
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2006

EX.042/06 CARLISLE RENAISSANCE/LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
(Non-Key Decision)

Portfolio Various

Subject Matter

To consider a Minute Excerpt (OSM.005/06) from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee of 2 February 2006 in which the Committee raised concern about the need for democratic accountability and, in particular, the involvement of the Local Strategic Partnership as a driver of Carlisle Renaissance which could diminish democratic accountability. The Committee had also queried the processes and protocols put in place regarding decision making by the Local Strategic Partnership stressing that there must be an opportunity for decisions to be scrutinised or called in.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had requested that the Executive be informed of the Committee's concerns about how Overview and Scrutiny's position within the Council's Constitution will be protected and fulfilled with regards to the Local Strategic Partnership.

Councillor Bradley, who had chaired the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting, was present and reported that Overview and Scrutiny involvement in Carlisle Renaissance was welcomed by Members who considered that it was extremely important for proposals to be subject to a stringent Overview and Scrutiny process. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had apportioned this scrutiny work between the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Councillor Bradley then expressed cross party concerns over the role of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in Carlisle Renaissance and the importance Members attached to the Constitution of the LSP recognising the rights of democratically elected Members and that the role of the LSP should not lead to a democratic deficit in Carlisle Renaissance initiatives. There was a general concern to date that Elected Members were not getting an appropriate voice in the development of Carlisle Renaissance.

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that the full LSP would meet on 7 March 2006 when a draft Constitution would be submitted. Each of the organisations represented on the LSP would be asked to take the draft Constitution back to their organisations for comment. The draft Constitution would be submitted to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny and then on to the Executive and the full City Council for formal approval. The draft Constitution did address the role of democratically elected Members.

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive further referred to the suggestion in Resolution 2 of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Minute that a workshop be held for Overview and Scrutiny Members on the role of the LSP. She considered this to be a good suggestion and that it could usefully be extended to become a Briefing for all Members of the City Council.

Summary of Options Rejected

None

DECISION

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee be advised of the arrangements which are being made for the draft Constitution of the LSP to be scrutinised by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. That the suggested workshop for Overview and Scrutiny Members on the role of the LSP be extended into a Briefing for all Members of the City Council.

Reasons for Decision

To respond to the reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.