
**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 24 JULY 2003**

CROS.83/03 REFERENCES FROM THE EXECUTIVE

(b) Area Working

Pursuant to Minutes CROS.60/03 and CROS.63/03, there was submitted Minute Excerpt EX.159/03 detailing the Executive's decision as regards proposals for the establishment of Area Based Working, namely:

"That Officers and the relevant Portfolio Holder submit a report to a future meeting of the Executive outlining proposals to establish Area Based Working in three areas (two urban and one rural) on a pilot basis for a six month trial period."

In considering the matter, Members raised the following points:

1. Concern as regards the proposed six month pilot of Area Working which period was considered to be insufficient. Members felt that the pilot should be extended to cover a twelve month trial period, incorporating a review after nine months.
2. Neighbourhood Forums were already in existence and functioning well. If the pilot proceeded in only three areas the majority of Council Members and communities would have to wait for a further year to experience Area Working, and be disadvantaged as a result. The pilot should be all inclusive.
3. Other Members considered that the pilot should take place in three areas as proposed, and that each political Group should put forward their suggestions as to the particular areas for inclusion therein.
4. It was vital that Area Based working was in place prior to the onset of Regional Government.

In response to a Member's question, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive indicated that further clarity was required as to the terms of reference for area based working and how the same was to be resourced/supported in Officer/monetary terms. He therefore wished to hold discussions with Group Leaders and the relevant Portfolio Holders with a view to progressing the issue.

Mr Stybelski added that the County Council's Area Officer for Carlisle was currently absent through sickness and the joint meeting requested with the County Council had yet to take place. Mr Stybelski would take responsibility to consult the Executive Member/Leader with a view to ensuring that such a meeting took place.

Members expressed considerable displeasure at the general situation, reiterating their preference for joint working through Neighbourhood Forums and seeking clarification as to the Executive's position as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED – That the following be forwarded to the Executive as the views of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Area Working:

- (1) That the proposed pilot of Area Based Working should be extended to cover a twelve month trial period, incorporating a review after nine months.
- (2) That each political Group be asked to put forward their suggestions as to the Wards to be included within the proposed pilot.
- (3) That joint working via the County Council Neighbourhood Forum model was the preferred option of this Committee, and the Committee seeks clarification of the Executive's exact position in that regard as a matter of urgency.
- (4) That this Committee remains concerned at the lack of progress on the matter and requests that the joint meeting with the County Council take place as soon as possible.