

## **JOINT MEETING – CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL AND CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE**

Notes of a Joint Meeting with Carlisle City Council and the County Council Local Committee for Carlisle held on Thursday 13 November 2003 at The Civic Centre, Carlisle commencing at 2.00 pm.

### **PRESENT**

#### **Carlisle City Council**

Mr M Mitchelson (Chairman)  
Mr R D Bloxhman  
Mr R Knapton  
Mr P Stybelski – Clerk and Chief Executive  
Mr M Battersby – Director of Environment and Development  
Ms C Elliott – Head of Economic and Community Development

#### **Carlisle Local Committee**

Mr J R Collier  
Mr J D Jefferson  
Mr D Sheard – Area Support Manager  
Mr J Smith – Area Engineer  
Mrs L Graham – Member Services

### **6. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Mr E Firth.

### **7. NOTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Notes of the last meeting of the Group held on 1 October 2003 were received.

The suggestions regarding closer area working between the two Councils had been considered by the Local Committee at its meeting on 29 October and would be considered by the City Council Executive on 24 November. The Local Committee had approved the arrangements for joint working. The City Council Executive would be considering entering into Joint Neighbourhood Forums and devolving grants to the Forums for neighbourhood distribution. If the budget allocation was agreed Mr Stybelski pointed out that this would not come into force until the start of the next financial year. The City Council had been advised that there would be a small administrative charge payable to the County Council in connection with support work carried out by the Area Support Team. In addition, the City Council would provide some officer support for City Councillors.

As discussed at the last meeting the intention was to formalise the joint working arrangements which already existed in some Forums and to roll-out this good practice to other areas. The individuality of Forums would be maintained and no rigid guidelines would be adopted.

The Chief Executive referred to a request from the County Council to participate in consultation on the Local Public Service Agreement Target 8 relating to active communities. It was noted that officers and Members from both Councils would work jointly in an attempt to achieve this target, including the possibly holding a seminar.

Further to Note No.3(2) of the last meeting Mr Bloxham advised that the City Council had now received the sum referred to at the last meeting as being the residual budget from the Botchergate Relief Road.

Further to Note No.3(3) the City Council provided an update on the Park and Ride Scheme. There had been a slow take-up of the scheme in the initial stages but passenger figures were now rising and it was hoped this would continue particularly following the switching on of the Christmas Lights and the commencement of late night shopping. Minor teething problems were being ironed out as the scheme progressed and it was noted that concessionary fare holders would be allowed free passage nearer Christmas. The success of the scheme would be fully assessed and reported back in due course.

## **8. WARWICK ROAD/SPENCER STREET TWO-WAY CONSULTATION**

Mr Smith reported that the consultation on the proposed Warwick Road/Spencer Street Two-Way Scheme would close the following day. All frontagers and statutory consultees had been involved in the consultation and a well attended forum meeting had been held the previous week. The results of the consultation would be reported the Carlisle Area Transport Advisory Group meeting on 18 November and the Local Committee on 1 December. A decision on the Warwick Road proposals needed to be taken by 1 December in order to allow the necessary junction improvements to be built into the City Centre Bus/Rail Interchange Scheme the works on which were due to commence in January. The majority of concerns raised at the consultation meeting had related to the proposal for Spencer Street. Should any proposals for Warwick Road/Spencer Street be agreed these would be subject to a budget bid for 2003/04 and could not be carried out as part of the Bus/Rail Interchange Scheme. The City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the proposed Scheme and would be reporting back as part of the consultation.

The Area Support Manager requested feedback from the City Council on the way in which this consultation process had been carried out and would welcome any comments on the arrangements.

## **9. EXTENSION OF SKATEPARK**

The Skatepark was proving very popular with users and requests for it to be extended had been received. The City Council were asked for their views on the Skatepark and whether they felt an extension was appropriate or whether consideration should be given to jointly

providing other facilities in different parts of the Carlisle area. Mr Mitchelson advised that there may be some implications for an extension of the Skatepark under the Sheepmont development proposals for which additional bus drop-off points were being provided on Devonshire Walk. He would ask City Council officers to submit liaison with the Area Support Manager. In addition, the Chief Executive would ask the Head of Culture to consider the proposal and the suggestion that alternative services for young people be provided. One example of such a scheme could be the provision of a mountain bike track. Mr Jefferson reminded those present that budget allocations for such schemes had not been identified and would need to be considered alongside other Council priorities. Ms Elliott felt that there may be some merit in working together to put in a bid to the North West Development Agency for funding for well thought through and agreed schemes.

It was agreed that officers from both Councils should continue to work together to consider possible projects and where they might be funded.

## **10. HIGHWAY RESPONSE TEAMS**

Mr Smith outlined the proposals to enhance the Highways Call Centre. In discussing the proposals the Local Committee had raised questions regarding the passing on of complaints to and from the City Council and the status of the City Council's Rapid Response Teams.

Mr Bloxham advised that the City Council were developing a Customer Contact Centre and it was hoped that there could be an automatic transfer of calls between the Highways Hotline and this Contact Centre for calls which were more appropriate to be considered by the other Council. The caller would be transferred automatically and would not have to ring an alternative number. In time, the City Council hoped to be able to divert back to the County Council calls relating to other service areas. The City Council advised that the service delivery aspect was an issue which they would be considering further.

## **11. CARLISLE URBAN REGENERATION BID**

The Local Committee at its meeting on 29 October 2003 had established a Working Party to allow Members to look more closely at the components of the Urban Regeneration Bid. City Council Members commented that although the production of the bid had been overseen by officers they had been kept informed of the details. They commended the Officer Group for putting together a bid which closely followed the outline being provided by the NWDA. If the NWDA guidelines had not been followed funding would not have been made available. It was noted that the bid needed to be submitted by the end of January and therefore there was little time in which major changes could be made bearing in mind that the Local Strategic Partnership was the responsible body. If successful, the bid would provide a valuable regeneration for the more deprived areas of the City.

## **12. PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH CARLISLE HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

The Area Support Manager referred to Carlisle Housing Association's budget for environmental improvements and referred to a budget allocation by the County Council to be used alongside the CHA budget to provide parking bays on housing estates. The City Council also had a budget for environmental improvements and it was agreed that officers of both Councils and the Association should work closely together in order to achieve as many improvements as possible with the available budget.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(1) Talkin Tarn**

The City Council Chief Executive referred to the budget setting timetable of the City Council and requested a speedy response to the City Council's suggestions for Talkin Tarn. The request was noted.

### **(2) Involvement of County Officers on Scrutiny of Highways Issues**

The City Council had requested that County Highway's officers be permitted to attend City Council Scrutiny Committee meetings and be questioned on technical matters where appropriate. There was no intention that the Highways officers would be expected to comment on County Council policy. It would be useful if the City Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman could provide the County Council officers with some idea of meetings where their attendance might be useful. In line with the closer working relationship between the City Council Executive and the Local Committee county officers would attend City Council Scrutiny meetings where their attendance was connected to their work for the County Council in the same way that they met with other officers/groups. The Area Support Manager was able to give assurance that wherever possible himself and/or Area Engineer would attend Scrutiny Committee meetings of the City Council as required. This also applied to the Chairman of the Local Committee.

### **(3) Car Parking**

The Local Committee had asked that the issue of the City Council's request to extend two City Car Parks be considered at this meeting. The City Council reported that consultants had carried out a study into parking within the City and it was not necessary for a further study to be carried out. The City Council's car parking arrangements were formulated in response to the Local Transport Plan which provided for park and ride schemes to be introduced across the City as a whole. Further investigation into the parking needs of the City would take place as part of the ongoing work for the second Local Transport Plan. In the meantime the City Council asked that the County Council urgently consider the earlier request for small extensions to two car parks in the City.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Group was arranged for Thursday 5 February 2004 commencing at 2.00 pm. The meeting will be held at The Courts, Carlisle.

The meeting ended at 3.35 pm.

LMG/FB