

## CITY COUNCIL

**TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 6.45 PM**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Bowman), Councillors Alcroft, Allison, Mrs Atkinson, Bainbridge, Betton, Birks, Bomford, Brown, Christian, Collier, Dr Davison, Denholm, Ellis, Ms Ellis-Williams, Mrs Finlayson, Mrs Glendinning, Glover, Higgs, Mrs McKerrell, McNulty, Mrs Mallinson, Mallinson (J), Meller, Mitchelson, Morton, Nedved, Patrick, Robson, Rodgerson, Shepherd, Miss Sherriff, Southward, Tarbitt, Dr Tickner, Tinnion and Miss Whalen

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Town Clerk and Chief Executive  
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services

### **C.85/20 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Paton.

### **C.86/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A roll call of persons in attendance was taken.

#### **Item 10(i) – Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder Report**

Councillor Glover declared a registrable interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. The interest related to the fact that he is a Trustee of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life.

#### **Item 13(ii) – Notice of Motion – Deer Park**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, declarations of interest were submitted as follows:

Councillors Birks, Brown, Collier, Mrs Glendinning, Meller, Nedved, Rodgerson, Shepherd, Tinnion and Miss Whalen declared that they were Members of the Development Control Committee and would leave the meeting prior to consideration of that item.

Councillors Alcroft, Patrick, Tarbitt and Dr Tickner declared that they were substitute Members of the Development Control Committee and would leave the meeting prior to consideration of that item.

Councillor Christian declared that he was a Member of the Development Control Committee but would remain in the meeting.

Councillor Morton declared that he was a Member of the Development Control Committee. He would remain but take no part.

Councillor Mrs Mallinson declared that she had a house for rent on Etterby Park next to the proposed planning and would remain in the meeting.

Councillor Mallinson (J) declared that he was the owner of a property on the Etterby estate which is close to Deer Park. He would remain and participate in the agenda item.

#### **Item 14(iv) – New Cumbria Choice Allocations Policy**

Councillor Patrick declared an interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. Councillor Patrick's employer is one of the registered providers involved in the Policy and she would take no part in that item of business.

#### **Item 14(vi) – Business and Planning Act 2020 and Constitutional Amendment relating to Delegation of Emerging Legislative Powers**

Councillor Allison declared an interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. The interest was family related and he would remain during consideration of that item.

#### **C.87/20 MINUTES**

The Mayor moved the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 14 July 2020.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 14 July 2020 be received and signed as a true record of the meeting at the first practicable opportunity.

#### **C.88/20 PUBLIC AND PRESS**

In light of the fact that a number of Members had declared interests and to facilitate the smooth running of the virtual live streamed meeting, the Mayor indicated that the order of the agenda would be varied so that item 13(ii) – Notice of Motion – Deer Park was taken as the last item of business. That would enable the Members in question to leave the meeting without having to reconnect.

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed.

#### **C.89/20 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **(i) The Mayor**

The Mayor announced that the Proclamation of the Carlisle Great Fair on 29 August 2020 had been a great success. She wished to express gratitude and thanks to the staff who had worked so hard and put excellent, safe measures put in place. The event had been well commented upon by stallholders and members of the public alike and had drawn life into our City at a much-needed time.

Although on a lesser scale this year, the Mayor expressed the hope that businesses within the City had benefitted.

##### **(ii) The Leader of the Council**

The Leader indicated that he had the following three announcements to make:

#### **Waverley Viaduct**

Further discussions had taken place between City Council Officers and Cumbria County Council. It was clearly understood that neither authority had available funding to carry out the works required to open to bridge to the public. However, having reviewed the cost estimates, the County Council now felt that given the rural location they would be able to significantly reduce the said estimates, potentially by what the Leader considered to be a very significant sum. He considered that to be most helpful in pursuing the goal of opening the bridge.

There would now be a technical meeting between Officers of both Councils prior to further discussion with the Waverley Viaduct Trust. An agreement would also require to be put in place with all parties so that the liabilities were clearly set out and, of course, Carlisle City Council remained committed to putting in place the Orders which it promised at a Council meeting some time ago.

### **Local Government Reform – Devolution**

The Leader had anticipated being in a position to brief Members on the current position and was planning so to do until mid afternoon. However, as the Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government (Simon Clarke MP) had been replaced by Luke Hall MP, he considered it prudent to await the implications of that change.

The Leader undertook to keep Members apprised as far as possible.

### **Proposal – Chief Executive Arrangement**

The Leader had spoken to many Members, either directly or via their Group Leader, regarding the position in Eden District Council. Members would be aware that Eden District Council had recently lost its Chief Executive Officer.

