



City Council

Date: Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Time: 18:45

Venue: Council Chamber

Chair: [no attendance published]

Present: Councillor Ruth Alcroft, Councillor Trevor Allison, Councillor Louise Atkinson, Councillor James Bainbridge, Councillor Robert Betton, Councillor Pamela Birks, Councillor Mrs Marilyn Bowman, Councillor Lisa Brown, Councillor Nigel Christian, Councillor John Collier, Councillor Dr Helen Davison, Councillor Gareth Ellis, Councillor Ms Jo Ellis-Williams, Councillor Mrs Christine Finlayson, Councillor Colin Glover, Councillor Stephen Higgs, Councillor Neville Lishman, Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Mallinson, Councillor John Mallinson, Councillor Mrs Ann McKerrell, Councillor Keith Meller, Councillor Mrs Linda Mitchell, Councillor Michael Mitchelson, Councillor David Morton, Councillor Paul Nedved, Councillor Ms Lucy Patrick, Councillor Fiona Robson, Councillor David Shepherd, Councillor Miss Lee Sherriff, Councillor Christopher Southward, Councillor Peter Sunter, Councillor Mrs Valerie Tarbitt, Councillor Dr Les Tickner, Councillor Raymond Tinnion, Councillor Miss Jeanette Whalen

Also Present: Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services

C.118/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Jeffrey Bomford, Councillor Mrs Anne Glendinning and Councillor John Paton.

C.121/21 Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct the following declarations of interest were submitted:

Councillor Miss Sherriff declared an interest in respect of item 14 (i) Notice of Motion - Universal credit. The interest related to her employment as a civil servant.

Councillor Dr Davison declared an interest in respect of item 18 - Community Governance Review "Stanwix Village". The interest related to the fact she was a resident in Stanwix.

Councillor Miss Whalen declared an interest in respect of item 14 (i) Notice of Motion - Universal credit. The interest related to her employment as a civil servant.

Councillor Patrick declared an interest in respect of item 15 (iii) - Asset Management Plan 2022 to 2027. The interest related to her position as a Trustee on the Currock Community Centre Trust.

Councillor Glover declared an interest in respect of item 15 (iii) - Asset Management Plan 2022 to 2027. The interest related to his position as a Trustee on the Currock Community Centre Trust.

Councillor Brown declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of item 14 (ii) Notice of Motion - A Right to Food City. The interest related to her employment. As a result of the interest Councillor Brown indicated she would not be moving her Motion and requested that no other Member moved the Motion on her behalf, it therefore be deemed withdrawn. Item 14. (ii) Notice of Motion - A Right to Food City was withdrawn.

C.119/21 Minutes

The Mayor moved the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings of the City Council held on 20 July 2021.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the City Council held on 20 July 2021 be received; and were signed by the Mayor.

C.120/21 Public and Press

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

C.122/21 Announcements

(i) The Mayor

The Mayor welcome Members to the first meeting in the new Council Chamber which marked a new chapter in the history of Carlisle. Since the terrible floods of 2015 the Council had endured the COVID Pandemic which had impacted everyone. With eighteen months left as Carlisle City Council, the Mayor noted that many at the meeting would never have the opportunity to make such a difference to the people of Carlisle again. She urged everyone to make a significant difference in the time left.

(ii) The Leader of the Council

The Leader gave thanks to the contractors and officers who had worked in a very difficult climate to complete the new ground floor and Council Chamber.

(iii) Members of the Executive

There were no announcements from Members of the Executive.

(iv) Town Clerk and Chief Executive

There were no announcements from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

C.123/21 Questions by Members of the Public

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.1, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to report that no questions have been submitted on notice by members of the public.

C.124/21 Presentation of Petitions and Deputations

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.11, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported that no petitions or deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

C.125/21 Questions from Members of the Council

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to that no questions have been submitted by members of the Council.

C.126/21 Minutes of the Executive

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Ellis seconded that the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 2 August and 31 August 2021 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 2 August and 31 August 2021 be received and adopted.

C.127/21 Executive - Portfolio Holder Reports

Copies of reports from the following Portfolio Holders had been circulated prior to the meeting:

(i) Culture, Heritage and Leisure

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder congratulated everyone involved in completing the new Council Chamber, he moved his report and answered Members questions on details of his report.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder be received.

(ii) Communities, Health and Wellbeing

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder moved her report and responded to Members questions on details of her report.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder be received.

(iii) Environment and Transport

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder reported that the application to Phase 2 Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund had been successful. The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved his report and responded to questions from Members.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder be received.

(iv) Economy, Enterprise and Housing

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder reported that five members of the Homelessness and Prevention Team had been tested positive for Covid-19, he wished them a speedy recovery. The impact on the service had resulted in a delay to the re-opening of John Street Hostel. The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder moved his report and answered questions on the details of his report.

RESOLVED - 1) That the report of the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder be received.

2) That the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder provide

(i) Councillor Dr Davison a written response setting out the definition of affordable housing in the Economic Strategy;

(ii) Councillor Sunter a written response detailing the price range and cost of the 150 new affordable houses.

(v) Finance, Governance and Resources

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved his report and responded to questions on the details of his report.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder be received.

(vi) Leader's Portfolio

The Leader moved his report.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Leader be received.

C.128/21 Minutes

The Mayor moved and the Deputy Mayor seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the meetings as detailed within Minute Book Volume 48(2):

Committee	Meeting Date
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel	22 July 2021
Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel	15 July 2021
Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel	29 July 2021
Regulatory Panel	14 July and 18 August 2021

Licensing Committee	14 July and 18 August 2021
Development Control Committee	21 July and 23 July 2021
Audit Committee	8 July and 28 July 2021
Appeals Panel	12 July and 3 August 2021

In relation to the meeting of the Audit Committee on 28 July 2021, Councillor Patrick noted that her declaration of interest was incorrect, she was a Trustee on Currock Community Centre Management Committee.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Minutes of the meetings as detailed above be received and adopted.

2) That the minutes of the Audit Committee on 28 July 2021 be amended to record Currock Community Centre Management Committee as Councillor Patrick's declaration of interest.

C.129/21 Scrutiny

(i) Vice Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Finlayson moved her Vice Chair's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Report of the Vice Chair be received and adopted.

(ii) Chair of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Bainbridge moved his Chair's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Report of the Chair be received and adopted.

(iii) Chair of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Brown moved her Chair's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Report of the Chair be received and adopted.

C.130/21 Notice of Motion

(i) Universal Credit

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to report that the receipt of the following motion submitted on notice by Councillor Patrick:

"This Council calls on the Government to change its decision and retain the Universal Credit uplift.

We believe this is the fair and right thing to do, to protect our residents and avoid causing financial difficulty, poverty, and potential crisis to approximately 7,367 Universal Credit claimants and their families across the Carlisle City District."

Councillor Patrick moved and Councillor Dr Tickner seconded the motion.

Councillor Patrick then gave very detailed reasons for the submission of the motion, which she hoped would receive the backing of the Council.

Councillor Ellis gave notice of an amendment, copies of which were tabled:

Delete everything after "This Council".

Amended motion to read:

"This Council believes that Covid19 has shown the value of Universal Credit. A simplified benefit system that facilitates people moving to work, and not penalising people for taking up employment. The way that UC works means that amounts and tapers can be changed very quickly, and the online process is able to expand to cope with rapid expansion. During Covid UC went from three million to six million claimants in the space of a couple of months.

This Council further believes that we are entering a period of significant wage growth, as demand for labour outstrips the supply, and that the Government's stated intention of moving the National Living Wage up to 2/3 of the median income, equating £10.50 an hour by 2024, and then pegged to the median income is the best way to tackle low pay.

This Council requests that the Government reconsider removing the uplift, in order to balance their budget, that they fund this uplift by freezing Universal Credit until 2024 and bringing forward National Living Wage increases."

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 14.6 Councillor Glover sought clarification as to whether the tabled amendment negated the original Motion.

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services advised that whilst the amendment did alter the focus of the original Motion, by virtue of its making provision for retaining the Universal Credit uplift, it did not negate the original Motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8.01pm and reconvened at 8.11pm.

Councillor Ellis moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Mallinson (J).

Councillor Ellis further outlined, in some detail, the reasons for the submission of the amendment.

Speaking at the invitation of The Mayor, the mover of the original motion declined to accept the amendment of Councillor Ellis.

Substantial debate ensued, during which various Members expressed their support for / opposition to the amendment.

Following voting, the amendment to the original Motion was CARRIED.

Discussion then took place on the substantive Motion, with input from a number of Members of the City Council.

Following further voting, the substantive Motion, as set out below was CARRIED

"This Council believes that Covid19 has shown the value of Universal Credit. A simplified benefit system that facilitates people moving to work, and not penalising people for taking up employment. The way that UC works means that amounts and tapers can be changed very quickly, and the online process is able to expand to cope with rapid expansion. During Covid UC went from three million to six million claimants in the space of a couple of months.

This Council further believes that we are entering a period of significant wage growth, as demand for labour outstrips the supply, and that the Government's stated intention of moving the National Living Wage up to 2/3 of the median income, equating £10.50 an hour by 2024, and then pegged to the median income is the best way to tackle low pay.

This Council requests that the Government reconsider removing the uplift, in order to balance their budget, that they fund this uplift by freezing Universal Credit until 2024 and bringing forward National Living Wage increases."

(ii) A Right to Food City

Following her declaration of a disclosable pecuniary interest, Councillor Brown's motion was deemed withdrawn pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.6.

C.131/21 Proposals from the Executive in relation to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework

(i) Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 - 2026/27

Pursuant to Minute EX.65/21 and EX.84/21, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2026/27 be referred to Council for approval. A copy of Report RD.36/21 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Ellis presented the report and moved the recommendation, which was duly seconded by Councillor Mallinson (J).

RESOLVED – That the City Council approved the Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27. (RD.36/21)

(ii) Capital Investment Strategy 2022/23 - 2026/27

Pursuant to Minute EX.66/21 and EX.85/21, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the Capital Investment Strategy 2022/23 to 2026/27 be referred to Council for approval. A copy of Report RD.37/21 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Ellis presented the report and moved the recommendation.

Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED – That the City Council approved the Capital Investment Strategy for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27 (RD.37/21).

(iii) Asset Management Plan 2022 to 2027

Pursuant to Minute EX.67/21 and EX.86/21, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the Asset Management Plan for 2022 to 2027 be referred to Council for adoption. A copy of Report GD.58/21 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Ellis moved the report and recommendation, Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED – That the City Council agreed to adopt the Asset Management Plan for 2022-2027 (GD.58/21).

(iv) Carlisle Plan 2021 - 2023

Pursuant to Minute EX.87/21, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the Carlisle Plan 2021 - 2023 be referred to Council for adoption. A copy of Report PC.28/21 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved the report and recommendation, Councillor Ellis seconded the recommendation.

Councillor Mallinson (J) responded to questions from Members on the report.

Following voting it was

RESOLVED – That the City Council agreed to adopt the Carlisle Plan 2021 - 2023 (PC.28/21).

(v) Carlisle Economic Strategy

Pursuant to Minute EX.55/21, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the Carlisle Economic Strategy be referred to Council for adoption. A copy of Report ED.34/21 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Nedved moved the report and recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Shepherd.

Councillor Dr Davison did not feel that the Carlisle Economic Strategy explored far enough the level of climate crisis identified in the recent IPCC report, she detailed her concerns and asked Council to refer the report back to the Executive for further work.

Councillor Alcroft seconded the recommendation to refer back to the Executive.

Councillor Nedved responded to the recommendation by highlighting the work involved in the preparation of the Strategy, which included input from two Scrutiny Panel meetings, a workshop and two reports to the Executive.

Following voting the recommendation to refer back to the Executive was NOT AGREED.

Following a further vote it was

RESOLVED – That the City Council agreed to adopt the Carlisle Economic Strategy (ED.34/21)

C.132/21 Suspension of Standing Orders

During consideration of the above item the Mayor noted that the meeting had been in progress for 3 hours; and moved that Council Procedure Rule 9, in relation to the duration of meetings be suspended in order that the meeting could continue to enable the remaining items of business to be transacted, and it was:

AGREED that the meeting should continue beyond three hours in duration to enable the remaining items of business to be transacted.

C.133/21 Options for Increasing the Delivery of Affordable Housing in Carlisle

Pursuant to Minute EX.93/21, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that Council consider a report on the delivery of affordable housing in Carlisle. A copy of Report ED.33/21 and relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Nedved moved the report and recommendation, Councillor Shepherd seconded them.

Councillor Nedved responded to questions from Members on the report.

Councillor Brown sought clarification that the Motion from the 19 November 2019 had been acted upon; confirmation could not be provided during the meeting.

Councillor Sunter moved that the report be deferred to the next meeting and Councillor Brown seconded the recommendation.

Following discussion a vote was taken and the recommendation to defer the report to the next meeting was NOT CARRIED.

A further vote was taken, and it was

RESOLVED – That the Council:

1. Noted the work undertaken to date to deliver affordable homes in Carlisle.
2. Noted the potential delivery options set out in the Executive report for increasing the level of affordable housing.
3. Supports the Executive's decision that, in view of Local Government Reorganisation, the new Unitary Council will be best placed to review these potential delivery options.

C.134/21 Temporary Appointment of Members to Farlam Parish Council

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services (GD.57/21) seeking authority to make an Order under s.91 of the Local Government Act 1972 to appoint Councillors Meller, Mitchelson and Tinnion to Farlam Parish Council. Farlam Parish Council had insufficient Members to be quorate, the appointment of three City Council Members allowed a quorate meeting of the said Parish to take place and co-opt new Members.

Councillor Ellis presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Mallinson (J).

RESOLVED - That Council

1. By order made pursuant to s91 of the Local Government Act 1972 appoint Councillors Meller, Mitchelson and Tinnion as temporary members of Farlam Parish Council;
2. Stipulate that such appointments cease at the conclusion of the Farlam Parish Council Meeting at which sufficient persons are appointed by co-option such that the said Parish Council is thereafter able to hold quorate meetings.
3. Authorise the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to draft and complete the Order and serve it as appropriate.

C.135/21 Community Governance Review "Stanwix Village"

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services (GD.56/21) which detailed a petition requesting a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the proposed "Stanwix Village" parish area and what the remit and scope should be.

Councillor Ellis presented the report and moved the recommendations, and they were seconded by Councillor Mallinson (J).

Councillor Ellis responded to Members questions on the report.

RESOLVED -

1. That Council agrees to carry out a Community Governance Review of the proposed "Stanwix Village" parish area to consider the establishment of a separate parish council for "Stanwix Village" and associated electoral arrangements.
2. That the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, are agreed.
3. That a Community Governance Review Working Party consisting of members from the Stanwix & Houghton ward and Stanwix Urban division be established to co-ordinate the review and to make final recommendations to Council.

C.136/21 Proposed Change to the Start Time of the Regulatory Panel

The Chair of the Regulatory Panel requested on behalf of the Regulatory Panel that its commencement time be changed from 4.00pm to 2.00pm. The Licensing Committee would continue to meet on the rising of the Regulatory Panel.

Councillor Morton seconded the recommendation.

Substantial discussion arose, during which Members of the City Council outlined their support

for / opposition against the recommendation.

Following voting it was

RESOLVED - That the start time of the Regulatory Panel be changed to 2.00pm for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year. The Licensing Committee would meet on the rising of the Regulatory Panel.

C.137/21 Committee Nominations

RESOLVED - It was noted and approved that Councillor Mrs Tarbitt would replace Councillor Morton on the Audit Committee.

C.138/21 Operation of the Provisions Relating to Call-in and Urgency

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 15(j) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported (GD.59/21) on the Operation of Call-in and Urgency Procedures over the past year.

RESOLVED – That report GD.59/21 be noted.

C.139/21 Communications

There were no communications or items of business brought forward by the Mayor as a matter of urgency to be dealt with at the meeting.

C.140/21 Councillor Denholm

The Mayor reported the death of John Denholm on 20 July 2021. Mr Denholm had been a City Councillor for the Currock and Upperby Ward since May 2019. The Council stood for a minute silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr Denholm.

The Meeting ended at: 22:54