

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in Council Chamber, Allerdale House on Friday 19 November 2021 at 1.30 pm

## **Members**

Councillor Michael Heaslip (Co-Chair)

Councillor Carni McCarron-Holmes (Co-Chair)

Councillor Tony Annison

Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours

Councillor Patrick Gorrill

Councillor Malcolm Grainger

Councillor Hilary Harrington

Councillor Daniel Horsley

Councillor Paul Scott

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allan Daniels, Councillor Iain Greaney and Councillor Ron Munby MBE

## **Staff Present**

A FitzGerald, G Harrison and G Roach

## **Also Present**

Councillor M Fitzgerald (Deputy Leader and Executive Member: Policy, Governance and People Resources) and Councillor J Lister (Executive Member: Environmental Services)

### **256. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2021 were signed as a correct record.

### **257. Declaration of Interests**

None declared.

### **258. Questions**

None received.

### **259. Public Participation**

None received.

### **260. Quarter 2 Performance Report 2021/22**

Members considered the Quarter 2 performance report for 2021/22 which reported progress on the key projects and activities and corporate KPIs which are based on Council Strategy Delivery Plan.

Members raised comments in relation to Disabled Facilities Grants, housing benefit and community asset transfers.

Regarding the KPI '% of invoices from local Cumbrian businesses paid within 14 days' members expressed concern that there was a downward trend showing here and stressed the importance of supporting our local businesses by paying them promptly. As this was a collective corporate indicator members recommended that a message go to all staff to remind them of the importance of playing their part in getting invoices paid on time.

In relation to the KPI 'Deliver the Lillyhall North Infrastructure Project' and noting the commentary which describes a slippage in the programme due to delays by Cumbria Highways members asked for clarification on how the delays reported had manifested as a Change Control request that would extend the completion date until summer 2022, a full 6 months beyond the original completion date. Officers agreed to seek clarification from the responsible chief officer.

On noting the continued programme of service reviews across the Council members had a discussion around enforcement services in the authority, specifically on the number of resource. Members asked how many staff work on enforcement and the amount of business that they do. Officers agreed to raise the questions made with the responsible chief officers.

### **Agreed**

Members noted the contents of the report.

## **261. Quarter 2 Finance Report & Revised Budget 2021-22**

Members considered the finance update report for Quarter 2 and the Revised Budget 2021-22 due to go to Executive on 24 November and then Council on 8 December 2021.

### **Agreed**

That Members noted the contents of the report.

## **262. Verbal Presentation on Household Waste Minimisation**

The Allerdale Waste Services Senior Manager delivered a presentation to the Committee on household waste recycling rates following a question raised at a previous meeting of Scrutiny on what was the Council doing to address an increase in household waste.

The presentation provided the percentage figures for the last five years on the household waste sent for recycling, household waste sent for composting or anaerobic digestion, waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting and the household waste collection in kg's per head. Those figures had remained fairly consistently across each of the five years.

Comparison percentages were also provided of the household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting across each of the Cumbrian local authorities and some explanations behind those percentages.

The presentation also covered the major upcoming changes expected due to the Local Government Reorganisation within Cumbria and the introduction of the Environment Act 2021.

Questions were asked on the impact on the service from the expected changes in particular on the replacement of bins across the borough and the cost thereof and their re-use.

**Agreed**

That the update be noted.

**Councillor J Lister and G Harrison left the meeting**

**263. Update on Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Discussions in Advance of Executive Decision on the Creation of a Community Partnership**

Councillor M Fitzgerald Portfolio Holder for Nuclear provided the Committee with a verbal summary on the work to date on the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), she explained the process around and took questions on the upcoming Executive decision on the creation of a Community Partnership. The Executive were due to make a decision at their meeting on 24 November 2021.

A number of sessions had also been held for all members to provide opportunity to ask questions and offer their views.

Councillor Fitzgerald explained that if the Executive did not agree to the creation of a Community Partnership then the whole process would stop there completely.

If they agreed to the setup of a Partnership then she said, it did not mean they were giving consent to a GDF in Allerdale, it meant that communications would continue and the investigatory work continued. Allerdale could still pull out of the process further down the line.

Questions were asked on the involvement of the County Council, the measurement of community support and search areas and local boundaries.

**Agreed**

That the update be noted.

**264. Verbal Update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**

The Strategic Advisor Corporate provided an update on the current position in relation to the Local Government Reorganisation.

There was now a dedicated website set up where people can be directed to find out all of the up to date communication, this included some FAQs.

Interviews were currently underway for a Programme Director and job adverts had been advertised for various positions within the Programme office.

The current Senior Responsible Officer the CEO of Cumbria County Council was standing down at the end of the month and on an interim basis this was to be filled by two CEOs.

Lots of workstreams had been established across all of the authorities and were already pulling together vast amounts of baseline data to assist with shaping the two new authorities.

The Council had submitted its comments back on the 17 November on the Governments Structural Changes Order (SCO).

### **Agreed**

That the update be noted.

#### **265. Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan was noted.

#### **266. Work Programme and Outcomes Monitoring**

The Chair reviewed the Work Programme 2021/22 and the following points were made;

- The Referral from July Council 2021 was now to be considered at the 17 December meeting to permit the Monitoring Officer to be present
- Outcome of budget scrutiny process would need to be rescheduled for 4 February meeting to fit in with the budget reporting timetable
- Officers were requested to check when the Community Safety Partnership was last reviewed by Scrutiny and did it need to be included in the Programme.

#### **267. Task and Finish Group/Working Group Updates**

The Chair provided an update on the work of the Task and Finish Groups;

1. Culture and Leisure Provision – the group had held its first meeting and received a briefing from the Assistant Manager Sport, Art and Leisure. There was potential for access to funding, this was to be looked in to,
2. Community Leadership and Engagement – officers were working on this
3. Young People and Corporate Parenting – officers were working on this

The Chair proposed the establishment of a Budget TFG as part of the process for setting the Budget 2022-23. This would be a short intense piece of work over the period December to January.

Councillors M Campbell-Savours, H Harrington, C McCarron-Holmes and P Scott volunteered to sit on the Budget TFG.

The Chair requested that officers extend an invite to the wider Council membership to seek volunteers to join the Budget TFG.

**The meeting closed at 3.15 pm**