

CARLISLE PARISH COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the joint meeting between the Association and the Executive of Carlisle City Council held on 12th June 2006 at Brampton Business Centre, Brampton.

1. Present

The Chair, Cllr J Holland and all those signatories to the attendance register attached to these minutes.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from

Cllr D Rutherford – Irthington PC
Mr D Chipchase – Upper and Lower Denton PC's
Mr D Johston – St Cuthberts Without PC
Cllr P Dalton – Dalston PC
Cllr C Nicholson – Stanwix Rural PC
Cllr J Pattinson – Brampton PC
Cllr C Ridley – Brampton PC
Mr K Hind – Kingmoor PC
Cllr Graham – Kingmoor PC
Ms G Ternent - Cumbria County Council
Dr J Gooding – Carlisle City Council
Ms A Brown – Carlisle City Council
Mrs C Rankin – Carlisle city Council

3. Minutes of the last Joint meeting held on 28th November 2005

The Minutes of the last Joint Meeting held on 28th November 2005, previously circulated, were received and agreed

4. Housing update

The Director of Development Services, Ms Catherine Elliot referring to a report circulated with the agenda from Mr S Taylor, Housing Services Manager, reported on three activities:-

Housing Needs Survey – Through the Cumbria Sub Regional Housing Group a common methodology has been adopted by the Councils in Cumbria for the collection of data relating to housing needs. The advantages of such an agreement is that a consistent and comparable process will be employed to gather data which will be able to help investment and planning decisions regarding housing across the County. During April/May this methodology has been used in a combined Housing Needs Survey within Carlisle, Allerdale, Copeland and Eden. The data will be formatted and assessed during the summer with a view to being available in the early Autumn.

Enabling Officer – Within the Strategy section of the Housing Service the post of Enabling Officer has been extended until March 2007 and is subject to review for the lifetime of the Carlisle Housing Strategy to 2010. This post has been an important link with Parish Councils during the past two years.

Sub Regional Housing Strategy – This is a high level Housing Strategy covering the whole of Cumbria County. It has been developed through the Cumbria Sub Regional Housing Group (CSRHG). The document is in draft form currently and subject to consultation. It is intended that the data collected through the needs survey will be placed into the document and help identify priorities within the Strategy.

Ms Elliott said that the Sub Regional Housing Group was pressing for a response by the end of July but because of due process the City Council was unlikely to have its comments ready before September.

The Chairman, Cllr J Holland, on the subject of Council Tax funding from second homes referred to a report from the Commission for Rural Communities. This report recommended that second home council tax should be used to support affordable housing in rural areas. Approximately £116K had been allocated to the City Council and some had already been used to fund the Housing Enabling Officer post to March 2007. Cllr Holland was concerned to know of the distribution of the remaining monies.

In response Ms Elliot said that initially monies had been split equally between rural and urban needs including regeneration and jobs support. A more detailed response was required however and on the suggestion of Cllr R Bloxham it was agreed to report back to the next joint meeting.

5. Charter Review and Quality Parish Status

In regard to the Quality Parish Initiative no more Councils had submitted applications. Indeed it was unlikely that other Councils would apply until the Autumn and after a number of Clerks had qualified by way of obtaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

Reporting on progress with the review of the Charter, Ms Elliot said the Council was working with the County Council and CALC. A City Council Working Group included representatives (Cllrs P Dalton and W Little) from the Association and would be meeting in July to assess responses from Parish Councils and the results of an internal consultation with Service Directorates.

All Parish Councils were encouraged to respond to the City Council consultation.

Mr G Richardson, Chief Officer of CALC said that the aim was to produce a draft Charter for consultation in September. It was important that it contained new opportunities for improved working together. A recent survey by CALC of Parish Councils highlighted the desire, in some cases for devolution and increased sharing in the management of local services. He thanked the City Council for their support.

6. Waste Minimisation and recycling update

Mr M Battersby, Director of Community Services presented a progress report and news on further extensions of the scheme to the rural areas.

It was proposed to provide 240 litre wheeled bins each for residual house and garden waste. Collections would alternate fortnightly between garden and residual refuse. About 5300 properties would not be covered by the wheeled bin scheme and they would be provided with two plastic sacks.

While 5 centres provide for plastic recycling and cardboard recycling was available at 44 sites, roadside plastic and cardboard collections would start in January 2007. The alternate weekly collection would start later in 2007. Coloured cards indicating services and frequencies would be available to residents. Two new white goods disposal centres were being created.

Discussion highlighted concerns about:

- Service levels in sparsely populated rural areas where a wider variety of refuse and items for disposal were collected at present,
- The extension of fly tipping because of perceived limitations in the new system,
- Personal fitness of people (especially the elderly) to manoeuvre the new bins.
- Lobbying manufacturers to reduce packaging on goods

Cllr Bloxham advised that manufacturers would be lobbied via Cumbria Wide partnerships. He emphasised that the City Council had no alternative but to follow European directives or risk heavy fines. It was important to talk to Council officers about problems.

Mr Battersby confirmed that Waste Audits would track issues and assistance was available to Parish Councils in regard to community problems and access to properties. A personal fitness hotline would also be provided.

7. Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Director of Community Services referred to the nature of the Act and the scope of City Council services available to Parish Councils.

He said that there would be a progressive introduction and that three areas for action were being funded.

- Raising public awareness by way of a campaign starting soon. Presentations and literature would be available to Parish Councils.
- Enforcement from October 2006. Two Enforcement Officers were being recruited to enable the City Council to raise fixed penalty fines. These officers would be able to visit Parishes if issues were reported.
- Dog litter bins would be provided and “grot spots” highlighted for action – Parish Councils would have a reporting mechanism for serious problems.

Thanks were given by representatives of Parish Councils present for the excellent service currently provided.

8. The Carlisle Local Strategic Partnership

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Ms M Mooney, reported that the new Carlisle Local Strategic Partnership had started work with 2 Executive meetings to date. The Chairman of the Association was one of twelve members of the Executive.

The aim of the LSP was to develop Community Strategy following four themes -

Children and Young People;
Health and Education;
Economic Development;
Safer and Stronger Communities;

Rural proofing was a cross cutting theme.

A Co-ordinating Officer would start soon.

Ms Mooney and Cllr Holland agreed to make a joint presentation on Community Strategy to the next Joint meeting in December.

9. IT support for Parish Councils

Mr C Moth, Secretary to the Association reported that several recent attempts to identify alternative local grant funding had been unsuccessful and it was therefore necessary to finally draw a line under the present IT support scheme.

He referred to an excellent paper prepared by Mr M Scott, IT Infrastructure and Network Officer which detailed the current situation in Parish Councils, particularly in regard to the use of dial-in email and internet services.

Support and advice for Parishes continuing to use City Council provided hardware would continue, as would the availability of Carlisle City e-mail addresses and training for Clerks.

It was accepted that future policy would now require Parish Councils to fund future IT equipment and software themselves. Procurement could be via the City Council to take advantage of low price deals.

The City Council was thanked for its support to Parish Councils over the life time of the scheme.

Mr Richardson reported further that the North West Development Agency together with the County Council, BT and CALC though "Project Access" were to be offering all Parish Councils in the County the opportunity of Broadband internet connection. The connection charge would be free but local Councils would be asked to pay a monthly subscription (minimum £17.99 per month)

In addition, through the same project, CALC had been funded to provide needy Parishes with IT equipment – an announcement would be made soon.

Finally Mr Moth reported that again through CALC the NWDA was going to offer Parish Councils the chance of joining a County wide intranet that would connect them with many other organisations. There was the possibility of free equipment supply to Chairmen and Clerks.

10. Re-organisation of the City Council's Management Structure

Ms Mooney explained the new management arrangements which reduced the structure to six Directorates with Corporate Directors and Deputies. The six Directors formed an

Executive Management Team. Savings from the reorganisation had been fed into services.

Although in the main the Directorate was funded externally, the Renaissance was embedded into the City Council structure and there were a number of crosscutting activities within other Directorates

The new Structure had been published on the City Council's web site. Several of those present commented on the excellence of the site.

11. Play Schemes

It was noted that the programme of summer activities would be published soon.

12. City Council priorities

Ms Mooney reported that the number of strategic priorities had been reduced to:

- A Clean, Green and Safer Carlisle – in partnership with Parish Councils;
- Carlisle as a learning city – including the reorganisation of Schools and the University;

These were in addition to support for the Renaissance.

13. Precept and concurrent grant arrangements

Mr D Steele, Treasury and Insurance Manager, presented a report recommending Concurrent Services grants payable for 2006/07 based on a previously agreed formula. The recommendations were agreed in full. Grants will be distributed to Parish Councils in the near future.

The importance of clear and timely notification of precept requirements was noted. The closing date for the 2007/08 budget will be 1st December 2006.

14. Date of next Joint meeting – Monday 4th December 2006, hosted by the City Council.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm

CARLISLE PARISH COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

MEETINGS ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Meeting	JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE	
Date	12.6.06 BRAMPTON BUSINESS CENTRE	
Present (please print name)	Representing (please print)	
<p>JUCELYN HOLLAND CLIVE MOTH M. BATTERSBY Catherine Elliot CLLR. JUDY TREST Zoë Sutton Guy Richardson William Little Patricia Macdonald ELIZABETH AULD A. R. Auld. Shirley Bowman Kay Napier David Sheard John Nutley Jacquelyne Creddes John Egan EILEY BARR MIKE JACK MIKE RIDLEY J. D. HARRIS</p>	<p>Wetheral P.C. CPCA / Stranmoreham. CARLISLE CC " " " " " " Carlisle City Council Carlisle City Council CALC EPCA Ex Otton P.C. DALSTON PC + CPCA EXEC Chairman Dalton P.C. Carlisle City Council. --- Cumbria County Council Carlisle City Council Carlisle City Council Carlisle City Council CPCA + Wetheral P.C. KIRKSTON CPCA EX. IRTINGTON P.C.</p>	

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Date	12.6.06. BRAMPTON BUSINESS CENTRE	
	Present (please print name)	Representing (please print)
	<p> Mike Rowland Mike Rowland I Powley IAN YATES SARAH KYLE B. HOGG IAN MCHICHOLO David Steele J.D. JEFFERSON R D BHOYAN JAMES BAINBRIDGE Mike Michelson MARGIE MOONEY </p>	<p> Brampton P.C. Brampton P.C. St. Cuthbert Willoughb P.C. Westland P.C. WALTON P.C. WALTON P.C. CARLISLE C.C. Carlisle City Council " " " " " " CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL LEADER CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL CLERK & CH. EXEC --- </p>