

CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY 7 JANUARY 2014 AT 6.45 PM

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Bloxham), Councillors Allison, Mrs Atkinson, Atkinson, Bainbridge, Bell, Betton, Boaden, Bowditch, Mrs Bowman, Bowman (S), Mrs Bradley, Cape, Collier, Craig, Dodd, Earp, Ellis, Forrester, Ms Franklin, Mrs Geddes, Gee, Glover, Graham, Harid, Layden, Lishman, Mrs Luckley, Mrs Mallinson, Mallinson (J), Mrs Martlew, Mitchelson, Morton, Nedved, Mrs Parsons, Ms Patrick, Mrs Prest, Ms Quilter, Mrs Riddle, Scarborough, Miss Sherriff, Mrs Southward, Mrs Stevenson, Stothard, Tickner, Mrs Vasey, Mrs Warwick, Watson, Weber and Whalen

Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Director of Governance

C.01/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors McDevitt and Wilson.

C.02/14 MINUTES SILENCE

It was with great sadness that The Mayor reported the death on 13 November 2013 of Councillor Ian Stockdale, who had served the City Council for a total of 31 years (between 1972–1999 and 2004–2008). Councillor Stockdale was Mayor of the City in 1984-85.

The Mayor was also deeply saddened to announce that Mr John Egan, former City Solicitor and latterly Corporate Director, had died suddenly on 3 December 2013. Mr Egan had worked for the Council from 1974 until his retirement in December 2009.

Both Councillor Stockdale and Mr Egan would be sadly missed and thoughts were with their respective families.

Members stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Councillor Stockdale and Mr Egan.

Councillor Glover rose to record thanks, on behalf of the City Council, to both Councillor Stockdale and Mr Egan for their long service over many years in two very different disciplines.

Councillor Glover paid tribute to Councillor Stockdale who was first elected in 1972 and was therefore a founder Member of the City Council when the organisation came into being in 1974. Councillor Stockdale had taken a keen interest in economic development and chaired many Committees over the years. He was also a Member of Cumbria County Council. Councillor Stockdale's contribution to the City was extensive, and included a number of charities. He had worked tirelessly to make a difference to the people of

Carlisle, and it was extremely fitting that the official opening of The Lanes had taken place during his Mayoralty.

Councillor Glover stated that Mr Egan had played an important part in the life of the Council, providing strong professional advice and keeping Members on the 'straight and narrow'. He had a legendary sense of humour and it was very sad that his retirement had been cut short.

Speaking on behalf of the Conservative Group, Councillor J Mallinson wished to add to the Leader's comments on what were two sad and untimely deaths.

Councillor Mallinson made reference to Councillor Stockdale's tremendous record of service commenting that, although their time together on the City Council had been relatively brief, he knew Councillor Stockdale from the County Council.

Councillor Mallinson also appreciated the sound advice provided by Councillor Stockdale in relation to the Henry Lonsdale Trust of which he was a member.

Councillor Mallinson added that Councillor Stockdale had a great sense of social justice and his loss was very sad indeed.

As many Members would recall, Mr Egan's advice and guidance had kept them on the right track. Councillor Mallinson made reference to the great many projects which had come to fruition during Mr Egan's career with the City Council. Mr Egan always had the best interests of the Council at heart and his untimely passing was a great loss to Carlisle.

Councillor Mrs Martlew rose to endorse the comments expressed with regard to both Councillor Stockdale and Mr Egan.

Councillor Mrs Martlew commented that she and Councillor Stockdale had shared a lengthy period of service for the City Council and had worked closely together over many years. Tangible legacies of Councillor Stockdale's achievements were evident around the City and people could take comfort from that. Councillor Mrs Martlew said that she had lost a very dear friend which was hard to take.

Councillor Mrs Martlew further recalled that she had sat on the Panel which appointed Mr Egan, an appointment for which she had no regrets. Although Mr Egan did not suffer fools lightly, he was a totally committed professional and all Members had one hundred per cent confidence in his advice. To lose two men of such high standing was indeed a great loss.

Speaking on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Allison paid tribute to Mr Egan's very friendly and co-operative nature. His passing had come as a great shock.

Councillor Allison added that Councillor Stockdale had never let politics get in the way of cordial relationships. Both Councillor Mrs Luckley and himself were saddened by those deaths.

Councillor Collier made reference to the cordial relationship he had experienced with Councillor Stockdale and also to the guiding hand provided by Mr Egan. Their passing was a very sad loss to the City.

C.03/14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 5 November 2013 were submitted.

In response to a point of clarification from Councillor Betton, Councillor Mrs Martlew stated that a very full and frank discussion had taken place at the last Council meeting with regard to the issue of repairs to The Cenotaph and other War Memorials. At that time she had responded to Members' questions and concerns (including access arrangements for the disabled) and had given an assurance that all comments would be taken away and worked on by Officers (Minute C.156/13(i) referred). A further progress report would be brought back to a future meeting of the City Council.

The Director of Governance advised that the Minute was as full a reference to discussions as was ordinarily made.

Councillor Glover rose to move the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2013, which were seconded by Councillor Mrs Martlew.

Councillor Glover further referred to Councillor Bainbridge's question (Minute JMT.54/13) as to whether the special Joint Management Team meeting arranged for 12 August 2013 to discuss the Hostel Review had taken place. In response, he advised that the matter had been dealt with as a workshop session and had not therefore been minuted.

Councillor Bainbridge thanked Councillor Glover for that response.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 5 November 2013 be received and signed as a true record of the meeting.

C.04/14 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

C.05/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

C.06/14 ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) The Mayor

The Mayor announced that he had received a letter from The Colonel of The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment thanking the Council and the people of Carlisle for the reception received on the occasion of the Homecoming Parade for the 2nd Battalion on 25 November 2013.

The Mayor also wished to thank the people of Carlisle who had turned out to welcome the Regiment on that day.

The Mayor drew Members' attention to the "Lion of England" Replica presented to him (on behalf of the City Council) by Lieutenant Colonel Neil Unsworth OBE, Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, during a Civic Reception following the Homecoming Parade. The replica was on display in the Council Chamber should Members wish to view it.

A Burns Supper in aid of The Mayor's Charity would take place on 24 January 2014 and The Mayor expressed the hope that as many Members as possible would attend.

The Mayor added that he had, accompanied by The Mayoress, represented the Council on a number of events, including twenty Carol Services.

(ii) The Leader of the Council

The Leader reported the excellent news that the Military Museum would, later in the year, move into the new block at The Castle. He added that the Friends of the Museum Trust were hosting a Cocktail Party on 22 February 2014 and tickets were available from Councillor Mrs Parsons or himself for any Member who wished to support fund raising for the Museum.

(iii) Members of the Executive

There were no announcements from Members of the Executive.

(iv) Town Clerk and Chief Executive

There were no announcements from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

C.07/14 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Pursuant to Minute C.86/13, the Mayor invited the nomination and seconding for the appointment of a Vice Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

On a motion of Councillor Mrs Luckley, seconded by Councillor Gee it was:

RESOLVED – That Councillor Allison be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

C.08/14 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.1, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by members of the public.

C.09/14 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.11, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no petitions or deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

C.10/14 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by members of the City Council.

C.11/14 EXECUTIVE

Councillor Glover moved and Councillor Mrs Martlew seconded the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 28 October, 18 November; and 9 and 16 December 2013.

The Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder; the Leader; and the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder then responded to Members' questions with regard to Carlisle's play provision (EX.119/13); the Review of Charges 2014/15 (EX.154/13); HSE Visit (JMT.79/13); Review of Charges 2014/15 – Local Environment (EX.129/13); Use of Section 106 Funds (JMT.64/13) and the proposed increase in Council Tax (EX.155/13).

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 28 October, 18 November; and 9 and 16 December 2013 be received and adopted.

C.12/14 PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS

Copies of reports from the following Portfolio Holders had been circulated prior to the meeting:

Leader
Finance, Governance and Resources
Environment and Transport (amended report)
Economy and Enterprise
Communities and Housing
Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People

The Leader moved his report, expressing huge thanks to all members of staff who had worked so hard on a variety of events over the festive period, including the Fireshow and the switch on of the Christmas Lights. The people of Carlisle were also to be congratulated for their attendance and other organisations for putting on their own events.

Whilst moving his report, the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder commended the Organisational Development Team for their work in organising the Celebration of Learning Event on 3 December 2013. He further expressed congratulations to those members of staff who had received awards, and hoped that the Council could continue to support and train staff for the future benefit of the authority.

In moving her report, the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder outlined for Members the latest position with regard to CCTV; and Transport.

Speaking on behalf of the Council, the Portfolio Holder paid tribute to the Street Cleaning and Waste Services teams who had worked so hard in very inclement weather conditions. Councillors Mrs Mallinson and J Mallinson endorsed the Portfolio Holder's sentiments concerning the hard work undertaken by staff.

In response to a request by Councillor Mrs Mallinson, the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder gave an assurance that the Waste Services Team would investigate the potential implementation of a protocol to address the problems associated with recycling waste (plastic, paper, etc) blowing around in stormy weather conditions. The Portfolio Holder further undertook to investigate the feasibility of providing green box covers to residents or, alternatively, promotion to increase take up thereof.

The Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder moved her report, expressing thanks to all those Members who had attended the Member workshop on 20 November 2013 and for their valuable comments.

The Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder moved her report highlighting, in particular, the support provided to rough sleepers. In response to a recent article in the press entitled "Civic Centre: should it stay or should it go?", she further gave an assurance that the Civic Centre was fit for purpose and was not planned for demolition.

In moving her report, the Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder congratulated the Tourist Information Team. Visitor numbers were up 10% which was encouraging.

The Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder added that, further to Councillor Mrs Prest's comments on Sports Development, she had spoken to the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder and the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder. The matter would be discussed further as part of the budget consultations.

Members questioned individual Portfolio Holders on details of their reports and it was:

RESOLVED – (1) That the reports of the Portfolio Holders be received.

(2) That the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder provide a written response to the request for clarification raised by Councillor Mrs Prest regarding re-engagement of the safety audit process with Talkin Tarn and whether that had started again.

(3) That the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder investigate:

(a) the potential implementation of a protocol to address problems associated with recycling waste (plastic, paper, etc) blowing around in stormy weather conditions; and

(b) the feasibility of providing green box covers to residents or, alternatively, promotion to increase take up thereof.

(4) That the Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder provide a written response to Councillor Allison's question as to whether there was any evidence of an improvement in terms of actual completions (the Local Plan consultation revealed that the housing target should be raised to 665 dwellings per annum).

(5) That the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder respond in writing to Councillor Mrs Prest's request for details as to whether the Community Neighbour Coordinator (whose role it was to develop a volunteer network) also worked within the rural areas; and any success with volunteers.

C.13/14 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES AND CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

(a) Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Luckley moved and Councillor Mrs Vasey seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 19 November 2013 be received and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Luckley also presented her Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 19 November 2013 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(b) Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Watson moved and Councillor Allison seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 28 November 2013 be received and adopted.

Councillor Watson also presented his Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 28 November 2013 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(c) Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Bowman moved and Councillor Whalen seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 17 October and 21 November 2013 be received and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Bowman also presented her Chairman's Report.

The Chairman; the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder; and The Mayor then responded to a request from Councillor Nedved for the provision of sandbags to help counteract flooding in areas such Dalston, Rickerby and Stockdalewath during severe weather conditions.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 17 October and 21 November 2013 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

C.14/14 REGULATORY PANEL

Councillor Bell moved and Councillor Ms Franklin seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 20 November 2013.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 20 November 2013 be received and adopted.

C.15/14 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Councillor Scarborough moved and Councillor Whalen seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 9 and 11 October; and 13 and 15 November 2013.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 9 and 11 October; and 13 and 15 November 2013 be received and adopted.

C.16/14 EMPLOYMENT PANEL

Councillor Glover moved and Councillor Weber seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Employment Panel held on 12 November 2013.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Employment Panel held on 12 November 2013 be received and adopted.

C.17/14 NOTICE OF MOTION

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no motions had been submitted on notice by Members of the Council.

C.18/14 PROPOSALS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN RELATION TO THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- (i) EX.121/13 and EX.158/13 – Asset Review Business Plan – Refresh of Disposal Programme

Pursuant to Minute EX.121/13 and EX.158/13, there was submitted Report RD.67/13 (and relevant Minute Extracts) concerning a recommendation from the Executive that the Asset Review Business Plan – Refresh of Disposal Programme be approved and adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

Councillor Boaden indicated that he was seeking reference back of the decision under Minute EX.158/13 – Asset Review Business Plan – Refresh of Disposal Programme. Firstly, however, he wished to congratulate the Portfolio Holder, the Executive and Officers for all the excellent work undertaken over the past eighteen months on the disposal programme.

Councillor Boaden made reference to page 5 of the Report (Appendix 5) and the recent trawl of operational property, commenting that it appeared that some of the areas of land included (within the Council's ownership) required further very careful consideration prior to the Council moving to the next stage of the process. He added that the list at Appendix

5 needed to be looked at and elected Ward Members involved in discussions at an early stage.

Councillor Boaden then moved and Councillor Bell seconded reference back of the decision to the Executive.

RESOLVED - That the motion of Councillor Boaden that the decision under Minute EX.158/13 – Asset Review Business Plan – Refresh of Disposal Programme be referred back to the Executive for further consideration be AGREED.

(ii) EX.139/13 and EX.156/13 – Review of Reserves and Balances

Pursuant to Minute EX.139/13 and EX.156/13, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the City Council approve the release of the LSVT Warranties Reserve to the General Fund Reserve. A copy of Report RD.66/13 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Tickner moved and Councillor Glover seconded the above recommendation.

RESOLVED – (1) That the City Council approved the release of the LSVT Warranties Reserve to the General Fund Reserve, as detailed within Report RD.66/13.

(2) That the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder arrange to respond in writing to Councillor Betton's request for clarification as to the purpose of the LSVT Warranties Reserve, together with details of how reserves were split between differing categories.

(iii) EX. 140/13 and EX.157/13 – Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust Business Plan 2014 - 2017

Pursuant to Minute EX.140/13 and EX.157/13, consideration was given to recommendations from the Executive concerning the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust Business Plan 2014 – 2017.

A copy of Report SD.12/13 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Ms Quilter moved and Councillor Mrs Martlew seconded the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Ellis paid tribute to the Tullie House Board for their professionalism in taking on board the Council's proposals. He was, however, concerned at the scale of the proposed reduction in Council grant and associated timeframe. He asked that the Executive reflect upon it as part of their budget deliberations.

In response the Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder advised that the Tullie House Board recognised the need for the reduction in grant. The Council and the Trust would work together to ensure the future success of Tullie House.

Following voting, it was :

RESOLVED – That the City Council:

1. Approved the Tullie House Business Plan for 2014 – 17.
2. Approved Carlisle City Council's grant of £1,217,200 (including inflationary increases up to and including 2011/12) to the Tullie House Trust in respect of core funding for the period 2014-15
3. Noted that the Tullie House Business Plan did reflect the proposed core funding level of £967,200 (including inflationary increases up to and including 2011/12) for the periods 2015-16 and thereafter.

