

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in Wigton Market Hall, Church Street, CA7 9AA on Friday 18 June 2021 at 1.30 pm

## **Members**

Councillor Michael Heaslip (Chair)

Councillor Carni McCarron-Holmes (Co-Chair)

Councillor Tony Annison

Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours

Councillor Allan Daniels

Councillor Patrick Gorrill

Councillor Malcolm Grainger

Councillor Iain Greaney

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hilary Harrington, Councillor Daniel Horsley, Councillor Paul Scott and Councillor Stephen Stoddart

## **Staff Present**

A FitzGerald, N Hardy, I Hinde, L Jardine and L Tomlinson

### **59. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2021 were signed as a correct record.

### **60. Declaration of Interests**

None declared

### **61. Questions**

None received

### **62. Public Participation**

None received

### **63. Quarter 4 Performance Report 2020/21**

The Policy Manager (Corporate, Performance and Information) introduced the Quarter 4 performance report for 2020/21 and provided an overview of the report including key projects and activities, corporate KPIs and strategic risks which are based on the interim delivery plan.

Members were informed that the report covers performance for Quarter 4, but also for all of 2020/21.

Concerns were raised over the Disabled Facilities Grant, members were advised that the Council still interacts with Occupational Therapy but due to the pandemic, assessments and referrals have reduced.

Members then asked questions in relation to local suppliers and contractors. Due to the pandemic, certain items had to be sourced wherever possible, however the Council is working hard to increase the numbers of local suppliers.

Questions were also raised from members in relation to Building Control, and how the Council will manage changes with legislation. An update will be provided to members on the changes to Building Control and on the future of Reedlands Road.

Members noted the contents of the report.

#### **64. Report from Outside Body Representatives**

The Chair introduced the item explaining that the Committee had agreed to ask questions of the member representatives appointed to Outside Bodies and other Scrutiny functions.

The Chair then went through each of the responses received from members of the bodies, providing the name of each member representative and explained that those who did not respond will be sent follow up reminders.

The Committee were appreciative of the responses which had been received to date, and no lines of enquiry had emerged from the reports.

Members then debated the accountability of members and whether they should be reporting back to Committee. The Chair explained that the Committee can report back to Executive and Council and ask for members to be removed.

Debate then moved on to whether the Council should be challenging outside bodies in instances where meetings have not been held. The Chair advised that feedback should be provided to the members of the bodies and highlighted the challenges caused by the pandemic.

Members noted the contents of the report.

#### **65. Forward Plan**

The forward plan had been revised since the last meeting; members were provided with the latest forward plan via email and were asked to send any comments to the chair.

An update will also be provided to members in relation to 'Allerdale Investment Partnership - Consideration of Future Sites'

Members noted the contents of the forward plan.

#### **66. Work Programme 2021/22**

The Chair explained that following feedback from members, suggested items for the work programmes cover three main themes and the Chair proposed that Task and Finish Groups are created for the following;

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

It was noted that the TFG themes identified needed to be scoped and terms of reference drawn up.

In addition, the Chair explained that from 2020/21, the review of strategy documents will be coming to committee, along with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), Housing Strategy, the Workington/Maryport Programmes, the role of the Council as Charity Trustee and the standard items such as budget, task and finish groups, outside bodies and performance reports.

Members considered the proposals and discussed the potential impact LGR will have on the work of the committee. Members acknowledging that the work of the committee may require a different approach with a likely scenario being that the Council will be replaced by one of the options submitted to Government.

Members asked questions in relation to new ward/divisions and what LGR could mean to the major programmes/projects the Council is currently working on. Members will be provided with an update from officers but it is likely that the Maryport and Workington Town projects will continue as these are government funded programmes.

Extensive debate ensued and concerns were raised on the work of the Local Focus Hub. Members would like more information on the Hub and will seek feedback on the Hub from the wider Council membership. Members also expressed frustration at the Police 101 reporting service.

Members agreed that the Local Focus Hub and its work are added onto the agenda for the next Committee Meeting.

Members then discussed meeting times as some members would prefer later start times. Officers in conjunction with the Chair will look into the possibility of amending the date and time of the September 2021 meeting.

**The meeting closed at 3.05 pm**