

EXECUTIVE

MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2012 AT 1.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Mitchelson (Chairman and Leader's Portfolio)
Councillor J Mallinson (Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Bloxham (Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Mrs Bowman (Economic Development Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Mrs Geddes (Community Engagement Portfolio Holder)

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Layden (Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel)
Councillors Bainbridge, Mrs Luckley and Mrs Riddle (as observers)
Ms Charlotte Towers (Student visiting Carlisle from Flensburg – observer)

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Ellis (Performance and Development Portfolio Holder).

AGENDA

The Chairman reported that an additional item of business required to be considered as follows:

Agenda item A.10 – Cumbria County Council's Proposed Changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centres which had been included as an urgent item of business in order to meet the consultation response deadline

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Ms Charlotte Towers to this meeting of the Executive.

CALL-IN

The Chairman reported that the Mayor had agreed that the following items should be exempt from call-in as call-in procedures would overlap the special City Council meeting on 7 February 2012:

- Revenue Estimates – Summary of Overall Budgetary Position 2012/13 to 2016/17
- Provisional Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2016/17
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy 2012/13
- Executive Response to the Budget Consultation and Recommendations for the 2012/13 Budget

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 31 October and 22 November 2011 were signed by the Chairman as true records of the meetings.

EX.001/12 BUDGET 2012/13 – CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION FEEDBACK (Key Decision)

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

The Leader reported the submission of the following documents in response to consultation on the draft Budget proposals:

- (a) Minutes of the budget consultation meeting with the Large Employers Affinity Group - 6 January 2012
- (b) Minutes of the budget consultation meeting with representatives of Trade Unions - 6 January 2012
- (c) Minutes of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel - 5 January 2012

In addition, comments received from members of the public in response to the budget consultation process had been circulated to Executive Members prior to the meeting.

Referring the (b) above, the Community Engagement Portfolio Holder pointed out that the reference to "£15" on page 4 should in fact read "£15 m".

The Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel said that the Panel was very pleased to note that the Small Scale Community Projects Budget, which was a valuable asset for Councillors in the local community,

would be retained. The Chairman also appreciated the difficulties under which the present budget proposals were tabled.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder commented upon the very helpful and informative nature of the budget consultation meetings on 6 January 2012. All those who attended had been realistic and had a general understanding of the quite severe measures required in order to recommend a balanced budget to Council, and he expressed thanks for their input.

The Portfolio Holder further thanked the Chairman and Members of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel for their very helpful comments. He had always enjoyed attending Panel meeting and looked forward to continuing that practice in the future.

In conclusion, the Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder thanked those members of the public who had taken the time and trouble to respond to the budget consultation during what was a very difficult time for many people.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

1. That the Minutes of the consultation meetings with the Large Employers Affinity Group and Trade Union representatives, attached as Appendices B and C; the Extract from the Minutes of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and comments received from members of the public be received.
2. That the consultation feedback be received, it being noted that the comments had been taken into account by the Executive when formulating its final recommendations for the City Council's 2012/13 Budget to be submitted later in the meeting.

Reasons for Decision

To take into account any consultation feedback when formulating recommendations on the 2012/13 Budget.

EX.002/12 BUDGET 2012/13 – REVENUE ESTIMATES: SUMMARY OF OVERALL BUDGETARY POSITION 2012/13 TO 2016/17
(Key Decision)

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.170/11, the Director of Resources submitted report RD.78/11 providing an update on the Council's revenue budget position for 2012/13 to 2016/17. He informed Members that the report had been amended to mirror the Executive's draft Budget Proposals which were issued for consultation purposes on 19 December 2011, and updated to take account of any further known changes since that date. He then outlined the changes for the benefit of Members.

The Director of Resources summarised the General Fund Budget Projections for 2011/12 revised to 2016/17. He added that any proposed budget shortfall would need to be met by appropriation from Council reserves. He further detailed the projected impact on the Council's revenue balances.

The overall budgetary summary set out in the report incorporated the significant savings required over the five years commencing 2011/12. However, due to its success to date in identifying £3m in transformational savings, the Council now had a solid financial base in order to set its 2012/13 budget. In the circumstances the Council could adopt a more measured approach in spreading the further savings required of £2.337m over the next four years whilst maintaining a safe and healthy financial future for the Council.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive received and noted the draft updated budget projections for 2011/12 to 2016/17, together with the potential use of balances and reserves, in order to recommend a budget to Council on 7 February 2012.

Reasons for Decision

To prepare a draft budget proposal for 2012/13 for recommendation to the City Council.

**EX.003/12 BUDGET 2012/13 – PROVISIONAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME
2012/13 TO 2016/17**
(Key Decision)

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.171/11, the Director of Resources submitted report RD.79/11 on the Council's Capital Programme for 2012/13 - 2016/17. He informed Members that the report had been updated to reflect the Executive's budget proposals together with any other known changes. The report detailed the revised capital programme for 2011/12 and proposed capital programme for 2012/13 to 2016/17, together with the proposed methods of financing.

The Director of Resources added that the report summarised the implications of the review of the proposed programme for 2011/12 to 2015/16 in light of the capital bids submitted to date for consideration. It further summarised the estimated and much reduced capital resources available to fund the programme.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Agreed the Provisional Capital Programme for 2012/13 to 2016/17 in the light of the capital bids submitted to date, together with the estimated available capital resources, for recommendation to Council on 7 February 2012 and approved carry forward of £4,067,000 from 2011/12 into 2012/13.
2. Recommended to the City Council that any capital scheme for which funding had been approved by Council may only proceed after a full report, including business case and financial appraisal, had been approved by the Executive, following detailed consideration by the Project Assurance Group.

Reasons for Decision

To prepare a draft Budget proposal for 2012/13 for recommendation to the City Council.

EX.004/12 BUDGET 2012/13 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STRATEGY 2012/13
(Key Decision)

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules the Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.172/11, the Director of Resources submitted report RD.80/11 setting out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2012/13 which had been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. He added that the Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy for 2012/13 were also incorporated as part of the Statement, as were the Prudential Indicators as required within the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

He added that those requirements came into operation on 1 April 2004 under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003. Part 1 of the Act allowed a local authority to borrow money for any purpose that was within its control or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs. Since April 2004 there had been no statutory limit to the amount that could be borrowed. There was, however, a requirement for full compliance with CIPFA's Prudential Code; the key objectives of which were to demonstrate that the proposed capital investment plans had been assessed by the Council as affordable, prudent and sustainable. Section 3(1) of the Act placed a duty on the Council to determine before the start of the financial year and keep under review the maximum amount that it could afford to borrow. That amount was called the Authorised Limit and was discussed at Appendix A to his report.

The Director of Resources reminded Members that the draft Statement had been considered by the Executive on 19 December 2011 prior to the consultation period on the budget proposals for 2012/13. It had also been considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Audit Committee.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2012/13, which incorporated the Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy, together with the Prudential Indicators for 2012/13 as set out in Appendix A, be approved for submission to the City Council on 7 February 2012.

Reasons for Decision

To recommend the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy for 2012/13 to the City Council.

**EX.005/12 EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE BUDGET CONSULTATION
AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2012/13 BUDGET
(Key Decision)**

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules the Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

The Leader referred to the Executive's Budget proposals for 2012/13, copies of which were tabled at the meeting.

The Leader reiterated that the Budget proposals were necessary to ensure that the authority continued to meet the challenges of the reduction in money as a result of the economic downturn over the five years which started in 2011/12.

The Executive had successfully identified £3 m in transformational savings and now had a solid financial base in order to set their 2012/13 Budget. It was therefore possible to adopt a more measured approach in spreading the further savings required of £2.57 m over the next four years whilst maintaining a safe and healthy financial future for the Council.

As part of next year's budget, the Executive was proposing a Council Tax freeze for the City Council for 2012/13 which was the first time the citizens of Carlisle had the benefit of a freeze for two years running. The Executive was also committed to a Council Tax freeze during 2013/14 which would mean a freeze for three years in succession.

He added that the Executive remained committed to protecting front-line services, such as waste and recycling collections and street cleaning, but had to take some tough decisions about services and future spending.

The Council would continue:

- working in partnership with other Councils or organisations;
- buying in services (where it made good financial sense);
- focussing on raising more income from its own assets; and
- making the Council's services even more efficient.

In addition to the Council Tax freeze the key issues within the Executive's budget proposals included:

- shortfalls in income had now been factored into the 2012/13 budget
- as a result of a thorough review of car parking facilities within the City they had an overall reduction in charges for 2012/13
- continuation of the small scale community budgets for members to spend in their own areas tackling specific ward issues.

The Leader reported that there was also a small amount of flexibility within the budget to enable the Executive to fund non-recurring revenue schemes, support for an Environmental Support Team for two years; financial support for the Events Programme which included the Olympic Torch, Music City and to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, which would achieve community involvement as well as an economic boost to Carlisle.

