



## Cabinet Advisory Groups

11 July 2023

### Report of Chief Officer Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To enable Cabinet to consider whether to continue or stand down the various Cabinet Advisory Groups that were established in the previous administration.			
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referral from Cabinet Member
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision	n/a		
This report is public			

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Cabinet determines which if any of the Advisory Groups should be stood down.
- (2) That Cabinet determines whether any additional Advisory Groups should be established.
- (3) That Cabinet considers arrangements for officer support to future Advisory Groups

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Advisory Groups are informal bodies that may be created by Cabinet. They are purely consultative and not decision-making. At its meeting on 6 August 2019 Cabinet agreed for the following Advisory Groups to be established.

[link](#)

- Building Community Wealth Partnership Advisory Group
- Financial Resilience Advisory Group
- Community Wellbeing Advisory Group
- Canal Quarter Advisory Group
- Bailrigg Garden Village Advisory Group
- Climate Emergency and Environment Advisory Group
- Culture, Heritage, Arts & Leisure Advisory Group

- Housing & Homelessness Advisory Groups
- Economic Development & Regeneration Advisory Group

The terms of reference for these Advisory Groups can be found [here](#). The minutes refer to the Climate Change and Environment Advisory Group being renamed as the Climate Emergency and Environment Advisory Group and the Community Wealth-Building Partnership being renamed as the Building Community Wealth Partnership Group with amended terms of reference appended to the minutes. [link](#).

The Local Plan Review Group was established in October 2019 and has met on a number of occasions since its inception and November 2022. Further details can be found [here](#).

The following additional Advisory Groups were established in 2022:

- Morecambe Vision Advisory Group (Terms of reference can be found [here](#))
- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Advisory Group (Terms of reference can be found [here](#))

The following revisions have been made to the Advisory Groups established in 2019:

- The Culture, Heritage, Arts & Leisure Advisory Group met a couple of times prior to Covid. It was reconvened meeting in November 2022 with a revised name (Cultural Heritage Cabinet Advisory Group.) and terms of reference which can be found [here](#)
- The Financial Resilience Advisory Group is **no longer** an Advisory Group and has become an Internal group: renamed the Financial Resilience Group.

## 2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 Cabinet are asked to consider which Advisory Groups should be retained or stood down. It should be noted that a number of the advisory groups have not met since 2019/20 and one does not appear to have met at all.
- 2.2 The following information may assist Cabinet in determining whether the Advisory Groups need to be retained or stood down. Links to the Terms of Reference for the advisory groups have been inserted into this report.

The following Advisory Groups met prior to Covid but do not appear to have met since then and there are no notes from these meetings.

- *Bailrigg Garden Village Advisory Group*
- *Building Community Wealth Partnership Advisory Group*
- *Canal Quarter Advisory Group*
- *Community Wellbeing Advisory Group*

The following last met in October 2020 via Teams:

- *Climate Emergency & Environment Advisory Group*

The following Advisory Groups which are supported by officers in Housing meet regularly:

- **Homeless & Homelessness Advisory Groups:**
  - **Homeless Advisory Group**
  - **Housing Advisory Group** – This was set up at the adoption of the Homes Strategy and has split into two separate sub-groups Developing Green Skills and Increasing the Supply of Social and Affordable Housing.

The following Advisory Groups were convened in 2022 and have been supported by Democratic Support:

- **Cultural Heritage Cabinet Advisory Group** – this has met twice face to face since November 2022
- **Morecambe Vision** – this group met face to face 7 times since being convened in May 2022.
- **Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Advisory Group** – this Advisory Group has met on 3 occasions via Teams and face to face since being established in May 2022 having last met in September 2022.

The following Advisory Group does not appear to have met:

- **Economic Development & Regeneration Advisory Group**

### 3.0 Officer Support

3.1 Whilst officers can be participants in any Advisory Group it should be noted that the officer support of these groups can be an onerous task and not always possible due to staffing demands and resources.

3.2 Cabinet is asked to note that Teams meetings for Advisory Groups would be preferable as participants can record the meeting themselves for a record. It also negates use of officer support outside of normal working hours or the booking of rooms which can be problematic.

3.3 Consideration should also be given to the frequency of meetings.

### 4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

Cabinet is requested to consider each current Advisory Group and confirm whether the Advisory Group should be reconvened, whether the terms of

reference need revising for any reconvened Advisory Group or whether it should be stood down.

If Cabinet is minded to reconvene an Advisory Group consideration should be given to both the frequency of the meetings and as to where/how the Advisory Groups should meet.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Advisory Groups provide an opportunity for Cabinet Members to meaningfully engage with communities and stakeholders on significant topics across the policy landscape, with members benefiting from an enhanced range of perspectives to inform decision-making.

#### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

The content of the report has no impact in itself.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

No legal implications directly arising from the report.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No financial implications directly arising from the report.

#### **OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

No other implications arising directly from this report.

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

Members should consider the current number of advisory groups and the resource implications of supporting each group. In line with the Council's digitalisation agenda weighting should be given to expanded use of Teams or other platforms to facilitate these groups.

#### **MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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