

CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2018 AT 6.45 PM

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Vasey), Councillors Alcroft, Allison, Bainbridge, Bell, Mrs Birks, Bloxham, Bomford, Bowditch, Mrs Bowman, Bowman (S), Mrs Bradley, Burns, Christian, Mrs Coleman, Collier, Earp, Ellis, Mrs Finlayson, Glendinning, Glover, Harid, Higgs, Layden, McDevitt, McDonald, Mrs McKerrell, McNulty, Mrs Mallinson, Mallinson (J), Mitchelson, Morton, Nedved, Mrs Parsons, Paton, Patrick, Ms Quilter, Mrs Riddle, Robson, Shepherd, Miss Sherriff, Sidgwick (S), Sidgwick (T), Southward, Stothard, Dr Tickner, Tinnion, Mrs Warwick, Watson, Ms Williams and Wilson

ALSO

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

C.01/18 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

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

C.02/18 MINUTES

The Mayor moved the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 7 November 2017.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 7 November 2017 be received and signed as a true record of the meeting.

C.03/18 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

C.04/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

C.05/18 ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) The Mayor

The Mayor welcomed all those present to the first meeting of the City Council in 2018.

It was with much sadness that the Mayor reported the death, on 19 December 2017, of Mrs Olwyn Luckley, a former Member of the City Council. The Mayor remembered Mrs Luckley as a neighbour and for her warmth of personality. Mrs Luckley would be sadly missed.

The Mayor also expressed condolences to the family of Mrs Luckley on their loss and extended an invitation to Members of the City Council to say a few words.

Councillor Mallinson (J) welcomed that opportunity, commenting that the tributes paid at Mrs Luckley's funeral service on 29 December 2017 were testament, if needed, to her popularity and the feelings of warmth towards her. He also referenced the hard work undertaken by Mrs Luckley over many years and the resultant benefits to the Lowther Street Congregational Church.

Councillor Mallinson (J) stated that Mrs Luckley had been a long serving Member of the City Council and he had the pleasure of serving with her on the Executive. Mrs Luckley's interests were for the people of Carlisle, particularly those less fortunate than herself, and she would be greatly missed by the City and himself.

Councillor Allison spoke from personal experience about Mrs Luckley recalling examples of her hard work and dedication. Mrs Luckley was an extraordinary woman and he missed her immensely.

Councillor Glover also paid tribute, stating that he had the privilege of serving as Vice-Chairman on the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel when Mrs Luckley chaired the Panel. Whether serving on the Executive, in opposition, or as a back bench Member Mrs Luckley had undertaken her duties in a most committed manner. Mrs Luckley had worked tirelessly in support of a number of charities and made a significant contribution during her time on the Council. She had remained ever active and her passing had come as a shock. Councillor Glover added that Mrs Luckley's legacy would live on.

Councillor Mitchelson rose to pay tribute to a lady of integrity and honour and who was a true community champion, working tirelessly for Carlisle and its residents. Her contribution and achievements would be remembered.

Councillor Paton commented upon the considerable assistance which he had personally received from Mrs Luckley who would be greatly missed.

Councillor Ellis had known Mrs Luckley for many years and was most appreciative of the help she had given him. Mrs Luckley had never put politics before what she knew to be right, and the City would be a better place if all could learn from her example.

In addition, Councillor Southward was extremely saddened by the passing of former Councillor Bill Girdwood, who would be greatly missed.

The Mayor further announced that, as Members would be aware, various events were scheduled to take place in the coming months in support of The Mayor's Charity.

She particularly referenced the Burns Supper (26 January 2018), sky dive (4 March 2018), and Charity Ball (9 March 2018) expressing the hope that Members would lend their support.

(ii) The Leader of the Council

As referenced by Councillor Southward, the Leader was saddened to announce the passing of Mr Bill Girdwood who had been a Councillor for Denton Holme until 1999. Mr Girdwood was also a former Group Captain and the Leader indicated that he was held in high regard by Labour Group Members.

(iii) Members of the Executive

There were no announcements from Members of the Executive.

(iv) Town Clerk and Chief Executive

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

C.06/18 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.07/18 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.08/18 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by Members of the City Council.

C.09/18 EXECUTIVE

Councillor Glover moved and Councillor Dr Tickner seconded that the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 20 November; 11 and 18 December 2017 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 20 November; 11 and 18 December 2017 be received and adopted.

C.10/18 PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS

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

Leader
Finance, Governance and Resources
Environment and Transport
Economy, Enterprise and Housing

Communities, Health and Wellbeing
Culture, Heritage and Leisure

The Leader; the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder; the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder; and the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder formally moved their reports.

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder formally moved his report highlighting, in particular, the section concerning organisational development. £60,000 was included within the draft Executive Budget Proposals 2018/19 to provide for the continued retention of apprentices, and he expressed the hope that Members would be supportive thereof.

The Celebration of Learning event had been a great success and the Deputy Leader thanked the Organisational Development team for their input. He emphasised that members of staff were the authority's greatest resource and the continual learning and development undertaken was welcomed.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder formally moved her report. In so doing, the Portfolio Holder provided an update on the Bitts Park Fitness Equipment and Landscaping Project and expressed her appreciation to the Green Spaces Team, with whom it had been a pleasure to work.

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 Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder arrange to:

- (a) Respond in writing to Councillor Nedved with further detail on how the unsuccessful bid for Heritage Action Zone status at Botchergate / London Road would impact upon the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Townscape Heritage Initiative for Botchergate; and clarification regarding the availability of funding for capital projects in Botchergate.
- (b) Provide a written response to Councillor Mrs Bowman clarifying what support would be provided to small businesses under the project for the Business Interaction Centre (to be relaunched as an incubator 'hub') and whether that would be subject to the availability of funding.

(3) That the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder arrange to:

- (a) Furnish Councillors Mrs Mallinson and Morton with further information on the new magazine entitled 'In Carlisle', the response to include the number of magazines distributed and in which areas.
- (b) Update Councillor Morton on the work being undertaken by the Carlisle Problem Solving Group, including details of identified hot spots and the problems being dealt with.
- (c) Provide a written response to Councillor Bainbridge in respect of his request for clarification of potential cost implications for the Council associated with the achievement of the Sustainable Food Cities Bronze Award and, indeed, costs should Carlisle work towards Silver and Gold Awards in the future.

(4) That the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder:

- (a) Investigate the attendance of Carlisle representatives at the quarterly meetings of the Hadrian's Wall Partnership; and lobby Cumbria County Council to take steps to include Carlisle on the Hadrian's Wall bus route in response to the concerns expressed by Councillor Nedved.
- (b) Respond in writing to Councillor Allison clarifying what percentage of the events already scheduled at the Old Fire Station in 2019 are free, and whether an overall loss was anticipated for the year.

C.11/18 SCRUTINY MINUTES AND SCRUTINY CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

(a) Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Paton moved and Councillor Burns seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel held on 12 and 30 October; and 23 November 2017 be received and adopted.

Councillor Paton also presented his Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel held on 12 and 30 October; and 23 November 2017 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(2) That the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel:

- (i) Arrange for Inside 2 Outside's updated design work and costings for the Tennis Canopy Project to be circulated to Members in accordance with the undertaking given at the special Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 30 October 2017 (Minute HWSP.23/17 – page 698 of Minute Book Volume 44(4) referred) as requested by Councillor Bainbridge.
- (ii) Provide written confirmation on the current position regarding arrangements to convene a Task and Finish Group on the Green Spaces Strategy as requested by Councillor Bloxham (Minute HWSP.16/17 referred).

(b) Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Riddle moved and Councillor Watson seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel held on 26 October and 5 December 2017 be received and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Riddle also presented her Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel held on 26 October and 5 December 2017 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(2) That the Chairman of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel arrange to provide further detail on the proposed increase to Homelife charges in response to the concerns expressed by Councillors Mallinson (J) and Ellis (Minute BTSP.42/17(c) referred).

(c) Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Nedved moved and Councillor Bowditch seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel held on 30 November 2017 be received and adopted.

Councillor Nedved also presented his Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel held on 30 November 2017 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

C.12/18 REGULATORY PANEL

Councillor Bell moved and Councillor Ms Williams seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 15 November 2017 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 15 November 2017 be received and adopted.

C.13/18 LICENSING COMMITTEE

Councillor Bell moved and Councillor Ms Williams seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 15 November 2017 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 15 November 2017 be received and adopted.

C.14/18 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Warwick moved and Councillor Mrs Parsons seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 20 October and 22 November 2017

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 20 October and 22 November 2017 be received and adopted.

C.15/18 EMPLOYMENT PANEL

Councillor Glover moved and Councillor Dr Tickner seconded that the Minutes of the meeting of Employment Panel held on 31 October 2017 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Employment Panel held on 31 October 2017 be received and adopted.

C.16/18 APPEALS PANELS

Councillor Harid moved and Councillor Collier seconded that the Minutes of the meeting of Appeals Panel 3 held on 17 November 2017 be received and adopted.

Councillor Earp moved and Councillor Tinnion seconded that the Minutes of the meeting of Appeals Panel 1 held on 28 November 2017 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Appeals Panel meetings held on 17 and 28 November 2017 be received and adopted.

C.17/18 NOTICE OF MOTION

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:

“Carlisle is a city whose history is built upon food, drink and transport, and all three are vital to its economy.

This Council extends an open invitation to Coca Cola GB to bring back the Coca Cola Christmas Truck to Carlisle and play a part in our festive events for 2018.”

Councillor Ellis moved and Councillor Bainbridge seconded the motion.

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

Following substantial debate, with input from a number of Members of the City Council and voting thereon, the Motion of Councillor Ellis was DEFEATED.

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

(i) Dates and Times of Meetings 2018/19

Pursuant to Minute EX.128/17, consideration was given to recommendations from the Executive concerning the Schedule of dates and times of meetings for 2018/19. A copy of report GD.02/18 and the Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Dr Tickner formally moved, and it was:

RESOLVED – (1) That the schedule of dates and times of meetings in the 2018/19 municipal year, as set out in the calendar attached as an Appendix to Report GD.02/18, be approved.

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

(ii) Tullie House Business Plan 2018/19

Councillor Dr Tickner declared a registrable interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct with respect to this item of business, as he served on the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust Board.

Councillor Dr Tickner took part in discussion on the matter.

Pursuant to Minute EX.138/17, consideration was given to recommendations from the Executive concerning the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust Business Plan 2018 – 2021.

Councillor Ms Quilter presented report CS.07/18, a copy of which had been circulated along with the relevant Minute Extracts.

Councillor Ms Quilter then formally moved and Councillor Dr Tickner formally seconded that the City Council:

1. consider the comments of both the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel (as detailed in the Minute Excerpt of their meeting on 23 November 2017) and the comments and recommendations of the Executive (as detailed in the Minute Excerpt of their meeting on 18 December 2017).
2. Confirm the agreed levels of core funding for 2018/19 and 2019/20 (as per the current Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan).
3. Confirm a base reduction in core funding to the Tullie House Trust of up to £300,000 with effect from 2020/21.

Councillor Bainbridge moved and Councillor Ellis seconded that the matter be referred back to the Executive.

Councillor Bainbridge stated that, having read and extensively discussed the report, the Conservative Group wished to propose a referral back. He outlined their reasoning:

- Minute HWSP.30/17 - Resolution 3 (page 118 of the document pack) – “..... specifically that reductions in excess of £200k should be accompanied by capital investment.” The Executive had failed to address that request.
- Having read the Roseangle report Members had a number of reservations regarding the presumptions made in respect of the potential reduction in funding; and the failure of the consultant to fully take on board Tullie House as a child free venue with educational benefits / budgetary implications.
- The Executive recommended a £300,000 reduction in core funding without any recourse to the report.

In response Councillor Glover clarified that the Executive had taken on board the Scrutiny Panel's concerns, amending recommendation 3. by the inclusion of the words “up to” £300,000. The Chairman of the Panel had recorded within his report to Council that the Panel was happy that any future changes being proposed to the funding for Tullie House would come back to Scrutiny.

Councillor Glover stressed that the Executive was considering all options, wanted Tullie House to succeed and gave an assurance that the issue would go back to Scrutiny.

Members debated the motion for reference back, during which Councillors Mitchelson and Mallinson (J) clarified that they were content with recommendations 1 and 2; the issue being around recommendation 3.

Following voting thereon, the motion of Councillor Bainbridge for reference back to the Executive for further consideration was NOT AGREED.

Following further discussion on the motion of Councillor Ms Quilter and voting thereon, it was:

RESOLVED – That the City Council:

1. Had considered the comments of both the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel (as detailed in the Minute Excerpt of their meeting on 23 November 2017) and the comments and recommendations of the Executive (as detailed in the Minute Excerpt of their meeting on 18 December 2017).
2. Confirmed the agreed levels of core funding for 2018/19 and 2019/20 (as per the current Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan).
3. Confirmed a base reduction in core funding to the Tullie House Trust of up to £300,000 with effect from 2020/21.

(iii) Review of Polling Arrangements

Pursuant to Minute EX.139/17, consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director Governance and Regulatory Services regarding the Review of Polling Arrangements and the recommendations contained therein. A copy of Report GD.75/17(a) and Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Dr Tickner moved the recommendations, and it was:

RESOLVED – That it be agreed that:

1. The current polling district at OC Dalston Ward, Cummersdale Parish be changed to create 3 polling districts at OC1, OC2 and OC3 to provide polling arrangements which are more commodious to electors in the polling district. (Paragraph 31)
2. With the exception of polling arrangements in OC3 Dalston Ward, Cummersdale Parish that there be no further change to polling arrangements at the present time. (Paragraph 34)
3. Officers continue to monitor the use of portable cabins as polling stations and continue to investigate potential alternatives (Paragraph 23)
4. The Returning Officer be given authority, after consultation with relevant Ward Councillors and Portfolio Holder, to change polling place locations at the City Council elections if the usual premises proved to be unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances (Paragraph 35).

C.19/18 COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The Mayor sought the agreement of the Council to the following changes to Independent Group representation on the Development Control Committee:

That Councillor Tinnion replace Councillor Paton as a full Member; and that Councillor Paton replace Councillor Tinnion as a substitute Member.

RESOLVED – That the changes to Independent Group Membership on the above Committee be noted and agreed.

**C.20/18 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES CALL-IN
AND URGENCY**

Pursuant to Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15(i), consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services (GD.01/18) on procedures in respect of occasions where decisions taken by the Executive were urgent.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

C.21/18 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 9.35 pm]