

AGENDA ITEM NO.7

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE AND CARLISLE LOCAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of a joint Meeting between Carlisle City Council Executive and Carlisle Local Committee held on Monday 17 July 2006 at 11.30 am at The Courts, Carlisle.

PRESENT

Carlisle City Council

Mr R Bloxham
Mr J D Jefferson
Mr M Mitchelson

Carlisle Local Committee

Ms H Horne
Mr C F Weber

Also in Attendance

Mr M Beveridge - Carlisle City Council
Ms M Mooney - Carlisle City Council
Mr D Sheard - Cumbria County Council
Mrs L M Graham - Member Services

1. CHAIR

It was agreed that Mr C F Weber would Chair the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr J Mallinson.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr M Mitchelson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No.9 – Leisure Provision in Carlisle as a City Council representative on Carlisle Leisure.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that future meetings of this group should be diaried and held twice a year in January and July.

5. LSP MEMBERSHIP

A report by the County Corporate Director – Strategy and Performance was considered.

Across the County, the Local Committees were seeking an increase in the number of representatives on Local Strategic Partnerships. In Carlisle, the Chair currently represented the Local Committee on the LSP Executive. The County Council were seeking an increase in membership to two Members from the Local Committee on the LSP Executive.

Mr Mitchelson agreed that the County Council was a key partner on the LSP however it was important that local authorities did not dominate the membership of the partnership.

Ms Mooney suggested that it might be helpful if there were more county representatives on the LSP Forum and working groups and that the LSP Executive membership remain as one member. The county Council suggested that there be 4 members overall on the LSP and working groups. Ms Mooney commented that it would also be helpful to have greater involvement and support from County Council officers. This proposal would be put forward to the LSP Executive.

County Members/Officers would still be entitled to attend meetings of the Executive whenever they had reports on the Agenda.

AGREED, that

- (1) the LSP Executive be requested to increase the County Council Membership on the LSP Forum and working groups;
- (2) the Area Support Manager be added to the distribution list for all LSP agendas.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM – JOINT WORKING WITH CITY COUNCIL

A report by the County Corporate Director – Strategy and Performance and the City Director – Community Services on proposed work to be carried out to review joint working around Neighbourhood Forums was considered.

The City Council wished to carry out a joint review of Neighbourhood Forums now that Council was more activity participating in meetings. It was proposed that to ensure that issues were captured efficiently there should be a series of member discussions at each forum meeting to review the operation of each forum and joint working. This would be followed up by a member workshop where broader issues could be addressed and good working practices could be developed using the sharing of best practice. The process would be carried out over a three month period commencing in September 2006.

Whilst some Forums were working extremely well there were some forums where problems were being experienced and this situation needed to be addressed.

Some Members felt that the joint Forums were generally working very well and they did not wish to lose any good will on the side of either Council.

Members referred to recent incidences where additional Forum meetings had been organised at short notice to discuss School Reorganisation and Minerals and Waste. County members advised that the arrangements for these meeting had been agreed elsewhere in the authority and the Neighbourhood Development Team had to fit in with the arrangements. These had been urgent issues needing to be considered at Forum meetings and as such one off meetings had needed to be arranged - it was not anticipated the this situation would be repeated.

AGREED, that

- (1) the proposals to hold individual sessions at each Forum and a joint member workshop be supported;
- (2) the results of the review be reported back to the next meeting of this group.

7. LEISURE PROVISION IN CARLISLE

The County Council asked for information on the City Council's Leisure Feasibility Study. Mr Mitchelson advised that a copy of the consultation paper had been sent to the relevant Corporate Director of the County Council and it appeared that this had not yet been fed down to the Area Support Manager or the Local Committee. The City Council agreed to forward a copy of the strategy to the Area Support Manager and this would be reported to the next meeting of the Carlisle Local Committee. This City Council would extend their consultation period to allow for a response from the Local Committee to be considered. Mr Mitchelson also advised that that an Arts and Theatre study was currently at an early stage but it was intended to seek the views of the County Council on the strategy.

8. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The notes of the last meeting of the Group held on 20 October 2005 were received.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLANS

Ms Mooney reported that the City Council wished to build upon good practice already taking place in the City e.g Denton Holme. A considered approach would be taken to the production of neighbourhood action plans on a city wide basis. Funding for the programme would be sought in Carlisle Renaissance funding bids. In order to ensure their success however it would be necessary to have in place a robust economic strategy for Carlisle. It was likely that one model might not fit all neighbourhoods and therefore a considered approach was required.

The issue needed to be considered by the Local Committee in order to establish whether the County Council could assist in the development and operation of the plans.

AGREED, that neighbourhood actions plans be considered at the next meeting of the Local Committee.

10. BACK LANES AND GRASS VERGES

A report by the Corporate Director – Strategy and Performance confirmed that the Local Committee contributions of £50,000 for back lanes and £30,000 for the improvement programme for grass verges in residential areas had now been put in place.

This had been a good example of both Councils working together for the overall good of the community and it was suggested that a small joint budget be established between the two Councils to address matters of common interest such as cost associated with the recent review of taxi ranks.

The City Council agreed that they would consider this request and report back to the Local Committee.

11. JOINT CUSTOMER CONTACT CENTRES

The County Council reported that the Local Committees had been asked to take a lead in developing joint customer contact centres in their areas. Ms Mooney reported that the Achieving Cumbria Excellence (ACE) programme had also done some work on establishing customer contact services and the City Council were carrying out some work in this respect. The aim would be for both Councils to work together to develop customer contact centres.

The Meeting closed at 1.20 pm.

LMG/JM