

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: Councillor Burns (Chairman), Councillors Ellis, Ms Franklin, Layden, Mrs McKerrell, McNulty, Paton and Ms Williams.

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor Glover (The Leader)
Councillor Mrs Bradley (Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Miss Sherriff (Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder)

OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Economic Development
Contracts and Community Services Manager
Policy and Performance Officer
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

COSP.50/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllr Southward (Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder) and Councillor Ms Quilter (Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder).

COSP.51/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

COSP.52/16 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

COSP.53/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2016 be noted.

COSP.54/16 AGENDA

RESOLVED (1) That the Overview Report and Work Programme item be considered at the end of the agenda.

RESOLVED (2) That for future meetings of the Panel the Overview Report and Work Programme item be considered at the end of the agenda.

COSP.55/16 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS

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

COSP.56/16 CARLISLE AND EDEN COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PLAN 2016/17

The Contracts and Community Services Manager submitted the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2016/17 (SD.13/16).

The Contracts and Community Services Manager reminded the Panel of the Council's statutory obligation to work with other agencies to develop and implement a partnership plan for tackling crime and disorder in their area.

The Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership's Leadership Group took responsibility for developing the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Annual Plan based on evidence drawn from the annual Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Assessment produced by the Cumbria Intelligence Observatory and the Police. The next Strategic Assessment document was due to be published at the end of 2016 therefore, the Plan before Members was based on the Strategic Assessment 2015/16.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager noted that the CSP were regularly updated on issues being addressed by the Police, Members were assured that the Plan before them was robust and designed to meet the relevant challenges. The Annual Plan document was a high level and brief summary of priorities for 2016-17 but was supported by a more detailed action plan that was delivered by the CSP task group.

The CSP's Work Programme had been attached to the report and the Panel were asked to consider the Plan and offer feedback to the Executive before it recommended adoption by full Council.

In considering the Partnership Annual Plan Members raised the following comments and questions:

- *Was the work of the CSP still relevant as the Police and Crime Commissioner was now responsible for setting the Police's priorities?*

The Contracts and Community Services Manager acknowledged that the arrangement of local level public organisations aimed at addressing crime and anti-social behaviour had not altered in the light of changes brought in at a national level. In developing its Annual Plan, the CSP referenced the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities to ensure that the Plan was linked up to the Commissioner's work and therefore had access to appropriate funding streams.

The Deputy Chief Executive added that the Partnership's Problem Solving Group played a substantial role in discussing and addressing issues relating to crime and anti-social behaviour. As a result it produced a tangible impact on how crime and anti-social behaviour in the district were dealt with.

- *What resource did the Council allocate to the CSP?*

The Contracts and Community Services Manager informed the Panel that the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder attended the Partnership's Leadership Group meeting which was held bi-annually. The Partnership's Problem Solving Group was attended by a variety of Officers from the authority covering a range of services including Green Space and Environmental Health, attendance was co-ordinated by the Community Development Officer to ensure only the staff from the required teams were present.

- *Why had the reports from the Police referred to in the Plan not been included in the report to the Panel?*

The Contracts and Community Services Manager explained that as the report to the Panel was a public document the information would have needed to be heavily redacted. The Strategic Assessment had been previously been circulated to Members with the Partnership's 2015/16, the Contracts and Community Services Manager undertook to circulate a copy of the current Strategic Assessment document to Members.

The Chairman asked when the next Strategic Assessment document was published could an Officer from the Partnership or the Police be invited to the Panel to discuss the Assessment and answer questions.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager agreed that inviting a representative from the Police and the Partnership to attend the Panel would benefit Members as they would be able to provide greater detail on their reports which covered trends and performance data based on their operations.

- *How effective was the partnership in reducing crime?*

The Contracts and Community Services Manager understood that in relation to the Partnership's priority areas, current performance data from the Police indicated that the measures being taken had created a positive impact. Whilst long term trends showed a decline in the areas of crime and anti-social behaviour being addressed by the Partnership spikes occasionally occurred in particular areas, the reasons for the increased crime/anti-social behaviour were well understood by the Police, who took the relevant action to reduce the activity.

- *Had the Council considered making representations to the Local Government Association or national government to remove the statutory duty on the Council to be involved in the partnership?*

The Deputy Chief Executive replied that Officers had not considered making such representations as it was felt that the Partnership was a very successful example of joint working and that it still had a valid role to play in responding to crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly through the Problem Solving Group.

- *A Member commented that the Annual Plan did not contain details of the specific actions that were taken to address the areas identified as priorities in the Plan.*

The Contracts and Community Services Manager explained that the information regarding specific actions taken to address areas of crime and anti-social behaviour prioritised in the Plan were contained in other documents produced by the Partnership and included data on how each priority was being addressed and progress reports.

Another Member felt that as the Plan did not address the actions the Partnership intended to take to address its priority areas, it was difficult for the Panel to recommend actions to the Executive.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager acknowledged that the timetabling of reports had made it difficult for the Panel to contribute to the development of the Annual Plan. He explained that in the following year the timetable would enable the Strategic Assessment to be considered by the Panel and for comments to be forwarded to the Partnership. The amended Plan would then be returned to the Panel for consideration.

Summing up the discussion, the Chairman felt it would be useful for the Panel to consider the new Strategic Assessment following its publication and that an Officer from the Partnership and/or the Police to attend the meeting to answer questions.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Contracts and Community Services Manager circulate the Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Assessment 2015/16 to the Panel.

(2) That a report be presented to a future meeting of the Panel on the Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Assessment 2016/16 and that representatives from the Police and the Community Safety Partnership be invited to attend the meeting.

(3) That the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2016/17 be noted.

COSP.57/16 NEW LEISURE CONTRACT PROCUREMENT UPDATE

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted report SD.16/16 which provided an update on the Leisure Contract Retender Exercise.

The Panel were reminded of the process that had taken place in 2015 and the approval of the early retender of the contract in order to release early savings on the contract fee and expedite delivery of the Council's Sports Facilities Strategy.

The retender work had been paused in January 2016 to allow for a full assessment of the extent of damage to the leisure estate, the repair and reinstatement of the facilities, and to ensure that any longer term implications of the flooding were reflected in the retender exercise.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager detailed the current facilities position as set out in section 2 of the report and advised the Panel that the proposals for the retender process had not changed in terms of its structure or approach. The time table in section 3.2 of the report showed the timescale for the award of the contract and completion by June – August 2017. The process would require various levels of approval at different stages and at a minimum, further Executive consideration would be sought in advance of Phase 8.

In considering the update Members raised the following comments and questions:

- *A Member commented that providers submitting tenders for the contract would be focussed on income generation, she was concerned that would have an impact on currently free to use parts of the leisure estate. She asked when Bitts Park Play Area be reinstated, and if the facility would remain free to use?*

The Deputy Chief Executive explained that the play equipment, the water feature and the children's play area were owned and managed by the Council and would remain so. The full recovery of the play area was imminent and the facilities provided at the reinstated site would include equipment that was accessible for abilities. He assured Members that the play area would remain free to use for the public.

- *Had the delay in the retendering process had any impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)?*

The Contracts and Community Services Manager responded that required organisational savings were already included in the MTFP, retendering the contract early as per the original

pre-flood timetable would have helped the authority to realise additional savings. Therefore, the delay in the contract re-tendering process would not directly impact the MTFP.

- *Was it planned to retender golfing services separately to the main contract?*

The Contracts and Community Services Manager advised that there were a number of specialist golf service providers on the market who had expressed interest in running the Council's golf services, and had remained interested following the flood. The golf service provision would be available for retender as part of the Council's wider Leisure Contract, and also as a separate bespoke contract. Following the receipt of all the tenders, the Council would determine which provider(s) it would enter into a contract with.

The Leader reminded the Panel that forty of the Council's sites had been affected by the flood, consequently the Executive had been considering how best to provide the services at the affected sites in future. In respect of the Sheepmount facilities, it was noted that the site had flooded on numerous occasions previously, discussions had been held with the Environment Agency regarding the inclusion of measures to increase the site's resilience to flooding in the future.

Relocating the Sheepmount to another site in the city was another option open to the Council. The Leader advised the Panel that relocating the facilities would be an expensive undertaking likely to significantly exceed the insurance settlement and the level of grant support available to the Council from organisations such as Sport England. Additionally, relocation would potentially cause problems with residents being able to access the site, particularly if it was moved to the edge of the city.

In conclusion, the Leader stated that the Executive were minded to proceed with the reinstatement of Sheepmount at its current site, with additional flood resilience measures incorporated into the site. He sought the Panel's view on the reinstatement of Sheepmount.

A Member supported the Leader's summary of the options for the Sheepmount facility, she felt that the best option for the city was for the facilities to be reinstated at the current site with additional resilience measure incorporated, and she hoped that the Panel would endorse the Leader's statement.

The Chairman agreed with the Member, adding that decisions regarding the facility comprised a number of matters, he felt that relocating the facilities would generate a number of issues and concluded that reinstatement at the current site was preferable to relocation. He commended the Officers for their work on this matter.

The Chairman asked what future involvement the Panel would have in the Council's New Leisure Contract Procurement.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager advised that updates on the progress of individual flood affected leisure site would be included in future flood reports to the Panel, and that the New Leisure Contract Procurement was included on the Panel's Work Programme.

- *Had the Council considered applying for Lottery funding to assist with the relocation the facilities.*

The Contracts and Community Services Manager explained that the funding shortfall of moving the facilities to another site made relocation a costly option. Reinstating the Sheepmount at the current site with added resilience measures would mean that facilities

would be available to residents far more quickly than the Council could deliver a relocated site.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager informed Members that Officers had been looking at increasing resilience by considering the equipment used at the site, for example a sandwich layer athletics track. The increased specification track would, in the event of a future flood, be able to be washed down and be returned to use within a much shorter period of time than the one which had been affected in the last flood.

- *If Sheepmount was relocated would the Council be able to host larger events?*

The Contracts and Community Services Manager informed the Panel that the specification of facilities at the current Sheepmount was classed as a grade 1 facility, therefore it was able to host national level events.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Panel supported the reinstatement of facilities at Sheepmount site.

(2) That report SD.16/16 be noted.

(3) That the Panel continue to receive reports on the progress of the Leisure Contract and that progress on the reinstatement of leisure facilities be contained incorporated into future the Flood Update Reports.

COSP.58/16 FLOOD UPDATE REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted report SD.15/16 which formed part of a series of update reports prepared for Overview and Scrutiny Panels on flood recovery activities and future programmed work.

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that details of the Cumbria Flood Action Plan had been released which set out what the Environment Agency and partners were doing to reduce flood risks across Cumbria, based around river catchments. A copy of the combined Cumbria Flood Action Plan and Carlisle Community Action Plan Table had been attached to the report as appendix A.

The Deputy Chief Executive summarised the progress being made, key points of note included:

- *City Council Asset Recover Programme* – Phase 2 of the Asset Reinstatement Programme was underway. The Council had employed WYG to design, specify and deliver the reinstatement works to all scheduled properties, including the procurement process and management of the construction works. Target start and end dates for individual assets had been included in section 2.1 of the report.
- *Civic Centre and Customer Contact Centre* – Work had commenced on investigating options for the future use of the Civic centre and Customer Contact Centre details of which were set out in 2.2 of the report.
- *Green Spaces Asset Recovery* – Broad Street play area and Eden Park Crescent play areas had been fully reinstated. Bitts Park dry play equipment was being installed including a new wheelchair swing,
- *The Carlisle Flood Response Plan/ Winter Readiness Plan*– The Plan was being developed in partnership with the Environment Agency and Cumbria County Council and would outline activities to be undertaken over the next 12 months to reduce flooding.

- *Flood grants and household payments* – Up to 5th August 2016 1,601 households were eligible for the £500 community support grant. Payments had been made to 1,560 households which equated to 97.4% totalling £780,000.
- *£5,000 flood resilience grant* –The Council had received 490 grant applications and granted funded measures to 403 properties (7 were not eligible and 80 were incomplete), totalling £1,637,757. Of those the Council had paid out 180 totalling £605,010.
- *Council Tax & NNDR discount schemes* - County wide schemes had been approved with the DCLG paying £400,000 to the County Council to fund the local discretions contained within the County wide schemes. Council tax discount awarded to 2,130 householders amounted to £2,611,269 for the affected properties. Business rates discount awarded to 104 properties amounted to £489,831 in total.

Responsibilities of the organisations involved in the flood recovery were set out in section 5 of the report.

In considering the report Members raised the following observations and questions:

- *A Member sought further information on the work being undertaken at Petteril Bridge.*

The Director of Economic Development advised that the Environment Agency and the County Council were currently undertaking works to the bridge and waterway, she understood that the works were progressing well.

The Leader added that work to Botcherby Bridge would also be undertaken and would comprise three stages: necessary structural repairs to ensure the bridge would be ready for winter; dredging the river; a longer assessment of the bridge.

- *Did the Council intend to reinstate all its flood affected assets?*

The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that all of the Council's assets and site affected by the flood were included its flood recovery plan and would be reinstated.

- *A Member expressed concerns regarding the time taken to return flood affected householders in Riverside properties to their homes.*

The Director of Economic Development explained that there were a number of factors affecting the time needed to return people to their homes, which included the drying time of the property and a shortage of contractors available to carry out works.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Deputy Chief Executive circulate to the Panel information regarding the repairs being undertaken to Botcherby Bridge.

(2) That the completed Winter Plan be presented to a future meeting of the Panel for consideration

(3) That the Panel continue to receive Flood Update Reports on areas relevant to its remit.

(4) That report SD.15/16 be noted.

COSP.59/16 1ST QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17

The Policy and Performance Officer presented report PC16/16 which updated the Panel on the Council's service standards relevant to the Panel and included updates on key actions contained within the new Carlisle Plan.

A Member welcomed the increase in the number of Corporate Complaints being addressed within the prescribed timescale.

The Deputy Chief Executive responded that the Senior Management Team had been concerned that the process of responding to Corporate Complaints needed reconsidering as previously performance reports had shown not all complaints had been addressed within the allotted time. The process had been assessed and amended which had led to improvements in the processing of complaints which had been reflected in the performance report.

RESOLVED –That report PC.16/16 be noted.

COSP.60/16 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted report OS.17/16 which provided an overview of matters relating to the work of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel and included the latest version of the work programme and Key Decisions of the Executive which related to the Panel.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reported that the Notice of Executive Key Decisions were published on 29 July 2016 and KD.17/16 Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan had been included on the agenda for this meeting.

Members did not raise any questions or comments on the items contained within the Notice of Executive Key Decisions.

The Work Programme for the Panel had been circulated for comment / amendment, the Chairman noted that there were no agenda items for the meeting scheduled to take place on 13 October 2016. The Chairman proposed three items for the Panel to consider at the meeting;

Community Centres: The current situation with the Centres and how the Council could work with and influence the Centres in partnership with the Federation.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager undertook to provide a report for the Panel's 13 October meeting, which would include representation from the Carlisle & District Federation of Community Organisations incorporating an update from the Federation and the mandate of the group going forward.

Young People: A Member Led process to investigate possible actions the Council may take to enable and encourage better provision for children and young people and to help create more opportunities for them to become positively involved in developing youth and child friendly policies. The Chairman proposed Councillor McNulty take a lead in this process and work with other Members to produce a report for the October meeting for the Panel to consider, with the possibility of a Task and Finish Group being established to progress work in this area.

The Leader welcomed this suggestion and was keen that the Panel explored ways in which the Council could enable young people to be further involved in the Council's decision making processes.

Riverside: The Panel discussed recent proposals from Riverside regarding changes to its local governance arrangements. The Chairman noted that Riverside were appointing a new local Divisional Director, he proposed that the new Divisional Director and the Chief Executive of Riverside be invited to the meeting to attend a meeting as soon as practical after the appointment had been confirmed to enable the Panel to discuss how the Council would work with Riverside in the future.

RESOLVED – (1) The following reports be submitted to the Panel at its meeting on 13 October 2016: Community Centres and; Young People.

(2) That the Overview Report incorporating the Work programme and Key decision items relevant to this Panel (OS.17/16) be noted.

(Meeting ended at 11:50am)