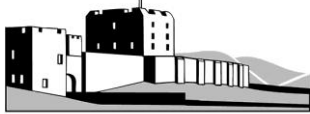


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# **COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

## ***Panel Report***

### **Public**

**Date of Meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Title:** Overview Report and Work Programme

**Report of:** Overview and Scrutiny Officer

**Report reference:** OS 02/12

### **Summary:**

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Community O&S Panel's work. It also includes the latest version of the work programme.

### **Recommendations:**

Members are asked to:

- Decide whether the items on the Leader's Forward Plan should be included in the Panel's Work Programme for consideration.
- Note and/or amend the Panel's work programme (Appendix 4)

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**Ext:** 7122

## **1. Forward Plan Items**

The Forward Plan of the Executive covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 was published on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011. The following issues contained in this Forward Plan that fall into the remit of this Panel are as follows:

KD024/11 – Budget Process 2012-13 – considered at the meeting of the Panel on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012

## **2. References from the Executive**

The following references have been received from the Executive and full details can be found at Appendix 1.

EX.164/11 & EX.167/11 – Tullie House Business Plan and Lease Arrangements

EX.165/11 – Budget 2012/13 – Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Panels on the draft Budget reports

EX.166/11 – Disabled Facilities Grants - included in separate item on the agenda.

## **3. Task and Finish Groups**

A verbal update will be provided at the panel on the status of ongoing Task Group work.

## **4. Work Programme**

The Panel's current work programme is attached at Appendix 2 for comment/amendment.

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2011**

**EX.164/11 TULLIE HOUSE BUSINESS PLAN AND LEASE ARRANGEMENTS**  
(Key Decision)

**Portfolio** Performance and Development

**Subject Matter**

Pursuant to Minute EX.150/11, the Assistant Director (Community Engagement) submitted report CD.30/11 considering the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust 2011 - 2014 Business Plan and Lease term issues.

By way of a reminder, the Assistant Director (Community Engagement) summarised the steps leading up to the establishment of the Trust in April 2011; the key milestones outlined in the draft Business Plan, together with the financial and legal implications. He further outlined details of a proposed extension to the lease arrangements from the City Council for the property occupied by the Trust.

The draft Business Plan had been included on the Agenda as a private item as it was not for publication by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had, on 24 November 2011, considered and welcomed Report CD.27/11 on the matter. A copy of Minute Excerpt COSP.90/11 had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel was present at the meeting. She informed the Executive that the Panel had questioned the proposed extension to the Tullie House Lease, but considered the responses provided to be satisfactory. Overall the Panel had welcomed the report.

The Community Engagement Portfolio Holder made reference to a number of very prestigious, high profile and well attended exhibitions provided subsequent to formation of the Trust, in particular the Roman and Little Black Dress exhibitions. She considered that Tullie House should be commended for the promotion of such events.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder was delighted by submission of the reports. He congratulated the City Council and the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust for work undertaken.

The Performance and Development Portfolio Holder outlined the Executive's support of the Business Plan which was cautious in terms of the financial aspects, but ambitious in its aspirations. Although the Trust was in its infancy, he paid tribute to the considerable potential and talent available within the new Board.

The Portfolio Holder then moved the following recommendations:

1. That the Executive had considered the report and supported the proposed business plan;
2. That the Executive approved the core funding for 2012/13 and the commitment to funding for 2013/14 for recommendation to Council; and
3. That the Executive recommended an extension of the Lease arrangements from 25 years to 30 years to the City Council for approval.

**Summary of options rejected**      None

## **DECISION**

That the Executive:

1. had considered Report CD.30/11 and supported the proposed Tullie House Business Plan.
2. approved the core funding for 2012/13 and the commitment to funding for 2013/14 for recommendation to Council.
3. recommended an extension of the Lease arrangements from 25 years to 30 years to the City Council for approval.

## **Reasons for Decision**

The recommendations allow this report, the associated Business Plan and core funding to be approved in line with the Partnership Agreement

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2011**

**EX.167/11 TULLIE HOUSE BUSINESS PLAN AND LEASE ARRANGEMENTS**  
(Key Decision)

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 4)

**Portfolio** Performance and Development

**Subject Matter**

Pursuant to Minute EX.162/11, the Assistant Director (Community Engagement) submitted private report CD.33/11 attaching the draft Tullie House Business Plan.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had, on 24 November 2011, considered and welcomed the submission of Report CD.26/11 on the matter.

A copy of the Minute Excerpt had been circulated.

The Performance and Development Portfolio Holder then moved the following recommendations:

1. That the Executive had considered the report and supported the proposed business plan;
2. That the Executive approved the core funding for 2012/13 and the commitment to funding for 2013/14 for recommendation to Council; and
3. That the Executive recommended an extension of the Lease arrangements from 25 years to 30 years to the City Council for approval.

**Summary of options rejected** None

**DECISION**

That the Executive:

1. Had considered Report CD.33/11 and supported the proposed Tullie House Business Plan;
2. Approved the core funding for 2012/13 and the commitment to funding for 2013/14 for recommendation to Council; and
3. recommended an extension of the Lease arrangements from 25 years to 30 years to the City Council for approval.

**Reasons for Decision**

The recommendations allow this report, the associated Business Plan and core funding to be approved in line with the Partnership Agreement

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2011**

**EX.165/11      BUDGET 2012/13 – FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
PANELS ON THE DRAFT BUDGET REPORTS**  
(Key Decision)

**Portfolio**      Governance and Resources

**Subject Matter**

The Minutes of the meetings of the following Overview and Scrutiny Panels relating to the draft Budget reports considered by the Executive on 22 November 2011 were submitted:

- (a) Community - 24 November 2011 (COSP.95/11)
- (b) Environment and Economy - 1 December 2011 (EEOSP.74/11 and EEOSP.77/11 (Car Parking Study); and EEOSP.75/11)
- (c) Resources - 6 December 2011 (ROSP.85/11 - ROSP.93/11)

Copies of the above Minute Excerpts had been circulated.

The Leader then invited the Chairmen of the respective Overview and Scrutiny Panels to speak:

- (a) The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel was in attendance and outlined the debate, highlighting in particular the Panel's comments / concerns in relation to the Olympic Torch Relay; Income below target; the impact of water charges upon allotment holders; and the Hostel Service.

In response, the Leader advised that the Olympic Torch Relay was a major event in which Carlisle would participate. Although planning was underway, relative costs were not yet available. Overview and Scrutiny would be able to obtain further updates as the matter progressed.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder further explained that the need for increased water charges over a period of time had been agreed with allotment holders some years before. Under that agreement, the Council undertook to take steps to ensure that more than one water connection was available within the larger allotments and work had been done in that regard.

Referring to the Hostel Service, the Portfolio Holder recognised that the charges did not include a support element and emphasised the need to look very seriously at the service and information provided by the City Council. He was quite concerned that the Council had been unsuccessful in securing Supporting People funding. In conclusion, he applauded Overview and Scrutiny Members for their views on the Resource Centre.

The Community Engagement Portfolio Holder made reference to the terminology used with regard to the Olympic Torch Relay, pointing out that Carlisle would host a 'stage' rather than a 'leg'. She added that the relay was scheduled to pass through areas where there were many sporting facilities, and expressed the hope that everyone would engage with the City Council in showcasing the facilities available within Carlisle.

Referring to the concerns expressed with regard to the impact of the proposed Council Tax freeze, the Performance and Development Portfolio Holder stressed that the Council had a long history of maintaining Council Tax freezes for the benefit of the people of Carlisle. In his view, failure to take up the Government's offer would reflect badly upon the authority.

The Leader emphasised, for the avoidance of doubt, that the Executive proposed to work towards bringing forward budget proposals which included no increase in Council Tax, and would not depart from that stance.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder reiterated the Executive's resolve to freeze Council Tax. He was aware of the concerns put forward in terms of the impact thereof on the 2013/14 budget and outlined some of the options available to address the position (e.g. Budget profiling). The Portfolio Holder considered rejection of Government support in freezing Council Tax to be ludicrous, and the Executive would not on behalf of the people of Carlisle advocate such a course of action.

(b) The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel presented the Minutes of the Panel meeting on 1 December 2011 commenting that the Panel was somewhat disappointed that there was little scope for manoeuvre in terms of charges set nationally (e.g. Planning, Building Control and Dog Fouling). She commented upon the very visible issues of litter and dog fouling, expressing the view that increased charges to address concerns around those areas would constitute a 'win win' situation. Members had requested Portfolio Holders / Officers to continue to lobby central Government.

She outlined the Panel's deliberations with regard to car parking and the serious issues around on street parking. Members felt that the proposed allocation of the City Council's car parks into four categories would give greater flexibility and supported the proposed charges.

The Chairman further outlined the Panel's comments with regard to Parks and Green Spaces; Talkin Tarn and the Assembly Room, the detail of which was set out within the Minute Excerpt.

Referring to the issue of dog fouling / enforcement, the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder believed that improved education may be the way forward, rather than increasing charges in those areas. The Assistant Director (Local Environment) was looking at how that could be taken forward in conjunction with schools, greater advertising, etc. It was important for the Council to take a hard stance with regard to dog fouling, particularly bearing in mind the possible health implications for children. He further believed that people using parks and green spaces for business use (e.g. Dog walking businesses) should contribute to the upkeep thereof. That would of course be dependant upon whether such use could be enforced. Further consideration required to be given to the proposed annual registration fee

for swimmers at Talkin Tarn and the Assistant Director (Local Environment) was investigating the matter.

In summary, the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder expressed his gratitude for the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny, particularly with regard to car parking.

In response, the Economic Development Portfolio Holder said that announcements would be made in due course as part of the Localism Bill, and it may be possible to lobby Government further to enable Local Authorities to set their own charges with regard to Development Control. She also reminded Members that a review of the Old Town Hall was currently taking place, the outcome of which was awaited.

The Leader indicated his agreement with the sentiments expressed by the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder with regard to dog fouling, emphasising the importance of concentrating on education and the development of a better relationship with the public around awareness / responsibility.

(c) The Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel referred the Executive to Minute ROSP.87/11 and the request that the Executive give consideration to retaining the Small Scale Community Projects Budget which was extremely valued and appreciated in the community. Referring to the Investment Strategy (Minute ROSP.91/11) he added that the Panel had agreed a commitment to a workshop session, post the Morton sale, to better inform Members of the issues/options involved.

The Leader stated that the Small Scale Community Projects Budget constituted a valuable asset for Councillors to assist their constituents.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder also valued that Budget. He noted that certain Members had not made use of their allocation and pled with them to do so for the benefit of people within their Wards.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder agreed that there was mixed take up of the Small Scale Community Projects Budget across the Council. He found it to be very useful in the Longtown Ward and encouraged everyone to utilise that resource. Although the Portfolio Holder could not give an assurance that the Budget would be retained, he said that the matter would receive careful consideration as part of the overall Budget process.

He was also receptive to the idea of a workshop on the Investment Strategy to promote a wider understanding and would discuss the matter further with Overview and Scrutiny.

The Portfolio Holder apologised that it had not been possible for him to attend the Panel meeting on 6 December 2011. He did, however, wish to thank Members for their consideration of the draft Budget reports.

In conclusion, the Leader thanked Overview and Scrutiny Panel Members for their comments which would be taken on board by the Executive when considering and formulating its budget proposals for 2012/13.

**Summary of options rejected**      None



## **DECISION**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Panels be thanked for their consideration of the draft Budget reports and their comments, as detailed within the Minutes submitted, taken into account as part of the Executive's deliberations on the 2012/13 budget.

### **Reasons for Decision**

The views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels will be taken into account as part of the 2012/13 Budget process

# COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

Date last revised: 30 December 2011

Issue	Type of Scrutiny						Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Forward Plan Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/External Agency	Monitoring			9 Jun 11	14 Jul 11	1 Sept 11	6 Oct 11	24 Nov 11	12 Jan 12	9 Feb 12	22 Mar 12
<b>CURRENT MEETING - 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011</b>															
Carlisle Youth Zone			✓				Chief Executive & Chair of Youth Zone to be invited to update Members						✓		
Working with Young People			✓		✓		To receive report on the services to young people including those NEET and the LSP C&YP Group						✓		
Healthy City					✓		To receive presentation on the Healthy City initiative						✓		
Annual Equality Report	✓						Monitoring role.				✓		✓		
Accommodation and Foyer Service Development for Young People		✓					Update of development		✓				✓	✓	

# COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

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	Performance Management	Forward Plan Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/External Agency	Monitoring			9 Jun 11	14 Jul 11	1 Sept 11	6 Oct 11	24 Nov 11	12 Jan 12	9 Feb 12	22 Mar 12
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	✓		✓				To receive minutes of Joint Carlisle and Eden CDRP Scrutiny Panel.			✓			✓		
<b>TASK AND FINISH GROUPS</b>															
Disabled Facilities Grant			✓				To receive Executive response to Task Group report				✓	✓	✓		
Neighbourhood Working			✓				To monitor implementation of Task Group recommendations	✓	✓					✓	
Homelessness			✓				Evidence Gathering				✓				✓
Supporting the Elderly at Home			✓				DFG task group to reconvene to undertake review. To determine ToFR								

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	Performance Management	Forward Plan Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/External Agency	Monitoring			9 Jun 11	14 Jul 11	1 Sept 11	6 Oct 11	24 Nov 11	12 Jan 12	9 Feb 12	22 Mar 12
Customer Service Shared Business Case			✓				Joint Task Group with ROSP, looking at the draft business case – on hold								
<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>															
Revenue & Benefits Shared Service							Report to update Member of R&B Shared Service							✓	
Housing Strategy Action Plan		✓					To receive update on accommodation relating to the University					✓		?	?
Performance Monitoring Reports	✓						Reporting of performance relevant to remit of Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Transformation Programme for Carlisle City Council		✓	✓				Update on Transformation on service areas within remit of Panel			✓		✓			

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Affordable Warmth		✓	✓				Update on developments		✓						✓
Impact of Benefit Changes			✓				To receive a presentation on the potential impact of the benefit changes								✓
Women and Families Replacement Homelessness Accommodation		✓	✓				Monitoring of project	✓			✓				✓
Rural Strategy	✓		✓				Monitoring Role					Special meeting TBA			
Riverside Carlisle: Partnership agreement and Action Plan				✓			Monitoring progress under the partnership agreement		✓					✓	
Scrutiny Annual Report			✓		✓		Draft report for comment before Chairs Group								✓

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	Performance Management	Forward Plan Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/External Agency	Monitoring			9 Jun 11	14 Jul 11	1 Sept 11	6 Oct 11	24 Nov 11	12 Jan 12	9 Feb 12	22 Mar 12
Play Areas					✓		Update report								✓
<b>COMPLETED ITEMS</b>															
Play Strategy	✓		✓				To receive copy of final report to Big Lottery Fund and exit strategy			✓					
Tullie House		✓	✓				To receive draft 3 year Business Plan				✓	✓			
Budget		✓	✓				Consideration of service implications					✓			
Discretionary Rate Relief Policy			✓				To consider amendments to Policy		x		✓				
Food Law Enforcement Service Plan		✓					Report outlining EH inspection and educational priorities		✓						