

EXECUTIVE

MONDAY 27 JULY 2015 AT 4.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Glover (Leader / Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Martlew (Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Mrs Bradley (Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder).
Councillor Mrs Riddle (Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Dr Tickner (Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder)

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Resources
Director of Governance
Director of Economic Development

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Burns (Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel)
Councillor Nedved (Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel)
Councillor Allison (Observer)

WELCOME

The Leader welcomed all those present to the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Ms Quilter (Culture, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder) and the Director of Local Environment.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Bradley declared an interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Item A.6 – Tennis Facilities Development. Councillor Mrs Bradley stated that she served on the Development Control Committee; there was likely to be a planning application in relation to the site concerned; and she would retire from the meeting during consideration of that item of business.

[It was noted that Councillor Mrs Bradley had also retired from the Executive Briefing Meeting held on 13 July 2015 during discussions on the matter]

PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 7 April and 1 June 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meetings.

EX.73/15 DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2016/17 TO 2020/21 (Key Decision – KD.05/15)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Resources

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder presented report RD.21/15 concerning the draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2020/21. He reminded Members that the Medium Term Financial Plan set out the current framework for planning and managing the Council's financial resources, developing its annual budget strategy and updating its current five year financial plan. The Plan further sought to link the key aims and objectives of the Council, as contained in the Carlisle Plan, to the availability of resources thereby enabling the Council to prioritise the allocation of resources to best meet its overall aims and objectives.

The Medium Term Financial Plan was reviewed annually commencing with the assumptions made in the Budget resolution approved by Council on 3 February 2015. In addition, the Corporate Charging Policy had been reviewed and included within the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Charging Policy provided a framework for potential policy options for each charging area, but recognised the different approaches that might be required for different services and the various influences which needed to be acknowledged in setting individual charges.

The draft Medium Term Financial Plan would be available for consultation with the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel. It would then come back to the Executive on 24 August, prior to transmission to Council for approval on 8 September 2015.

In terms of the key messages, the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder explained that the MTFP showed the starting position for budget considerations for the next five years and gave an indication of the likely factors that would have an impact in the budget setting process.

Key to those considerations were likely pressures in the form of:

- Reductions in Revenue Support Grant
- Re-profiling of asset sales would have a significant impact on the revenue budget through the requirement to fund the capital programme with a borrowing requirement
- The above would have an impact on the Treasury Management budget
- Income shortfalls from the Lanes

As well as some significant pressures, there was scope for some additional savings and additional income opportunities to be considered as part of the budget process. Those considerations were likely to be around:

- Inflation savings
- New Homes Bonus allocations from 2016/17
- Business Rate Retention Growth and Pooling
- What to do with the Stock Issue loan in 2020

He added that further pressures and savings may become more apparent after the Emergency Budget on 8 July 2015 and in the Comprehensive Spending Review scheduled to be announced in autumn 2015.

In conclusion, the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendation as set out in the report, which was seconded by the Leader.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive had given consideration to the Report of the Director of Resources (RD.21/15) on the draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2020/21; and made it available for consideration by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 6 August 2015.

Reasons for Decision

To consult with the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2020/21

EX.74/15 DRAFT CAPITAL STRATEGY 2016/17 TO 2020/21
(Key Decision – KD.05/15)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Resources

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder presented report RD.22/15 on the Draft Capital Strategy 2016/17 to 2020/21. He informed Members that the Draft Capital Strategy was a key policy document, intended to direct the Council's Capital Programme and the allocation of resources for the five year period 2016/17 to 2020/21 and would complement and supplement guidance contained in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Capital Strategy was reviewed annually alongside the Medium Term Financial Plan, commencing with the assumptions made in the Budget Resolution approved by Council on 3 February 2015. The position had been updated to reflect any known changes since that date.

