

Allerdale Borough Council

Council – 1 March 2023

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 A regular report has been provided to each meeting of Council to provide an update and overview of the activities of the Committee, this being the final report.

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 to the 7 December 2022 meeting.

4.2 The committee have met twice since that last report and below summarises what was considered at those meetings.

4.3 There is a final meeting to be held on 17 March. Since there will be no further meeting of this Council, the report from that meeting will be presented to the successor body, Cumberland Council.

- 4.4** At its meeting on 9 December 2022, the Committee considered, amongst other matters, a briefing on the Housing Grants and Assistance Policy. Arising from that briefing, the Committee recommended to the new Cumberland Council that a housing stock condition survey be carried out on all older buildings in the area including a whole household energy consumption audit.
- 4.5** At its meeting on 13 January 2023, the Committee considered:
- a) A report on progress on the Cumberland Sports Village: members again raised concerns about the increasingly tight timetable for delivery of this project;
 - b) A report on progress with developing options for re-provision of Sport & Leisure facilities in Keswick, where members acknowledged the importance of getting the right mix of provision and would seek a further report;
 - c) The Safer Streets Project commissioned by the Home Office in St Michael's Workington: members did not consider that this project had demonstrated best value, and did not accept that the identification of and responses to social problems anywhere were best determined by Home Office civil servants with no local knowledge.
- 4.6** At its meeting on 17 February 2023, the Committee considered:
- a) the Workington and Maryport Regeneration Programmes and while welcoming progress, expressed concern at the inflation of costs, and, in respect of the Sports Village, the increasingly tight timetable for delivering this project within the programme period;
 - b) the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Annual report, and noted that the future arrangements seemed very uncertain; the PCC had withdrawn funding and, apparently, interest in the Partnership and seemed to be focussing attention on the Police Multi-Agency Hubs: it was not at all clear what the relationship was between the Hubs and CSP, if any: It was all very confused.

5.0 Final Findings and Recommendations from Task and Finish Groups

5.1 Access to Health Services – GPS and Dentistry

The report of this Task & Finish Group was adopted by the Committee on 13 January 2023. Recommendations were made to the Executive, to Cumberland Council, and to NHS bodies. The full report is available to members who wish it.

5.2 Customer Services

The report of this Task & Finish Group was adopted by the Committee on 9 December 2022. Recommendations were made to Executive and to Cumberland Council. The full report is available to members who wish it.

5.3 Democratic Participation in Voting

The Task & Finish Group has met twice and will meet for a final time shortly to complete its Report to the 17 March 2023 meeting of Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

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