

Allerdale Borough Council

Executive – 22 June 2022

Report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Call-in of minute number 464. – Council Strategy Delivery Plan 2022/23

Portfolio holder	Councillor Mike Johnson and Councillor Marion Fitzgerald
Report from	Co-Chairs Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Wards affected	All wards
Is this a key decision	Yes

1.0 The reason for the decision

- 1.1 To provide feedback to the Executive on the outcome of the call-in of Executive minute number 464 – Council Strategy Delivery Plan 2022/23 from the 20 April 2022 meeting.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the decision of the Executive Minute No. 464 be referred back to Executive for reconsideration of a proposed new recommendation as follows;

‘We are concerned that the current approach lacks sufficient urgency and lets the people of Keswick down. We request that the Executive set a new target to have the project plan developed to RIBA Stage 2 before Allerdale Borough Council hand over to the new Cumberland Council.

We also request the officers approach the new Council to ensure the works complete are a priority as we complete the LGR process’.

3.0 Background and Introduction

- 3.1 At a meeting of the Executive on 20 April 2022, a decision was taken to approve the draft Delivery Plan for 2022-23 which set out specific activity to be undertaken over the next year in working towards achieving the objectives set out in the Council Strategy. As part of that plan a key project under the Resilient Communities section was to ‘Develop a full options appraisal for leisure centre provision in Keswick by April 2023’.

- 3.2 On the 3 May 2022 a completed call-in form was submitted to the Council's Monitoring Officer signed by Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours, Councillor Sally Lansbury and Councillor Alan Smith. The call-in indicated that the signatories felt this commitment was in conflict with a motion passed by Council on 22 September 2021.
- 3.3 On the 24 May the Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Co-Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny, accepted the call-in request.
- 3.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee then held the call-in meeting on 14 June 2022.
- 3.5 Councillor Mike Johnson Leader of the Council and PH for Economic Growth, Community Development and Placemaking and Councillor Marion Fitzgerald PH for Policy, Governance and People Resources were present at the meeting on behalf of the Executive.
- 3.6 The Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance and Economic Strategy), The Assistant Chief Executive (Innovation and Commercial) and Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Chief Officer Assets and Senior Specialist – Sport, Art and Leisure were also present to support members.

4.0 Content

- 4.1 The call-in was presented to the Committee by each of the three signatories in turn.

In her opening speech Councillor S Lansbury said that the community and the authority really needed to get moving on the project with a better timeline than April 2023. She said the Strategic Leisure Limited needs analysis report was completed in January therefore we could have been further down the line than we are.

Councillor M Campbell-Savours made reference to the Motion he had submitted and subsequently passed by Council in September 2021 asking for a 'shovel ready' project to be produced, and said that the Council Strategy Delivery Plan did not meet the criteria to match that commitment. He made reference to the RIBA plan of works which set out the different stages in the development of a construction project and referenced this in relation to gaining funding from Sports England. Councillor Campbell-Savours had been advised that a project would need to be at least stage 2 of its development in order to approach for funding and said in his opinion the agreed delivery plan options appraisal would not qualify and asked for a plan that the Council could go to funders with.

Councillor A Smith said that at the Council meeting in September 2021 there had been a political commitment to ensuring provision of leisure facilities in Keswick would be a priority for the Council and there had been a failure to deliver what was promised over the past 9 months.

- 4.2 Councillor M Fitzgerald responded to the points raised and provided those present with a progress update on the project plan. She said the delivery plan clearly states there would be a full options appraisal and there cannot be a 'shovel ready' plan

until that has taken place. We should not force the project too quickly and present the new authority with pressure on a particular plan with no alternatives.

- 4.3 Questions were put to members of the Executive. Councillor M Campbell-Savours asked 'why cant we ask for more to happen in the next twelve months, why cant we be more ambitious'.
- 4.4 Councillor Steve Harwood, the Mayor of Keswick provided a statement to all those present as Chair, and on behalf of, the Friends of Keswick Leisure Group. In the statement Councillor Harwood expressed disappointment at what appeared to be lack of drive and ambition to deliver what was approved at the Council meeting in September and said if felt that the aim to provide a 'shovel ready plan' (which he as registered architect understood as RIBA Stage 4) for the new authority to deliver was being watered down to an options appraisal.
- 4.5 The Call-in signatories proposed that the Executive decision made on 20 April 2022 'to develop a full options appraisal for leisure centre provision in Keswick by April 2023' be referred back to the Executive and requested they approve the following recommendation;

'We are concerned that the current approach lacks sufficient urgency and lets the people of Keswick down. We request that the Executive set a new target to have the project plan developed to RIBA Stage 2 before Allerdale Borough Council hand over to the new Cumberland Council.

We also request the officers approach the new Council to ensure the works complete are a priority as we complete the LGR process'.

- 4.6 A vote was taken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the proposal, 5 in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions. The motion was carried.

5.0 Implications and Impact

5.1 Contribution to Council Strategy Priorities, Outputs and Outcomes

The Delivery Plan sets out specific activity that will be undertaken over the next year to work towards achieving the objectives set out in the Council Strategy in the context of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and local government reorganisation

5.2 Finance/Resource implications

The finance and resource implications are as set out in the report considered by Executive on 20 April 2022

5.3 Legal and governance implications

The legal and governance implications are as set out in the report considered by Executive on 20 April 2022

5.4 Increasing satisfaction and service

There are clear activities relating to these themes set out in the Delivery Plan

5.5 Equality impacts

None arising from this report

5.6 Health and Safety impacts

None arising from this report

5.7 Health, wellbeing and community safety impacts

The health, wellbeing and community safety implications are as set out in the report considered by Executive on 20 April 2022

5.8 Environmental/sustainability impacts

The environmental and sustainability implications are as set out in the report considered by Executive on 20 April 2022

5.9 Other significant implications

None

Appendices attached to this report

Appendix number	Title of appendix
N/A	

Background documents available

Name of background document	Where it is available
Executive Report – Council Strategy Delivery Plan 2022/23	Executive meeting 20 April 2022
Call-in request form – 27/04/22	Overview & Scrutiny Call-in meeting 14 June 2022

Report author(s) and contact officer(s):

Officer name – Gayle Roach

Job title – Senior Specialist Democratic

Email address – gayle.roach@allderdale.gov.uk

Tel no. 01900 702502