

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in Wigton Market Hall on Friday 16 July 2021 at 1.30 pm

## **Members**

Councillor Michael Heaslip (Chair)

Councillor Carni McCarron-Holmes (Co-Chair)

Councillor Tony Annison

Councillor Allan Daniels

Councillor Iain Greaney

Councillor Hilary Harrington

Councillor Sally Lansbury

Councillor Paul Scott

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours, Councillor Patrick Gorrill, Councillor Malcolm Grainger and Councillor Daniel Horsley

## **Staff Present**

A FitzGerald, I Hinde, L Jardine and P Wood

## **Also Present**

A J Markley (Executive Member: Leisure and Tourism), A Pitcher (Executive Member: Customer Experience and Innovation, Armed Forces Champion) and A Tyson

### **96. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2021 were signed as a correct record.

### **97. Declaration of Interests**

None declared

### **98. Questions**

None received

### **99. Public Participation**

None received

### **100. Further update on the outside body reports from the member representatives**

The Policy Officer (Scrutiny and Partnerships) provided an update to members of the reports received from member of the LEP Scrutiny Group.

Councillor Pitcher (Executive Member: Customer Experience and Innovation) was in attendance to provide updates to members on the Allerdale Disability Association and Cumbria Community Foundation. Councillor Pitcher also advised members that he was recently appointed Armed Forces Champion and has begun working with various bodies in the Allerdale Area.

The Chair agreed that the members who have yet to submit reports can do so by the next meeting of the Committee.

### **Councillors Scott and Harrington joined the meeting**

#### **101. The Local Focus Hub**

Councillor Pitcher provided an overview of the Allerdale Local Focus Hub, explaining the Hub includes Fire and Rescue, Cumbria Constabulary, Charitable Associations, Housing Associations, Probation Services and various groups working within the Community. Members and the public can report issues via Police 101 services, via MyAllerdale App or via a phone call to Allerdale Customer Services and if necessary they are taken to the Hub.

Due to the length of time to achieve outcomes and the issue of confidentiality, it is not always possible to provide updates to members on actions taken within the Hub. Members however can receive regular updates from the Police via its newsletter. Member briefing sessions were held but due to poor attendance, they were withdrawn.

Members then asked questions in relation to the Hub Management, and specifically the role of the Hub Manager, in response Councillor Pitcher will provide a written response to members.

Debate then ensued and members expressed frustration at the fact they are not informed of outcomes and are not given sufficient feedback, concerns were also raised over the Hub reporting methods.

Councillor Pitcher reiterated that confidentiality is one of the main reasons why feedback is not readily available and that some information is restricted, even to elected members.

### **Councillor Lansbury joined the meeting**

#### **102. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report**

The Chair introduced the draft report, advising that the foreword will be to follow.

Members noted the contents of the Report.

#### **103. Third report of the Response to the Pandemic Task and Finish Group**

The Chair introduced the item, advising that the Task and Finish Group has worked on three phases of the response to the pandemic. This third phase focused on transformation and the delivery of services.

The Chair then went through the recommendations and discussion ensued in relation to access to services, especially residents who do not have online access. In relation to officers working away from Allerdale House, members acknowledged that this could make officers more accessible to communities.

Members agreed to the recommendations.

The Programme Director (Transformation and Operating Model) then provided an overview of the new approach to customer services, including the fulfilment centre, document management and delivery models. The officer then provided examples to members on innovations made to parking and pest control services.

Members asked questions of the officer in relation to the new and existing document management practices.

A summary report of the full work of the Pandemic Task and Finish Group, which includes parts one and two will be considered at the next meeting.

**104. Centre for Governance and Scrutiny guidance on the relationship between Scrutiny and Audit**

The Chair introduced the report and welcomed the Chair of the Audit Committee, Councillor Tyson to the meeting.

Councillor Tyson expressed his views on the report and on the key differences between Audit and Overview and Scrutiny.

Members debated the report, with members expressing that Audit and Overview and Scrutiny should remain separate.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that joint training will be arranged for the members of both committees.

The Chair advised members that the Co-Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny will work with the Chair and Vice Chair of Audit to review the recommendations.

**105. Forward Plan**

Members noted the contents of the Forward Plan.

**106. Work Programme and Outcomes Monitoring**

The draft work programme was circulated to members for this item.

Members agreed the contents of the Work Programme for 2021/22.

**107. Task and Finish Groups**

The draft outline and scope for the following task and finish groups were circulated to members.

- Community Leadership
- Culture, Arts and Leisure Provision
- Young People and Corporate Parenting

Debate ensued in relation to Local Government Reorganisation, members acknowledging that it will be difficult to make some recommendations and judgements. On this the Chair advised that any recommendations from the Task and Finish Groups will be made to whichever body succeeds Allerdale Borough Council.

Members agreed that the Sports, Arts and Culture Provision Task and Finish Group is of greater importance and suggested that this Task and Finish Group starts work first, followed by Community Leadership and then Young People and Corporate Parenting.

### **Councillor Greaney left the meeting**

#### **The Chair Moved:**

“That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act”.

### **108. Keswick Spa Closure**

Members were provided with information relating to the decision to close Keswick Spa.

Councillor Markley (Executive Member: Leisure and Tourism) attended the meeting to answer questions from members.

### **Councillor Daniels left the meeting**

### **109. Strategic Delivery Partner**

Members were provided with information relating to the appointment of a strategic delivery partner.

The Programme Director (Transformation and Operating Model) provided a brief to members and the decision to be made at Executive on 21 July 2021.

It is recommended that the Executive appoint Mott MacDonald as strategic delivery partner via the Crown Commercial Services Framework RM3745 for a period of nine months. This is to provide additional capacity and support for the delivery of Regeneration and Investment Programme including projects identified in the Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy, the development of business cases for the projects within the Workington Town Deal, and continued development and delivery of the regeneration projects in Maryport through the Future High Street Fund programme.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Executive that the contractual arrangements provide for Mott MacDonald to attend and give evidence at Overview and Scrutiny and at Audit Committee is required.

Members also asked questions of the officers and noted the contents of the report and information provided.

**The meeting closed at 4.00 pm**