

## **ECONOMIC GROWTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

**THURSDAY 17 JUNE 2021 AT 4.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Brown (Chair), Councillors Mrs Bowman, Ellis-Williams  
Mrs Glendinning, Meller, Mitchelson, Paton and Shepherd (as substitute for  
Councillor Mrs Mckerrell)

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Mallinson, Leader  
Councillor Ellis, Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder  
Councillor Nedved, Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder

**OFFICERS:** Policy and Communications Manager  
Policy and Performance Officer  
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

### **EGSP.32/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs McKerrell and the Corporate Director of Economic Development.

### **EGSP.33/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

### **EGSP.34/21 PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

### **EGSP.35/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2021 be approved.

### **EGSP.36/21 CALL IN OF DECISIONS**

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

### **EGSP.37/21 LOCAL ENVIRONMENT (CLIMATE CHANGE) STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Policy and Communications Manager submitted the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy Update (PC.19/21). The report set out the progress, proposed amendments and additions to the associated action plan along with an overview of the work undertaken by the Council's member Advisory Group (MAG) and countywide partnership work.

Members raised the following questions and observations during their scrutiny of the report:

- In response to a question the Policy and Communications Manger clarified that the term 'Grey Fleet' referred to vehicles which were not owned by the City Council but did impact the Council's carbon footprint.
- How would the actions from the Strategy impact the economic growth of the City and how would this be measured?

The Policy and Communications Manager advised the Panel that a Task and Finish Group had been established to consider the performance information that was being presented to Scrutiny.

The Task and Finish Group had included the Strategy and performance monitoring, a report would come to the Panel when it was finalised.

- During the pandemic cycling and walking had played an important role, what could the Council do to encourage people to continue walking and cycling?

The Policy and Communications Manager reported that the consultation on the local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan had been completed and the barriers and motivation for people had been included in the work to prepare the Plan. He agreed to circulate the final report from Cumbria County Council to the Panel when it became available.

- The primary role of the Member Advisory Group (MAG) had been to prepare the Strategy, would there continue to be a role for the MAG in the future?

The Policy and Communications Manager reported that the future role of the MAG had been a key discussion at their last meeting. The future monitoring and scrutiny of the Strategy would fall to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel and the MAG felt that their role could move towards marketing and communications and support the work being carried out by the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP).

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder felt it was important that the MAG did not continue if it had fulfilled its purpose, the Strategy had become the responsibility of the Executive and appropriate Scrutiny Panel and moved away from the MAG.

- How confident was the Council that the Citizens' Juries would attract a varied cross section of the public?

The Policy and Communications Manager commented that the establishment of a Citizens' Jury would be a time consuming process and it was difficult to engage a cross section of public in matters such as these. There would be incentives to encourage individuals who may not traditionally become involved in work such as this. He added that Local Authorities had been given the decision regarding the timing of the establishment of the Juries, as such some authorities had opted to wait until the decision on the local government reorganisation was known.

- How would the City Council engage in the preparation of the County wide communication strategy?

The Policy and Communications Manager explained that the ZCCP would be preparing the communication strategy and the Corporate Director of Economic Development was a member of that group. In addition, one of the new ZCCP posts was a Communications Manager, this person would work directly between the ZCCP and the City Council on matters such as the communication strategy.

- Were the 12 new ZCCP posts area based or project based?

The Policy and Communications Manager responded that the posts were predominantly project based, however, there was some support for the Sustainable Carlisle Group and one other established sustainable community group.

- There was some concern regarding the cost of charging a vehicle at an electric charging point and a Member asked if there would be a charging policy put in place to ensure a maximum cost for charging a vehicle?

The Policy and Communications Manager reported that the One Public Estate was working on a county wide strategy for electric vehicle charging.

- Would the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy create jobs and economic growth?

The Policy and Communications Manager confirmed that there was great potential for growth through the projects, particularly within the green sector.

- What had been the response from staff to the Flexible Working Options survey and who would be involved in the review of the Agile Working Policy? The Panel suggested that a Task and Finish Group be established to undergo the review.

The Policy and Communications Manager confirmed that there had been a high response to the survey. A report had been submitted to the Senior Management Team and the HR Manager. If a Task and Finish Group was established it would be within the remit of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel.

- The Policy and Communications Manager assured the Panel that robust business cases would be agreed before any projects were undertaken.
- How would major projects such as the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal assist with the delivery of the Strategy?

The Policy and Communications Manager agreed to circulate further detailed information on the projects and the impact they had on the Climate agenda and potential growth.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy update (P.19/21) be welcomed;

2) That it be noted that the responsibility for the monitoring and performance of the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy fell within the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel;

3) That the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan be circulated to Panel Members when it became available.

4) That the Policy and Communications Manager provide detailed information regarding the impact that major projects within the City had on climate change and potential growth.

5) That the Business and Transformation Scrutiny be asked to consider establishing a Task and Finish Group to review the Agile Working Policy.

## **EGSP.38/21 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21**

The Policy and Performance Officer presented the End of Year 2020/21 performance against the current Service Standards and a summary of the Carlisle Plan 2016-19 actions as defined in the 'plan on a page'. Performance against the Panel's 2020/21 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were also included.

There were two exceptions detailed in the report:

CSe22 – Actual city centre pedestrianised zone revenue as a percentage of city centre expenditure; and,

ED04 – Actual Building Control revenue as a percentage of Building Control Expenditure

The Policy and Performance Officer gave an update on the Task and Finish Group noting that a report was due to be presented to Scrutiny later in the year.

RESOLVED – That the End of Year Performance Report 2020/21 (PC.22/21) be noted.

## **EGSP.39/21      OVERVIEW REPORT**

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented report OS.16/21 providing an overview of matters relating to the work of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel.

The Work Programme was being prepared and the Chair and relevant members of the Senior Management Team would meet to discuss future items. When the Programme had been drafted it would be circulated to the Panel for comment.

The Panel discussed the work programme and added the following matters:

- Carlisle Plan
- Economic Strategy and its performance management
- Carlisle Airport

RESOLVED – 1) That the Overview Report incorporating Key Decision items relevant to the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel be noted (OS.09/21).

2) That the following items be added to the Panel's Work Programme:

- Carlisle Plan
- Economic Strategy and its performance management
- Carlisle Airport

[The meeting ended at 4.50pm]