

EDEN AND CARLISLE JOINT COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 18 AUGUST 2003 AT 11.00 AM

PRESENT: Representing Eden District Council:

Councillor B Metz, Councillor J J Moffat, Councillor D Nattrass
(substitute for Councillor C Nineham) and Councillor J M Smith.

Representing Carlisle City Council:

Councillor R Bloxham, Councillor Mrs J Geddes (substitute for
Councillor Mitchelson) and Councillor R Knapton

ECJC.1/03 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – That Councillor J Moffat be elected Chairman of the Eden and
Carlisle Joint Committee for this meeting.

Councillor Moffat in the Chair

ECJC.2/03 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that this item would be deferred until after the agenda item
Terms of Reference had been dealt with (Minute ECJC.5/03 refers).

ECJC.3/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Firth,
Mitchelson and Nineham.

ECJC.4/03 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That all of the items on the Agenda be dealt with in public.

ECJC.5/03 TERMS OF REFERENCE

A Report of the Director of Corporate and Legal Services, Eden District
Council on the Terms of Reference for this Joint Committee was submitted
and which had been considered by Eden and Carlisle's Executive.

The Chairman suggested that the respective Councils be asked to consider a
change to Paragraph 6 dealing with chairmanship and voting.

RESOLVED – 1. That subject to approval of the respective bodies, Paragraph
6 of the Terms of Reference of the Eden and Carlisle Joint Committee be
amended to read:-

"Joint Chairmen shall be elected annually on the basis that, in respect of meetings which are held in Eden, then the Chairman for those meetings shall be a representative of the Eden District Council and in respect of meetings which are held in Carlisle, then the Chairman for those meetings shall be a representative of the Executive of Carlisle City Council.

In the event of the need for a vote, a recommendation will be carried by a simple majority of the attending Members and the Chairman will not have a second or casting vote."

2. That the remaining Terms of Reference be noted.

ECJC.6/03 ELECTION OF JOINT CHAIRMEN

RESOLVED – That, subject to approval by both bodies to the change to Paragraph 6 of the Terms of Reference, Councillor J Moffat (Eden District Council) and Councillor M Mitchelson (Carlisle City Council) be appointed Joint Chairmen of the Eden and Carlisle Joint Committee for the 2003/04 Municipal Year.

ECJC.7/03 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Director of Corporate and Legal Services (Eden) submitted a report with a schedule of dates for meetings of this Joint Committee.

RESOLVED – That the schedule of meeting dates be agreed in principle subject to the dates being finalised with Members in due course.

ECJC.8/03 JOINT RESPONSE TO THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

A Report prepared by Officers from the two District Councils on a common template for a submission from both Carlisle City and Eden District Councils to the Boundary Committee on the future structure of local government in Cumbria was submitted. The Report was intended to inform Members of work in progress on the submission.

Councillor Bloxham reported that Carlisle City Council Executive's had made a decision to work towards a joint submission with Eden District Council. He advised that there was a call-in of that decision by the City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

He welcomed, on behalf of the City Council's Executive, the paper presented to this meeting on a Joint Unitary Authority for Carlisle and Eden.

Councillor Nattrass similarly welcomed, on behalf of Eden District Council, the prospect of making a joint response to the Boundary Committee with Carlisle City Council.

Councillor Metz reported on the outcome of a meeting held on 7 August 2003 between all the six District Councils in Cumbria. Five of the six Councils favoured three pairs of Unitary Authorities as the way forward for Local Government in Cumbria. The exception was Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council which had other options favoured.

He understood that Cumbria County Council favoured a Unitary County Council.

Councillor Moffat pointed out that any changes to the structure of Local Government in Cumbria would be dependent upon the establishment of a North West Regional Assembly which would be decided upon by members of the public following a referendum.

RESOLVED – That it be a recommendation to the respective bodies:-

That the Executive of Carlisle City Council and the Leaders of Eden District Council work together to progress a submission to the Boundary Committee putting forward a Unitary Authority for Carlisle and Eden in the event of a yes vote in the Regional Government referendum.

ECJC.9/03 PROVISION OF JOINT RECYCLING INITIATIVES

The Head of Environmental Protection Services (Carlisle) submitted a report updating Members on proposals to expand the Kerbside Recycling Trial Schemes operating within Carlisle and Eden. The funding proposal included an additional 38,000 green boxes for paper, glass and cans (comprising 28,000 additional boxes in Carlisle and 10,000 additional boxes in Eden) and 30,000 additional garden waste bins (comprising 20,000 additional bins in Carlisle and 10,000 additional bins in Eden) together with the construction of a new composting area at Hespin Wood Landfill Site in partnership with Cumbria County Council and its waste disposal contractor, Cumbria Waste Management.

Although the initial submission had been unsuccessful, the Government had identified an additional £24m to support schemes that have the potential to be developed in the current financial year. The Carlisle/Eden Scheme had been identified as having the necessary potential and discussions were currently ongoing with DEFRA, the Government Department handling the funding programmes. These discussions had proved very positive and, subject to certain conditions being met, there seemed a strong possibility that funding would be awarded. A letter from DEFRA confirming the outcome of the bid was expected very shortly.

The revenue implications with the continuation of the two schemes were forecast to be of the order of £150,000 for next and subsequent financial years should Carlisle and Eden decide to continue with the pilots on a permanent basis (£100,000 to be met by Carlisle and £50,000 to be met by Eden). Should the current funding bid be successful, the revenue implications to absorb the pilot schemes and service an additional 38,000 green boxes

and 30,000 garden waste bins would amount to around £495,000 (with Carlisle's share being £340,000 and Eden's £155,000). There was every prospect, based on evidence from pilot schemes, that this figure could realistically be anticipated to fall below £420,000 once the overall scheme had been established and economies of scale realised.

The Head of Environmental Protection Services (Carlisle) pointed out that it would be a requirement that any capital grant awarded by DEFRA must be fully spent by 31 March 2004 and not merely "committed". This may present difficulties given the limited timescale available should a grant be awarded.

Councillor Nattrass reported that Eden District Council would be holding a conference in the Autumn to investigate how recycling trial schemes can be extended in the most cost-effective way and also looking at the whole area of sustainability.

RESOLVED – That so far as this Committee is concerned proposals for the extended scheme as submitted to DEFRA be supported, subject to more detailed reports being presented in due course to the relevant Committees of both Authorities.

ECJC.10/03 CARLISLE AND EDEN LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

A Report from the Local Strategic Partnership Officer was submitted providing an update on the progress of the Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The LSP had now developed a Draft Joint Community Strategy and a Strategy for Children and Young People. A number of recent successes and ongoing initiatives which had been undertaken through the LSP attracting new money into the area were reported.

The LSP had developed a package of potential projects to support a co-ordinated response to the problems of Foot and Mouth Disease and longer term regeneration plans within the Carlisle and Eden areas. Indications from many funding streams from Central and Regional Agencies were that, in future, monies would only be accessible via the LSP for an area. It was therefore critical that the LSP was in a position to respond to opportunities as they presented themselves.

The structure of the LSP clearly demonstrated the involvement of the partners in identifying priorities for future work and also demonstrated how the Joint Strategy "Vision for the Future" would contribute to future developments.

Based upon comments received from partners, a new revised structure for the LSP had been implemented and this would encourage and promote the delivery of initiatives on the ground within a strategic framework developed and managed by the wider partnership.

Members from both Councils welcomed the Report and the fact that the Local Strategic Partnership was working well and attracting funding into the area.

RESOLVED – That the Report be noted.

(The meeting ended at 11.35 am)

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