Turning to the key messages, the Portfolio Holder explained that the Capital Strategy showed the starting position for the budget considerations for the next five years and gave an indication of the likely factors that would have an impact in the budget setting process. The Capital Programme and the financing thereof were going to play an important role in shaping future budget considerations. He added that Officers were giving consideration to:

- Re-profiling of asset sales which would have a significant impact on the revenue budget through the requirement to fund the capital programme with a borrowing requirement
- Additional Capital investment decisions which would likely require revenue funding, either as a direct contribution from revenue reserves or through borrowing costs

Although it was currently forecast that a borrowing requirement would be needed to fund the Capital Programme, there were also some mitigating factors that would require consideration, namely:

- A revenue contribution for the purchase of refuse vehicles, which had not yet been included as a funding source in the Capital Programme
- Asset sales generating receipts over current estimate levels would reduce any borrowing requirement
- The ability to make a recurring revenue contribution to fund the Capital Programme would reduce any borrowing requirement
- A review of the current Programme may relieve some of the expenditure pressures.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder then moved the recommendation set out in the report, which was duly seconded by the Leader.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive had considered the Report of the Director of Resources (RD.22/15) regarding the draft Capital Strategy 2016/17 to 2020/21; and made it available for consideration by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 6 August 2015.

Reasons for Decision

To consult with the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the draft Capital Strategy for 2016/17 to 2020/21

EX.75/15 DRAFT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
(Key Decision – KD.16/15)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Resources

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder presented report GD.28/15 concerning the draft Asset Management Plan 2015 – 2020.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder outlined the background to the matter, commenting that the Asset Management Plan was reviewed annually and updated, along with the Medium Term Financial Plan and the Corporate Strategy. He added that the Executive was taking advice from Officers with a view to ensuring that the Council's asset portfolio delivered best consideration.

Members' attention was also drawn to the fact that the Asset Management Plan had been revised this year to reflect the key issues and changes affecting the management and use of the Council's property resources, and the impact of the Asset Review Business Plan approved by Council in January 2011. Details were set out at Section 2.1.

The Plan also reported on the current position and performance of the Portfolio and the Asset Disposal Programme.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder then moved, and the Leader seconded, the recommendation that Members note the position and approve the update to the Draft Asset Management Plan in order for it to proceed for consideration by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel, back to the Executive and then to full Council.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Noted the position as set out in Report GD.28/15.
2. Approved the update to the draft Asset Management Plan in order for it to proceed for consideration by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel, before coming back to the Executive and full Council in September 2015.

Reasons for Decision

To update the Council's Asset Management Plan and the position of the property portfolio in the light of the Asset Review Business Plan and Disposal Programme, and other corporate initiatives

EX.76/15 CARLISLE AND EDEN COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PLAN 2015/16
(Key Decision – KD.03/15)

Portfolio Communities, Health and Wellbeing

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community

Subject Matter

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder submitted report SD.15/15 presenting the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership's work programme for the coming year in the form of their partnership plan. She emphasised that, whilst presented as a developed document, it represented a 'live' work programme which would develop further throughout the year and could be influenced and shaped through the City Council's representation on the Community Safety Partnership's Leadership Group.

The Portfolio Holder reminded Members that the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed statutory obligations on local authorities and the Police to act in cooperation with other services and agencies to work together to develop and implement a partnership plan for tackling crime and disorder in the area. The legislation required local Community Safety Partnerships to produce a plan setting out how they intended to tackle crime and disorder and allowed the development of strategies to tackle short, medium and long-term priorities.

The Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership's Leadership Group took responsibility for developing the Community Safety Partnership annual plan based on evidence drawn from the annual countywide community safety strategic assessment. The Leadership Group included representation from Carlisle City Council via the Community Services Manager and herself. The proposed plan for 2015-16, approved at their meeting held in June 2015, was appended to the report.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had, on 23 July 2015, considered the matter and resolved:

- "1. That in future the Strategic Assessment be submitted to the Panel earlier in the year and prior to consideration of the Action Plan.
2. That the Deputy Chief Executive circulates a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Panel containing the recommendations of the Hate Crime Task and Finish Group to Members.
3. That the Contracts and Community Services Manager check the information in respect of demographics and advise Members accordingly.
4. That the Contracts and Community Services Manager report to the Partnership the disappointment of the Panel that there was no statutory funding available for supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
5. That the Communities and Family Development Officer circulate information in respect of the restorative justice system to Members of the Panel.
6. That the Contracts and Community Services Manager obtain information in respect of arrests/prosecutions in cases of burglaries.
7. That a representative from the Cumbria Intelligence Observatory be invited to a future meeting of the Panel prior to the next submission of the Community Safety Partnership Action Plan."

