

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Meeting Date: 07 April 2022

Portfolio: Cross-cutting

Key Decision: No

Within Policy and
Budget Framework

Private/Public Public

Title: Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-22

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Report Number: OS.11/22

Purpose / Summary:

This report provides the draft Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel Section for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-22.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- Consider and comment on the attached section of the draft report.
- That Members identify items that may be a priority for Scrutiny in 2022-23

Tracking

Executive:	Not applicable
Scrutiny:	HWSP 07/04/22
Council:	26/04/22

1. Background

1.1 The Constitution: Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees, 6.03 Specific functions [c] states that:

***‘Annual report.** Overview and scrutiny committees must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate’.*

1.2 This report contains this Panel’s draft sections for the Annual Scrutiny Report 2021-22. Each Scrutiny Panel will consider their own sections of the draft report before recommending its acceptance to Council.

1.3 Members are asked to consider the final section of this report, “Potential items for Scrutiny in 2022-23”, in particular. Do the Panel wish to identify any further suggestions here?

Suggestions on possible items to flag:

- Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans
- Empty property and housing grant work
- Local Hub developments
- GLL activity

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Panel consider and comment on the appended draft report.

2.2 That Members identify items that may be a priority for Scrutiny in 2022-23

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Appendices
attached to report:

Draft General and Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel
sections for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL -

FINANCE –

EQUALITY – This report raises no explicit issues relating to the public sector Equality Duty.

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE –

APPENDIX: Draft General and Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel sections for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-22

Introduction

Carlisle City Council has three scrutiny panels:

- Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel
- Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel
- Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Over the course of the year each Panel has run a full and varied workplan, reflecting aspects of the City Council's function that fall within that Panel's remit. Members have looked carefully at their work programmes, working with council officers to ensure that their scrutiny activity is targeted at the most important issues and decisions that are facing the City Council as Carlisle continues to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, prepares for Local Government Re-organisation in Cumbria and builds upon the many opportunities that are open to us.

What is Scrutiny and why is it important?

Scrutiny is a process to ensure that decisions taken by the Council reflect the needs and priorities of communities in Carlisle. Scrutiny is carried out by Councillors who understand and promote the concerns of the people who elected them, connecting decision makers to local communities.

Council decisions can be made by Council Officers, by the Council's 'Executive' (the political leadership) and by full Council (all Councillors).

Scrutiny Panels are made up of Non-Executive Councillors who work together, across political parties, to understand why decisions are made and how the Council is performing to deliver the best possible outcomes for Carlisle and its people. Scrutiny Panels do not have decision-making powers; their role is to challenge and make recommendations that influence decision makers.

Comment from Leader of the Council, Councillor John Mallinson

<<Comments to be inserted>>

Public engagement in Scrutiny

Scrutiny Panels are open to the public to attend at the Civic Centre, when Panels are meeting at a physical location. Panel meetings can be viewed online via the Council's website, whilst virtual meetings are taking place as part of Covid-19 social distancing measures.

Agendas, report and minutes from Scrutiny Panel meetings are available on the City Council website. Members of the public can also submit questions for meetings; these need to be submitted 11 full days before the Panel Meeting.

For more information on these meetings or on how to engage with the Scrutiny process, please contact: scrutiny@carlisle.gov.uk.

Local Government Re-organisation

In May 2023 Carlisle City Council will become part of a new Cumberland Council under Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) in Cumbria. Over this year, 2022-23, a Shadow Cumberland Authority will exist, which will run its own shadow scrutiny arrangements. A unique challenge for Scrutiny Panels at Carlisle in this coming year will be developing a constructive approach to working efficiently in tandem with shadow scrutiny arrangements. Good communication and robust work-planning will be key to this.

Future Scrutiny Arrangements for 2022 – 23

During 2021-22 a cross panel working group was established to consider future scrutiny arrangements for the final year of activity at Carlisle City Council. A proposal has been made for a move to a two-panel system, this will be considered by Council on 26th April 2022.

Scrutiny will be well prepared and in a strong position for its final year of activity at Carlisle City Council, regardless of the outcome on the two-panel decision. During this current year there has been a focus on continuous improvement through a Scrutiny Improvement Plan.

Scrutiny Improvement Plan

A Scrutiny Improvement Plan was developed in response to feedback on scrutiny from two Corporate Peer Challenges that took place in 2020, before the announcement on Local Government Re-organisation. Twelve actions address five recommendations for improvement:

- Provide Scrutiny Chairs with further dedicated support
- Officers working with scrutiny seek and share further learning on different ways of operating scrutiny
- Identify a senior officer champion for scrutiny
- Consider the structure of scrutiny and options for reducing the number of panels
- Have a scrutiny improvement plan in place

Progress against this scrutiny plan has been reported to Scrutiny Chairs at quarterly meetings. At their final meeting of the year in March 2022, Scrutiny Chairs were satisfied that delivery of this plan has been achieved.

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel (HWSP)

Chairs Report, Councillor Christine Finlayson

And so, another year has passed that has achieved much progress in our City Council and its surrounding district and communities. In our recovery from COVID-19, over the last year, a good many of the Councils Projects have come together very well.

Sustainable Food Places

Sustainable Food Places for 2022 has been secured by £10,000 to be match funded by the City Council. Another £5,000 grant has been secured for “Veg City” to support the work of Food Carlisle.

Performance

The City Council has a Performance Report that monitors internal and external services. Regular monitoring of the Council’s performance helps to drive continuous improvement and protects against financial or organisational issues that may arise, which makes it a very important role for scrutiny.

Sands Centre Redevelopment

By 20th January 2022 the project was in week 60 of 98 for the main works. At this time, construction was 2-3 weeks behind schedule due to issues in the supply chain, a direct result of COVID-19. Issues have included shortages of HGV drivers, electronic chips and site staff isolating at home.

There were many other items on the Scrutiny Agenda such as:

- The Zero Carbon Partnership
- Housing Assistance Grants
- Site visit to the Victorian Baths and Health Suite.
- Tullie House Business Plan
- Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans
- Local Air Quality Action Plan

Along with many others a bit too numerous to mention.

I'm sure you will see it has been a very busy year, and all achieved by the amazing staff and partners. These people take their work very seriously and take great pride in their work for the benefit of residents and communities as a whole. All this work makes Carlisle, city and district, an outstanding place to live, work and thrive.

During this year Cllr Jack Paton retired from his role as HWSP Chair and as a Member of the City Council. We thank him for his commitment to these roles over his years as a Member and wish him the best for the future.

Finally, I would like to recognise the loss of Cllr Valerie Tarbitt, a valued Member of our Panel, who passed away this year.

Comment from Councillor Elizabeth Mallinson, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Health and Wellbeing

<<Comments to be inserted>>

Potential items for Scrutiny in 2022 - 23

The following items are topics that Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel have identified are likely to have significance in 2022-23:

- *<<Do HWSP wish to identify any items here?>>*