

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2017 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: Councillor Nedved (Chairman), Betton, Bloxham (as substitute for Councillor Mitchelson), Bowditch, Christian, Mrs Coleman, McDonald and McNulty (as substitute for Councillor Burns).

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Bradley – Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder

OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Economic Development
Economy and Enterprise Officer
Policy and Performance Officer
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

EEOSP.33/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Burns, Councillor Mitchelson and Councillor Glover, the Leader.

EEOSP.34/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

EEOSP.35/17 PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was agreed that the items of business in Part A be dealt with in public and Part B be dealt with in private.

EEOSP.36/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2017 were circulated to the Panel. With regard to Minute Excerpt EEOSP.27/17 Members asked if the Member's Advisory Group (MAG) had been established and had it been determined how the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel would be involved in the Governance arrangements for the Garden Village.

The Corporate Director of Economic Development confirmed that letters had been sent to the Group Leaders asking for nominations for the MAG, she also confirmed that the implementation plan for the Garden Village was being prepared and the Panel would be involved in the process as it moved forward. In response to a further question the Corporate Director agreed that it would be beneficial for members of the MAG to visit other established Garden Villages.

RESOLVED – 1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2017 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman

2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2017 be noted.

EEOSP.37/17 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented report OS.14/17 providing an overview of matters relating to the work of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reported that the most recent Notice of Executive Key Decisions, copies of which had been circulated to all Members, had been published on 5 May 2017 and the only item within the remit of the Panel was KD.13/17 England's Heritage Cities: Discover England Fund Round 2. The matter had not been included in the Panel's work programme.

The Panel's current Work Programme was attached to the report and it was proposed that Directors and Portfolio Holders be invited to the next Panel meeting to aid the Panel in defining their work programme for the year.

Members were reminded that there was a renewed focus on effective member-led and policy scrutiny and to assist Members, two training sessions were being provided by the LGiU on 27 June 2017.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Overview Report incorporating the Work Programme and Key Decision items relevant to this Panel (OS.10/17) be noted.

2) That Directors and Portfolio Holders be invited to attend the Panel's meeting on 27 July 2017 to aid the Panel in defining their work programme for the year.

EEOSP.38/17 KINGMOOR PARK ENTERPRISE ZONE – IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

The Corporate Director of Economic Development submitted report ED.23/17 which updated the Panel on the progress made to date by partners relating to the operation of Kingmoor Park as an Enterprise Zone.

The Corporate Director reminded the Panel that Enterprise Zones were an important part of the Government's programme to devolve responsibility for leadership of local growth and provide a powerful tool for Local Enterprise Partnerships to develop their local economy. Kingmoor Park Enterprise Zone became operational on 1 April 2016 for a period of 25 years. The established objectives and priorities for Kingmoor Park Enterprise Zone were set out in section 1.3 of the report.

Section 2 of the report set out in detail the progress made which included a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for Communities and Local Government (attached to the report) and the establishment of the Enterprise Zone Board.

Section 3 of the report set out the next steps which included further masterplanning work and the development of a Marketing and Communications Strategy.

The Economy and Enterprise Officer added that work would be undertaken on the preparation of a Local Development Order (LDO) which would remove the need to apply for planning permission for specific types of development within a defined area. This would make the Enterprise Zone more attractive to investors.

In considering the update Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Was there any way to test expressions of interest for the Zone?

The Corporate Director confirmed that there had been interest shown but it was too early in the process for any details. She added that the Council, as a partner, would support Kingmoor Park Properties in negotiations and were keen to show that Carlisle was open for business.

- Would the Panel see the Marketing and Communications Plan?

The Corporate Director responded that, once the Plan had been approved by the Enterprise Zone Board, the Panel could have the Plan to scrutinise its implementation.

- How would the Council ensure that the LDO contained the appropriate planning conditions for the area and how would local Councillors and Parish Councillors be engaged in the process?

The Corporate Director informed the Panel that it took approximately 12 months for the development of a LDO as the Council was required to carry out statutory consultation with stakeholders which would include Councillors and Parish Councillors. In addition the planning conditions of each site would be developed and covered under the LDO.

The LDO would cover the whole Enterprise Zone and within it different sections would be identified as different sites, it would not be a blanket approach for the whole Enterprise Zone.

- Would the Panel have the opportunity to scrutinise the Implementation Plan?

The Corporate Director explained that the Implementation Plan contained confidential information and she would be required to consult with Kingmoor Park Properties before the Plan was released. The Plan contained commercially sensitive information and would not be able to be discussed in public.

- A Member raised concerns that the Memorandum of Understanding had not been signed by the Accountable Body and asked that this be investigated further.

The Corporate Director thanked the Member for raising the matter and agreed to have the matter investigated and she would provide the Panel with a written response.

- Members felt that the governance arrangements for the Enterprise Zone were not clear and there were concerns that there were gaps in the arrangements.

The Corporate Director commented that the governance arrangements were complicated and agreed to circulate a diagram of the governance arrangements to Members of the Panel.

- What was the due diligence process for Enhanced Capital Allowance?

The Corporate Director responded that the Enhanced Capital Allowance was administered through HRMC. She agreed to investigate the process for businesses to apply for Enhanced Capital Allowance and provide the Panel with a written response.

- A Member asked for further information on Kingmoor Park Properties and suggested that representatives of Kingmoor Park Properties be invited to a future meeting of the Panel to discuss their vision for the Enterprise Zone.

The Corporate Director reminded the Panel that Kingmoor Park Properties was a commercial company responsible for the development and maintenance of Kingmoor Park as the site owners. The City Council's role as Local Authority was to ensure that the criteria for each site was adhered to in line with Kingmoor Park's status as an Enterprise Zone.

- A Member asked for details of the Retained Business Rates as set out in schedule 3 page 39 of the report.

The Corporate Director explained that the Retained Business Rates at the Enterprise Zone would be used for infrastructure developments to support the Enterprise Zone.

- A Member drew attention to the Business Rates Relief Eligibility Guidance attached to the report and asked if the funding was from the European Union (EU) and what effect the exit from the EU may have on the monies.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio explained that there was no funding from the EU. The EU had set a limit as detailed in the guidance, for the rate relief that the Council could offer to ensure that all businesses had the same opportunities.

- There were many empty properties within the City Centre; how would the Council ensure that there was a balance between the City Centre and the Enterprise Zone and what was being done to address the issue of empty properties in the City Centre?

The Corporate Director reminded the Panel that the goal of the Enterprise Zone was to encourage new investment from outside of Carlisle and encourage employment. If a business wanted to expand and move to the Enterprise Zone they would have to meet strict criteria, as detailed within the Business Rates Relief Eligibility Guidance.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio reiterated that the Enterprise Zone would encourage employment and aimed to create 3000 more jobs. The Council wanted to ensure that the jobs being created were high quality skilled roles which would raise financial rewards for the City. The Local Plan set out very carefully the level of protection that the City Council was trying to afford the City Centre. Empty individual premises within the City Centre were not always within the remit of the authority and the only encouragement which could be offered to businesses was business rate relief. City Council officers worked extremely hard to keep the City Centre viable, full and lively and as a result it had outperformed other city centres.

- Would the Cumbria LEP's limited success in attracting funding have an effect on the future of the Enterprise Zone?

The Corporate Director clarified that the two matters were separate and there would be no effect on the Enterprise Zone.

- Superfast broadband had been identified as a factor in encouraging business how was this being incorporated into the Enterprise Zone.

The Corporate Director agreed that broadband was an important issue and it would be addressed through the masterplanning process for the site.

RESOLVED – 1) That the progress on the implementation of Kingmoor Park Enterprise Zone be noted (ED.23/17).

2) That the Corporate Director of Economic Development:

- Provide the Panel with a written explanation regarding the signatories on the Memorandum of Understanding;
- Circulate a copy of the governance arrangements for the Enterprise Zone in a flow chart format to the Panel;
- investigate the HRMC process for the Enhanced Capital Allowance and provide the Panel with the information.

3) That representatives of Kingmoor Park Properties be invited to a future meeting of the Panel to give an overview of their vision for the enterprise Zone.

4) That the Implementation Plan and the Marketing and Communications Strategy be submitted for scrutiny to a future meeting of the Panel.

EEOSP.39/17 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17

The Policy and Performance Officer submitted report PC.10/17 containing the fourth quarter performance against the current service standards and a summary of the Carlisle Plan 2015-18 actions as defined in the 'plan on a page'.

The Policy and Performance Officer added that the a brief overview of the current position with regard to the Carlisle Plan had been included in the report and it only included actions which sat under the remit of the Panel. He reminded the Panel that performance reporting options workshops had been planned for Members on 20 June 2017.

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- A Member asked for an explanation of the 2020 monthly target for the percentage of household waste sent for recycling.

The Policy and Performance Officer explained the seasonal differentials in recycling targets which changed the monthly target. To achieve the nationally set target of 50% by 2020 the monthly value had to reach the black line as indicated in the report.

- A Member urged officers to try and amalgamate all of the recycling figures for the variety of recycling sites within the District to achieve a more accurate figure for recycling in Carlisle.
- A Member asked for an update on the fingerpost signage within the public realm improvements.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder responded that all of the outstanding requirements had been settled, the design had been finalised and the signs were being manufactured. There was no date for installation presently.

- The Panel discussed the development of Carlisle Airport as a regional gateway (page 53 of the report) in some detail. They discussed the planning applications that had been agreed for the Airport, the conditions contained within the Lease of the Airport and the promotion of Carlisle which used the Airport.

The Panel were scheduled to scrutinise the Economic Strategy at their next meeting and felt it was appropriate to invite representatives of the Airport to contribute to the report. The Panel also requested that the terms and conditions of the Lease and the planning applications for the Airport be reviewed and reported back to the Panel.

RESOLVED – 1) The Panel considered the performance of the City Council presented in report PC.10/17 with a view to seeking continuous improvement in how the Council delivers its priorities.

2) That a contribution to the Economic Strategy report be requested from representatives at Carlisle Airport.

3) That the Deputy Chief Executive agreed to liaise with the Corporate Director of Economic development and feedback to the Panel the terms and conditions of the Lease arrangements and planning application for Carlisle Airport.

(The meeting ended at 11.27am)