

Meeting Date: 2nd March 2021

Public/Private*: Public

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

Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel Thursday 21 January 2021 at 4.00pm

The Corporate Director of Economic Development submitted report PC.03/21 which provided an update on the progress of the adoption of the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy and contained the Amended Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy and the Draft Action Plan. The Panel asked a number of questions and indicated that it wished to receive performance information on a 6-monthly basis.

Also, with reference to the actions for the next six months (December 2020 to May 2021) table contained in the report, a Member noted that items in the Finance column were described as None / None required, so the Panel sought clarification on those terms. The Policy and Communications Manager provided a written response to the Panel on the 11th of February. The response stated that the Action Plan is a working document that will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Executive. The Policy and Communications Manager also confirmed that more detail has been added to the Finance column of the draft Action Plan to make the use of finances clearer.

Next the Corporate Director of Economic Development submitted report ED.04/21 which provided an overview of the emerging Economic Strategy for Carlisle District, developed following a virtual meeting with the Panel on 30 November 2020. The Strategy sat within a suite of documents including the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, The Cumbria Industrial Strategy and the Towns Deal Plan. It took into account the impact of the Covid19 Pandemic and was a prerequisite for submitting bids to the Shared Prosperity Fund.

Members asked a number of questions and had highlighted the importance of the visitor economy and felt that the Strategy needed to better articulate a softer approach, including areas such as culture so that it was not so infrastructure focussed. The priorities within the

Strategy should further emphasise: the importance of digital connectivity to support rural growth; local employment centres; links to local training and employment opportunities and green growth.

The Panel made the following resolutions:

- 1) That the framework and context of the Economic Strategy for the Carlisle District and the challenges, opportunities and priorities identified be noted.
- 2) That in developing the next iteration of the Strategy, officers take into account the Panel's comments set out above.

The following items were also noted by the Panel:

- EGSP.09/21 Town Deal Accelerated Growth Fund.
- EGSP.11/21 Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.

A full account of the discussions and questions for all items are included in the minutes.

The Work Programme for the Panel was also discussed and at the next meeting we will be hearing from Kingmoor Park Enterprise Zone. Unfortunately, since the Panel met, we have been advised that the draft Carlisle Plan that was to be brought will not be, so we look forward to that at a future date.

The Panel asked that the Overview and Scrutiny Officer investigate the feasibility of a report on Empty Property Grant Assistance being considered at the 4 March 2021 meeting of the Panel. This will now form part of the upcoming Agenda.

Cllr Lisa Brown

Chair – Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel