

CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 AT 6.45 PM

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Styth), Councillors Allison, Atkinson, Bainbridge, Bell, Betton, Bloxham, Boaden, Bowditch, Mrs Bowman, Bowman (S), Mrs Bradley, Cape, Mrs Clarke, Clarke (M), Collier, Craig, Earp, Ellis, Farmer (C), Mrs Farmer, Mrs Geddes, Glover, Graham, Harid, Hendry, Layden, Lishman, Mrs Luckley, Mrs Mallinson, Mallinson (J), McDevitt, Mitchelson, Morton, Nedved, Mrs Parsons, Ms Patrick, Ms Quilter, Mrs Robson, Mrs Rutherford, Scarborough, Mrs Southward, Stothard, Tootle, Mrs Vasey, Mrs Warwick, Watson, Weber, Weedall and Wilson

ALSO

PRESENT Mrs Karen Murray (District Auditor, Audit Commission)
Mr Richard McGahon (Audit Manager, Audit Commission)

C.1/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Devlin and Mrs Riddle, and the Strategic Director and Deputy Chief Executive.

C.2/11 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 9 November 2010 were received and signed as a true record of the meeting.

C.3/11 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

C.4/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At the request of the Mayor, and by way of assistance, the Assistant Director (Governance) provided advice to Members on the rules governing the need to declare personal and prejudicial interests, particularly with regard to Item 18(i) – Discretionary Rate Relief Policy.

The following Councillors declared a personal interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in Item 18(i) – Discretionary Rate Relief Policy for the reasons stated:

- Bainbridge – served on groups which received rate relief

- Betton – in his capacity as Chairman of Botcherby Scout Association and representative on Botcherby Community Centre Management Committee
- Mrs Bowman – a family member was employed by an organisation involved
- Bowman (C) – a family member was employed by an organisation involved
- Cape – member of a Squash Club and Rugby Club
- Mrs Geddes – served on Law Centre Management Committee
- Mitchelson – involvement with an organisation which received rate relief
- Ellis – as representative on Belah Community Centre Management Trust
- Mrs Bradley and Glover – as representative on Currock Community Centre Management Committee
- Mrs Parsons – as representative on Downagate Community Centre Management Committee
- Watson – as representative on Greystone Community Association
- Graham – as representative on Hayton Parish Council
- Mallinson (J) – as representative on Longtown Community Centre Management Committee
- Bowditch – as representative on Yewdale Community Centre Management Committee

The following Councillors declared a personal and prejudicial interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in Item 18(i) – Discretionary Rate Relief Policy for the reasons stated:

- Councillor Boaden – as a result of his employment
- Morton – as representative on Belah Community Centre Management Trust and member of Carlisle Rugby Club
- Councillor Ms Patrick – her employer was in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief
- Councillor Mrs Warwick – was employed by a Charity affected

Councillors Hendry, Layden and Mrs Mallinson declared a personal interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of any reference to Social Housing. The interest related to the fact that the Councillors served on the Board of Riverside Carlisle.

C.5/11 ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) The Mayor

It was with deep regret that the Mayor announced that Mr Harry Gallagher, who was Mayor of the City in 1986/87, had died on 14 December 2010. She stated that, although Mr Gallagher suffered disability he undertook his duties with tremendous cheerfulness.

Members stood in a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr Gallagher.

The Mayor informed Members that Councillor Mrs Riddle had suffered a serious injury due to a fall. She undertook to convey best wishes to the Councillor on behalf of the City Council.

In conclusion, the Mayor reported that tickets were still available for the Burns Supper to be held on 21 January 2011 should Members wish to attend.

(b) The Leader of the Council

The Leader reported with sadness the recent sudden death of Mr Alan Niekirk who had been Chair of the Friends of Tullie House for many years, and latterly a member of the Tullie House Shadow Board. He wished to place on record the Council's thanks for the considerable work done by Mr Niekirk, particularly with regard to the development of the Tullie House Trust.

(c) Members of the Executive

There were no announcements from Members of the Executive.

(d) Town Clerk and Chief Executive

There were no announcements from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

C.6/11 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.1, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by members of the public.

C.7/11 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.11 the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no petitions or deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

C.8/11 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by Members of the Council.

C.9/11 EXECUTIVE

Councillor Mitchelson moved and Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 8 and 22 November, and 13 December 2010.

Councillor Mitchelson then responded to questions concerning membership of the Executive following the resignation of Councillor Mrs Luckley and advised Members that there was a new Leader's Scheme of Delegation.

Referring to the Minutes of 22 November 2010, Councillor Mrs Rutherford reported that she had submitted apologies for absence (in her capacity as Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel) which should have been recorded.

RESOLVED – That, subject to the amendment outlined above, the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 8 and 22 November, and 13 December 2010 be received and adopted.

C.10/11 PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS

Copies of reports from the following Portfolio Holders had been circulated prior to the meeting:

Promoting Carlisle
Governance and Resources
Community Engagement
Economic Development
Local Environment
Housing
Performance and Development

Members questioned individual Portfolio Holders on details of their reports.

Referring to the penultimate paragraph of the Promoting Carlisle Portfolio Holder's report, Councillor Bowditch noted the reference to merging of the Carlisle Partnership Children and Young People's Group with the Locality Planning Group of the Children's Trust. He understood that the matter was to be reviewed after a year and a report back submitted. Councillor Bowditch therefore asked that the words "to be reviewed after a year" be included within the Portfolio Holder's report.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed his acceptance of that suggestion.

In moving her report, the Community Engagement Portfolio Holder provided further clarification on the CDRP. The Portfolio Holder advised that she had queried the high figure for burglary within Eden and been advised that because Eden district had very low levels of crime any incident could make the figures appear high.

Referring to an issue raised by Councillor Glover at a previous meeting of the City Council concerning Village Halls consultation, the Community Engagement Portfolio Holder reported that she had taken the matter up. A very positive response had been received to the letter circulated to Community Centres, Advice Agencies, etc. and meetings/workshops arranged. The issue was therefore progressing.

In moving her report, the Economic Development Portfolio Holder expressed disappointment that the Stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund bid with regard to the Old Town Hall had not been successful. Notwithstanding that setback, consideration was being given to the next steps and she would report back on the matter in due course. The Portfolio Holder expressed her gratitude to the Community Engagement Portfolio

Holder for work done with Community Centres, particularly bearing in mind their importance to the community.

In moving his report, the Local Environment Portfolio Holder referred to recent reporting in the Press, including misinformation, on the issue of Salvation Army clothing banks. By way of clarification he outlined in some detail the process followed since a request was received from Cumbria Waste Management for the siting of clothing banks on Council sites. The Salvation Army had agreed to those new arrangements and would retain 80% of the clothing donated which would go towards their national and international work. He added that it had been agreed that the money received by the City Council from Cumbria Waste Management would go to Charities, including the Eden Valley Hospice.

Referring to an e-mail which he had received from Councillor Watson, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that he fully supported and agreed with the action taken by Officers on what was an operational matter.

The Local Environment Portfolio Holder further referred to concern expressed by a Councillor regarding reduction in street cleaning in his Ward. To avoid any misunderstanding the Portfolio Holder emphasised that the Council was committed to providing front line services, albeit within the context of a greatly reduced budget. Clearly difficult decisions required to be taken and residents, local businesses, and key partners would be consulted prior to reductions being put in place.

Referring to the Housing Portfolio Holder's report and, particularly, the issue of Dispersed Foyer for Young People, Councillor Hendry recalled that some time ago consideration had been given to the possible development of accommodation and foyer service for young people in conjunction with Fylde YMCA. He questioned what had happened with that project.

Councillor Hendry stated that homeless teenagers were amongst the most vulnerable in society and that the Council had a duty of care. He asked that the Portfolio Holder liaise with the Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel to determine what was being done for young people in Carlisle.

Councillor Bowditch emphasised the desperation felt within the Social Care Team with regard to the ability to place homeless young people. He questioned why the issue had not been referred back to the Children and Young People Team and asked that a full report back be submitted to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel in view of the desperate nature of the situation.

Referring to the issue of empty homes, Councillor Hendry commented that, although the process was very commendable, the need for social housing for rent was dire. He sought information on the extent of the problem i.e. the number of people involved, and suggested that the matter be referred to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

Councillor Mrs Clarke indicated that she was agreeable to the issue being considered by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – (1) That the reports of the Portfolio Holders be received.

(2) That the Housing Portfolio Holder provide a written response to Councillors Hendry and Bowditch with regard to their questions on the Dispersed Foyer for Young People; homeless young people; and empty homes.

C.11/11 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES AND CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

(a) Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Clarke moved and Councillor Mrs Bradley seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 25 November 2010 be received and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Clarke also presented her Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 25 November 2010, together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(b) Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Allison moved and Councillor Craig seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 3 November and 7 December 2010 be received and adopted.

Councillor Allison also presented his Chairman's Report. He drew attention to the last paragraph thereof concerning the Draft Asset Business Plan and clarified that, although discussions had taken place, no decision had yet been taken.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 3 November and 7 December 2010 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(c) Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Rutherford moved and Councillor Mrs Vasey seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 21 October and 2 December 2010 be received and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Rutherford also presented her Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 21 October and 2 December 2010 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

C.12/11 REGULATORY PANEL

Councillor Morton moved and Councillor Mrs Parsons seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 24 November 2010.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 24 November 2010 be received and adopted.

C.13/11 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Parsons moved and Councillor Morton seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 10 and 12 November 2010.

Councillor Betton referred to an application concerning the development of 23 dwellings to be made affordable by means of social rent and shared ownership on land at Seatoller Close, Morton, Carlisle (Minute DC.82/10 referred) and welcomed the decision taken by the Development Control Committee in that regard. He sought clarification that all of the dwellings would in fact be affordable.

Councillor Mrs Parsons undertook to ensure that he received a reply.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 10 and 12 November 2010 be received and adopted.

C.14/11 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Mallinson moved and Councillor Mrs Farmer seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 30 November 2010.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 30 November 2010 be received and adopted.

C.15/11 EMPLOYMENT PANEL

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Mitchelson seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Employment Panel held on 13 July and 9 November 2010.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Employment Panel held on 13 July and 9 November 2010 be received and adopted.

C.16/11**APPEALS PANELS**

Councillor Mrs Rutherford moved and Councillor Mrs Vasey seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of Appeal Panel No. 2 held on 22 November 2010.

Councillor Weedall moved and Councillor Bowman (S) seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of Appeal Panel No. 3 held on 6 December 2010.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Appeals Panels held on 22 November and 6 December 2010 be received and adopted.

C.17/11**NOTICE OF MOTION**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no motions had been submitted on notice by Members of the Council.

C.18/11**PROPOSALS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN RELATION TO THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

(i) EX.151/10 and EX.195/10 – Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

Councillors Boaden, Morton, Ms Patrick and Mrs Warwick retired from the meeting room during consideration of this item of business.

Pursuant to Minute EX.151/10 and EX.195/10, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive regarding the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy. A copy of Report RD.35/10 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved, in some detail, and Councillor Mitchelson seconded the recommendation that the City Council amend the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to restrict discretionary rate relief to 80% of rates payable (where 80% mandatory relief was not applicable).

Councillor Watson moved and Councillor Harid seconded that the Council reject the proposal, namely option 2.1(iii) in the Assistant Director (Resources)' report, and instruct the Executive to reconsider option (i) as a less draconian option and report back to the next full Council.

Councillor Watson, supported by one fourth of the Members present, requested under Procedure Rule 17.4 that a recorded vote be taken.

There then followed substantial debate with input from a number of Members of the City Council.

Councillor Mrs Bradley emphasised the need for independence and transparency in terms of the consideration of applications for rate relief. She further referred to Councillor Mitchelson's statement that the Executive was willing to work with Overview and Scrutiny on the development of criteria for granting / refusing discretionary rate relief. She sought clarification that would take place, bearing in mind that the undertaking was not recorded as part of the Executive's recommendation on the matter.

In response, Councillor Mallinson (J) said that he welcomed input from Overview and Scrutiny, and gave his word that such consultation would take place.

The following Members voted for the recommendation moved by Councillor Mallinson (J):

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Earp), Councillors Allison, Bainbridge, Bloxham, Bowman (S), Mrs Bowman, Mrs Clarke, Clarke (M), Collier, Craig, Ellis, Farmer (C), Mrs Farmer, Mrs Geddes, Layden, Lishman, Mrs Luckley, Mrs Mallinson, Mallinson (J), Mitchelson, Nedved, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Robson, Tootle and Mrs Vasey.

The following Members voted against the recommendation moved by Councillor Mallinson (J):

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Styth), Councillors Atkinson, Bell, Betton, Bowditch, Mrs Bradley, Cape, Glover, Graham, Harid, Hendry, McDevitt, Ms Quilter, Mrs Rutherford, Scarborough, Mrs Southward, Stothard, Watson, Weber, Weedall and Wilson.

RESOLVED – That the City Council agreed to amend the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to restrict discretionary rate relief to 80% of rates payable (where 80% mandatory relief was not applicable) as recommended by the Executive on 22 November 2010.

- (ii) EX.191/10 – North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Documents: Planning Guidelines and Building Design Guide

Pursuant to Minute EX.191/10, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Documents: Planning Guidelines and Building Design Guide be adopted and form part of the Council's Local Development Framework. A copy of Report ED.03/11 and relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Mrs Bowman moved and Councillor Collier seconded the above recommendation.

RESOLVED – That the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Documents: Planning Guidelines and Building Design Guide as attached to Report ED.03/11 be approved and adopted to form part of the Council's Local Development Framework.

(iii) EX.192/10 and EX.226/10 – Core Strategy Key Issues Paper

Pursuant to Minute EX.192/10 and EX.226/10, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the Core Strategy Key Issues Paper be approved for public consultation.

Councillor Mrs Bowman moved and Councillor Bloxham seconded the above recommendation.

RESOLVED – That the Core Strategy Key Issues Paper, as attached to Report ED.45/11 be approved for public consultation.

(iv) EX.194/10 and EX.227/10 – Carlisle Community Plan (Sustainable Community Strategy) 2011 – 2016

Pursuant to Minute EX.194/10 and EX.227/10, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the draft Carlisle Community Plan (Sustainable Community Strategy) 2011 – 2016 be endorsed and formally adopted onto the City Council's Policy Framework. A copy of Report PPP.42/10 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Mitchelson moved and Councillor Bloxham seconded the above recommendation.

RESOLVED – That the draft Carlisle Community Plan (Sustainable Community Strategy) 2011 – 2016, as attached to Report PPP.42/10, be endorsed and adopted onto the City Council's Policy Framework.

(v) EX.207/10 – Dates and Times of Meetings for 2011/12

Pursuant to Minute EX.207/10, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the City Council approve the schedule of dates and times of meetings in the 2011/12 municipal year as set out in the calendar attached as an Appendix to Report GD.07/11, and note the dates and times of meetings of the Executive as chosen by the Leader. A copy of Report GD.07/11 (attaching a revised calendar) and the Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Mitchelson moved, Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED – (1) That the schedule of dates and times of meetings in the 2011/12 municipal year, as set out in the calendar attached as an Appendix to Report GD.07/11, be approved.

(2) That the dates and times of meetings of the Executive as chosen by the Leader be noted.

(vi) EX.218/10 – Review of Polling Arrangements

Pursuant to Minute EX.218/10, consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director (Governance) regarding the Review of Polling Arrangements and the

recommendations contained therein. A copy of Report GD.65/10(a) and Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Mitchelson seconded that the recommendations in the report be agreed.

RESOLVED – That it be agreed:

- (1) that Officers continue to monitor the use of portable cabins as polling stations and continue to investigate potential alternatives. It be further recommended that Officers discuss with the supplier the use of self contained units and improved units with a wider door as detailed in paragraph 17 at a number of polling station locations where portable cabins were used it being noted that the costs of using these improved models as a means of accommodating disabled access would require additional funding to be voted to the Election Management Budget.
- (2) the polling arrangements in all other wards remain unchanged.
- (3) the Portable Cabin on the east side of Kingstown Road located in the car park of the Gosling Bridge continue to be the polling place for districts AE, BF and PBK.
- (4) the St Michael's Parish Centre continue to be the polling place for districts BB, BC and BE but officers monitor the possible future use of the Stanwix Community Building.
- (5) the West End Temperance Hall in Caldewgate continue to be designated as the polling place for district JB and officers discuss with the leaseholders the possibility of siting a polling station notice outside the premises prior to polling day.
- (6) that the portable cabin at Borrowdale Road continue to be used as the polling station for district KD.
- (7) the Returning Officer be given authority, after consultation with relevant Ward Councillors and the Portfolio Holder, to change polling place locations at the elections in 2011 if the usual premises prove to be unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances.

C.19/11 REFERENCE FROM REGULATORY PANEL – LICENSING OF SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

Pursuant to Minute C.162/10(ii) and RP.04/11, to consider a recommendation from the Regulatory Panel that the City Council sets the implementation date for adoption of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, as 1 March 2011. A copy of Report GD.06/11 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Morton moved and Councillor Mrs Parsons seconded the recommendation.

RESOLVED – That the City Council set the implementation date for adoption of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, as 1 March 2011.

C.20/11 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

Pursuant to Minute AUC.76/10 and EX.217/10, consideration was given to the City Council's Annual Audit Letter for 2009/10. A copy of the Annual Audit Letter and Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Mrs Mallinson moved the Annual Audit Letter for consideration by the City Council.

She further wished to place on record her thanks to all Finance and Audit staff for all their hard work which had contributed towards what was a very good and positive Audit Letter for the City Council.

The Mayor thanked the District Auditor and Audit Manager for their attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

C.21/11 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES CALL-IN AND URGENCY

Pursuant to Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15(i), consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director (Governance) (GD.72/10) on procedures in respect of occasions where decisions taken by the Executive are urgent.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

C.22/11 COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications or items of business brought forward by the Mayor as a matter of urgency to be dealt with at the meeting.

C.23/11 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Public and Press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph number (as indicated in

brackets against each minute) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

C.24/11 EX.212/10 and EX.230/10 – Draft Asset Business Plan

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of paragraph 3)

Pursuant to Minute EX.212/10 and EX.230/10, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the final draft of the Asset Business Plan be approved and adopted. A copy of Report CE.39/10 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Mrs Bowman moved and Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded the above recommendation.

Councillors Mrs Bowman and Mallinson (J) then responded to questions raised by Councillors Mrs Bradley and Bowditch regarding land at Leabourne Road and Boundary Road, and the manner by which the general policy would be conveyed to the public.

RESOLVED – That the Draft Asset Business Plan, as appended to Report CE.39/10, be approved and adopted.

C.25/11 EMP.08/11 – Interim Staffing Arrangements

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of paragraphs 2 and 3)

Pursuant to Minute EMP.08/11, consideration was given to recommendations from the Employment Panel regarding Interim Staffing Arrangements. A copy of Report SD.12/10 and relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Mitchelson seconded the recommendations that:

“1) The position as regards the vacation of the post of Assistant Director (Economic Development) by the current post holder be noted;

2) Within six months a Report on capacity at the Assistant Director level of the Council’s staffing structure be brought to Members of the Employment Panel with a recommendation as to whether the post of Assistant Director (Economic Development) should be permanently filled;

3) In accordance with the Council’s Officer Employment Procedure Rules, Jane Meek be appointed as Assistant Director (Economic Development) on an interim basis, subject to 4;

4) The above interim appointment be for one of the following periods as appropriate:

- a) Until such time as the Council, following consideration of the Report requested in 2, determine that such a post is not required; or
- b) Until such time as a permanent Assistant Director (Economic Development) has been recruited in accordance with the Council's Chief Officer recruitment procedure."

Councillor Boaden moved and Councillor Stothard seconded that the Council reject the recommendations as outlined above, and instruct the Employment Panel to reconsider the matter and report back to the next full Council.

Councillor Allison moved, Councillor Boaden seconded, and following voting it was agreed that the meeting briefly adjourn in order that Members could consider the matter.

The meeting adjourned at 8.47 pm and reconvened at 8.55 pm

Following voting, the motion for reference back was NOT AGREED.

Discussion arose with input from a number of Members.

Following voting, it was RESOLVED that:

1. The position as regards the vacation of the post of Assistant Director (Economic Development) by the current post holder be noted;
2. Within six months a report on capacity at the Assistant Director level of the Council's staffing structure be brought to Members of the Employment Panel with a recommendation as to whether the post of Assistant Director (Economic Development) should be permanently filled;
3. In accordance with the Council's Officer Employment Procedure Rules, Ms Jane Meek be appointed as Assistant Director (Economic Development) on an interim basis, subject to 4;
4. The above interim appointment be for one of the following periods as appropriate:
 - a) Until such time as the Council, following consideration of the Report requested in 2, determine that such a post is not required; or
 - b) Until such time as a permanent Assistant Director (Economic Development) has been recruited in accordance with the Council's Chief Officer recruitment procedure."

(The meeting ended at 9.12 pm)