

Report to

Council

Agenda
Item

12(iii)

Meeting Date: 14th July 2020

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Councillor Lisa Brown**

It's been a difficult few months adjusting to a different way off working, having to juggle Council and Chairing responsibilities with work and looking after my children, and I would like to thank all of the officers and staff for their hard work, support and advice during this time.

If we are to encourage diverse Councillors in the future, a change to meeting times and the ability to hold a mix of virtual meetings will be crucial. I hope this will be considered when the government looks at future legislation. Before the most recent change to the lockdown rules, I would not have been able to take part fully in Scrutiny because of childcare responsibilities which I think is a really important point to keep in mind. As it happens, this latest change has meant that I can now participate, but we can take this as an example of the things we need to consider if we want to be inclusive moving forward, especially in light of the peer review. I would hate to think anyone felt that they were disenfranchised by the current meeting times.

We have had successful test meetings and briefings and had one Economic Growth Scrutiny meeting since lockdown in March. The first EGSP went well, with good contributions from Members and Portfolio Holders. It perhaps at times felt a little less formal than an "in-person meeting" but we will learn from that experience and adapt accordingly.

The Corporate Director of Economic Development submitted report ED.15/20 which presented options for delivering housing in the St Cuthbert's Garden Village.

The Principal Planning Officer reminded the Panel of background to the St Cuthbert's Garden Village Development and set out the proposals for delivering innovation, housing type and mix as detailed in the report. She also set out how land ownership could impact plans for housing development and how a mix of developers and registered providers could be engaged to deliver the housing mix.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented report OS.09/20 providing an overview of matters relating to the work of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reminded the Panel that the Carlisle Corporate Peer Challenge, which had taken place at the start of 2020, was positive and highlighted a number of strengths for the Council. The report also made some comments about the role of Scrutiny. The full report had been attached to the report and suggested that decision making processes could be more streamlined with a clearer purpose for Overview and Scrutiny. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer commented that the Panel may wish to consider this matter more closely in the coming year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer drew the Panel's attention to their proposed Work Programme for 2020/21. She explained that the draft Programme had been based on previous Programmes and asked the Panel to consider how the work Programme could be amended to reflect the response to the current situation and virtual meetings. The Panel asked that a report be added to their Work Programme on the impact of Covid19 on the Tourism Sector.

The Corporate Director of Economic Development suggested that information on the impact of Covid19 on the tourism sector be included in a strategic report which detailed the impact of Covid19 on the economy as a whole along with information on the recovery process.

Details of all the discussions can be found in the minutes of the meeting.

Moving forward it has been agreed the Chair and Vice Chair will meet in between meetings to discuss upcoming agenda items and potential questions, the first of these meetings being held on 30/06/2020 at 6.30pm and that Scrutiny Chairs will be meeting again to look further into the Peer Challenge.

Cllr Lisa Brown

Chair – Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel