

# Allerdale Borough Council

Council – 21 September 2022

## Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

---

<b>Report from</b>	Co-Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Is this a key decision</b>	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** The last update report from the Scrutiny Committee to Council was in February 2022 followed by the Annual Report 2021/22 agreed at the July meeting.

**4.2** A new Overview and Scrutiny Committee was appointed at the AGM in May who approved a Work Programme for 2022/23 and established three Task and Finish Groups:

#### **1. Access to Health Services – GPS and Dentistry**

- To consider the delivery of GP and Dentistry services with particular regard to services in Workington

- To scrutinise the plans of the NHS for these services
- To work with County Health Scrutiny, Health Watch and Patient Participation Groups to understand the needs of the community in these services

## **2. Customer Services**

- To consider the impact on residents of appointment only and digital by default models of customer service
- To consider how public service delivery hubs as 'one stop shops' for public services can be delivered, as detailed in the economic growth strategy
- To hear directly from customer service staff on the needs of residents

## **3. Democratic Participation in Voting**

- Examine the process of identifying the location of polling stations, consultation processes, requirements for the size and number of polling districts and the timetable for review
- Community Governance Review

**4.3** In June the Committee held a Call-in meeting for a decision taken by the Executive to approve the draft Delivery Plan for 2022-23, which sets 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 Delivery 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'. The call-in request indicated that the signatories felt this commitment conflicted with a motion passed by Council on 22 September 2021.

At the call-in meeting it was agreed that the decision be referred back to the Executive for reconsideration. The full minutes can be found for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14 June 2022.

- 4.4** The Committee received a number of update presentations 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. They are due to receive further updates later in their work programme.
- 4.5** Also in June, members were provided with update presentations on work on the submission bid for the Levelling Up Fund, the submission deadline being Monday 6 July 2022, and on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan submission due by 1 August 2022.
- 4.6** The Committee receive the quarterly update performance and finance reports and monitor each of the key projects and activities set out in the Delivery Plan.

## **5.0 Update on current Task and Finish Groups**

### **5.1 Access to Health Services – GPS and Dentistry**

This TFG has had its initial meeting and agreed its Scope. The Chair for this group is Cllr McCarron-Holmes. The TFG agreed to issue a Press Release calling for evidence about access to Health Services. This release has so far received 46 initial responses from members of the public. These are currently being processed. Meetings with Health Watch Cumbria and the NHS Commissioners responsible for Dentistry and GP services are being planned.

### **5.2 Customer Services**

The initial meeting has now been set up and will take place at the end of September. This will enable Councillors to agree the Scope and direction of its work. The Chair for this group is Cllr Grainger.

### **5.3 Democratic Participation in Voting**

It was agreed that this TFG be carried out in the second half of the municipal year.

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

*Report authors – Councillor Michael Heaslip and Councillor Carni McCarron-Holmes*

*Contact officer name – Gayle Roach, Democratic Services Manager*

*Email address – [gayle.roach@allderdale.gov.uk](mailto:gayle.roach@allderdale.gov.uk)*