

Appendix 5

Scrutiny Management Board Briefing from Chair of Communities and Place Scrutiny Advisory Board

1.0 PURPOSE OF UPDATE

- 1.1 This report updates Scrutiny Management Board (SMB) on the work of Communities and Place Scrutiny Advisory Board and any issues and developments that have occurred since the last meeting of SMB.

2.0 BOARD MEETING UPDATE

- 2.1 The Communities and Place Scrutiny Advisory Board met on 25 November 2019, The Board has considered the following issues:

- Progress on delivery of the Council's Equality Plan. The Plan was produced following recommendations made by the Equality Objectives Task & Finish Group to Cabinet in February 2018. Members were advised that delivery of 18 of 22 actions in the Plan were on track, and discussed in more detail issues relating to SEND and neurodiversity;
- The Council's involvement in the Rural Services Network and the Britain's Leading Edge network of rural and coastal local authorities. Members highlighted key issues of particular importance in rural areas including digital connectivity, the local housing market, the county's transport infrastructure and having a strong creative culture for towns;
- The Council's approach to development and management of Section 38 and 278 agreements. The Board agreed that a scope be developed for a Task & Finish Group focused on ensuring that local physical and social infrastructure improvements are secured in the most effective way to support new development;
- The evaluation report of the pilot scheme conducted at Arnside and Staveley Fire Stations of the use of Rapid Response Vehicles. Members were informed that the pilots had met their objectives and proposals for further rollout of Rapid Response Vehicles were under development.

3.0 ADDITIONAL SCRUTINY ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOARD

- 3.1 Board Members have considered the Cumbria Development Design Guide, and are to receive an update on the Syrian refugee resettlement programme.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Board's work programme continues to be developed, with some key issues for the Council due to be considered over the coming months. These include climate change, the future of transport in the county, and the outcomes of the recent Inspection of Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service and subsequent improvement planning,

Chair: Cllr Stan Collins