(iv) EX.148/13 – Dates and Times of Meetings for 2014/15

Pursuant to Minute EX.148/13, consideration was given to recommendations from the Executive concerning the Schedule of dates and times of meetings for 2014/15. A copy of Report GD.01/14 and the Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Tickner moved and Councillor Ms Quilter seconded the recommendations.

RESOLVED – (1) That the schedule of dates and times of meetings in the 2014/15 municipal year, including the additional meetings scheduled for May 2014, as set out in the calendar attached as an Appendix to Report GD.01/14, be approved.

(2) That the dates and times of meetings of the Executive as chosen by the Leader be noted.

(3) That the change in date to the 2014 Elections be noted.

(v) EX.159/13 – Review of Polling Arrangements

Pursuant to Minute EX.159/13, consideration was given to a report of the Director Governance regarding the Review of Polling Arrangements and the recommendations contained therein. A copy of Report GD.03/14 and Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Tickner moved and Councillor Glover seconded the recommendations.

RESOLVED – That it be agreed:

1. That no changes be made to current polling district boundaries.
2. It is recommended that the polling arrangements in the following wards remain unchanged:

**Belah
Botcherby
Brampton
Burgh
Currock
Dalston**

**Denton Holme
Harraby
Hayton
Irthing
Longtown & Rockcliffe
Lyne**

**Morton
St Aidans
Stanwix Urban
Upperby
Wetheral
Yewdale**

3. The Church of the Nazarene Moorhouse Road replace Belle Vue School as the polling place for districts MA and MB (Belle Vue Ward).
4. The Church of Science and Reading Rooms on the junction of Victoria Place and Chatsworth Square be designated as the polling place for polling district JD/JF (Castle Ward) to replace the location at the Cumbria Deaf Vision premises in Compton Street which were no longer available.
5. That polling facilities for polling district PAH in Cargo (Stanwix Rural Ward) be provided by siting a portable cabin in the play area at the Old School Yard Cargo to replace the location at Four Oaks Cargo which was no longer available.
6. That Officers continue to investigate the provision of polling facilities for polling district PR1 and PR2 in Cumrew and liaise with the local Member on possible options for providing polling facilities. Should it not be possible to provide a suitable alternative venue for a polling station Officers be authorised to provide polling facilities by siting a portable cabin in Cumrew
7. That letters of thanks be sent to Cumbria Deaf Vision, the owners of Four Oaks Cargo and the owners of Helme Farm Cumrew for their assistance in providing a venue for polling stations over the last few years
8. Officers continue to monitor the use of portable cabins as polling stations and continue to investigate potential alternatives. It be further recommended that Officers discuss with the supplier the use of a number of self contained units and improved units with a wider door as detailed in paragraph 23 above at a number of polling station locations where portable cabins were currently used.
9. The Returning Officer be given authority, after consultation with relevant Ward Councillors and Portfolio Holder, to change polling place locations at the European / City Council elections if the usual premises prove to be unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances.

**C.19/14 MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Pursuant to Minute EMP.22/13, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Employment Panel that the City Council approve the deletion of the post of Director of Community Engagement.

A copy of Report CE.01/14 and the relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

Whilst moving the recommendation, Councillor Glover clarified that Welfare Advice would transfer to the Economic Development Directorate along with Housing Services.

Councillor Tickner seconded the recommendation.

RESOLVED – That the City Council approved the deletion of the post of Director of Community Engagement.

**C.20/14 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES CALL-IN
AND URGENCY**

Pursuant to Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15(i), consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance (GD.02/14) on procedures in respect of occasions where decisions taken by the Executive were urgent.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

C.21/14 COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications or items of business brought forward by the Mayor as a matter of urgency to be dealt with at the meeting.

C.22/14 MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor extended best wishes to all for the New Year.

(The meeting ended at 8.25 pm)