Development responded that it was difficult to get a good mix of stakeholders and individuals to attend groups such as this, however, the Council would target and encourage people who did not usually get involved to join the Task Force. Scrutiny would be involved in the work to add more variety to the input and public would be encouraged to feedback if and where possible. One of the resolutions of the Panel was that recruiting members of the public to join the Task Force was considered.

On behalf of the Panel, I would like to thank all the Directors and Officers for their work in putting together the reports that were presented. Full details of the discussions can be found in the minutes.

Cllr Lisa Brown

Chair – Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel