

INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(SPECIAL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL 2002 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Rutherford (Chairman), Councillors Mrs Bowman, Mrs Crookdake, Dodd, Hodgson B, Hodgson G, Mrs Mallinson and Ms Martlew (as substitute for Councillor Weedall)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Glover attended the meeting as an observer.

IOS.31/02 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

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

IOS.32/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Mallinson declared a personal interest in relation to a reference in the Corporate Plan Workshop Report to the Rural Regeneration Company at Kingmoor Park, as her husband was on the board of this body.

IOS.33/02 CORPORATE PLAN WORKSHOP

The Policy and Research Officer attended the meeting and submitted a report of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reference TC.67/02 providing background to, and summarising the outcomes of, the recent Corporate Plan Workshop. He advised that the workshop had been set up to provide an opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny Committees to provide input into the Corporate Plan. The Members who had attended the workshop had been asked to comment on which aspects of the City Vision they felt the City Council could deliver either by itself, by working in partnership, or by enabling others to deliver. In addition, Members had been asked to identify aims and objectives which did not feature in the City Vision, but which the City Council felt were important and may wish to include in the Corporate Plan.

The Report contained a summary of the results of the Workshop session and Members were asked to comment on these outcomes. The Executive would then consider the comments of all the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and, taking into account the budgetary position, would formulate a Draft Corporate Plan and Best Value Performance Plan, which would be the subject of further consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The final deadline for publication of the Corporate Plan and Best Value Performance Plan was 30 June 2002.

Members then examined the results of the Workshop session and commented on the following:-

City Vision Theme - Communities:

- *Area Working* - the County Council and Parish Councils should be added. In addition, there was a comment that Area Committees rather than Area Working should be the phrase which should be used. There could be further development of Joint Working between the City and County Council in relation to Area or Neighbourhood Forums or Committees.
- *Ensure that Carlisle is a safe, clean and attractive place to live* - the Police and the County Council should be added.
- *Ensure the community has access to information and services 24 hours a day easily, promptly and at a local level* - add all Utilities, not just Cable Companies
- *Ensure all children have a good start in life* - this includes a number of factors and agencies including education, parents, social issues, housing, income and direct health care through the Health Service.
- *Have a clear voice for young people via their own Council* - in addition to the Youth Council a number of other agencies are involved, for example, Youth Christian Fellowships, Young Farmers Association etc. In relation to this and the following, key priority of *support education and citizenship for young people*, the Education Service and schools should be added.
- *Reduce Crime* - The Probation Service and Youth Offending Team and other agencies should be added. In relation to what the Council is doing or could be doing, planning policies such as Secure by Design were referred to and street lighting was recognised.

City Vision Theme - Economic Prosperity:

- In relation to a number of the Key Priorities, there should be identification of the existing partnerships which are in existence, for example, the Joint Eden Carlisle Partnership, Tourism Partnership and Regeneration Partnerships, and the Rural Action Zone as well as all other agencies which are already working in these areas.
- The potential to develop the Three River Strategy in the future was recognised and welcomed and it was suggested that there could be more work in the future on better utilisation of the river and the waterfront areas in Carlisle. In addition to the facilitation of on water activities, river walkways and restaurants could be developed.
- The advantages and disadvantages of being a University City were discussed, with a comment that in some cities there had been an effect on employment, as students were taking up a number of part-time jobs which were therefore not available to local people.
- In relation to a number of the key priorities within Economic Prosperity, there was reference to the difficulty of local organisations and agencies tapping into sources of funding. There was discussion on the resources which are available within the Council to access funding and resources available within the Community Support Unit

to support local organisations and assist them to apply for funding. There was a recognition that the resources available within the Council were limited in relation to accessing funding, but that assistance was being provided by the Council to local organisations. Specific references were made to funding which was being sought by the East Cumbria Countryside Project in relation to work on rivers.

- *Encourage a diverse range of job opportunities and equal access to them for all sections of our community* - Members felt that this key priority was encompassed within the first one on the Economic Prosperity page.
- *Develop closer links between education and businesses to ensure a match between skills and job opportunities* - the Skills Council and Post-16 Education under Connections should be added.
- *Have a comprehensive small business support network which meets the needs of both those who have businesses and those who are trying to establish one* - there are a number of providers already working in this area, for example, the Small Business Enterprise Centre and independent privately and publicly-run agencies, as well as local colleges.
- *Support the Airport as a key economic driver and encourage its development as a centre for industry and communications* - planning developments, potential to promote bonded warehouses and the Council's role in getting local industries to use the Airport should be added.
- *Encourage and support local supply networks which allow local communities to buy local produce and goods easily and affordably* - the reference to encouraging Food Co-ops and Farmers' Markets was discussed and whilst the benefits were recognised, Members commented that there were some drawbacks in terms of hygiene and, in relation to food co-ops, the potential effect on local small businesses such as shops and retail outlets.

City Vision Theme - Health and Wellbeing:

- The Workshop had not addressed this area, it would be examined by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However the Health Service, the County Council Education Service, and parents should be added

City Vision Theme - Infrastructure, Environment and Transport:

- *Integrated Transport System* - the Council could only be a partner or lobbyist in any Integrated Transport System.
- *Promote a sustainable environment* - the importance of the image of Carlisle was recognised and the need for people to have pride in the City. Reference was made to some streets and railway bridges being dirty, in particular chewing gum on pavements was referred to. The City Council should ensure that its own properties are clean and encourage other organisations to clean their properties.
- Problems with the Gateways to the City Centre were recognised, in particular, Botchergate entrance to the City was highlighted as being in need of attention.

Improvement of these areas would improve the image of Carlisle.

- Riverside walkways and facilities were again mentioned as being something which could be developed in the future.

In general, Members commented that it may be worthwhile highlighting some of the drawbacks or disadvantages, for example, the ones they referred to in relation to impact of food co-ops on local retail outlets, problems with students taking a number of part-time jobs. They suggested that some disadvantages or drawback areas could be built into the document in order to provide a balanced perspective.

In closing, Members commented that the whole area including City Centre, urban and rural areas were of equal importance in terms of having clean streets and areas, as they were all important to the promotion of Carlisle. Members also suggested that in the final document to the Executive, Officers should ensure that all existing partners and providers are included within that document.

RESOLVED - That the comments of the Committee as outlined above be forwarded to the Executive.

(The meeting ended at 2.55 pm)