

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 8 APRIL 2021 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: Councillor Paton (Chair), Dr Davison, Ms Ellis-Williams, Mrs Finlayson, Mrs McKerrell, McNulty, Tarbitt and Whalen.

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor J Mallinson, Leader
Councillor Ellis, Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder
Councillor Mrs Mallinson, Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
Councillor Nedved, Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder
Councillor Christian, Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder
Councillor Higgs, Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder

OFFICERS: Health and Wellbeing Manager
Neighbourhood Services Manager
Team Manager - Parking and Enforcement
Policy and Communications Manager
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

HWSP.25/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were submitted.

HWSP.26/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

HWSP.27/21 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED - It was agreed that the items of business within Part A be dealt with in public and Part B be dealt with in private.

HWSP.28/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED 1) That it be noted that, Council at its meeting of 2 March 2021 received and adopted the minutes of the meetings held on 14 January and 28 January (Special) were agreed as a correct record.

2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February be approved.

HWSP.29/21 CALL IN OF DECISIONS

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

HWSP.30/21 DRAFT HEALTH CITY TEAM PLANS – POST COVID REBUILD

The Health and Wellbeing Manager submitted report CS.18/21 which updated the Panel on the work of the Council's Healthy City team in helping communities become healthier and more resilient for the future following Covid 19.

In considering the report, Members raised the following questions and comments:

- Which of the World Health Organisation's Healthy Cities 6 "P"s would the team focus its work on?

The Health and Wellbeing Manager explained that the 6 Ps provided a broad framework for the team's work. The team's main priority was to assist communities to be healthy, the report contained several examples of work undertaken by the team which would cover a range of the 6 Ps.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder added that the 6 Ps were included in the county wide Public Health Strategy, which would assist in there being embedded in the work of public sector organisations who, through collaboration on projects and programmes sought to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

A Member commented that the 6 Ps model was clear and well laid out and that the report illustrated a number of good examples of how the work of the team linked to the model.

- The report listed a number of partner organisations that the team worked with, did they all meet and how was duplication of work avoided?

The Health and Wellbeing Manager responded that the main group overseeing the work of partners was the Healthy City Forum and minimising duplication. Different Officers within the team liaised with different partner organisations in a co-ordinated way.

- How did the work of the Healthy City Team impact the Council's Local Plan?

The Health and Wellbeing Manager advised that as part of the adoption process for the current Local Plan the team were consulted at various stages. It would also contribute to consultations as part of the regular review processes of the Plan. A Local Plan would also be produced for the St Cuthbert's Garden Village project, an integral part of which was the theme of "start with the park" which sought to embed health and wellbeing mechanism from the early stages of the project. In addition, the Health and Wellbeing Manager noted that the team were routinely consulted on individual planning applications.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder added that the Executive, at its meeting of 6 April had approved the St Cuthbert's Garden Village Strategic Design Supplementary Planning Document and that the Local Plan was expected in Spring.

- What work did the Council undertake with communities to ensure that areas of green space they felt were valuable were protected from development?

The Health and Wellbeing Manager noted that public consultation on the Local Plan was carried out a various stages in its adoption process with a view to identifying land that would be allocated for green space or development.

A Green Spaces Audit of the district indicated that Carlisle had a large ratio of green space, 3.6 hectare per thousand people, which the team aimed to retain through the Local Plan process.

Following comments from a Member regarding the loss of green spaces as a result of a particular planning application for housing development, the Panel discussed issues relating to development, green space and housing provision.

- A Member commented that she was pleased that the Council had signed up to the Healthy Weight Declaration, she asked whether community centres and local groups such as Slimming World / Weight Watchers would be involved in the work?

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder responded that plans were currently being drafted and once Community Centres were fully operational consultation would be carried out with managers.

- Did the team have the resources to deliver the aspirations set out in the report?

The Health and Wellbeing Manager confirmed that the required resources were in place. He emphasised that some areas of work would be delivered over a long term time frame and that collaborative working with other organisations would be an important factor in delivery.

RESOLVED - That report CS.18/21 be received.

HWSP.31/21 GREENWICH LEISURE LIMITED POST COVID RECOVERY REBUILD

The Health and Wellbeing Manager submitted report CS.18/21 which updated the Panel on the work of the Council's Healthy City team in helping communities become healthier and more resilient for the future following Covid 19.

MR Rice, Partnership Manager, GLL gave a presentation covering: the current position; restart focus; opening plan; pools reopening road map; dry activity reopening road map; events and health.

In considering the report, Members raised the following questions and comments:

- Would Summer Camps be delivered in local parishes this year?

Mr Rice confirmed that Summer Camps would be going ahead and that initial arrangements were being made for them.

- Did GLL intend to continue to offer corporate discounts for staff of large employers in the district?

Mr Rice confirmed that corporate discounts would be available for large employers in the district.

- Did GLL expect to receive further funding from the government's Better Health campaign?

Mr Rice responded that the Chief Executive of GLL was a member of the UK Active board which enabled the organisation to align its projects and programmes with the campaign, GLL would make applications for further funds in the future.

- Was GLL considering a re-launch of the Carlisle Leisure Card?

Mr Rice advised that a re-launch of the card could be considered, he added that the library service had contacted GLL regarding the creation of a user card that would cover both services, the matter was currently being considered.

- Were any events planned to be held between 21 June and 19 July 2021 and did GLL have plans in place in the event of a delay to the lifting of lockdown restrictions?

Mr Rice advised that a number of events were scheduled between June and July 2021, were there to be a delay in the removal of lockdown restrictions there were reserve dates available.

- Were there any community garden schemes locally.

Mr Rice responded that in the past, GLL had helped other organisations generate Crowdfunding for such schemes.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager advised that part of the Healthy City Team's work was the provision of allotments and community gardens and, additionally, Tullie House offered various projects at its gardens.

- What plans did GLL have to support grassroots sports and children's school holiday activities?

Mr Rice explained that activities for school children had been delivered during the Easter school holidays and that GLL was already in discussion with Community Centres to reintroduce a programme of activities during the school summer holidays.

In relation to the support for grassroots sports, the Health and Wellbeing Manager explained that a joint sports hardship fund had been set up by Carlisle City and Cumbria County Councils which had disbursed some grant funding to local sports groups. The fund had since been reallocated as a restart fund to enable groups to return to their activities following the lifting of lockdown restrictions.

- Did GLL provide gym membership/services as a result of referrals from GPs?

Mr Rice stated that such a scheme had been in operation prior to the Covid 19 pandemic which had offered a 12 week programme for those who had been referred. GPs had since realigned their referral services.

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder thanked Mr Rice for his presentation and commended the partnership working Officers engaged in as part of their delivery of the service.

RESOLVED - That report CS.18/21 had been received.

HWSP.32/21 CARLISLE PLAN 2021 - 2023

The Policy and Communications Manager presented the draft Carlisle Plan 2021-23 which identified two priorities for Carlisle, namely Economic Growth and Health and Wellbeing; together with a new vision focussing on prosperity as the primary purpose, identifying prosperity as being the most important determinant of health and wellbeing.

The Policy and Communications Manager informed the Panel that the final design document would include graphics and examples once the content of the Plan had been agreed.

The Executive had considered the matter at its meeting on 8 March 2021 (EX.30/21 refers) and had referred it to the Panel.

The Panel scrutinised the Carlisle Plan in some detail and debated the content and priorities set out.

The Panel noted that there were no plans to put the draft Carlisle Plan out to public consultation. The Panel understood that the document was the administration's vision for Carlisle for the next two years, a number of Members felt strongly that it was important for the residents of Carlisle to be included in the vision for the future of their City. The Panel requested that the draft Carlisle Plan be put out for public consultation.

Members further commented that the draft Plan would benefit from restructuring so as to make it a more usable working document, they also asked that the language in the Plan be reconsidered with a view to making it easier to read and understand for residents.

The Panel acknowledged the various large projects that had commenced or were due to begin in the district, including and the £250m which was being invested in the City. It suggested that the draft Plan include more details on those projects to demonstrate what the Council was undertaking to realise the overall vision.

In discussing the priorities detailed in the Plan the Panel agreed that jobs and growth were important but to be successful they needed to link to an important priority for residents: access to housing. Good access to affordable and low cost housing would also attract people into the area aiding the jobs and growth the Plan aimed to support. It was recommended that the Carlisle Plan highlight the importance of affordable and low cost housing in the delivery of prosperity and good health and wellbeing outcomes.

A Member highlighted the World Health Organisation (WHO) Healthy Cities Network six 'P's: Peace, Planet, Place, People, Participation and Prosperity. She asked that reference to those be included in the Carlisle Plan under the Health and Wellbeing priority.

There was some concern that the Plan prioritised economic growth over health and wellbeing, which may have a detrimental impact on the environment. Therefore, the type of jobs that were created and attracted to the district was important. The proposed Vision did not include any actions that would mitigate the impact of or, ensure change with regard to the climate emergency. A Member requested that climate change and the environmental crisis be included as a priority in the overarching document, stating that jobs would appear and health and wellbeing would increase as a result. The Member also suggested that the Executive read the recent report which had been produced identifying the potential for green jobs across Cumbria with a view to considering if that may be linked into the Carlisle Plan.

A Member drew the Panel's attention to the Vision set out in the Plan, noting the first paragraph stated "prosperity being the most important determinant of health and wellbeing". She had supporting documentation that showed income inequality was a more important determinant in health and wellbeing. She asked that the word 'most' be removed from the sentence or that the evidence supporting the statement be made available.

In responding to the Panel's comments the Portfolio Holders for Finance, Governance & Resources, Economy, Enterprise & Housing, Communities, Health & Wellbeing, and Environment & Transport clarified the following points:

- The priority of the Executive and Council was jobs and growth at all cost. There was a serious risk of unemployment, therefore there needed to be a focus on growth to recover from the pandemic;
- The Carlisle Plan was an overarching document which set out the Administration's vision for the City and was linked to a suite of Council documents including the Local Plan and the Strategic Housing Assessment, each of which had undergone extensive public consultation;
- It was acknowledged that the Council may need to be clearer with regard to work that was being undertaken regarding housing, but some consideration was needed about the most appropriate place for the information;
- Housing was an important matter and the Council was involved in several projects which impacted on housing;
- The Council had sought feedback from stakeholders on their vision for the city for the future and this had been included in the formulation of the draft Plan;
- Prosperity was a metric widely used in government, local authorities and the NHS. If people had access to good jobs and homes, and the means to support themselves better health and wellbeing was generated, there was a lot of research available on the matter;
- The climate emergency was included throughout the Carlisle Plan and was integral in everything that the Council did, if the City was not prosperous there would be no way to meet the challenge of the climate crisis.

Overall, the Panel felt that the content of the draft Carlisle Plan required developing further and it recommended that the Executive review the document in light of the comments made. The Panel also requested that the draft be resubmitted to Scrutiny prior to its being considered by Full Council.

RESOLVED – That in considering the Carlisle Plan 2021-2023 (PC.09/21) the Panel made the following recommendations to the Executive:

- That a public consultation exercise on the draft Carlisle Plan be undertaken.
- That the Carlisle Plan be amended to use more accessible, clear language.
- That the Carlisle Plan should make reference to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Healthy Cities Network six 'P's: Peace, Planet, Place, People, Participation and Prosperity that provide the framework for the City Council's Healthy City work.
- That the Carlisle Plan highlight the importance of affordable housing, or access to low cost home ownership in delivering prosperity and good wellbeing outcomes.
- That the Executive re-consider the wording of the assertion on page 4 of the Plan: "prosperity being the most important determinant of health and wellbeing". If the Executive do not wish to re-phrase the sentence, the Panel would like this assertion to be evidenced.
- The Panel would like an opportunity to comment on a future draft of the Carlisle Plan, before it goes to Council.

HWSP.33/21 LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME ACTION & ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

The Neighbourhood Services Manager presented report CS.21/21 containing the final draft of the Local Environmental Crime, Action and Enforcement Strategy which set out in a single document how the Council would meet its responsibilities for maintaining clean streets and neighbourhoods. The report further highlighted the wide ranging activities of the enforcement team in raising awareness and taking robust enforcement action against those responsible for committing enviro-crimes.

The Team Manager – Parking and Enforcement gave an overview of the changes to the Strategy which related to: the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for drivers who refused to turn off a vehicle engine that was idling; litter bin scoring system, and response to increasing reports of graffiti, details of which were set out in the report.

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

- How many prosecutions had the service undertaken in the last six months?

The Team Manager responded that the following FPNs had been issued since April 2020:

- Littering – 60
- Flytipping – 27
- Dog fouling – 4
- Vehicle – 1
- Micro chipping Notices – 50
- Breach of Community Protection Notice – 9
- Duty of Care (Householder) – 2
- Dogs off leads – 2

No court action had been taken as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions due to pressure on the court system: the Council had 34 cases awaiting prosecution through the Magistrate's Court..

Responding to a further question from a Member regarding the level of charges that were imposed via FPNs, the Team Manager stated that fees imposed for a FPN ranged from £75 to £400.

- Would the enforcement of vehicles idling cover beyond the city centre?

The Team Manager confirmed that enforcement activity on that issue was able to take place more widely in the district than the city centre.

The Member set out an issue regarding HGV's idling in Longtown, which the Team Manager undertook to investigate. The Member further detailed an issue in relation to flytipping which the Team Manager advised she was aware of and work was currently being undertaken with the landowner.

- A Member noted that the Strategy was currently intended as an internal document for use by Council Officers, she suggested that a version be made for the public so that they were aware of the services provided by the team.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager responded that once the Strategy was adopted it was intended that a public version would be made available on the Council's website.

The Member also noted that some of the online links contained in the draft Strategy were not working.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager thanked the Member for bringing the matter to his attention. The maintenance of the website was a large task, therefore should a Member be aware of a link not working in future, it should be reported to the team and it would be addressed.

The Member commented that the priorities within the draft Strategy related to those contained within the previous version of the Carlisle Plan.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that following the adoption of the draft Carlisle Plan, the Strategy would be updated to reflect the new priorities.

- What enforcement actions were Officers able to take in relation to littering caused by businesses as part of their operations?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager responded that the Enforcement Team would liaise with businesses to attempt to minimise littering. Sometimes littering was caused by business customers and Officers were able to advise on step the business could take to reduce that, in addition, other actions such as the erection of signage may be considered. Deploying Officer(s) to an area that had been identified as having a particular problem would minimise littering or the failing to pick up dog fouling the monitoring was being undertaken. Often times when the monitoring stopped the behaviour commenced again, therefore the team also sought to raise awareness with residents. Where preventative and deterrent action did not prove effective, Officers would then consider enforcement action.

- What reduction in the tonnage of non-recyclable waste did the Council hope to achieve?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager undertook to provide a written response regarding the particular percentage reduction. He advised that the figure had been identified as part of a bid for government funding, which had been successful with the Council receiving £25,000.

- A Member expressed support for use of an app for residents to report issues such as dog fouling and asked how far it had been developed.

The Team Manager explained that a variety of options were being considered from bespoke apps to “off the shelf”. Were one to be adopted it would use geo location tags which would inform the team of the particular whereabouts of an enviro-crime. An app would also allow data to be collected and then analysed to identify trends and hotspot areas to enable the team’s resources to be better deployed.

The Member reiterated her support for the app as she considered that it may increase the reporting of enviro-crimes as people would be able to do so anonymously.

- How effective had the dog poo bag dispensers been and would they be reintroduced to Rickerby Park?

The Team Manager responded that the result of the trial of the dispensers had generated mixed results, some had been used well, others less so and the one in Rickerby Park had been vandalised a short time after its installation. The dispensers required a lot of resource as they needed to be monitored and replenished. Given the mixed results of the trial it had been decided that they would not be rolled out widely.

Moreover, the Team Manager advised that dog owners needed to take responsibility for animals ensuring they removed faeces and disposed of it appropriately, as failure to do so was a criminal offence.

A Member commented that 4 FPNs in a year for dog fouling was a low number.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager agreed, but noted that it was an increase on the preceding year. He reiterated his earlier comments regarding the impact of monitoring a particular area in reducing incidences of enviro-crimes and the recurrence when monitoring ceased. Were an offence to be witnessed by an Officer enforcement action would be taken, including court action if necessary.

- Did the services participate in national projects such as the Great British Spring Clean and Keep Britain Tidy?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager confirmed that the service did participate in campaigns. He noted that sometimes such schemes excluded local councils, therefore it often may be more appropriate for community groups to sign up to the schemes.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager gave an overview of the litter picking and gardening resources the service had available to loan to groups to help make an area more attractive.

- How much enforcement action had been taken in relation to the selling/repair of vehicles on the roadside?

The Team Manager stated that no action had been taken in the preceding year as no offences had been reported. Enforcement action had been taken in the past and there was a court case pending, such enforcement action required a significant amount of investigation work for a case to be built.

The Member responded that she had not been aware it was an offence and suggested that some public awareness raising activity be undertaken.

The Team Manager agreed to consider some appropriate communications and educational messages.

- How effectively had the on-street recycling bins been used?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that, thus far, the recycling bins had not been well used and that there was a lot of contamination of different materials. There was an increasing demand for the recycling bins, so the service would consider the location of those bins going forward and additional educational messages on how to use them. Furthermore, street cleaners were also picking up an increasing amount of recyclable material on their rounds. It was difficult to sort the material in situ without having an impact on the environment through an increase in the number of journeys made.

A number of Members thanked the Officers for the work undertaken by the team across a range of issues, noting that matters raised were dealt with promptly and efficiently.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager thanked the Members for their comments, advising that they would be passed on to the teams.

RESOLVED – 1) That report CS.21/21 be received.

2) That the Neighbourhood Services Manager circulate to the Panel details of the percentage reduction in the tonnage of non-recyclable waste the Council hoped to achieve from the installation of additional on-street recycling bins.

HWSP.34/21 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted the draft Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel section for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21.

Following a suggestion from a Member that information be included in the report illustrating the Panel's effectiveness, for example, the number of resolutions accepted by the Executive, influencing developing policy; the Panel discussed the matter.

Members requested that:

- The Overview and Scrutiny Officer review outcomes from the Panel's resolutions during 2020/21 identifying examples where its activity had been influential in order to assist the Chair and Vice Chair in providing further detail in the Health and Wellbeing sections of the Scrutiny Annual Report;
- A wider piece of work tracking of the effectiveness of the Panel be undertaken in the new municipal year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer undertook to carry out the tasks.

The Chair thanked the Panel, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services team in supporting the delivery of virtual meetings during the year.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Scrutiny Annual Report (OS.11/21) be received.

2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Officer review outcomes from the Panel's resolutions during 2020/21 identifying examples where its activity had been influential in order to assist the Chair and Vice Chair in providing further detail in the Health and Wellbeing sections of the Scrutiny Annual Report.

3) That a wider piece of work tracking the effectiveness of the Panel be undertaken in the new municipal year.

HWSP.24/21 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented report OS.08/21 providing an overview of matters relating to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer drew the Panel's attention to the Notice of Executive Key Decisions and noted that there were a number of items contained therein not included in the Panel's Work Programme as the current meeting was the last of the municipal year; relevant items would be added to the Work Programme in the new municipal year.

There remained a number of outstanding actions in relation to resolutions made by Panel, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer anticipated they would be addressed in the coming weeks.

The Panel thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer for her supporting the work of the Panel during the year.

RESOLVED – That report OS.08/21 be received.

[The meeting ended at 1:47pm]