

CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 6.45 PM

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Bowman), Councillors Alcroft, Allison, Mrs Atkinson, Bainbridge (from 8.04 pm), Betton, Birks, Bomford, Mrs Bradley, Brown, Collier, Dr Davison, Denholm, Ellis, Ms Ellis-Williams, Mrs Finlayson, Mrs Glendinning, Glover, Higgs, Mrs McKerrell, McNulty, Mrs Mallinson, Mallinson (J), Meller, Mitchelson, Morton, Nedved, Paton, Patrick, Robinson, Robson, Rodgerson, Shepherd, Miss Sherriff, Southward, Tarbitt, Dr Tickner and Tinnion

ALSO

PRESENT: Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services

C.138/19 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Christian.

C.139/19 MINUTES

The Mayor moved the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 10 September 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 10 September 2019 be received and signed as a true record of the meeting.

C.140/19 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

C.141/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Tinnion declared an interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Item 16 – Notice of Motion – Housing Provision. Councillor Tinnion further indicated that he would not take part nor vote on the matter due to the fact that he is Chairman of the Development Control Committee.

The following Members declared an interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Item 16(d) – Notice of Motion – Parking Concerns in Durranhill and Surrounding Areas for the reasons stated:

- Councillor Nedved – lived on one of the streets affected. He would therefore take no part in that item of business.
- Councillor Brown – lived on one of the streets affected.

C.142/19 ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) The Mayor

(a) It was with great sadness that the Mayor announced the passing of Miss Elsie Coleman, former Mayor of the City in 1991/92.

The Mayor informed the meeting that Miss Coleman had been a valued supporter of all Civic Events and Processions, and she had the great pleasure of meeting Miss Coleman at Caldew School in July of this year.

The Mayor concluded by inviting Members of the City Council to pay tribute.

Councillor Glover rose in tribute, commenting that certain Members would have their own memories of Miss Coleman who had continued to be very active long after she ceased to be a Councillor.

Miss Coleman had been elected to the Yewdale Ward, was Chairman of the Community Centre and instrumental in establishing a new Community Centre there. Her commitment was evidenced by regular attendance at civic events; together with her interest and willingness to provide a word of advice to new Councillors.

Councillor Glover's abiding memory over recent years was Miss Coleman's attendance as a teller at polling stations, and he wished to place on record gratitude for the work she had undertaken on behalf of local residents and the City.

Councillor Mallinson (J) had met Miss Coleman at his first meeting of the City Council and his memories post-dated her time as Mayor and Councillor. She had been a superb attender at civic events, was very proud of the City and contributed right to the end. All were a little impoverished by her loss.

Although not having known Miss Coleman, Councillor Bomford echoed the sentiments expressed. Miss Coleman had been an excellent Mayor of the City and a good example to all. He wished to send good wishes to Miss Coleman's family.

Members stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Miss Coleman.

(b) The Mayor further announced that various Members had requested that she express thanks to the officer team for their hard work and organisation of the spectacular Fire Show. The Mayor asked that appreciation be conveyed to the staff involved in the event.

(c) The Mayor informed the meeting that tonight was Councillor Collier's 88th birthday and conveyed best wishes to the Councillor.

(ii) The Leader of the Council

The Leader made the following announcements:

(a) On 28 January 2020 the City Council would welcome the LGA for a corporate peer challenge, it having been in excess of three years since the last challenge. He looked forward to it since the findings would be of importance to the authority in terms of future planning.

(b) As all Members would recall, the Council had on 10 September 2019 debated a Motion concerning the Carlisle Waverley Viaduct (Minute C.132/19(1); the Executive subsequently having taken a decision at their meeting held on 16 September 2019 that the Council agree to fund the costs of the Public Path Creation Order ("PPCO"), resultant Inquiries and compensation to a maximum cost as specified in paragraph 2.4 of Report GD.53/19 (Minute EX.85/19 referred).

As discussed at Council, once a PPCO was made, the County Council was required to undertake a survey of the proposed route and work required to make the route suitable for use as a public footpath. As the maker of the Order the City Council would be liable for the proposed works. The County Council had helpfully agreed to undertake the survey ahead of any PPCO being made.

It was considered important in terms of protecting the City Council's position that the potential liabilities be identified.

Figures had been obtained last week, in the sum of £460,000 excluding VAT and taking into account planning conditions not discharged. That figure could, however, rise to as much as £759,000 excluding VAT. Those figures would now be shared with the Waverley Viaduct Trust and the Council would be kept informed of developments.

(c) Following a recent inspection of the Central Plaza the building was found to be at risk and total demolition was required. Final enabling works were underway, with penetrating ground radar also having been carried out of West Walls including a three-point Cloud survey of West Walls and the Medieval Vaults.

The contract for demolition had been awarded (£1.35m); work was scheduled to commence on site on 11 November 2019 and would be completed as quickly and safely as possible. Local contractors and engineers would undertake that work on the City Council's behalf.

The Council had a duty to ensure public safety, to which end 24 hour security would be on site. The authority continued to do all that it could to support businesses and had put a help line in place. In the interests of public safety the road closures and diversions would remain in place until it was safe to remove them.

(iii) Members of the Executive

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder announced that:

(a) We are entering two seasons - the season of good will and general election season. Having spoken with Members a Secret Santa had been organised whereby those Members who wished to take part would purchase a gift for a fellow Member to the value of £5. The gifts would be distributed at the informal Council Briefing in December 2019.

(b) The Executive was in the process of establishing a Resilience Fund for businesses not able to trade as a result of the road closures surrounding the former Central Plaza Hotel. He had written to the Leader of Cumbria County Council requesting that the authority also participate in the fund.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder reported upon a Domestic Homicide Review ("DHR") into the death of Karen which had been embargoed until today.

The Portfolio Holder explained that the purpose of undertaking a DHR was to enable lessons to be learned from homicides where a person was killed because of domestic violence and abuse. She further summarised the content of the DHR, adding that the Homeless Prevention and Accommodation Services Manager had prepared and submitted an Independent Management Report on behalf of the City Council and was a review panel member; the service had assisted and supported the family in 2015; and was highlighted in the report as good practice for “providing a high standard of care and were proactive in identifying early on that the children were subject to neglect. Appropriate services were also put in place to ensure income maximisation.” A number of recommendations also emanated from the report.

The City Council was the only provider of specialist domestic abuse supported accommodation services in the area that were safe and secure and could be accessed 24 hours a day. The City Council places safeguarding at the heart of all services to all clients regardless of any duty owed; and the Portfolio Holder commented upon its commitment strategically and operationally to supporting households at risk of homelessness / rough sleeping as a result of domestic, sexual abuse or exploitation both in terms of preventative and crisis support assistance.

The Portfolio Holder concluded by placing on record the Council’s grateful thanks to its staff.

(iv) Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Speaking on behalf of Officers of the Council, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive was deeply saddened to report the tragic death of Phil Longcake who worked in Bereavement Services and was a member of the team at the Crematorium.

The Chief Executive had the privilege of spending a day with staff and recalled that Phil had exercised his duties with tremendous professionalism which was appreciated by colleagues and the public.

He had visited the team who were heartbroken but would honour Phil’s memory by continuing to provide an excellent service.

The Chief Executive concluded by expressing the hope that Phil had now found peace adding that his family should know that he will be sadly missed.

The Mayor stated that the thoughts of the Council were with Phil’s family at this sad time.

C.143/19 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.1, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of the undernoted question submitted on notice by a member of the public:

Victorian Health Suite / Pools

Speaking at the invitation of the Mayor, a member of the public asked the following question:

The new pools at the Sands were well advanced, but the Health Suite was never mentioned in the media, therefore his question was:

“So, What is going to happen to the Victorian Health Suite?”

In response, the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder outlined the current position of the Victorian Health Suite (“VHS”) in the following terms:

- Operation of the VHS was the responsibility of GLL under the current contract. GLL would be free from those obligations after the Pools site closed in late summer 2021.
- Usage of the VHS had varied widely over the past three years, ranging from 26 in certain months to 609 in others.

One of the difficulties was that the VHS was serviced by plant within the Pools building and could not currently function independently of that plant system – that was a key issue related to any future option.

The gentleman would be aware that the VHS was a Grade II listed building; and the Council recognised its duty in maintaining such a property.

There were currently no plans to close the VHS, however a new operator would need to be in place once the new facilities opened at the Sands. That position was established with the previous Council Executive.

The Business Plan work associated with the Station Gateway (Borderlands) project was progressing towards an outline options stage. There had been a recent public consultation on the project. The VHS was a part of those considerations and clearly any development on the site would need to pay full regard to the constraints associated with the buildings listed status.

Options for the redevelopment of the Station would be produced in January 2020 with the completion of the outline Business Case by March 2020.

The Portfolio Holder added that the City Council would do all that it could to find a viable and suitable future for the VHS.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.8, the Mayor invited the gentleman to pose a supplementary question should he so wish.

The gentleman considered that the Portfolio Holder had provided a good outline and possibility of a way forward for the VHS. He added that the figures quoted in the Portfolio Holder’s response spoke volumes in terms of the poor advertisement of the facility.

C.144/19 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.11, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported that no petitions or deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

C.145/19 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

(a) Carlisle’s Victorian Health Suite

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of a question submitted on notice by Councillor Ms Ellis-Williams.

Speaking at the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Ms Ellis-Williams asked the following question:

“Carlisle’s Victorian Health Suite on James Street have been open since 1909 and are ‘a *handsome ensemble of architectural quality*’ (English Heritage). In 2010 when discussions were taking place about the possible relocation of the Pools, a campaign to have the baths listed was successful. Awarding Grade II listing English Heritage described it as a ‘*very intact and complete example*’ of a Turkish Bath Suite.

Nine years on the pools are moving to The Sands, the Citadel and Station are being redeveloped but the Victorian Health Suite has been omitted from any plans and consultation.

“What guarantees will the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Leisure give that the Victorian Health Suite will not just be mothballed, and plans will be put in place by the Executive to preserve and maintain this iconic and unique piece of Carlisle’s history?”

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder replied that he could do no more than repeat his response to the question on the matter set out above; emphasising that every effort would be made to identify a viable and sustainable future for the VHS.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.6, Councillor Ms Ellis-Williams asked the Portfolio Holder to guarantee that the VHS would be brought into the plan for re-development and to stop being so vague in his response.

The Portfolio Holder reiterated that he could say no more since no-one could guarantee the future.

(b) Central Plaza

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of a question submitted on notice by Councillor Betton:

Speaking at the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Betton asked the following question:

“It’s so saddening that over the last decades of the John Laing’s grade two Central Plaza’s life that no positive future security status has been achieved both in commercial and sustainable structural viability.

It could have had potential to be a magnificent hotel again or apartment flats.

The weather elements have affected this land mark building to the point where it has now to be demolished as reported in the media.

Due to these circumstances it is asked that this Council agree the following:

As there is a debt on this property of 1.1million will this Council look into if it is financially viable and feasible to take ownership of the Central Plaza to secure it as a long-term asset to recuperate the financial losses incurred so far.”

The Deputy Leader thanked the Councillor for his question, commenting that the City Council was working to minimise its losses and the costs incurred in carrying out its responsibilities under Section 78 of the Building Act 1984. The most pressing priority was to demolish the

building. On the issue of ownership, and regardless of whether it was sold to the Council or another party, there were charges against the property.

The Deputy Leader emphasised that the Council was part of the solution and was exploring all options, including the potential to recover losses in the future in an area poised for economic development in the coming years.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.6, Councillor Betton questioned how it had come to this; and whether the demolition works would continue over the Christmas period.

The Deputy Leader had no wish to revisit the long history of the Central Plaza. Suffice to say that the situation had posed difficulties for both the previous and current administrations. The demolition of the property was the most important factor just now, which work would be undertaken as quickly and safely as possible.

(c) Central Plaza – Inconvenience / Interruption Incurred to Businesses

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of a question submitted on notice by Councillor Betton:

Speaking at the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Betton asked the following question:

“Businesses in the immediate area of the Central Plaza are reported as suffering regarding footfall custom due to the two road closures in place.

There is loss of disabled car parking directly outside the Central Plaza and the City is cut into two from the main railway viaduct bridge crossing point.

Many members of the Public and motorists have to make a long detour to connect into the City Centre or simply choose to shop elsewhere.

Will this Council update us and be clear on what they have done to support the businesses affected so far for both short and long-term solutions?”

In response, the Deputy Leader reported that the Council continued to support businesses via a variety of mechanisms, including the establishment of a Hotline to enable affected businesses to have direct access to the support team; help to find alternative business premises, both in council owned properties and other areas of the city where spare capacity existed; and access to resources e.g. computer equipment.

The situation was clearly very difficult, and the Council was trying to help as far as was possible. The Hardship Fund announced earlier in the meeting would assist those businesses directly affected by the road closures surrounding the former Central Plaza Hotel. Some improvement would be seen following completion of the demolition process.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.6, Councillor Betton sought an assurance that the loss of disabled parking would be looked into and that discussions would take place with the highway authority regarding the problems caused as a result of the road closures currently in place.

The Deputy Leader replied that much of the work being undertaken was in conjunction with partners at the County Council; highways and disabled parking were County Council functions. He suggested that Councillor Betton (in his capacity as a County Councillor) could raise those issues with that authority.

C.146/19 EXECUTIVE

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Ellis seconded that the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 16 September and 14 October 2019 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 16 September and 14 October 2019 be received and adopted.

C.147/19 PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS

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

Culture, Heritage and Leisure
Communities, Health and Wellbeing
Environment and Transport
Economy, Enterprise and Housing
Finance, Governance and Resources
Leader

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder moved his report. In so doing, the Portfolio Holder addressed a misprint in the list of future events, namely that the late-night shopping would commence on 22 November rather than 7 November 2019 as written.

The Portfolio Holder noted that the Fire Show had benefitted from a fine, dry evening and added his congratulations to the team on a job well done. The Sky Watch event at Talkin Tarn had sold out in a few days and constituted another very successful event.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder moved her report and highlighted the Armed Forces Champion event scheduled to take place on 11 November 2019, expressing thanks to the Racecourse for hosting it. She paid tribute to the hard work undertaken by the Homelife Team, adding that a Community Neighbour Co-ordinator had been appointed to support vulnerable people in Carlisle.

The Portfolio Holder was very pleased to report that a 'Be Kind to Cumbria' day would take place on 13 November 2019 to assist vulnerable and housebound people in Carlisle and district. Members' attention was further drawn to the fact that the £250,000 funding transferred to Cumbria County Council in October 2018 for them to appoint an Occupational Therapist support post to work on Carlisle grant cases, had been returned to the City Council which was now in the process of looking to appoint to that post.

She added that the Council's play areas were going from strength to strength and would help with the health and wellbeing of all age groups in this City.

In the absence of the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder, the Leader moved his report.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder moved his report.

Referencing the Towns Fund the Portfolio Holder advised that, in the last 24 hours, he had learnt that the City Council would receive £173,000 to facilitate the development of a business case and prospectus. He would report to Council as further detail became available.

Consideration was also being given to setting up a workshop with stakeholders in December 2019 or early January 2020 to determine how best to progress the Future High Street Fund.

The Homeless Prevention and Accommodation Service had again hosted 320 students over the school summer break as part of the National Citizenship Service; the students (aged 16/17 years old) completed fund raising and carried out voluntary work within the Women and Family Schemes Garden and painted the laundry room. That constituted a fantastic achievement. The rough sleeper co-ordinators would commence from November 2019 on a one-year contract i.e. to November 2020.

In response to questions the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder indicated that he had nothing but praise for the hard work and efforts of the officer team in securing funding to develop and improve the City.

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder; and the Leader moved their reports.

Members questioned individual Portfolio Holders on details of their reports and it was:

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

(2) That the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder arrange to provide Councillor Ms Ellis-Williams with a written response regarding the North Lakes China Forum of which Carlisle was now a member - the response to elaborate upon which visitor attractions and local authorities were involved in the partnership; together with details of the eleven Chinese Tour Operators in attendance at the event on 13 October 2019.

(3) That the Leader (on behalf of the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder) arrange to:

- (a) respond in writing to Councillor Patrick's questions regarding the scheme offered by TerraCycle UK in partnership with Walkers – the response to include details of how many packets of crisps there are in a kilo; the financial reward for every kilo of crisp packets recycled; the Community Centres and other public sites across Carlisle district which were involved.
- (b) seek clarification from the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder on progress made in liaising with Carlisle Airport as regards setting up a scheme whereby every passenger using the airport was encouraged to partake in and had easy access to a local tree planting scheme designed to off-set the carbon emissions generated by their flight and appraise Councillor Robinson accordingly (Minute C.123/19(a) referred).
- (c) provide Councillor Southward with a copy of the customer questionnaire regarding the Free After Three parking trial.

Councillor Bainbridge joined the meeting during the above item of business

C.148/19 SCRUTINY MINUTES AND SCRUTINY CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

(a) Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Paton moved and Councillor Mrs Finlayson seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel held on 29 August and 10 October 2019 be received and adopted.

Councillor Paton also presented his Chairman's Reports.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel held on 29 August and 10 October 2019 together with the Chairman's Reports be received and adopted.

(b) Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Bainbridge moved and Councillor Mrs Mallinson seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel held on 22 August and 3 October 2019 be received and adopted.

Councillor Bainbridge also presented his Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel held on 22 August and 3 October 2019 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(c) Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Brown moved and Councillor Rodgers seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel held on 5 September 2019 be received and adopted.

Councillor Brown also presented her Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel held on 5 September 2019 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

C.149/19 REGULATORY PANEL

Councillor Ms Ellis-Williams moved and Councillor Tinnion seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 11 September 2019 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 11 September 2019 be received and adopted.

C.150/19 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Councillor Tinnion moved and Councillor Birks seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 28 and 30 August 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 28 and 30 August 2019 be received and adopted.

C.151/19 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Councillor Bomford moved and Councillor Mrs Bowman seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 26 September 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 26 September 2019 be received and adopted.

C.152/19 APPEALS PANEL

Councillor Robinson moved and Councillor Dr Davison seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of Appeals Panel 3 held on 8 July 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of Appeals Panel 3 held on 8 July 2019 be received and adopted.

C.153/19 NOTICE OF MOTION

(1) Housing Provision

Councillor Tinnion, having declared an interest, retired from the meeting and took no part in this item of business.

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 16, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of the following motion submitted on notice by Councillor Brown and signed by twelve Members of the City Council:

“July this year marked the 100th anniversary of the Addison Act, the act which marks the creation of council housing.

The 1919 Act – often known as the ‘Addison Act’ after its author, Dr Christopher Addison, the Minister of Health – was a highly significant step forward in housing provision. It made housing a national responsibility, and local authorities were given the task of developing new housing and rented accommodation where it was needed by working people.

As increasingly recognised across the main political parties and commentators, one major reason for the ‘housing crisis’ is that local authorities ceased their role of direct housing providers. Since then, the shortfall in housing provision has mirrored the scale of the former local authority contribution to the market. During the height of council building, in the 1950s, councils built on average around 147,000 homes a year. In the past 10 years councils have averaged building around 1,400 homes a year. Right to Buy is widely recognised as a contributing factor to the shortage of social homes for rent.

The Council’s 2018-30 SHMA clearly demonstrates a need to provide affordable homes to rent. This Council should lead the way and build these homes, that are high quality and environmentally aware, for anyone who needs a safe and secure long-term home. We should join and congratulate our friends in local authorities across the country such as Norwich who are now building award winning Council homes for rent.

Present housing systems respond poorly to life events such as relationship breakdown, job insecurity, and the on-set of poor health and caring responsibilities. Low rents, such as council house rents, make an important contribution to reducing the degree of ‘housing cost induced poverty’ and material deprivation amongst tenants.

This Council therefore resolves:

To ask its MPs John Stevenson and Rory Stewart to lobby the Government on our behalf to

- Define a new 'affordable housing' as linked to local income and scrap the so-called 'affordable rent' homes priced at up to 80% of market rates.
- Stop the sell-off of 50,000 social rented homes a year by suspending the right to buy and review it.
- Transform the planning system with a new duty to deliver affordable homes, and an end to the 'viability' loophole that lets some developers put off their responsibilities.

That we publicly support and join the LGA and George Clarke in their campaign to have Government work with councils on an ambition to build 100,000 council homes a year.

That Carlisle City Councils Executive look into the benefits, social value and business case for new council house provision in Carlisle and its districts and report back its conclusions and any recommendation to Full Council."

Councillor Brown moved and Councillor Alcroft seconded the motion.

Councillor Brown then elaborated in some detail upon the reasons for submission of the motion and why Members should lend their support.

Councillor Paton gave notice of an amendment, copies of which were tabled.

The amended Motion to read:

"July this year marked the 100th anniversary of the Addison Act, the act which marks the creation of council housing.

The 1919 Act – often known as the 'Addison Act' after its author, Dr Christopher Addison, the Minister of Health – was a highly significant step forward in housing provision. It made housing a national responsibility, and local authorities were given the task of developing new housing and rented accommodation where it was needed by working people.

As increasingly recognised across the main political parties and commentators, one major reason for the 'housing crisis' is that local authorities ceased their role of direct housing providers. Since then, the shortfall in housing provision has mirrored the scale of the former local authority contribution to the market. During the height of council building, in the 1950s, councils built on average around 147,000 homes a year. Last year there was 27,350 housing association completed homes, and 2,640 local authority new homes. 29,990 new social homes is the highest social housing completion record since 1995. Two current schemes delivering affordable social houses for rent in the city:

- The old Botcherby Dairy site, a £7 million development with 66 new homes for affordable rent
- £4.8 million development in Beverly Rise with 40 further new builds for affordable rent.

Right to Buy is widely recognised as a contributing factor to the shortage of social homes for rent, but for the first time gave over two million families the opportunity to own the home they had lived in for many years.

The Council's 2018-30 SHMA clearly demonstrates a need to provide affordable homes to rent. This Council should lead the way and build these homes, that are high quality and environmentally aware, for anyone who needs a safe and secure long-term home. We should join and congratulate our friends in local authorities across the country such as Norwich who are now building award winning Council homes for rent.

Present housing systems respond poorly to life events such as relationship breakdown, job insecurity, and the on-set of poor health and caring responsibilities. Low rents, such as council house rents, make an important contribution to reducing the degree of 'housing cost induced poverty' and material deprivation amongst tenants.

This Council therefore resolves:

To ask the MPs who represent the council area to lobby the Government on our behalf to:

- Change and define in an equal and fair way 'affordable social housing' for local people as linked to their local income and revisit the affordable rented homes policy to reflect this.
- Review the right to buy system in a way so that it is fairer and to look at giving this Council and other Council authorities the option of building much more badly needed local social rented housing.
- Transform the planning system with an end to the 'viability' loophole that lets some developers put off their responsibilities.

That Carlisle City Councils Executive look into the benefits, social value and business case for new council house provision in Carlisle and its districts and report back its conclusions to Full Council."

The meeting adjourned at 8.40 pm and reconvened at 8.52 pm

Councillor Paton moved the amendment, which was duly seconded by Councillor Betton.

Councillor Paton further outlined the reasons for submission of the amendment.

Discussion ensued with input from a number of Members of the Council.

In response to a request for clarification from Councillor Glover regarding the reinstatement of a paragraph omitted from the proposed amendment, and in accordance with Procedure Rule 14.6, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services advised that only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time. No further amendment may be moved until the amendment under discussion had been disposed of.

Following voting, the amendment to the original Motion was CARRIED.

Councillor Glover rose to move an amendment to the effect that the words "That we publicly support and join the LGA and George Clarke in their campaign to have Government work with councils on an ambition to build 100,000 council homes a year." be reinstated within the substantive motion.

Councillor Brown seconded the amendment.

Councillors Ellis and Mitchelson raised points of order and procedure regarding the right to require motions and amendments in writing.

The Corporate Director replied that Procedure Rule 14.2 stipulated that amendments shall, if required by the Chairman, be put into writing. The additional wording moved by Councillor Glover was set out on the Summons for the meeting and did not negate the Motion.

Following voting, the amendment proposed by Councillor Glover was CARRIED.

After further discussion, during which certain Members outlined their support and voting thereon, the substantive Motion, as set out below was CARRIED:

“July this year marked the 100th anniversary of the Addison Act, the act which marks the creation of council housing.

The 1919 Act – often known as the ‘Addison Act’ after its author, Dr Christopher Addison, the Minister of Health – was a highly significant step forward in housing provision. It made housing a national responsibility, and local authorities were given the task of developing new housing and rented accommodation where it was needed by working people.

As increasingly recognised across the main political parties and commentators, one major reason for the ‘housing crisis’ is that local authorities ceased their role of direct housing providers. Since then, the shortfall in housing provision has mirrored the scale of the former local authority contribution to the market. During the height of council building, in the 1950s, councils built on average around 147,000 homes a year. Last year there was 27,350 housing association completed homes, and 2,640 local authority new homes. 29,990 new social homes is the highest social housing completion record since 1995. Two current schemes delivering affordable social houses for rent in the city:

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Present housing systems respond poorly to life events such as relationship breakdown, job insecurity, and the on-set of poor health and caring responsibilities. Low rents, such as council house rents, make an important contribution to reducing the degree of ‘housing cost induced poverty’ and material deprivation amongst tenants.

This Council therefore resolves:

To ask the MPs who represent the council area to lobby the Government on our behalf to:

- Change and define in an equal and fair way 'affordable social housing' for local people as linked to their local income and revisit the affordable rented homes policy to reflect this.
- Review the right to buy system in a way so that it is fairer and to look at giving this Council and other Council authorities the option of building much more badly needed local social rented housing.
- Transform the planning system with an end to the 'viability' loophole that lets some developers put off their responsibilities.

That we publicly support and join the LGA and George Clarke in their campaign to have Government work with councils on an ambition to build 100,000 council homes a year.

That Carlisle City Councils Executive look into the benefits, social value and business case for new council house provision in Carlisle and its districts and report back its conclusions to Full Council."

In accordance with Procedure Rule 17.5, Councillors Finlayson and Meller wished it to be recorded that they had abstained from voting.

(2) Former Central Plaza Hotel

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of the following motion submitted on notice by Councillor Ellis:

"This council pledges to:

- Work with Historic England and Crown Estates to demolish the former Plaza Hotel
- Ask our local MPs to continue lobbying central government for support
- Put together a development brief for future options for the site"

Councillor Ellis moved and Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded the motion.

Councillor Ellis then elaborated in some detail upon the reasons for submission of the motion and requested that Members support the Motion, local businesses, local employers and the future of the City.

Debate ensued, during which various Members expressed their support for the Motion.

Councillor Glover paid tribute to officers of the Council and all involved for their tireless work. He asked that the Corporate Director of Economic Development convey thanks to the members of staff involved.

Following voting the Motion of Councillor Ellis, as set out above, was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(3) Former Central Plaza Hotel

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of the following motion submitted on notice by Councillor Alcroft:

“The Central Plaza Hotel has been an integral part of Carlisle history but for many years now it has been only a thorn in its side. Successive council administrations have wrestled with the problem, trying to find buyers able to at first to preserve the integrity of the building and, later, to do anything at all.

The Central Plaza is ownerless and the building currently rests with the Crown Estate, a business which has generated £2.8 billion in revenue for the Government over the last 10 years. However, the council is now, once again, having to pick up the cost of making the site safe. For the second time in as many years, businesses surrounding the Central Plaza have been disrupted and are unable to trade from their premises.

This Council believes that the costs of dealing with the financial burden of the derelict Central Plaza Hotel should not fall on Carlisle City Council and local council tax payers.

We call upon Sajid Javid MP, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Simon Clarke MP, Exchequer to the Treasury, to release some of the profits made from the Crown Estate over the last ten years to Carlisle City council in order for them to acquire the site and demolish the building, deal with the burden of costs incurred and to provide financial support and resources to the local businesses who have been affected.”

Councillor Alcroft moved and Councillor Glover seconded the motion.

Councillor Alcroft then elaborated in some detail upon the reasons for submission of the motion and requested that Members lend their support.

Councillor Betton gave notice of an amendment, copies of which were tabled.

The amended Motion to read:

“The Central Plaza Hotel has been an integral part of Carlisle history but for many years now it has deteriorated and now has to be demolished. Successive council administrations have wrestled with the problem, trying to find buyers able to at first to preserve the integrity of the building and, later, to do anything at all.

The Central Plaza is ownerless and the building currently rests with the Crown Estate, a business which has generated £2.8 billion in revenue for the Government over the last 10 years. However, the council is now, once again, having to pick up the cost of making the site safe. For the second time in as many years, businesses surrounding the Central Plaza have been disrupted and are unable to trade from their premises. This Council believes that the costs of dealing with the financial burden of the derelict Central Plaza Hotel should not fall entirely on Carlisle City Council, but shared with Cumbria County Council and the Government.

We call upon this Council to explore if it is financially viable and feasible to take ownership of the Central Plaza to secure it as a long term asset to recuperate the financial losses incurred so far and then to write to the Leader of Cumbria County Council, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Exchequer to the Treasury, to assist the Council with costs it has incurred in carrying out its statutory functions in order for the Council to acquire the site and demolish the building, deal with the burden of costs incurred and to provide financial support and resources to the local businesses who have been affected.”

The meeting adjourned at 9.37 pm and reconvened at 9.45 pm

Councillor Betton moved the amendment, which was duly seconded by Councillor Paton.

Councillor Betton further indicated that the reasons for submission of the amendment were self-explanatory.

Debate ensued, during which certain Members expressed their opposition to / support for the amendment.

Speaking at the request of Councillor Betton, Councillor Paton expressed a wish for the proposed amendment to be withdrawn. The meeting signified its agreement with that course of action.

Voting then took place on the Motion set out above which was CARRIED.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 17.5, Councillor Tinnion wished it to be recorded that he had abstained from voting.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

During consideration of the above item of business, Councillor Morton noted that the meeting would soon have been in progress for 3 hours.

It was moved that Council Procedure Rule 9, in relation to the duration of meetings be suspended in order that the meeting could continue to enable the remaining items of business to be transacted, following which it was:

AGREED that the meeting should continue beyond three hours in duration to enable the remaining items of business to be transacted.

(4) Parking Concerns in Durrhill and Surrounding Areas

Councillors Brown and Nedved, having declared an interest, took no part in this item of business.

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of the following motion submitted on notice by Councillor Betton:

“Employees commuting by car to Rosehill Industrial Estate used to be able to park for free on land owned by Carlisle City Council before they sold it.

This is no longer the case, the land has been developed and employees are now parking outside residential houses in the area.

This includes Warwick Road, Wingate Road, Wood Street, Tilbury Road, Hespek Raise, Farlam Drive, Gilsland Road, Cumrew Close, Scotby fly over motorway bridge and other areas.

Driveways are being blocked; road junction visibility obscured; resident's car parks are full and residents / family visitors struggle to or can't park within a reasonable distance from their homes.

Some employees of the local businesses in the area are not using car parks provided because there is a cost of around £500 per annum incurred.

I put forward that this Council agree to look at and work with County Highways, local businesses, local residents and the car parks owners in the area to rectify the issue and to feed back to the Council the results at the next meeting.”

Councillor Betton moved and Councillor Paton seconded the motion.

Councillor Betton also responded to a Member’s question.

Following brief discussion the Motion of Councillor Betton, as set out above, was CARRIED.

C.154/19 PROPOSALS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN RELATION TO THE COUNCIL’S BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Borderlands Collaboration Agreement

Pursuant to Minute EX.86/19, consideration was given to recommendations from the Executive concerning the Borderlands Collaboration Agreement. A copy of Report ED.35/19 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Ellis seconded the recommendations, and it was:

RESOLVED – That the City Council:

1. Had considered and approved the Borderlands Collaboration Agreement (attached at Appendix 1) to Report ED.35/19.
2. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to approve any subsequent amendments following consultation with the Corporate Director of Economic Development and the Leader. For the avoidance of doubt, if any change is, in the opinion of the Leader, significant or substantial, this delegation will not apply.

C.155/19 OPERATION OF THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO CALL-IN AND URGENCY

Pursuant to Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15(i), consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services (GD.65/19) on the operation of call-in and urgency procedures.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

C.156/19 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.

[The meeting ended at 10.13 pm]