The Leader had been in discussion with the leadership at Eden District Council regarding the possibility of a joint Chief Executive arrangement as an interim solution. Discussions had not yet reached the stage whereby he could comment further, other than to say that should an arrangement be firmed up he would keep Members informed and, of course, in line with the City Council's Constitution, guaranteed that the ultimate decision would be a matter for the full Council to determine.

#### (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.90/20 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.1, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by members of the public.

### **C.91/20 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.11, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported that no petitions or deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

### **C.92/20 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of questions submitted on notice by Councillor Dr Davison:

Speaking at the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Dr Davison asked the following question:

“Would the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder:

- (a) Provide an update on the details and progress of the task group he set up to ensure residents are properly engaged with the city council’s response to the permitting process for the incinerator?
- (b) Detail the task group’s remit?
- (c) List the actions that have been taken to date?
- (d) Provide a hard copy of the group’s agreed action plan, given the time constraints of the Environment Agency consultation process?

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Deputy Leader responded in the following terms:

(a) The Task Group comprised Councillors from Cumbria County Council; Carlisle City Council; Stanwix Rural Parish Council; Kingmoor Parish Council; and the Chairs of Newfield Residents’ Association; Lowry Hill Residents’ Association; and Crindledyke Residents’ Association.

Each of the Members of the Task Group was asked to bring forward the concerns of the community they represented. The Task Group had recruited air quality experts and environmental permitting specialists, commissioned to investigate the issues raised by Members of the Group and to carefully assess the permitting application against those concerns, and to recommend changes were necessary to the Environment Agency.

(b) Carlisle City Council was a statutory consultee on the permit application and the Task Group’s remit was to inform the City Council’s response.

(c) Since the first meeting had taken place prior to the application going live, the Task Group had discussed numerous issues and asked that they be investigated by the air quality experts and environmental permitting specialists when the application went public.

At the second meeting Task Group members were presented with an update on those matters, together with certain other issues that had become apparent following the publication, and had discussed which areas required further investigation. It was anticipated that a third meeting would take place in the coming weeks, at which the Group would approve its response to the Environment Agency.

(d) It would be a matter for the Task Group to determine what to do with the submission and he would consult with those Members at that meeting.

Councillor Dr Davison thanked the Deputy Leader for including Carlisle Residents Against Incineration within the Task Group.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.6, Councillor Dr Davison questioned whether the organisation commissioned to investigate air quality also had the expertise to look at the wider issues raised by residents within the Task Group, such as water quality, or whether there was a need for the City Council to bring in additional consultants over and above the expertise within its Environmental Health Department.

The Mayor invited the Deputy Leader to respond.

The Deputy Leader explained that one of the experts specialised in air quality and had managed environmental assessments and processes on many occasions. The said person was well aware of the application, having provided the City Council with a response to Cumbria County Council in the first instance; his request at that time being that a human health assessment be carried out on the application. The developers refused to do that, determining that was not necessary. It was only on the variation and utilising the information put forward that the developers were persuaded to undertake a human health assessment.

The other gentleman was a permitting specialist who analysed permits, not only for people who wanted to stop incinerators but also for developers themselves who wished to ensure safety. Some weaknesses had already been identified within the application which had been drawn to the Task Group's attention. It was anticipated that the recommendations going forward to the Environment Agency would include recommendations pertaining to water issues. That would, however, be a decision for the Task Group as a whole to make.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Dr Davison then asked the following question:

"Given the concerns recently highlighted by residents about the legality of aspects of the county council's planning process, the makeup of the Task Group now leaves itself open to accusations of conflict of interest, as both the city and county council representatives on it are both members of both authorities.

Will the portfolio holder today commit to add a local city councillor to the group who is not also on the county council, to ensure that the voices of our citizens are heard above those of the county and provide residents transparency and trust in the process?"

The Deputy Leader indicated that he could not agree with the premise of the question that Councillor Allison and himself were unable to separate their responsibilities. He emphasised that Members were all there for the same purpose i.e. not to represent Councils, but to represent their residents. It mattered little whether one sat on Cumbria County Council or Carlisle City Council.

Accordingly, he would not commit to a third City Councillor on the Task Group, but would consider the request.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.6, the Mayor invited Councillor Dr Davison to pose a supplementary question should she so wish.

Councillor Dr Davison appreciated the answers given and had no further question.

## **C.93/20      MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE**

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Ellis seconded that the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 20 July and 17 August 2020 be received and adopted.

The Leader also responded to questions concerning the "Free After Three" trial (Minute EX.79/20) and Events Cancellation (PF.7/20).

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 20 July and 17 August 2020 be received and adopted.

## **C.94/20 EXECUTIVE - PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS**

*Councillor Glover, having declared a registrable interest in respect of the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder's report, posed questions on the detail thereof*

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

Culture, Heritage and Leisure  
Communities, Health and Wellbeing  
Environment and Transport  
Economy, Enterprise and Housing  
Finance, Governance and Resources  
Leader's Portfolio

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder moved his report. In so doing, the Portfolio Holder commented upon the success of and excellent feedback received from the management company; stallholders, both local and from further afield, and importantly from shopkeepers in respect of the International Market held over the Bank Holiday weekend. All were very satisfied with the safety arrangements and the shopkeepers had reported an increase in footfall over that period. Accordingly, he congratulated those officers involved in organisation of the event for the significant amount of work undertaken.

The Portfolio Holder also provided an update on the activities of the Council's leisure provider - GLL. The numbers of users were increasing and they were very pleased with the progress being made. Swimming lessons for schools, encompassing special arrangements, would be commencing next week.

Members may also have noticed an article in the press stating that Carlisle Castle was besieged again. The Portfolio Holder remarked upon the excellent offer currently in place, which provided access to the Castle and to the Military Museum and he commended both English Heritage and the Council's staff for their work in driving footfall through their imaginative marketing campaign.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder moved her report.

Referencing the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme – Silver Award, the Portfolio Holder reported that both she and another Member of the City Council had today attended a meeting with retired veterans and serving officers and learned that a Government White Paper which would move legislation that would compel Councils to take part in the Armed Forces Covenant was out to consultation. In addition, the next census would include a question on whether one had served in the services of this country.

The Portfolio Holder added that the City Council was informed that it had done exceptionally well to achieve a Silver Award and she wished to thank the staff for all their work in relation to the submission. Work was now taking place towards the achievement of the Gold Award.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved his report, informing Members that the incredibly brilliant Communications Team had generated an interactive 360-degree Climate Change exhibition to help explain the steps the Council had already taken to tackle climate change and also provide information on how local residents and business could have their say. He would encourage people to engage with that consultation exercise.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder moved his report, expressing thanks to the Homeless, Prevention and Accommodation Team for their tremendous work over the preceding few months under COVID-19 related conditions. He was particularly appreciative of the work undertaken by the management and staff at Water Street during that period.

The Portfolio Holder also provide a brief update on the position with regard to the John Street Homeless Accommodation for Members' interest.

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder; and the Leader then moved their reports.

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

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

(2) That the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder arrange to:

- (a) Investigate the potential for larger venues (e.g. Bitts Park) to be offered to the Pantaloons in order that they may attract larger audiences to their shows and respond to Councillor Southward.
- (b) Provide a written response to Councillor Birks including additional information regarding:
  - (i) the impact of COVID-19 on the occupancy levels of hotels and bed and breakfast establishments within the locality of Carlisle; and how that compared with other areas of a similar size.
  - (ii) The plans in place within the Tourism Strategy for advertising and building upon the accolades currently being received (e.g. in relation to the Cathedral, Walby Farm Park and the Military Museum) in order that Carlisle may stand out within a very competitive market.
  - (iii) The potential for subsidised market stalls for small independent businesses at the Christmas Market with a view to assisting those businesses and the local economy.

(3) That the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder arrange to:

- (a) Provide a written response to Councillor Dr Tickner clarifying what the percentages quoted on page 19 of the document pack concerning Waste and Recycling mean in monetary terms.
- (b) Investigate the concerns raised by Councillor Dr Tickner regarding accessibility to the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy consultation and associated timescale with a view to ensuring that all had access to the questionnaire. The response to clarify whether the consultation deadline could be extended; together with the manner by which schools and businesses were being encouraged to participate.
- (c) Investigate whether virtual Carbon Literacy training may be provided for interested Members of the City Council as raised by Councillor Dr Davison.
- (d) Provide Councillor Betton with a written response detailing the cost of the three replacement vehicles being procured for the Enforcement Team; and clarifying details of the ownership of the riverbanks / riverbeds and responsibility in terms of maintenance thereof.
- (e) Convey the thanks expressed by Councillor Tinnion on behalf of himself and his Ward for the hard work undertaken in relation to recycling and fly tipping to the Team concerned.

## **C.95/20 MINUTES**

The Mayor moved and Councillor Birks seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the meetings as detailed within Minute Book Volume 47(2):

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel	16 July 2020
Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel	23 July 2020
Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel	9 July 2020
Development Control Committee	17 and 19 June; and 17 July 2020
Audit Committee	30 July 2020

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings as detailed above be received and adopted.

## **C.96/20 SCRUTINY**

### **(a) Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel**

In the absence of Councillor Paton, Councillor Mrs Finlayson moved and Councillor Betton seconded the Chair's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Chair's Report be received and adopted.

### **(b) Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel**

Councillor Bainbridge moved his Chair's Report which was seconded by Councillor Birks.

RESOLVED – That the Chair's Report be received and adopted.

### **(c) Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel**

Councillor Brown moved her Chair's report which was seconded by Councillor Meller.

RESOLVED – That the Chair's Report be received and adopted.

## **C.97/20 NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **(i) Great British September Clean**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of the following motion submitted on notice by Councillor Nedved:

“Carlisle City Council fully supports the Great British September Clean to be held from 11th to 27th September 2020.

This Council is committed to tackling the blights of litter, fly tipping, graffiti and dog fouling.

Support can be given by organising private clean ups with up to five family or friends.

Litter blights our streets, parks and green spaces costing this Country millions of pounds to clear up every year.

Carlisle City Council expresses its thanks to Officers and Staff from Green Spaces and Area Maintenance Teams for their hard work in keeping Carlisle and District tidy.”

Councillor Nedved formally moved and Councillor Christian seconded the motion.

Councillor Nedved then elaborated in detail upon the reasons for submission of the motion, asking that Members lend their support.

Discussion ensued during which certain Members outlined their support, and it was:

RESOLVED – That the Motion of Councillor Nedved, as set out above be, CARRIED.

### **C.98/20 PROPOSALS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN RELATION TO THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

#### **(i) Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2025/26**

Pursuant to Minute EX.69/20 and EX.88/20, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2025/26 be referred to Council for approval. A copy of Report RD.25/20 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Ellis presented the report and moved the recommendation, which was duly seconded by Councillor Mallinson (J).

Councillor Ellis also responded to a Member's question concerning the lack of projected costs within the Medium Term Financial Plan with regard to climate change.

RESOLVED – That the City Council approved the Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2021/22 to 2025/26.

#### **(ii) Capital Investment Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26**

Pursuant to Minute EX.70/20 and EX.89/20, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the Capital Investment Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26 be referred to Council for approval. A copy of Report RD.26/20 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Ellis presented the report and moved the recommendation.

Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED – That the City Council approved the Capital Investment Strategy for the period 2021/22 to 2025/26.

#### **(iii) Asset Management Plan 2021 to 2026**

Pursuant to Minute EX.71/20 and EX.90/20, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the Asset Management Plan for 2021 to 2026 be referred to Council for adoption. A copy of Report GD.43/20 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Ellis moved the report and recommendation, Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED – That the City Council agreed to adopt the Asset Management Plan for 2021-2026.

(iv) New Cumbria Choice Allocations Policy and Equality Impact Assessment

*Councillor Patrick, having declared an interest, took no part in this item of business*

Pursuant to Minute EX.68/20 and EX.73/20, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that Council approves and adopts the updated Cumbria Choice Allocations Policy. A copy of Report GD.39/20 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Nedved presented the report and formally moved the recommendation, which was formally seconded by Councillor Mrs Mallinson.

Councillor Nedved also responded to questions, and undertook to feedback to Cumbria Choice the disappointment expressed by Councillor Bainbridge regarding the poor quality of their website which in his view required updating.

RESOLVED – That the City Council approves and adopts the updated Cumbria Choice Allocations Policy (Appendix 1 to Report GD.39/20).

(v) Carlisle Southern Link Road Agreements – Financial Implications

Pursuant to Minute EX.99/20, consideration was given to recommendations from the Executive concerning the financial implications on the Council's budgets and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), as a result of the Council completing both the Grant Determination Agreement and the Collaboration Agreement, in relation to the Carlisle Southern Link Road on 31 July 2020. A copy of Report RD.27/20 and relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Ellis presented the report and moved the recommendation set out therein, which was duly seconded by Councillor Mallinson (J).

Councillor Mallinson (J) also responded in some detail to a question concerning the Collaboration Agreement – recovery proceeds / indemnity cap, and a Member's statement concerning potential conflicts of interest by Members who served on both the City and County Councils.

RESOLVED – That the City Council approve the 50/50 split in the recovery proceeds as requested by the County Council; and the consequential impact on the Council's MTFP in terms of the temporary use of reserves and/or savings.

(vi) Business and Planning Act 2020 and Constitutional Amendment relating to delegation of emerging legislative powers

*Councillor Allison, having declared an interest, made no comment on this item of business*

Pursuant to Minute EX.100/20, consideration was given to recommendations from the Executive relative to a proposed scheme of delegation for the decision making powers contained within the Business and Planning Act 2020. A copy of Report GD.42/20 and relevant Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Ellis presented the report and moved the recommendations.

Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded the recommendations.

RESOLVED – That Council resolves to:

- (i) Delegate responsibility to Development Control Committee for all matters in relation to pavement licences under the Planning and Business Act 2020 which are not otherwise delegated to Officers;
- (ii) Further delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Economic Development to determine applications for pavement licences, to include setting the duration of the licence and attaching such conditions as is considered reasonably necessary; and to take any necessary action in relation to the enforcement and revocation of the licence;
- (iii) Establish an internal review process, where a licence has been refused or revoked or granted subject to conditions with which the applicant disagrees, using the Council's established Appeals process, giving the applicant the chance to make written and/or oral representations to one of the Council's Appeals Panels;
- (iv) Further delegate the following decision-making power to the Town Clerk and Chief Executive:

“Power to take any decision on behalf of the Council, not otherwise delegated, which can lawfully be delegated to officers, subject to the decision taker, before taking the decision, having taken appropriate steps to consult the Chair of the committee which would, save for this delegated power, have taken the decision. The decision must be recorded in an Officer Decision Notice”.

### **C.99/20      AUDIT COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Pursuant to Minute AUC.11/20, consideration was given to the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for the municipal year 2019/20 (RD.28/20). An extract from the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 30 July 2020 was also submitted.

Councillor Meller moved the Annual Report, which was duly seconded by Councillor Bomford.

RESOLVED – That the Council noted and accepted the Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2019/20.

### **C.100/20      OPERATION OF THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO CALL-IN AND URGENCY**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 15(j) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported on the Operation of Call-in and Urgency Procedures as set out in Report GD.42/20.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **C.101/20 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.

The Mayor indicated that the meeting would now pause briefly to enable those Members who had declared an interest in the Notice of Motion – Deer Park to leave the meeting.

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services clarified the position concerning the Law around disclosable pecuniary interests in response to a point of clarification raised by Councillor Betton.

## **C.102/20 NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **(ii) Deer Park**

*Councillors Alcroft, Birks, Brown, Collier, Mrs Glendinning, Meller, Nedved, Patrick, Rodgerson, Shepherd, Tarbitt, Dr Tickner, Tinnion and Miss Whalen, having declared an interest, left the meeting prior to consideration of this item of business*

*Councillors Christian, Mrs Mallinson and Mallinson (J), having declared an interest, remained within the meeting*

*Councillor Morton, having declared an interest, remained within the meeting but took no part in this item of business*

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported the receipt of the following motion submitted on notice by Councillor Dr Davison:

“Carlisle City Council

1. Acknowledges the value that its diverse and open green spaces provide as important places for people to get out into to benefit their health and wellbeing, even more so given the challenges and increasing stresses on many in our community as a result of the pandemic.
2. Recognises that those spaces closest to people’s homes are particularly important for their overall sense of wellbeing in terms of how they feel about where they live and their ability to easily get outdoors and into nature.
3. Acknowledges that, given the environmental crisis and biodiversity loss happening alongside the climate crisis, it is more critical than ever before that biodiverse areas within our city are protected from development.
4. Recognises that Deer Park field, directly next to Kingmoor Sidings nature reserve, is one of these precious spaces, much loved and used by local residents young and old, over the years to walk in, walk dogs, get out into a place where they can feel away from it all, pick fruit, watch wildlife, enjoy the varied flora and, as children, play in.
5. Recognises that Deer Park field enhances the offer of the Kingmoor Sidings Nature reserve, both as the route to it but also in offering different habitats from the nature reserve, enjoyed and used by residents and the wildlife to be regularly observed in it

6. Acknowledges that since the last revision of the local plan, adopted in 2016, much has changed in our understanding of the full impact of human activity on our environment and biodiversity and that it is time that we make decisions based on new knowledge and focused on protecting those spaces and habitats which, once lost, will be irreplaceable, along with the species growing and living there.

7. Recognises that the loss of Deer Park to housing development will be a very significant loss to the local and wider community of Carlisle and also to all the wildlife, flora and fauna that currently inhabit it.

Given all the above issues the City Council:

1. Commits to expedite the local plan review process and ensure that all green spaces within the city are reconsidered as to their benefit for wellbeing to local residents and providing biodiverse spaces.
2. