

Council

Date: Tuesday, 28 February 2023

Time: 18:45

Venue: Cathedral Room

Present: Councillor Ruth Alcroft, Councillor Trevor Allison, Councillor Louise Atkinson, Councillor James Bainbridge, Councillor Robert Betton, Councillor Jeffrey Bomford, Councillor Mrs Marilyn Bowman, Councillor Lisa Brown, Councillor Nigel Christian, Councillor John Collier, Councillor Dr Helen Davison, Councillor Gareth Ellis, Councillor Ms Jo Ellis-Williams, Councillor Mrs Christine Finlayson, Councillor Mrs Anne Glendinning, Councillor Colin Glover, Councillor Stephen Higgs, Councillor Neville Lishman, Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Mallinson, Councillor John Mallinson, Councillor Mrs Ann McKerrell, Councillor Keith Meller, Councillor Mrs Linda Mitchell, Councillor Michael Mitchelson, Councillor David Morton, Councillor Paul Nedved, Councillor Lucy Patrick, Councillor Tim Pickstone, Councillor Fiona Robson, Councillor David Shepherd, Councillor Miss Lee Sherriff, Councillor Christopher Southward, Councillor Peter Sunter, Councillor Dr Les Tickner, Councillor Raymond Tinnion, Councillor Miss Jeanette Whalen, Councillor Christopher Wills

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

C.32/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Birks.

C.33/23 Minutes

The Mayor moved the receipt and adoption of the minutes of the meetings of the City Council held on 3 January and 7 February 2023.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 3 January and 7 February 2023 be received; and were signed by the Mayor.

C.34/23 Public and Press

RESOLVED - It was agreed that the items in Part A be dealt with in public and the items in private be dealt with in Part B.

C.35/23 Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct the following declarations of interest were submitted:

Councillor Glover declared a registrable interest in respect of item 15(ii) Project Tullie. The interest related to his being appointed, by the Council, as a Trustee of the Tullie House Trust.

Councillor Patrick declared an interest in respect of item 19(i) The Sands Centre Redevelopment Contract and GLL Management Fee. The interest related to a family member being employed by a contractor involved in the redevelopment work.

C.36/23 Announcements

(i) The Mayor

The Mayor announced that he had spoken with Councillor Mrs Birks earlier that day who was recovering from an operation, Councillor Mrs Birks hoped to attend the final meeting of the City Council on 28 March 2023. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor conveyed wishes for Councillor Mrs Birks' speedy recovery.

The Mayor further announced that on 9 March 2023 a 'Charity Party' was to be held in the Old Fire Station to raise funds for the Mayor's Charity, local band Hardwicke Circus would be performing at the event.

Finally, the Mayor announced that the annual Civic Dinner would take place on 16 May 2023, invites were due to be circulated and as it was to be the last Civic Dinner hosted by the City Council the invitation would be extended to Members' partners.

(ii) The Leader of the Council

There were no announcements from the Leader.

(iii) Members of the Executive

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder announced the city would host its first 'Teenage Market' on 23 April. Teenage Market was a national brand that afforded young people aged 13 to 25 years old an opportunity to gain experience of marketing, selling, presentation and communication skills. The Portfolio Holder also announced that the programme for the Holiday Activities and Food Funding programme for the Easter holidays was now available.

(iv) Town Clerk and Chief Executive

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

C.37/23 Questions by Members of the Public

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.1, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by members of the public.

C.38/23 Presentation of 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.39/23 Questions from Members of the Council

(i) Coronation of King Charles III

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported that the following question had been submitted on notice from Councillor Pickstone:

"The Coronation of King Charles III takes place on Saturday 6 May 2023. I am sure the Leader or Executive Member will agree with me that so many residents throughout the City will want to celebrate, and mark, this important occasion.

The City Council will no longer exist in May, however planning for events and celebrations is taking place now. How is the Council supporting residents, community groups and Town and Parish Councils plan for this important celebration, and how is the Council working with its successor authority to ensure that the occasion is marked appropriately and proudly in the (unparished) City of Carlisle itself?"

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder responded that support for community groups was available from the National Lottery Community Fund. It was proposed to waive road closure fees for street parties and consideration was being given to making small grants of up to £200 available to contribute to costs. Events were proposed for Victoria Lawn, Bitts Park and Workington Leisure Centre with 'big screens' showing the coronation as part of a weekend long event which may include the screening of a concert on the Sunday and volunteer fairs on the Bank Holiday Monday. Quotes were coming in for the provision of bunting in key service centres. All the above would need the input and final say of Cumberland Council.

(ii) Climate Emergency

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to report that the following questions have been submitted on notice by Councillor Dr Davison:

"On 5th March 2019 Carlisle City Council passed a motion declaring a climate emergency. In relation to this:

1. Which aspects of the climate emergency motion did the Executive choose not to take forward and what are the reasons for each of these?
2. Why, despite this being a critical area of work that should cross-cut all that council does, didn't the cross-party Climate Change Members' Action Group (MAG) continue meeting beyond June 2021?
3. How many, and which members, of the Executive have undergone Carbon Literacy training?"

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder responded noting that there had been 19 bullet points contained in the adopted Climate Emergency motion, to provide an individual response to each matter would take an inordinate time. However the response would provide an overview in relation to each of the points, (see brackets)

1. It was vital that Climate Change action was embedded in the normal working practices of the Council. It cannot be left to special officers or special

committees. That is why it is at the heart of the Carlisle Plan (the document that sets out the Councils' key aims) and, consequently, at the heart of the Medium Term Financial Plan, which was reviewed by members every year, and linked the availability of resources to all of the key aims and objectives of the Council, including the Climate Change strategy. (3,7,8,13,14)

The year 2030 had been a brave first stab at a net zero carbon target: it quickly became evident that it was unachievable: the green energy required and the technology to harness it simply did not exist. However, energy production and technology were greening rapidly and he believed that the adopted target year of 2037 was achievable. The target was also sensible as it aligned with that agreed by the County Council and some 70 other partners through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Project. Zero carbon was not something the City Council could achieve alone, the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder trusted the new authority would pursue the target. (2,4,9).

This Council's electrical energy was purchased through a partnership arrangement with the County Council. A new agreement was entered into last October, with the blessing of the Shadow Authority. This included a commitment from the contractor to support the Council in achieving net zero targets.

The City Council had published its' Heat Decarbonisation Plan in February 2022 which addressed the Council's estate building-by-building. The Council had not been successful in getting grant funding for the work at that time, but all the works that the Council carried out recently were informed by the Plan. A new energy monitoring system had been installed in the Civic Centre to accurately determine where savings might be made through new equipment or systems and to enable a reaction to heat losses in real-time. (5,7,17)

The conversion of the Council's streetlights to LED's had contributed to a 17% reduction in overall electricity usage. The planned conversion of the Crematorium from gas to electricity, which was contained in the Council's capital programme, would reduce gas consumption by nearly 45% and reduce carbon emissions by more than 8%. (5,17)

It was anticipated that a saving of nearly 3% in overall carbon emissions would be achieved by the closure of the old pools complex and the opening the new pools. That saving would be lost, and the Council's carbon footprint substantially increased, if there was public subsidy to keep the old Victorian Health Suite operating. He urged Members, in the light of the imperative to tackle Climate Change to take a long hard look at any proposals to burn more gas. (7,9)

The last few years had seen unprecedented investment in Carlisle through the Borderlands programmes and the Station Gateway, the High Street Fund and Town's Deal, the University at the Citadels and the Garden Village, totalling well over £100M. Those projects, all with low-carbon living at the heart of them, would come to fruition under the new Council and, with the Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan, give Carlisle a fabulous opportunity to become a prosperous low-carbon City. For these programmes the Council must praise the work of the previous administration and local MP John Stephenson, whose support had been invaluable. (15,16,19)

Sixteen double Electric Vehicle charging points had been installed and many more were to be installed through the recently announced award of £1.9M for On Street

Residential Charging in Cumbria. Also, electric vehicles would make up 10% of the Councils' fleet when the latest purchases were delivered.

The Council had created an oasis for nature and people at the Swifts, right in the heart of the City, the conservation grassland in parks had increased and mowing reduced in other grassed areas to encourage wild flowers native mammals and birds, as well as to capture carbon. In partnership with others, the Council had planted hundreds of trees and will shortly start to plant 15,000 more in the Kingmoor Woodland Creation Project.(17)

Council staff had been out and about in all weathers consulting and meeting people and achieved well deserved national recognition. Officers had engaged with people of all ages at community centres and on the streets, through our schools' competitions, the Big Buzz at the Swifts, and at Talkin Tarn with Dark Skies and the Fell Foot Forward project, to name a few. The Portfolio Holder concluded that he had not focused on meetings to talk about Climate Change but had got on with the job. (6,10,11,12).

2. The Climate Change Members Action Group supported the development of the Carlisle Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy which was adopted by the Council in March 2021. Following the normal course of events, Scrutiny Committees, then stepped in to scrutinise the Strategy and Action Plan: as it would in the case of any policy adopted by the Council.

3. Training was a matter for individual Councillors. Every Member has had the opportunity to engage in Carbon Literacy training through APSE, the LGA and the like, and the opportunity to attend any of the training and informative events which all Members were invited to through e-mail. Every Member of this Council was aware of Climate Change, its consequences and what they can do about it in their personal, work and political lives: how they and others responded to the challenge was up to them.

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.6 Councillor Dr Davison asked the following supplemental question:

"Given the extent of the climate breakdown was there anything that the Environment and Transport Holder would have done differently?"

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder responded that given the budgetary constraints in which the Council operated he would not have acted differently. The City Council had responded as efficiently as it could have; momentum was building, but given Local Government Reorganisation it was for Cumberland Council to take on the challenge and go forward as technological changes allowed.

C.40/23 Minutes of the Executive

The Leader moved, and the Deputy Leader seconded that the minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 18 January and 20 February 2023 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 18 January and 20 February 2023 be received and adopted.

C.41/23 Portfolio Holder Reports

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

C.41/23 (i) Culture, Heritage and Leisure

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder moved his report and noted that the City of Lights event which had taken place the preceding weekend was thought to have attracted around four thousand visitors. The portfolio Holder responded to questions regarding: the City of Lights event and Tribe.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder be received.

C.41/23 (ii) Communities, Health and Wellbeing

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder moved her report.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder be received.

C.41/23 (iii) Environment and Transport

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved his report and responded to questions regarding: electric vehicle charging infrastructure and hydrogen refuelling.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder be received.

C.41/23 (iv) Economy, Enterprise and Housing

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder moved her report and responded to questions regarding: Private Sector Housing Landlord training.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder be received.

C.41/23 (v) Finance, Governance and Resources

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved his report.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder be received.

C.41/23 (vi) Leader's Portfolio

:The Leader moved his report.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Leader be received.

C.42/23 Minutes

The Mayor moved and Councillor Glover seconded receipt and adoption of the minutes of the meetings as detailed within Minute Book Volume 49(5):

Committee	Meeting Date
People Panel	12 January 2023
Place Panel	19 January 2023
Resources Panel	5 January 2023
Regulatory panel	4 January and 8 February 2023
Licensing Committee	4 January 2023
Development Control Committee	18 January and 20 January 2023
Employment Panel	6 February 2023

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings as detailed [Volume 49(5)] above be received and adopted.

C.43/23 Scrutiny

Copies of reports from the following Scrutiny Panel Chairs had been circulated prior to the meeting:

C.43/23 (i) Chair of the People Panel

Councillor Glover moved his Chair's Report and responded to questions regarding government funding of the Sustainable Warmth Grant Scheme

RESOLVED - That the Report of the Chair be received.

C.43/23 (ii) Chair of the Place Panel

Councillor Bainbridge moved his Chair's Report and responded to questions regarding

RESOLVED - That the Report of the Chair be received.

C.43/23 (iii) Chair of the Resources Panel

Councillor Finlayson moved her Chair's Report.

RESOLVED - That the Report of the Chair be received.

C.44/23 Notice of Motion

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Corporate Director of Governance and regulatory Services reported that no motions had been submitted on notice by Members of the Council.

C.45/23 Proposals from the Executive in relation to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework

C.45/23 (i) Revenue Budget Overview and Monitoring Report- April to December 2022

Pursuant to Minute EX.18/23, consideration was given to the creation of an earmarked reserve for Talkin Tarn following consideration of the April to December 2022 Revenue Budget Overview and Monitoring Report by the Executive on 20 February 2023. Report RD.66/22 and relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved and the Leader seconded the recommendation.

Members raised questions in relation to the reasons for creating the reserve and whether Cumberland Council was required to retain the reserve, which the Finance, Resources and Governance Portfolio Holder responded to.

RESOLVED - That Council approved the creation of an earmarked reserve for Talking Tarn as set out in report RD.66/22.

C.45/23 (ii) Project Tullie

Pursuant to Minute EX.14/23 consideration was given to proposals for Project Tullie that had been developed by the Tullie House Trust. The Project would be delivered through drawing down on a funding package that included Future High Streets Funding, Town Deal, Arts Council and National Heritage Lottery Funding. Report ED.07/23 and relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

The Leader moved and the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder seconded the recommendations.

Members discussed the following matters: the reasons for the increased cost of relocating the sub-station; whether a further increase in costs would impact the viability of the project would be managed in those circumstances; the likelihood of receiving funding from other organisations to contribute to the work.

RESOLVED - That Council:

1. Noted the proposals for Project Tullie outlined in Section 2 of report ED.07/23.
2. Noted the location of the existing substation and the impediment it creates to the formation of the proposed new entrance and orientation point.
3. Approved a budget of £500,000 to be made available to support the Project, which would be held in a ring-fenced capital reserve, within the 2022/23 Capital Programme, which can be released following consideration and approval of a viable and affordable business case by the Executive of Carlisle City Council and/or Cumberland Council, as set out in paragraph 2.5 of report ED.07/23.

C.46/23 Stanwix Community Governance Review

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services detailing the Community Governance Review which was the result of a petition from local electors. Report GD.07/23 had been circulated which provided an overview of the process of the review and the outcome of the

consultation.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved that recommendations e and f, as set out in paragraph 6.4 of the report. The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder seconded the recommendations.

Discussion ensued during which certain Members outlined their opposition on the grounds that; the response rate to the consultation had been high, 20%, with the majority indicating a preference for creating a Stanwix Urban Parish Council; members ought to have the option to vote on proposed recommendations a - d; the urban area of Carlisle would be the only unparished area within the new Cumberland Council; it was disappointing that work in respect of setting up parishes had not progressed further.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder and the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder then responded to the issues raised: emphasising that the majority of residents in the area had not supported the proposal to create a Parish Council; the carrying out of the Review had utilised resources that would otherwise have been available to administer an urban area wide review; were the Stanwix Urban Parish Council to be created, it would be a separate entity to a Carlisle urban area "town council" and therefore would not be able to participate in any future development thereof; Cumberland Council, in due course would likely carry out a Carlisle urban area wide Community Governance Review, the setting up of a Parish Council in a particular locality within the area was not appropriate.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder reiterated his proposal that Members resolve to accept recommendations e and f, and expressed the hope that Council would support that proposal.

The Council:

RESOLVED - 1) That the decision to create a parish in the Stanwix area, as proposed in the petition, is premature at this stage given other arrangements which could be made for community representation and, accordingly, the City Council recommend to Cumberland Council that a Stanwix Urban Parish Council not be established.

2) That Members agree they wish a Community Governance Review to be carried out in relation to the wider Carlisle Urban area and Officer be instructed to bring a report to a subsequent Council meeting in respect thereof.

C.47/23 Committee Nominations

RESOLVED - That Council agreed the following amendments to committee membership:

Development Control Committee: Councillor Patrick to replace Councillor Wills

People Panel: Councillor Patrick to replace Councillor Wills

Employment Panel (substitute): Councillor Patrick to replace Councillor Wills

C.48/23 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.49/23 Public and Press

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Section 100A(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 the paragraph numbers (as indicated in brackets against the minutes) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

C.50/23 Proposals from the Executive in relation to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework

No Minutes Taken.

C.50/23 (i) The Sands Centre Redevelopment Contract and GLL Management Fee

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

Pursuant to Minute EX.23/23 consideration was given to a report regarding the realignment of the management fee for the Leisure Contract for 2022/23 with GLL following the confirmed sectional and practical completion of the Sands Centre Redevelopment. Report CS.05/23 and relevant Minute Extract were circulated.

The Leader moved and the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder seconded the recommendation.

RESOLVED - That Council agreed:

- a) That an additional capital budget requirement set out in paragraph 2.4 of report CS.05/23 will be required to settle the WCL account and complete works removed from main works contract. This budget to be added to the capital programme for 2022/23 which will be funded from prudential borrowing.
- b) That the existing Scheme of Delegation (approved by the Executive) applied to 31st March 2023 and thereafter the delegation to any specific Carlisle senior officer posts are substituted by the relevant Chief Officer of Cumberland Council.
- c) Delegates to the Deputy Chief Executive of Carlisle City Council (and the relevant Executive Director of Cumberland Council from 1st April 2023) the ability to enter into further construction contracts to complete the delivery of the Sands Centre project.
- d) Agreed the revised management fees for 2021/22 and 2022/23 to take into account the revised opening date of the Sands Centre Redevelopment and to fund the additional requirement set out in paragraph 3.10 of this report from underspends in the revenue budget for 2022/23 and approve a virement for recommendation to Council.

C.51/23 Confidential Employment Matter

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive and the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory services left the meeting for the consideration of the following matters.

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

Pursuant to Minute EMP.06/23 consideration was given to a recommendation of the Employment Panel. Report CS.08/23 and relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved and the Leader seconded the recommendation.

RESOLVED - That Council agreed the recommendation as set out at section 2 of report CS.08/23

C.52/23 Confidential Employment Matter

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

Pursuant to Minute EMP.07/23 consideration was given to a recommendation of the Employment Panel. Report CS.09/23 and relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved and the Leader seconded the recommendation.

RESOLVED - That Council agreed the recommendation as set out at section 2 of report CS.09/23.

C.53/23 Confidential Employment Matter

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

Pursuant to Minute EMP.08/23 consideration was given to a recommendation of the Employment Panel. Report CS.10/23 and relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved and the Leader seconded the recommendation.

RESOLVED - That Council agreed the recommendation as set out at section 2 of report CS.10/23

The Meeting ended at: 20:12