A copy of draft Minute Excerpt COSP.44/15 was submitted

At the invitation of the Leader, the Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel stated that the Minute Excerpt referred to provided an accurate reflection of what had been an interesting meeting.

It was unfortunate that the Portfolio Holder and relevant Officer were the only people in attendance to represent the Partnership on 23 July.

The Chairman added that, in considering the report, Members had raised a number of issues, including the effectiveness of the Partnership and the Council's role therein; and whether the Annual Plan should have been presented at the same time as the technical / background information (i.e. whether the Panel should have received the background information earlier in the process or by some other means). It was also felt that training (around how information / statistics were collated) may have been beneficial, particularly for new Members, to enable them to put matters into context.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder replied that, although background information was not usually provided, it had been circulated on that occasion as an aide for Members. She clarified that the Executive were seeking the observations of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel in relation to the Partnership's work programme for the coming year.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel acknowledged that it would have been very difficult for Members to scrutinise the work programme without having had sight of the background information, which was why it may have been useful to have received that information in advance of the Plan.

In conclusion the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations detailed within the report.

The Leader noted that the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had made various requests for information. He felt sure that Officers would take those requests into account.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Had considered Report SD.15/15 together with the comments of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel as set out in draft Minute Excerpt COSP.44/15.
2. Recommended the Plan to full Council for adoption.

Reasons for Decision

To enable the report to be considered and approved; and recommended to Council for adoption in order to affirm proposed actions around crime and anti-social behaviour and ensure that the City Council met its legislative responsibilities

EX.77/15 CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY (Cost Recovery and Hardship Policy)
(Key Decision – KD.13/15)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Environment and Economy

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.46/15, the Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder submitted report LE.21/15 presenting the revised 2015 Contaminated Land Strategy.

The Deputy Leader summarised the background position, commenting that the Strategy set out a plan for how Carlisle City Council would approach land contamination, including the adoption of a Cost Recovery and Hardship Policy. The Strategy ensured a rational, ordered, timely, efficient and consistent approach to dealing with potentially contaminated sites. It was also a point of reference for developers and land owners.

The draft Strategy proposed the following priorities for Carlisle City Council:

1. To update, and adopt (after consultation) the revised Contaminated Land Strategy, and the Cost Recovery and Hardship Policy which detailed how Carlisle City Council, would deal with landowners who did not have sufficient funds.
2. To ensure that investigations were concentrated on areas of land where there was the greatest risk of a contaminant linkage (contaminant, pathway, receptor) being present.
3. To determine whether any land identified as potentially contaminated land fell within the definition of a 'special site' and, if so, refer it to the Environment Agency (EA) as the enforcing authority for 'special sites'. A special site was one where the contamination was significantly affecting a water body.
4. To ensure that all new development was appropriate for its location and potential land contamination issues were considered in strategic planning and development control decisions.
5. To encourage, where practicable, redevelopment of brown field sites within Carlisle City Council's area.
6. To ensure that procedures were in place for the open provision of information to the public, developers and any other interested parties.
7. To prevent, as far as was reasonably practicable, any further contamination of land within the city, including land owned or leased by Carlisle City Council.
8. To encourage voluntary remediation of contaminated land, either through Part 2A or the planning system.

The Deputy Leader added that, prior to Overview and Scrutiny, the Hardship Policy was reviewed and amended by Legal Services, and the Overview and Scrutiny Panel had accepted those amendments.

In addition, the Strategy and Hardship Policy had been circulated to appropriate Officers in Planning, Local Environment and Legal Services, with any comments received having been included within the report and amendments made to the Strategy as appropriate.

The Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel had reviewed the Strategy and the Hardship Policy on 25 June 2015 and had resolved:

“1) That report LE.14/15, Contaminated Land Strategy (Cost Recovery and Hardship Policy) be noted;

2) That the amendments made to the appeal process be welcomed and noted.”

