
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2010

EEOSP.83/10 CORE STRATEGY KEY ISSUES PAPER

The Assistant Director (Economic Development) (Mr Hardman) presented report ED.39/10 that had been prepared as the first opportunity to open up the discussion about the issues that were affecting and would affect Carlisle now and over the next 20 years. It was intended that the responses received to the consultation would help to shape the statutory issues and options stage of the Core Strategy preparation process that would follow on from the consultation. Public consultation at that stage was important as it would help to ensure that the issues identified and the options that would be developed to address them were locally relevant ensuring that ultimately a more robust Core Strategy was produced.

Members were asked to consider the suggested issues in the consultation papers and the evidence base used in the identification of the issues, and whether any issues had been omitted from the Key Issues Paper that should be included.

Mr Hardman advised Members that a workshop had been held that looked at where the report would sit within the Core Strategy. A lot of important work had been done that would have an impact on how the work would develop. In the report to Executive the timescale indicated adoption by February 2014 and that it would form part of the Policy Framework for consideration by the Executive, Overview and Scrutiny and Council. The first stage would be considered by the Executive at their meeting on 20 December 2012 with comments from the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting and the workshop. The report outlined the current position and Mr Hardman advised that whilst the Local Plan would form the basis of the Strategy it was important to identify the right issues before the paper went out for consultation.

The matter had been considered by Executive on 22 November 2010 (EX.192/10).

The Executive resolved:

‘That the draft Core Strategy Key Issues paper be made available for consideration by the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel; and that subject to any additional information arising from the Scrutiny Panel, it be reported back to the Executive on 13 December 2010 to consider referral to Council for approval for public consultation on 12 January 2011.’

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder stated her thanks to Mr Hardman and his team for the workshop and added that she believed that as the work progressed, it would become clear how important the strategy was. Every time there was consultation

the feedback was positive and the Portfolio Holder believed that should be included in the document.

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- *Where the report mentions historic buildings would only those indicated be considered or would there be a complete list?*

Mr Hardman confirmed that the list highlighted a number of historic buildings but that all Grade 1 Listed Buildings would be included.

- *With regard to the economic scope of the Core Strategy it was important to ensure that remote areas and those with poor access would be included and that communications with those areas was also important.*

Mr Hardman agreed that those areas were fundamental to the economy and officers would ensure they would not be disenfranchised. Officers were aware of the problems with broadband and were trying to identify further needs.

- *The issues were complex and it was important that the framework did not stifle the development within the Council.*
- *Members would be required to agree the issues outlined before the Strategy went out for consultation. When looking at housing in rural areas in the past resources for housing had been allocated on a 70(urban)/30 (rural) split. How would officers address the changes to the rules and regulations regarding housing?*

Mr Hardman advised that when preparing the current Local Plan officers had looked at the settlement split and amended it to 80/20 between Carlisle and rural areas. The number of settlements had also been reduced from 80 to 23 in order to develop a more sustainable strategy. Mr Hardman had received correspondence from some of the Parish Councils and advised that some of the issues would be dealt with through the Core Strategy.

- *With regard to economic issues where would the LEP fit in?*

Mr Hardman explained that, in theory, the Core Strategy and Local Development Framework would implement the delivery of the solutions, while the LEP would give the spatial steer for Cumbria, and it would have a planning role. The Council would need to ensure that the Core Strategy had a Cumbria wide perspective and the sub regional aspect would come through the LEP.

- *Would officers be working with the private sector to bring work in?*

Mr Hardman advised that with regard to the economic work, that would be done with the Local Strategic Partnership and the Enterprise and Economic Development sub-group looking at actions and priorities working towards a replacement for Carlisle

Renaissance. Mr Hardman confirmed that relationships were already in place with the Cumbria Inward Investment Agency and the Large Employers Affinity Group.

- *Who would the consultation be going out to?*

Mr Hardman explained that initially the consultation would go to 100 organisations that play an active role in working with the community. Thereafter consultation would be widened and the press would be notified.

- *The Local Plans office advised of a web link to the SHLAA site that contained a lot of information and comments could be left.*

Mr Hardman advised that it could be accessed through the planning section of the Council's website. He agreed to circulate the e-mail link to Members.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Panel thanked Mr Hardman and his team for the report.

2.) That officers should ensure that housing allocations and rural settlement figures should be looked at again.