Confirmation that the proposed savings carried over from the current year's budget covering advice agencies would not be taken. The Executive would continue to support the Law Centre and the Citizens Advice Bureau which was important during a time of recession.

The budget included capital support for projects such as the replacement Families Accommodation; the Old Town Hall and extra money for Disabled Facilities Grants.

Re-profiling of the Asset Business Plan included the first £15m being invested in the Treasury Management money markets to generate additional interest income pending a decision on the £15 m loan which this administration had inherited. The Executive was already looking at how any surplus would be invested in the economic growth and cultural offer of Carlisle as they were developing major projects.

In conclusion, the Leader stated that the Budget proposals would provide sustainability for the Council, investment in the growth of Carlisle and importantly value for money for the residents of Carlisle.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder indicated that he was pleased with the pragmatic and innovative nature of the Executive Budget Proposals 2012/13 which would be recommended to the City Council on 7 February 2012. He was particularly pleased that the Budget proposed a Council Tax freeze for the City Council for 2012/13 and 2013/14 (a three year freeze) and importantly sought to protect advice agencies in order that they may continue to support people in the current very difficult circumstances.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder added that the £15 m investment from the Asset Review would prevent the need for cuts otherwise required. It had always been the Executive's intention of minimise cuts as far as possible. He referred to the superb transformation process which had successfully identified £3 m in savings and resulted in one of the most effective management structures ever in place within the City Council.

Notwithstanding the fact that times were difficult, the authority had performed well and could move forward with some considerable confidence.

Summary of options rejected

A number of options which had been considered as part of the Council's 2012/13 budget deliberations as identified in various reports

DECISION

That the Executive Budget Proposals for 2012/13, attached as Appendix D, be forwarded to the City Council for approval on 7 February 2012.

Reasons for Decision

To produce the Executive's budget proposals for 2012/13 for recommendation to the City Council.

EX.006/12 FORWARD PLAN (Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Subject Matter

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 January 2012 to 30 April 2012 was submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 January 2012 to 30 April 2012 be noted.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable.

EX.007/12 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS (Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

Details of a decision taken by the Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder under delegated powers were submitted.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the decision, attached as Appendix A, be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable.

EX.008/12 JOINT MANAGEMENT TEAM
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Subject Matter

The Minutes of the meetings of the Joint Management Team held on 24 November and 8 December 2011 were submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Joint Management Team held on 24 November and 8 December 2011, attached as Appendix E, be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable.

EX.009/12 CUMBRIA LEADERSHIP BOARD
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Subject Matter

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Leadership Board held on 25 November 2011 were submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Leadership Board held on 25 November 2011 be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable.

EX.010/12 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – DIVISIONAL BOARD OF RIVERSIDE CARLISLE
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Housing

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.177/11, the Director of Governance submitted report GD.04/12 concerning City Council representation on the Divisional Board of Riverside Carlisle.

The Leader reminded Members that they had on 27 June 2011 (Minute EX.076/11) given consideration to the nomination of City Council representatives on outside bodies, and appointed Councillors Hendry, Layden and Mrs Mallinson and Mr Dodd as representatives on the Riverside Carlisle Board. He further advised that Riverside was a signatory of the National Housing Federation's Code of Governance which set an absolute limit of nine years for any individual to sit on the Board of a Housing Association. Two of the Council's Board appointments had now passed that threshold and the report was submitted to facilitate the appointment of two replacement Council representatives on the Riverside Carlisle Board.

The Leader then moved that Councillors Bainbridge and Mrs Luckley be nominated to serve on the Divisional Board of Riverside Carlisle.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive appointed Councillors Bainbridge and Mrs Luckley to represent the City Council on the Divisional Board of Riverside Carlisle.

Reasons for Decision

To comply with the Code of Good Governance as operated by Riverside Carlisle

EX.011/12 WILLOWHOLME DEPOT, CARLISLE – SURPLUS ASSET DISPOSAL
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Subject Matter

The Director of Local Environment and the Director of Resources submitted report RD.78/11 and LE.03/12 concerning the Willowholme Depot, Carlisle which had been owned and occupied by the Council for operational purposes since the 1950s.

The Director of Resources outlined details of the premises which, following the floods in 2005, had been used by the Highway, Neighbourhood and Green Spaces, and Waste Services teams for the storage of rock salt and Christmas lights; a green waste storage and transfer site; and indoor storage for bins, bags and boxes for refuse and recycling collections.

He reminded Members that one arm of the Asset Review Business Plan provided for a corporate review of the Council's operational property, seeking to make better use of the property resource through a phased process of rationalisation and consolidation in order to generate efficiency improvements and budget savings. The Accommodation Review, which commenced in 2010, identified the Council's Depots in the 2nd phase of the project, to be undertaken in close association with the Transformational Review of the Local Environment Directorate's service deliveries. In addition, the Asset Business Plan looked at a review of the non-operational portfolio of predominantly investment properties. The associated Disposal Programme, which identified poorly performing assets for disposal, included the sale of the adjacent Willowholme Industrial Estate and the proposed release of the Willowholme Depot fitted with that initiative.

The Director of Resources reported that the Local Environment Directorate had undertaken an interim review of their service wide operations across eleven depots examining current and short term future needs. The conclusion was that by transferring existing uses at Willowholme to alternative locations the Depot could be decommissioned and would then become surplus to requirements. Investigations showed that the changes could be implemented relatively quickly and simply, with low costs and without much disruption to existing working practices and, once closure was initiated, the Depot could be vacated and shut by 31 March 2012.

The Council's Policy on Surplus Assets was set out in the Asset Management Plan which stated that assets that were not required would normally be disposed of on the open market on a freehold and leasehold basis at best consideration. Considering the nature of the asset, and that the Council was already in the process of divesting its interest in the remainder of the Industrial Estate, it was considered that the most appropriate course of action was to dispose of the Willowholme Depot once it had been declared surplus to requirements.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. declared the Willowholme Depot, Carlisle surplus to operational requirements; and
2. granted consent to the release and disposal of the Depot, subject to final terms and conditions agreed by the Property Services Manager, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders.

Reasons for Decision

To more effectively manage the Council's land holdings by releasing and bringing forward the disposal of an asset which was surplus to requirements.

EX.012/12 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES (Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Housing

Subject Matter

The Leader informed the meeting that this item of business was brought before the Executive as an urgent item in order to comply with the consultation period which ran from 9 January to 19 February 2012.

The Director of Local Environment submitted report LE.04/12 concerning Cumbria County Council's proposed changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

She informed Members that the County Council was asking the public for its views on proposals to reform the way it provided HWRCs in the county. The proposed changes would see the county's six least used and least efficient HWRCs close and be replaced by a mobile service.

The County Council was making the following proposals:

To close six HWRC's. The six sites identified by the review as most suitable for closure (Ambleside, Brampton, Grange, Kirkby Stephen, Millom and Wigton) accounted for 15% of the total tonnage of waste handled at all of Cumbria's HWRCs and had the smallest number of visitors.

To change the opening hours of the remaining HWRCs so they are open at the times when people used them most and reflected seasonal usage which would reduce the number of days remaining sites were open from seven a week to five, the HWRCs would stay open at weekends when they were used most.

To introduce a charge for waste classed as 'non-household waste', which local authorities are not legally obliged to accept at HWRCs and included soil, rubble, asbestos, plasterboard and car tyres.

In conclusion, the Director of Local Environment recommended that the Executive respond to the consultation and highlight the impact of the closure of the Brampton site, such as the potential increase in fly-tipping as a result of the changes and the impact on the environment and the cost of dealing with the fly-tipping.

It was further recommended that the consultation response include a request that the County consider other options to closure to reduce the cost of the site at Brampton, such as reducing opening times, staffing, or to seek other ways to keep the HWDC open such as partnerships or increasing community involvement and to promote use of the site to increase its productivity during the reduced opening hours. Also, to request whether the County Council would provide any financial support to the City Council should there be an increase in fly-tipping.

The Leader commented upon the very contentious and illogical nature of the County Council's proposals, stating that he had been inundated with calls from members of the public since their publication. Closure of the HWRCs would result in costs to all Cumbrian District Councils and was therefore a false economy.

The Leader was not suggesting that the County Council should not review how the HWRCs operated within the County, but would ask that they give consideration to opening hours, usage, etc rather than closure.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder stated that he too had been contacted by a number of people with regard to this extremely contentious proposal. He represented the City Council on the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership, a fundamental aim of which was to encourage increased recycling and promote the green agenda. He noted that the County Council was already committed to investing in a new state-of-the-art HWRC in Lillyhall as part of West Cumbria HWRC improvement programme, which would involve the closures of the Frizington and Workington HWRCs when the new site became operational in 2013.

He considered the proposals to be ill thought out and not deliverable. During the current difficult financial conditions it may well be prudent to review the days upon which HWRCs were open, but replacement of the centres by a mobile service was not acceptable.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder added that the proposed closure of the Brampton HWRC would mean that people had to travel much further to dispose of their waste, thereby using more fuel to the detriment of the environment.

In moving the recommendations, the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder urged anyone who was concerned by the proposals to respond quickly to the consultation paper.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder outlined her support for the sentiments expressed by her colleagues, requesting that the Executive write directly to the County Council outlining their strong opposition to the proposed closure of the Brampton HWRC.

The Leader moved that the Executive delegate authority to the Director of Local Environment, in consultation with the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder, to respond to the public consultation which course of action was agreed.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive granted delegated authority to the Director of Local Environment, in consultation with the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder, to respond to Cumbria County Council's proposed changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centres as detailed above.

Reasons for Decision

It is considered that the proposals are contrary to a sustainable environment and could see a reduction in recycling and an increase in fly-tipping. The closure of the HWDC sites could result in potential additional costs to Carlisle City Council from increased fly-tipping.

PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Public and Press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph number (as indicated in brackets against each minute) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

EX.013/12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACQUISITION

(Key Decision)

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

(With the consent of the Chairman, and in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, this item was included on the Agenda as a Key Decision, although not in the Forward Plan)

Portfolio Governance and Resources; Economic Development

Subject Matter

The Director of Resources submitted a joint private report with the Director of Economic Development RD.77/11 and ED.01/12 concerning an economic development acquisition.

The Director of Resources outlined the background to the matter, together with details of the negotiations undertaken to date. The property which had recently become available for purchase was identified on the plan attached to the report. He further explained the planning and economic development; Asset Management Plan and Asset Review considerations, together with the rationale for acquiring the property.

In conclusion, the Director of Resources recommended that the Executive approve the acquisition and release of funding, subject to agreement and recommendation on the terms and conditions of transfer by the Property Services Manager, and final approval by the Portfolio Holders for Governance and Resources, and Economic Development.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder congratulated the Officer involved for their negotiation skills, which sentiments were echoed by the Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive approved the acquisition detailed within private report RD.77/11 and ED.01/12, subject to agreement and recommendation on the terms and conditions of transfer by the Property Services Manager, and final approval by the Portfolio Holders for Governance and Resources, and Economic Development.

Reasons for Decision

To bring key assets which have strategic economic development potential into public ownership and control.

EX.014/12 CECIL STREET CAR PARK
(Key Decision)

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

(With the consent of the Chairman, and in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, this item was included on the Agenda as a Key Decision, although not in the Forward Plan)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Subject Matter

The Director of Resources submitted private report RD.82/11 setting out details of proposed land exchanges between the City and County Councils to facilitate future redevelopment opportunities.

He outlined the background to the matter, details of the properties involved; the proposal; revenue, planning and economic development; and Asset Management Plan and Asset Review considerations; together with the rationale for acquiring the properties referred to.

In conclusion, the Director of Resources proposed the recommendations as set out in the report and responded to Members' questions.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. approved the release and disposal of the Cecil Street Car Park to the County Council, in exchange for the transfer into City Council ownership of The Fire Station, Warwick Street and/or Herbert Atkinson House, Abbey Street.
2. That the exchange and transfers are subject to the agreement and recommendation of terms and conditions by the Property Services Manager, and final approval by the Portfolio Holders for Governance and Resources, Economic Development, Community Engagement and Environment and Housing.

Reasons for Decision

To retain key City Centre assets which have strategic economic development potential in public ownership and control, and to enhance operation service delivery.

EX.015/12 WILLOWHOLME DEPOT, CARLISLE – SURPLUS ASSET DISPOSAL

(Non Key Decision)

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Subject Matter

The Director of Resources submitted joint private report with the Director of Local Environment (RD.78/11 and LE.03/12) outlining the financial aspects of the proposal set out in the public part of the meeting to declare the Willowholme Depot, Carlisle surplus to operational requirements and release the asset for disposal.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive noted and endorsed the financial aspects of the proposal, set out in Private Report RD.78/11 and LE.03/12, to release and dispose of the Willowholme Depot, Carlisle.

Reasons for Decision

To more effectively manage the Council's land holdings by releasing and bringing forward the disposal of an asset which was surplus to requirements.

(The meeting ended at 1.36 pm)