

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in Council Chamber, Allerdale House on Friday 4 February 2022 at 1.30 pm

Members

Councillor Michael Heaslip (Co-Chair)

Councillor Carni McCarron-Holmes (Co-Chair)

Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours

Councillor Allan Daniels

Councillor Patrick Gorrill

Councillor Malcolm Grainger

Councillor Iain Greaney

Councillor Hilary Harrington

Councillor Daniel Horsley

Councillor Sally Lansbury

Councillor Ron Munby MBE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Scott

Staff Present

E Bundock, A FitzGerald, K Kerrigan, G Roach, A Smith, P Taylor and G Wilson

356. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2021 were signed as a correct record.

357. Declaration of Interests

None declared.

358. Questions

None received.

359. Public Participation

None received.

360. Workington and Maryport Town Regeneration Programme Updates

The Committee received a verbal update presentation from Kevin Kerrigan, Programme Director on the regeneration programme for Workington. They received information on the associated timeline, Heads of terms were agreed in April 2021 following submission of our Investment Plan, with a £23.1 million allocation, the deadline for submission of a Business Case was 24 March 2022, and a summary of the five Town Deal projects.

Questions were asked on the Innovation Centre and office space, development on Oldside, shops in the town centre, the shared sports stadium and the monitoring and evaluation of the whole programme.

Paul Taylor, Strategic Advisor - Programmes Maryport and Graeme Wilson, Programme Director then provided an update presentation on the regeneration programme for Maryport.

An overview was provided on the Maryport High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) programme with a successful investment bid of £1.2 million and running alongside that, the Future High Streets Fund which had been awarded £11.5million from the government.

Members were informed of the current works, budgets and timescales for each of the associated projects.

Questions were asked around The Wave Centre, swimming pools, attracting tourism, long term viability of the projects and entertainment/event space. Concern was expressed in that the Empire Yard project, a very important element of the Maryport programme, seemed to have been dropped.

Agreed

That the update presentations be noted.

361. Private Sector Housing Enforcement

The Committee received an overview presentation on Private Sector Housing Enforcement, covering relevant key legislation, Policy and approaches with respect to enforcement and the complaints process.

Members then had an opportunity to ask questions. Some concerns were raised around the service capacity for enforcement.

In terms of number of complaints Councillor I Greaney asked in which areas officers were spending most of their time.

The Housing Manager agreed to pull information together and circulate to members following the meeting.

Agreed

That the presentation be noted.

Councillors Grainger and Munby left the meeting

362. Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Report

Councillor M Heaslip moved the report submitted by the Budget Scrutiny TFG.

Following a short intense piece of work, carried out over three meetings during December 2021 and January 2022, the report set out the findings and conclusions of the Group which would then be presented to the Executive at their next meeting on 9 February 2022 ahead of their approval of the Budget.

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 were 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 would set members suggested that this would in effect become a baseline for service provision as we move into the new Cumberland Council in 2023. They therefore recommend to 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.

Agreed

That the report be approved and recommended to the Executive on 9 February 2022.

363. Verbal Update on Local Government Reorganisation

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

The Structural Changes Order had been laid in Parliament and was thought to take approx. six weeks to go through the process. Once approved and received by the Cumbrian authorities two Joint Committees would need to be established, one for each new Shadow Authority. The membership and terms of reference of those had now been approved.

Preparations were well underway for the elections to be held on 5 May 2022.

Many workstreams were also very busy preparing for 'Day 1 Readiness', looking at everything that was required to be done before vesting day. Work was progressing but still lots to be done.

Councillor M Campbell-Savours asked whether now would be a good time to take time to review the Constitution and suggested setting up a joint committee to make recommendations to be considered by the Joint Committee for the Cumberland Shadow Authority.

Councillor M Heaslip seconded this and recommended it to be referred to the Allerdale Constitution Working Group. This was agreed.

364. Forward Plan

A verbal updated on the Forward Plan items was noted.

365. Work Programme and Outcomes Monitoring

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

- Councillor M Heaslip to provide clarity on the item 'Public value: How does this principle and concepts of best value and social value underpin our work - or should underpin our successors work?' and confirm whether it was still due for the 18 March meeting,

- The Chair agreed for the Committee to receive a written report from the Councils Climate Change Group for an annual update, to be considered at a future meeting.

366. Task and Finish Group/Working Group Updates

The Co-Chair provided a brief update on current TFGs;

- Budget – was complete
- Culture and Leisure Provision – work had begun and was on track to report back to the Committee at its March meeting,
- Community Leadership and Engagement and Young People and Corporate Parenting – were still to get started

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm