

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Zoom on Friday 17 July 2020 at 1.30 pm

Members

Councillor Iain Greaney (Chair)
Councillor Tony Annison
Councillor Malcolm Grainger
Councillor Joe Holliday
Councillor Adrian Kirkbride

Councillor Allan Daniels
Councillor Michael Heaslip
Councillor Daniel Horsley
Councillor Sally Lansbury

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carmel Bell, Councillor John Crouch, Councillor Carni McCarron-Holmes and Councillor Paul Scott

Staff Present

A FitzGerald, I Hinde, J Irving, L Jardine, G Roach and L Tomlinson

Also Present

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

47. Minutes

Councillor Heaslip moved an amendment to minute number 18 to include additional explanations

“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’ – on the understanding that the Constitution Review Group is undertaking this task.

Item 13 – ‘Review of proposed development of a stadium’

Item 14 – ‘Governance of the Council's role as a corporate charity trustee’ on the understanding that the Constitution Review Group is undertaking this task.

Item 15 – ‘Analysis of income and spend by geographic area’ – on the understanding that officers will provide an information only report to members.

Item 17- ‘Completion of focus on ESF funded training provision’

The motion was seconded by Councillor Greaney and agreed by all members

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2020 were then signed as a correct record.

48. Declaration of Interests

None declared

49. Questions

None received

50. Public Participation

None received

51. Community Safety Partnership, Annual Review

Councillor Fitzgerald as Chair of Community Safety Partnership presented the Community Safety Partnership Annual Review for 2019/20.

Councillor Fitzgerald firstly provided members with an overview of the structure of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), explaining that Allerdale and Copeland are part of the West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership.

Members were advised that grant funding had been provided from the CSP to Stronger Together (Moorclose), and to Local Focus Hubs to tackle knife crime. Funding also led to the introduction of Taxi Marshalls which have proved successful in reducing night time anti-social behaviour and also towards training for partners on the affects of adverse childhood experiences (ACE).

The CSP also initiates Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR), there are now four ongoing, one due to begin and three are progressing well.

Members were also advised that the Pubwatch scheme is working well and is reducing anti-social behaviour. Under the Best Bar None banner the Pubwatch scheme also provides first aid and conflict management training for licensees, and promotes the 'ask Angela' scheme.

Councillor Fitzgerald then advised that Modern Slavery and domestic abuse had been made more priority areas and referred to Rural Crime, Mini Policing and Cyber Crime.

In terms of the future of CSP, it has been confirmed that the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will only provide funding for the CSP Co-Ordinator post and that no additional funding will be available to distribute to projects mentioned previously. As a result of this Cumbrian CSPs are co-ordinating a collaborative approach to try and mitigate any effects of the future funding gaps, which across Cumbria CSP amounts to £105k.

Members then asked questions of Councillor Fitzgerald, in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour in Workington and Keswick, it was confirmed to members that the West Cumbria CSP covers all of Allerdale and Copeland.

Councillor Fitzgerald then highlighted the importance in contacting the Police to report any anti-social behaviour via 101.

Debate ensued in relation to the financial future of the CSP in particular the funding cuts mentioned by Councillor Fitzgerald, which also will affect the Pubwatch Scheme in West Cumbria.

Members noted the contents of the report.

52. Approach to Scrutiny of responses to the pandemic

At the previous meeting members agreed to combine three potential items for its work programme into a single item, these were;

- consideration of the Council's role in the ongoing public health situation and the ongoing role for councils in test and trace activities;
- consideration of the Council's role in recovery - how is the Council able to support businesses and communities?
- consideration of the ongoing implications for the organisation both financially and operationally, including consideration of alternative working practices adopted during the pandemic and their effectiveness.

Members discussed the way to address the items and The Policy Manager (Corporate) provided some detail to members in relation to the current recovery plan.

Members debated whether adding to the work programme, implementing a task and finish group and/or introducing a rapporteur would be the suitable way forward.

Members then resolved to delegate the implementation of a strategy to consider the response and recovery to the Covid 19 pandemic to officers in consultation with the Chair, which will be presented to members at the next meeting.

53. Forward Plan

Members requested an update on the Allerdale Investment Plan, officers will provide a briefing to members.

It was also clarified to members that the Local Plan Part 2 will be presented to Council on 22 July 2020 for adoption.

Members noted the contents of the Forward Plan

54. Work Programme 2020/21

The Policy Officer (Scrutiny and Partnerships) explained to members that following previous meetings the work programme was put together and the order of items can be amended if necessary.

It was also clarified to members that the review of the of the Overview and Scrutiny section of the Constitution remains on the work programme as it can

be used for discussion and to provide comment to the Constitution Working Group.

Members requested that the Council approach to Performance Management is added onto the Work Programme 2020/21.

Members noted the contents of the Work Programme for 2020/21

55. Task and Finish Group/Working Group Updates

The Chair explained that the Procurement Task and Finish Group is awaiting a report from officers, and once received the group will have its final meeting and present its report to the meeting to be held on 18 October 2020.

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm