
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 30 AUGUST 2011

EX.101/11 CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER
(Key Decision)

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Economic Development

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.065/11, the Assistant Director (Economic Development) submitted report ED.25/11 setting out the draft Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper which was scheduled for public consultation for a six week period commencing on 19 September 2011. She reminded Members that the Issues and Options Paper represented the first stage of the Carlisle District Core Strategy which, as part of the Carlisle Local Development Framework, would ultimately replace the Carlisle District Local Plan.

The Assistant Director (Economic Development) reported that the Local Development Framework Members Working Group had on 20 July 2011 met to discuss the Paper and the results of the Test of Reasonableness which had previously been undertaken by Officers, details of which were provided. She outlined the points raised by Members of the Working Group on the Reasonableness Test, which had been reported to the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 28 July 2011 for further comment.

She added that the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel had discussed a number of changes to the document and a copy of Minute Excerpt EEOSP.46/11 was provided for reference. The Panel had resolved -

"1) That the Panel were happy with the questions listed subject to the amendments suggested by Members.

2) That the Strategy should put an emphasis on employment opportunities that already existed and protect current jobs.

3) There were questions about the readability of the document and Officers were to look at the text, abbreviations and the format to reduce the bulk of the document."

In conclusion, the Assistant Director (Economic Development) drew Members' attention to the draft Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper, together with the track changes which demonstrated how the issues raised had been taken on board.

The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered it fortunate that the matter had previously been considered by the Local Development Framework Members Group since that provided background to the Panel's deliberations. She made reference to the issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, pointing out that Members had asked that the Paper also be made available in an abbreviated, more readable, format. It was hoped that would stimulate the public to respond to the consultation.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder referred to pages 22 and 23 of the Paper and, in particular, question H4 (With reference to the location of rural housing development, which of the following options will benefit the rural area and its communities the best?) and option d) (Include smaller villages within a two mile radius of Carlisle as suitable locations for development, provided they have good public transport, cycle and footpath connections, e.g. Linstock?). Demand existed for housing in the rural area and he was concerned to ensure that development was encouraged outwith that radius.

The Assistant Director (Economic Development) took on board the Portfolio Holder's concerns, adding that option d) could be reviewed so that it was not so restrictive.

The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel added that the issue raised also linked to the Panel's concern regarding the urban area / rural area split for new housing. Members felt that should be looked at to possibly allow for greater flexibility.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder welcomed the submission of what was a very good report and looked forward to receiving responses to the consultation exercise. She added that the work undertaken in conjunction with the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel had been of real benefit and thanked Members for their input. The Portfolio Holder then moved the recommendations set out in the Assistant Director's report.

The Leader wished to place on record the Executive's appreciation of the input provided by the Local Development Framework Members Working Group, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and also the members of staff involved. He further moved that the Executive authorise the Assistant Director (Economic Development), in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, to amend the Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper to reflect the concern highlighted above with regard to rural housing.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

1. That the Executive had considered the feedback from the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Local Development Framework Members Working Group.
2. That the Assistant Director (Economic Development), in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, be authorised to amend the draft Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper to take account of the concern raised with regard to rural housing.
3. That the draft Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper be referred to the City Council (13 September 2011) to consider approval to consult on the content of the draft Paper.

Reasons for Decision

To progress work on the Issues and Options stage of the Core Strategy by involving the public and seeking views, in preparation for developing the preferred options for dealing with them.