

EDEN AND CARLISLE JOINT COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 5 MARCH 2004 AT 1.00 PM

PRESENT: Representing Eden District Council:
Councillor B Metz
Councillor D I A Natrass
Councillor C Nineham
Councillor J M Smith

Representing Carlisle City Council:
Councillor R Bloxham
Councillor E Firth
Councillor R Knapton
Councillor M Mitchelson (Chairman)

ECJC.1/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no Apologies for Absence.

ECJC.2/04 COUNCILLOR J MOFFAT

The Chairman reported the death of Councillor J Moffat, who had been elected Joint Chairman of the Eden and Carlisle Joint Committee. He paid tribute to the work and service of Councillor Moffat who was a well known character in local politics. The Joint Committee then stood in a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of former Councillor Moffat.

ECJC.3/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Nineham declared a personal interest in accordance with Eden District Council's Code of Conduct for Members in respect of the item of business relating to Regional Government. His interest was in respect of his membership of another Authority.

ECJC.4/04 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Eden and Carlisle Joint Committee held on 18 August 2003 (a copy of which had been circulated) were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

ECJC.5/04 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Election of Joint Chairman

Pursuant to Minute ECJC.6/03, it was noted that that as a result of the death of Councillor J Moffat that Eden District Council would need to nominate a Joint Chairman of the Eden and Carlisle Joint Committee. It was agreed that

the representatives of Eden District Council would nominate their Joint Chairman prior to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

(ii) Calendar of Meetings

Pursuant to Minute ECJC.7/03, it was noted that of the Schedule of Meeting Dates agreed under the above Minute, the only date remaining was Tuesday, 13 April 2004. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that after consultation with the Committee Services Section in Eden District Council that the following meeting dates were vacant on the Calendar of Meetings of both Authorities.

RESOLVED – (1) That the meeting of the Eden and Carlisle Joint Committee scheduled for Tuesday, 13 April 2004 in Penrith be cancelled.

(2) That the following dates of meetings be agreed:-

Friday, 14 May 2004 at 2.00 pm to be hosted by Eden District Council

Friday, 30 July 2004 at 2.00 pm to be hosted by Carlisle City Council

Friday, 1 October 2004 at 2.00 pm to be hosted by Eden District Council

Friday, 10 December 2004 at 2.00 pm to be hosted by Carlisle City Council

ECJC.6/04 GREEN BOX AND GARDEN WASTE RECYCLING INITIATIVES

Consideration was given to a Joint Report (TS.163/03) of the Director of Technical Services, Eden District Council and the Head of Environmental Protection Services, Carlisle City Council regarding the provision of Joint Recycling Initiatives. The Director of Technical Services introduced the report which dealt with the development of the composting site at Hespin Wood, Carlisle, the procurement of containers, the collection contracts and the promotion, information and administration of the scheme. He set out the current position in respect of the above elements of the programme and added that whilst the scheme was working against a tight timetable, much work had been done and he was confident that the arrangements would be in place for the start of the new scheme.

Councillor Mitchelson expressed his appreciation for the work carried out by staff from both Authorities against a tight timescale and Councillor Nattrass endorsed the view that the scheme reflected the success of the solid foundations of joint working between the two Authorities. He added however that he was disappointed that the Cumbria County Council had not submitted a bid for funding in respect of the Waste Minimisation Scheme and it was also noted that there were a number of tight deadlines within the Scheme imposed as a condition of the grant from DEFRA and also the grant in respect of the building at Hespin Wood. On behalf of Eden District Councillor Nattrass echoed the appreciation for the work of officers from the two Authorities in

seeking to achieve the successful implementation of the Joint Recycling Initiatives Scheme.

Councillor Bloxham commented that the Joint Working Group to progress the Initiative had, despite the differences in the geographical area of the Authorities and the political makeup of the Authorities, been run in a positive, forward-looking manner and had worked well. He expressed disappointment with regard to input of the County Council to the scheme and highlighted the need for the County Council to be party to the agreement to ensure future access to the Hespin Wood Site.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Joint Committee note and place on record its appreciation for the work carried out by staff of both Authorities in progressing the Green Box and Garden Waste Joint Recycling Initiatives to enable the Scheme to commence at the start of the new financial year.

(2) That it be noted that there are a number of legal documents/agreements to be finalised and it be noted that these will need to be progressed and concluded as a matter of urgency by the Carlisle City Council, Eden District Council and the Cumbria County Council.

ECJC.7/04 EAST CUMBRIA COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT

Mr P Gray, Manager, East Cumbria Countryside Project, presented a report setting out details of the East Cumbria Countryside Project's recent projects in Carlisle and Eden including work at Kirkby Stephen, Penrith, Kirkoswald, Brampton and Longtown. He reminded Members that 2005 would be the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the East Cumbria Countryside Partnership and he noted that the three Local Authority Partners, Carlisle City Council, Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council had demonstrated a high level of commitment to the Partnership, especially in recent years when the finances of the Project had been under pressure. He informed the meeting that the proportion of the Project's self-generated funding had grown enormously and added that the Project was now committed to working on rural regeneration.

Councillor Nineham commented on work which the East Cumbria Countryside Project had carried out improving the access and footpaths at the Cowraik Quarry Local Nature Reserve in Penrith and queried whether as a SSSI Site, it should be the project's role to improve access or whether its role should be to maintain the site. Mr Gray commented that the Quarry received its SSSI status because of its rock formations and the work which the project were carrying out was to improve access to the site for local people and to help them understand the site's significance. He added that the project was continuing to work with partners to make wildlife sites accessible to people in order that they would be able to find out more about them and their value.

Councillor Metz noted that the East Cumbria Countryside Project had been established some 20 years ago by Eden and Carlisle Councils but over the time the focus of the project had changed and suggested that now was the time to review the role and areas covered by the project to see how it could be

improved and look at the funding of the project and its remit. In that respect he called for a full report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Eden and Carlisle Joint Committee on the role of the East Cumbria Countryside Project and to examine how it could move positively forward both in terms of its project work and its funding/future plans. Councillor Bloxham added that the work of the East Cumbria Countryside Project was important and people within the Eden and Carlisle areas could see positive improvements arising from the Project's work. He added however that it was important to consider the funding of the project and its impact on the organisation. He suggested that the report mentioned above could include a Business Plan for the project over the next two to three years including funding of the organisations by the Local Authorities or other partners which would enable the Eden District and Carlisle City Councils to consider the project on a firmer footing and not as a year to year budget bid.

Mr Gray, in welcoming the comments of Members, commented on the impact of withdrawal in the 1990s of the funding from the Countryside Commission and the later withdrawal of European funding from the Project and added that the three Local Authorities, Carlisle City, Eden District and Cumbria County now provided the elements of core funding with the balance being made up of external grants and earned income although this inevitably lead to the Business Plans being developed on a year-by-year basis.

Councillor Mitchelson declared a personal interest in accordance with Carlisle City Council's Code of Conduct for Members when the subject of Rural Regeneration Cumbria was introduced. His interest was in respect of his role as a Member of the Rural Regeneration Cumbria.

Mr Gray further added that Rural Regeneration Cumbria were keen to fund/support new initiatives whereas the East Cumbria Countryside Project had been in existence for a considerable period of time. Rural Regeneration Cumbria were also keen to support projects/initiatives which had a countywide/strategic overview whereas the project was based in Carlisle and Eden. Councillor Bloxham noted the comments and suggested that they be included in the report referred to earlier in the meeting with regard to the future of the East Cumbria Countryside Project.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Report be received.

(2) That the Manager of the East Cumbria Countryside Project prepare a report for consideration by the next meeting of the Eden and Carlisle Joint Committee with regard to the future of the East Cumbria Countryside Project. The report to include a Business Plan to take the project forward over the next two to three years, its level of funding both from Local Authorities and other partners, the geographical boundaries/areas covered by the scheme, the future commitments of the scheme and hurdles/threats to its future growth and success.

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that the Joint Carlisle and Eden Submission with regard to the future structure of Local Authorities in Cumbria had been submitted to the Boundary Commission. He added that he had also received notification that the Joint Submission from Copeland and Allerdale had been submitted. He added that it was anticipated that the Boundary Commission would publish its views on the options to be put forward for the future Local Government of Cumbria towards the end of May.

Councillor Mitchelson informed the meeting that the Deputy Prime Minister would be addressing an event in Kendal and tickets for that event could be obtained through Government Office North West. He had also received notification that the Deputy Prime Minister would receive representations whilst he considered the views of the Boundary Committee on the future structure of Local Government and he felt it important that Council representatives from Carlisle and Eden should attend the event in Kendal and form a delegation to make representation on the future structure of Local Government in Cumbria direct to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Councillor Nineham paid tribute to the work of Officers from both Eden District and Carlisle City Councils in preparing the Joint Submission to the Boundary Committee and supported the suggestion that representatives of both Councils take their case direct to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to put forward the views of the residents of the Carlisle City and Eden District Council areas in support of the case for the Joint Carlisle Eden solution to be included on the Referendum Paper.

Councillor Metz highlighted the position with regard to the distribution of leaflets publicising the forthcoming referendum in Regional Government to households within the Eden and Carlisle areas and commented that with the exception of houses in Brough no other leaflets on the issue of Regional Government and the future of Local Authorities had been issued within the Eden District Council area and he suggested that that matter should be raised with both the Boundary Commission and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The Town Clerk and Executive added that Carlisle City have written formally to the Boundary Committee expressing their concerns and he would forward a copy of that letter to the Eden District Council for their information.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Town Clerk and Chief Executive and the Chief Executive, Eden District Council, be requested to organise a delegation of Councillors representing Carlisle City and Eden District Councils to meet with the Deputy Prime Minister to put the case for a Joint Carlisle/Eden Authority solution to be included on the ballot paper for the forthcoming referendum on Regional Government and the future arrangements for Local Government in Cumbria within the timescale set by the Deputy Prime Minister for receiving such deputations.

(2) That the Town Clerk and Chief Executive forward a copy of the City Council's letter to the Boundary Committee with regard to the distribution of leaflets in the Carlisle area to Eden District Council for information. ;

(3) That the arrangements with regard to the event to be attended by the Deputy Prime Minister in Kendal on 15 April 2004 be noted.

(The meeting ended at 1.46 pm)