A copy of Minute Excerpt EEOSP.34/15 had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel was in attendance at the meeting. He stated that the Policy was extremely well written and there had been no contradiction to it

Referring to Section 18.5 (page 273 of the Agenda Document Pack), the Chairman indicated that the Panel had considered and was very reassured by the amendments made to the appeal process.

Overview and Scrutiny Members had raised questions, including how to prevent contamination in new developments, to which the Principal Environmental Health Officer had responded. The Panel also sought assurance that the document would receive the appropriate positive press coverage, and had been advised that an article would be included in the internal newsletter ‘In the Loop’ and externally in the ‘Carlisle Focus’.

The Chairman added that, overall, the Contaminated Land Strategy was a good report.

The Deputy Leader stated that she found the report to be very interesting and comprehensive. Accordingly she had no hesitation in moving the recommendations set out therein.

The Leader seconded the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Agreed the priorities of the Contaminated Land Strategy 2015 and the Cost Recovery and Hardship Policy (Appendix 1) as amended (amendments attached).
2. Adopted the Hardship Policy and created a Panel as outlined in the Hardship Policy.

3. Agreed the changes to the Strategy, namely the portfolio value changed from £270 million to £119 million.

Reasons for Decision

To present the revised 2015 Contaminated Land Strategy for consideration

EX.78/15 TENNIS FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS (Key Decision – KD.23/15)

Portfolio Culture, Leisure and Young People

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community

Subject Matter

Councillor Mrs Bradley, having declared an interest, retired from the meeting during consideration of this item of business

In the absence of the Culture, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder, the Leader reported (SD.12/15) that the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) currently funded Carlisle City Council to deliver a tennis development plan and disability tennis plan. The aim was to develop tennis across Carlisle and engage young people and adults in activity.

The development of the sport at Bitts Park was, however, restricted due to the lack of a permanent indoor tennis facility. The air-dome had notable problems and had been blown down or taken down twice in the last 6 months, which had resulted in disruption to the programme and the ability to deliver the tennis plans.

The LTA had long recognised the good work going on at Bitts Park by Carlisle City Council and GLL, and also understood how the lack of a permanent indoor structure was a barrier to participation in tennis at Bitts Park. As such, in the spring of 2015, the LTA approached Carlisle City Council with a view to piloting new canopy covered facilities at Bitts Park (based on facilities common in other European countries but as yet rare in the UK). The pilot nature of that scheme saw the LTA offering an unusually high proportionate contribution in capital terms to any scheme.

The Leader said that the Executive was delighted that the LTA had offered to contribute £400k towards a scheme costed by their approved contractors at £495k (in the Bitts Park Location). He added that for £97,000 the City would gain a superb facility which was indeed good news.

In terms of the proposal before Members, the Leader advised that the LTA had been in discussions with Carlisle City Council for a number of weeks regarding implementation of a canopy tennis facility to cover the lower three tennis courts at Bitts Park (adjacent to the current site of the Ice Rink). That would be a pilot project based on a model common to France, and would be one of only three such facilities in the UK.

The indoor facility would be used by adults and children and would be accessible at an affordable price to all of the community. The LTA wished to implement the facility in a park

rather than at a tennis club to ensure that tennis was open to all. The tennis plan that the City Council delivered and the disability plan would ensure a thriving hub of activity.

The proposed designs and proposed cost schedules for differing options were attached at Appendices 1 and 2. The LTA wished to pursue option 3 of the various costing schedules (as that was the only option which did not reduce the number of available courts).

The Leader further drew attention to the financial implications of the proposal, as detailed at Section 2.2 of the report.

In conclusion, the Leader thanked Officers for the work undertaken in bringing the proposal to that point. He then moved the recommendations, which were seconded by the Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Approved the completion of a solicited funding application to the Lawn Tennis Association and the acceptance of £400,000 in grant funding.
2. Recommended to Council to approve the additional use of £97,000 from General Fund Reserves as a supplementary estimate that would increase the Revenue Budget for 2015/16 to provide the Council's contribution to the scheme.
3. Approved the increase in the Capital Programme totalling £497,000, subject to Council approval of the additional use of General Fund Reserve.
4. Delegated authority to progress the scheme (and accept final terms and conditions of grant) to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Young People following consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive.

Reasons for Decision

To seek approval for an increase to the Capital Programme and the application for / acceptance of LTA funding in order to enhance tennis facilities in the City and improve tennis development outcomes

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder returned to the meeting.

EX.79/15 CLOSED CIRCUIT CYCLE TRACK DEVELOPMENT
(Key Decision – KD.24/15)

Portfolio Culture, Leisure and Young People

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community

Subject Matter

In the absence of the Culture, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder, the Leader submitted report SD.13/15 concerning the proposed development of a closed circuit cycle track.

By way of background, the Leader informed Members that the aims and objectives of Carlisle City Council's current Sports Facilities Strategy were based on a needs assessment drawn from local and national evidence, the known and projected numbers of people taking part in various sports and physical activity, and on the aspirations of various National Governing Bodies of sport (NGB'S). The assessment had identified a need for a 1km closed circuit cycle track in the city. There were no closed circuit facilities in Cumbria and clubs locally and countywide had long campaigned for the development of such facilities. The development of a closed circuit track was, therefore, adopted and featured as one of the priority development projects in Carlisle City Council's Sports Facilities Strategy.

British Cycling had been working with Carlisle City Council for a number of years to try and develop a closed circuit facility. The critical challenge in recent years (and certainly since the adoption of the Sports Facilities Strategy) had always been the availability of capital match funding to support any British Cycling Grant.

The Leader explained that the development of the Sports Facilities at the Harraby Campus and a change in British Cycling's funding approach currently offered a unique opportunity. British Cycling were willing to acknowledge and accept Carlisle City Council's existing £1.6M investment in the site (particularly the development of the wider sports facilities) as suitable provision of 'match funding' to the degree where British Cycling would fully fund the development of the cycle track itself.

Details of the action taken in terms of developing the outline proposal; the competitive tendering exercise; development of a track design that met with British Cycling requirements; the planning process; significant consultation undertaken; and the formal tendering exercise were set out at Sections 1.6 – 1.11 of the report.

There was a relatively high degree of urgency to the report and to the development proposal as a whole, since one of the conditions of grant for British Cycling was that any scheme must be complete before the end of the 2015/16 financial year. In reality that meant commencing in the late summer or very early autumn of 2015.

The Leader then outlined the proposal before Members, including details of the track; development and build; management and operations; funding implications; and ongoing maintenance and repair costs. He added that the proposal was another example of the City Council working in partnership to develop facilities identified as important to the people of Carlisle.

In conclusion the Leader moved the recommendations which were seconded by the Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Approved the completion of a solicited application for British Cycling Funding and the acceptance of up to £650,000 in funding (the final value of the application and grant would be determined via a competitive tendering exercise).
2. Approved the increase in the Capital Programme to reflect the award of any British Cycling grant.
3. Delegated authority to progress the scheme (and accept final terms and conditions of grant) to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Young People, the Leader and the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder, following consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive.

Reasons for Decision

In order to help Carlisle City Council deliver one of the priority projects within its Sports Facilities Strategy; leverage in full funding from British Cycling; and expedite the process (to comply with British Cycling's timetable) while still ensuring due diligence on the sustainability and financial risks of accepting a British Cycling grant

EX.80/15 NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS (Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community; Environment and
Economy; and Resources

Subject Matter

The Notice of Executive Key Decisions dated 26 June 2015 was submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Notice of Executive Key Decisions dated 26 June 2015 be noted.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.81/15 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS (Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Resources

Subject Matter

Details of a decision taken by the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder under delegated powers were submitted.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the decision, attached as Appendix A, be noted.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.82/15 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY OFFICERS (Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community; Environment and Economy;
and Resources

Subject Matter

Details of decisions taken by Officers under delegated powers were submitted.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the decisions, attached as Appendix B, be noted.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.83/15 REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Environment and Economy

Subject Matter

Consideration was given to a reference from the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 25 June 2015 at which time the Chairman had requested an update on progress with the Memorandum of Understanding between Cumbria County

Council and the City Council, following the transfer of claimed rights back to Cumbria County Council.

The Panel had resolved:

“3) That the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council make whatever efforts necessary to secure the Memorandum of Understanding between Cumbria County Council and the City Council.”

A copy of Minute Excerpt EEOSP.31/15 had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel was in attendance at the meeting. He summarised the background to the matter, which had been raised by Members on a regular basis since 2013, culminating in a request for an update at the last Panel meeting. Subsequently there had been further dilution as a result of which no formal agreement was in place. Members felt that there had been a clear breach of trust.

The Chairman posed the following questions covering the key issues for resolution:

- What further steps could the Council as a local authority take to extract, at the very least, a Memorandum of Understanding?
- Why would Cumbria County Council not commit to it?
- What safeguards did the City Council as a local authority have?

In conclusion, the Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel stated that Members deserved a definitive answer.

The Deputy Leader; and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder indicated her agreement with those sentiments, commenting that she had had protracted discussions with the County Council on the matter. However, changes had been made unilaterally without any reference to the City.

The Deputy Leader had, on 9 July 2015, taken the matter up with the Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council. A letter had been received in response, the content of which was read out to Members at the Panel meeting on 25 June 2015. She added that the new Corporate Director (County Council) would assess the situation. In the meantime she would refer back to the original agreement and take matters from there.

In response to a request from the Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the Deputy Leader confirmed that Members could have sight of the letter referred to above.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive had given consideration to the reference from the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel (EEOSP.31/15); and responded in the above mentioned terms.

Reasons for Decision

To respond to a reference from Overview and Scrutiny

EX.84/15 JOINT MANAGEMENT TEAM
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Various

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community; Environment and
Economy; and Resources

Subject Matter

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 1 July 2015 were submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 1 July 2015, attached as Appendix C, be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.85/15 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014/15
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community; Environment and Economy;
and Resources

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report PC.10/15 updating the Executive on the Council's service standards which helped measure performance. Also included were updates on key actions contained within the Carlisle Plan.

The Portfolio Holder summarised the background position. He further drew Members' attention to the table at Section 1 which detailed each service standard. The table illustrated the cumulative year to date figure; a month-by-month breakdown of performance and, where possible, an actual service standard baseline that had been established either locally or nationally. The updates against the actions in the Carlisle Plan followed on from the service standard information provided at Section 2.

In conclusion the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendation which was seconded by the Leader.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive had considered the performance of the City Council, as presented in Report PC.10/15, with a view to seeking continuous improvement in how the Council delivered its priorities.

Reasons for Decision

The Executive was asked to note and comment on the 2014/15 Performance Report

EX.86/15 SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRE
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Leader

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Resources

Subject Matter

The Leader reported (CE.09/15) that the Executive had, as part of their 2015/16 budget deliberations, supported a Cumbria Police Commissioner initiative to set up a Sexual Assault Referral Centre. The objective was to provide a base from which support services for victims of sexual assault would be co-ordinated, and to offer a first point of contact for victims to obtain advice about help available. He reminded Members that they had earmarked £20,000 per annum for three years to support the initiative, but had requested that further information be provided prior to release of the budget.

Attached at Appendix 1 was an update provided by Cumbria Police covering:

- Location (Penrith Hospital site) and role of the Centre
- Start date for building works, June 2015
- Opening times and 24 hour provision for medical examinations
- Annual running costs (subject to ongoing procurement exercise so hidden on attachment)
- How the Centre would be funded by a three-year pooled and aligned budget. Also match funding commitment from NHS England
- Partners which included the County Council, Carlisle, Allerdale and Eden
- How Carlisle's funding of £20,000 per annum would be used

In conclusion, the Leader moved the recommendations which were seconded by the Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected Not to release the budget

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Noted the update provided by Cumbria Police on the setting up and operation of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre.
2. Released the 2015/16 budget provision of £20,000 per annum for three years to support the initiative.

Reasons for Decision

To seek the release of the 2015/16 budget provision to support the setting up and operation of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre

[The meeting ended at 4.38 pm)