

EXECUTIVE

MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 1.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor J Mallinson (Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Bloxham (Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Mrs Bowman (Economic Development Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Ellis (Performance and Development Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Mrs Geddes (Community Engagement Portfolio Holder)

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Luckley (Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel)
Councillor Craig (Observer)

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mitchelson (Chairman and Leader of the Council).

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor J Mallinson (Deputy Leader) took the chair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 27 June and 26 July 2011 were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meetings.

**EX.122/11 CARLISLE AND EDEN CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION
PARTNERSHIP PLAN**
(Key Decision)

Portfolio Community Engagement

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.088/11, the Assistant Director (Community Engagement) submitted report CP.1/11-12 presenting the new Partnership Plan for 2011/12 developed by the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

He outlined the background to the matter, reminding Members that the Plan formed part of the Council's Policy Framework and would replace the existing Plan (2010/11). It had been considered by the Executive on 26 July, the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel on 4 August, and the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 1 September 2011.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had resolved that the Minutes of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel be approved and forwarded to the Executive for their consideration. A copy of Minute Excerpt COSP.67/11 detailing the Panel's consideration of the matter was submitted.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel stated that both Panels were very pleased to approve and note the Partnership Plan. She pointed out that one issue of concern related to the availability of resources to fund the Partnership during the coming year. The Partnership had a good reputation and played an important role in crime prevention.

The Chairman added that the Community Engagement Portfolio Holder was aware of the concerns raised and had advised that discussions would take place. She expressed the hope that those would prove to be satisfactory.

The Community Engagement Portfolio Holder was pleased that the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel was in favour of adoption of the new Partnership Plan which would run until the end of the financial year. She explained that the Minutes of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel were submitted separately from the Partnership Plan since the Panel's scrutiny had resulted in a number of recommendations unrelated to the Plan. The recommendations would, however, assist with the Budget process and should come forward to the Executive at a later date.

In conclusion, the Community Engagement Portfolio Holder recommended that the Partnership Plan be adopted for the remainder of the financial year.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder said that, although he had no objection to adoption of the Plan, the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel was correct in highlighting the financial implications. The Plan should be clear as regards the level of contribution to be made by the various partners.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive had considered the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership's Plan for 2011/12, and recommended the Plan to full Council to consider adoption onto the Council's Policy Framework.

Reasons for Decision

The purpose of the Partnership Plan was to provide a single document that presented the priorities and how they had been agreed. The Plan illustrated the partnership structure that would address those priorities and how it would manage performance

EX.123/11 DRAFT BOTCHERGATE CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (Key Decision)

Portfolio Economic Development

Subject Matter

The Assistant Director (Economic Development) submitted report ED.30/11 setting out a draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for Botchergate. She informed Members that the Botchergate Conservation Area was designated in 1994 following work by the Carlisle and District Civic Trust and City Council. Whilst subsequent years had seen significant investments in parts of the Conservation Area, much of Botchergate had suffered from continued economic malaise and a decline in the quality of the built environment and the public realm.

She added that Local Plan Policy DP2 (Regeneration) specified that proposals would be developed for the regeneration of the economic, social and environmental capital of the district. Botchergate was named under that Policy and the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan was the first step in taking forward the objectives of that Policy by providing more detail to guide future development of the area.

The current appearance of Botchergate was an issue of perennial concern for both elected Members and the public. It had been a recurrent theme during the 'Key Issues' consultation for the Local Development Framework, which took place between January and March 2011, with numerous representations referring to Botchergate and generally requesting that action be taken to improve its appearance and function as a gateway to the City.

The Assistant Director (Economic Development) indicated that an adopted Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for Botchergate would enable the identification of those elements of significance within the area, and provide a sound basis for development control decisions and initiatives to

improve the area. It would give greater confidence to potential investors and help to determine a direction for the area. There was no up-to-date guide character of the Conservation Area and work carried out in the early 1990s was in need of updating as a result of the many changes therein.

In conclusion, the Assistant Director (Economic Development) reported that the appraisal would provide an opportunity to consider whether the Conservation Area should be extended or contracted, and also the appropriateness of measures such as Article 4 Directions which could provide more control over some aspects of permitted development.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder sought an assurance that the Botchergate Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan would not restrict or stifle proper development of the area.

In response, the Assistant Director (Economic Development) explained that the purpose was to provide certainty in the area so that developers had a clear understanding of the criteria governing future development and regeneration initiatives.

The Performance and Development Portfolio Holder welcomed submission of the report. He emphasised the need to work with private landlords, and particularly absentee landlords, to ensure that properties within the Botchergate area were made more presentable.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder pointed out that the Council did work with landlords to address such concerns, which work was ongoing. Recent regeneration initiatives illustrated what could be achieved. She added that the Executive welcomed submission of the Appraisal and Management Plan as a clear indication of their intention and desire to improve Botchergate and return the area to its former glory. The Portfolio Holder then moved the recommendations set out in the Assistant Director's report.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

1. That the Executive had considered Report ED.30/11 concerning the draft Botchergate Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and made the paper available for consideration by the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
2. That, subject to any additional information arising from the Scrutiny Panel, the matter be reported back to the Executive on 31 October 2011 to consider referral to Council for approval for public consultation on 8 November 2011.

Reasons for Decision

The Council has a statutory duty to review its conservation areas, together with the existing boundaries and publish proposals for their preservation and enhancement. An up-to-date appraisal of the character of the Botchergate Conservation Area would provide a stronger framework with which to inform Development Management decisions and with which to direct efforts towards regeneration of the area

EX.124/11 FORWARD PLAN (Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Subject Matter

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 September 2011 to 31 December 2011 was submitted.

The Assistant Director (Local Environment) had been scheduled to report on the following matters which were deferred for the reasons outlined:

Parking Connect - Options for Parking Enforcement in Carlisle and Potentially Cumbria (KD.015/11) - pending a decision by Cumbria County Council;

Highways Claimed Rights (KD.019/11) - the matter was outside current budgetary considerations;

Denton Holme to Castleway Cycleway - Construction of Final Section (KD.026/11) - terms had not yet been agreed between the parties; and

Sustainable Energy Project at Civic Centre, Carlisle (KD.027/11) - pending an evaluation process.

The Assistant Director (Resources) was scheduled to report on the Willowholme Depot - Surplus Asset Disposal (KD.028/11). The matter was deferred to enable full consideration of the Waste Management Licence on the site prior to its disposal.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 September 2011 to 31 December 2011 be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable.

EX.125/11 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY OFFICERS
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Performance and Development

Subject Matter

Details of decisions taken by Officers under delegated powers were submitted.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the decisions, attached as Appendix A, be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable.

EX.126/11 JOINT MANAGEMENT TEAM
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Subject Matter

The minutes of the meetings of the Joint Management Team held on 28 July and 18 August 2011 were submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Joint Management Team held on 28 July and 18 August 2011, attached as Appendix B, be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable.

(The meeting ended at 1.12 pm)