

Allerdale Borough Council

Council – 23 February 2022

Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report from	Co-Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wards affected	All
Is this a key decision	No

1.0 The reason for the decision

- 1.1** To update Council on the activities and recommendations of the Committee since the last meeting.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1** That Members note the content of the report.

3.0 Background and Introduction

- 3.1** This is a regular report that comes to each meeting of Council. The purpose of the report is to provide Council with an update and overview of the activities of the Committee
- 3.2** The work of the Committee is described in the paragraphs below. Any member wanting more information on any of the topics mentioned or to see reports or interim reports should contact Democratic Services.

4.0 Update on activities since last report

- 4.1** Adjournment of meeting

The emergence of the Omicron variant led to an emergency postponement of the December meeting on the grounds of public health and safety. The items of business from that meeting were therefore considered at the next scheduled meeting on 4 February 2022.

- 4.2** The Committee received an update presentation from the Programme Directors for both the Workington and Maryport Regeneration Programmes, covering the individual

projects within each programme, ongoing works and associated costs and timescales. The Committee will review progress on these programmes at a future meeting.

4.2 Update on current task and finish groups

Budget TFG

The purpose of the Group was to scrutinise the budget setting process for 2022/23. A short intense piece of work was carried out over three meetings during December 2021 and January 2022.

The findings and conclusions of the Group were approved by the Scrutiny Committee on 4 February and then presented to the Executive by the Co-Chair on 9 February 2022. In conclusion, the Group were satisfied that the process to develop the draft budget proposals for 2022/23 had been robust and that many budget pressures and risks are being adequately identified and managed.

However, the Group did make the point that some aspects of the budget setting process for 2022/23 were unique. As the last budget that Allerdale Borough Council will set members suggested that this will in effect become a baseline for service provision as we move into the new Cumberland Council in 2023. They therefore asked the Executive to reflect very carefully on any budgetary decisions taken in setting the 2022/23 budget that may be carried through to future budgets and impact on communities in Allerdale beyond 2023.

Culture and Leisure Provision TFG

The Culture and Leisure Provision task and finish group has begun meeting and has considered a number of forthcoming studies and reports regarding both arts and culture as well as sports and leisure across the area.

This is on track to report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2022.

Community Leadership and Engagement TFG

The Community Leadership and Engagement task and finish group has had its first meeting and considered a number of background papers on the leadership role of elected members in their communities, what might constitute a “community” and how some matters might be devolved to it, and involvement of parish councils, service providers and “representative local persons” in such devolved arrangements. A further meeting is due by the end of February, at which the Group will look at current models in Carlisle and Copeland and how to reconcile “top-down” service provision with “bottom-up” community voice.

Provision for Young People TFG

We regret that this task and finish group has not yet begun its work, and will not meet the report date originally set.

4.3 Future work programme

Consideration of items for the Annual work Programme 2022-23 will be picked up in March and April. It is anticipated this will also include consideration on the role of Scrutiny during Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria and on the new Shadow Authority.

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