
**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
CORPORATE RESOURCES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2002**

CROS.150/02

**RESPONSE FROM THE EXECUTIVE
Area Working Overview and Scrutiny Review**

Pursuant to Minute CROS.122/02, a Minute Excerpt (Minute EX.376/02 refers) setting out the Executive's response to this Committee's comments on Area Working was submitted.

The decision of the Executive was that the reference from this Committee be noted and the relevant Portfolio Holder, the Chairman of this Committee and relevant Officers meet to discuss further the issues involved in area working.

A Member commented that, following detailed discussion, this Committee had supported the proposals for Area Working (in principle) and, as she understood it, the Leader had previously given an undertaking on the Council's commitment thereto.

The Chairman referred back to the previous discussion at the Committee (an excerpt of which had been submitted), commenting that he would discuss the matter with the relevant Portfolio Holder and Officers and report back to this Committee, prior to the matter being referred back to the Executive.

Members questioned whether the concept of area working was to be "scrapped" and sought clarification on the position, expressing the view that Area Forums operated well at the County Council and it would be sad if the City Council walked away.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity commented that, if Members thought that area working was to be scrapped, then that was a misinterpretation of what had been said at the Executive. The Executive had been troubled that so many issues were currently on the table, including the prospect of Regional Government, and felt that it would be premature to look at Area Working only to find in say twelve months time that it may not work. That was why the Executive asked the relevant Portfolio Holder, the Chairman of this Committee and Officers to discuss the matter further.

A Member then questioned whether it had been suggested that Area Working be deferred until the move to Regional Government was implemented.

At the request of the Chairman, the Portfolio Holder for Community Activities commented that confusion existed as regards the operation of Neighbourhood Forums and Area Committees. He stressed that Neighbourhood Forums were not Area

Committees nor were they area working. They had a function which could be explored to see whether it was applicable to Carlisle.

A Member added that the Minute of this Committee was clear and there had been unanimous support for area working.

RESOLVED – That the response of the Executive be noted, together with the fact that the Chairman of this Committee, the relevant Portfolio Holder and Officers would meet to discuss further the issues involved in area working.