

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in Zoom Virtual Meeting on Friday 19 June 2020 at 1.30 pm

Members

Councillor Iain Greaney (Chair)
Councillor Nicky Cockburn
Councillor Allan Daniels
Councillor Michael Heaslip
Councillor Adrian Kirkbride

Councillor John Crouch
Councillor Malcolm Grainger
Councillor Joe Holliday
Councillor Carni McCarron-Holmes

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carmel Bell and Councillor Daniel Horsley

Staff Present

W Collins, A FitzGerald, N Hardy, I Hinde, J Irving, L Jardine, G Roach and S Sewell

Also Present

M Fitzgerald (Executive Member: Policy, Governance and People Resources)

13. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2020 were signed as a correct record.

14. Declaration of Interests

None declared

15. Questions

None received

16. Public Participation

None received

17. Council Strategy Interim Delivery Plan 2020/21

Councillor Marion Fitzgerald (Executive Member and portfolio holder for Policy, Governance and People Resources) presented the Council Strategy Interim Delivery Plan for 2020/21.

Councillor Fitzgerald also provided an update for members in relation to the impact Covid-19 has on Council finances, advising that the main council income streams have been severely affected.

With the uncertainty emerging from Covid-19, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that a previously scheduled four-year plan was not currently appropriate.

The interim delivery plan will provide focus, structure and concentrate on short term priorities and follows the six priorities as set out in the Council Strategy.

An overview of the key projects and activities for each of the six priorities was provided by the Policy Manager (Corporate Policy and Performance).

Members asked questions and shared comments and feedback on each of the priorities:

A financially secure Council

Questions were raised on car parking, the Policy Manager confirmed that when car parks are reopened fees would be charged, Councillor Fitzgerald also was also confirmed to members that car parking fees would not be increased.

Cleaner, greener Allerdale

Questions were raised on fly-tipping, which is higher than expected for June, it was not clear whether the re-opening of household waste recycling centres has mitigated any impacts, but officers confirmed that a project has commenced to further understand and tackle the issue. Members also expressed concerns over the recycling performance figures for 20/21. Members asked that alternative language be used in describing the land for one of the projects - removing references to Northside 'Allotments'. Councillor Fitzgerald agreed to take this comment to the Executive meeting.

Invest to grow

Questions and comments were raised on community housing and the creation of the new housing company, it was agreed that the Executive Report on the creation of the Housing Company would be shared with members.

Outstanding local services

The new Allerdale Waste Company and its performance indicators were discussed, Councillor Fitzgerald advised that the transition to Allerdale Waste Services has worked well, including the reintroduction of the garden waste, all during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thriving towns and villages

The Council will support local businesses to re-open and will continue to work on the Maryport High Street and Workington Town Deal programmes. Members also provided feedback in relation to communication, digital technology and the visitor economy.

Resilient communities

Members discussed homelessness and health and wellbeing in the community. Following the government announcements on homelessness, the council provided accommodation to 100% of residents in need.

As a general point on performance measures, members suggested that it would be useful to see baseline figures for the performance indicators in the Plan. Again, Councillor Fitzgerald agreed to take this comment to the Executive meeting where the Interim Delivery Plan was to be considered.

Members noted the contents of the Council Strategy Interim Delivery Plan 2020/21

Councillor Cockburn left the meeting

18. Proposed Work Programme 2020/21

Members firstly looked at the criteria to select items for the Work Programme 2020/21 and whether the Audit Committee could consider some of the suggested items.

Members then went through each of the suggested items on the proposed work programme 2020/21.

Following review and discussion it was agreed remove the following items (but review and monitor, acting if necessary).

Item 2 - 'Update and review of Allerdale Waste Services since start of operations'

Item 7 - 'Review of the overview and scrutiny section of the Constitution'

Item 13 – 'Review of proposed development of a stadium'

Item 14 – 'Governance of the Council's role as a corporate charity trustee'

Item 15 – 'Analysis of income and spend by geographic area'

Item 17- 'Completion of focus on ESF funded training provision'

Members also agreed to merge items 4, 5 and 6 for consistency, along with item 16.

The Work Programme for 2020/21 was provisionally set as follows,

- Development of a Resilient Communities Strategy
- Update and review of town-based programmes in Maryport and Workington
- Consideration of this Council's role in the ongoing public health situation, the next steps from Covid-19 and the impact of pandemic on Council operations and finances and rural issues, particularly consideration of addressing social exclusion (Items 4, 5, 6 and 16)
- Development of a new Housing Strategy
- Development of a new Economic Growth Strategy
- Progress report on climate change
- Performance Management
- Annual update from Community Safety Partnership
- Updates from representatives on other scrutiny bodies

Councillor Grainger left the meeting

19. Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Executive Protocol

Members considered the report and agreed the content, and to recommend the protocol to Executive for approval and adoption.

20. Forward Plan

Members noted the contents of the Forward Plan

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm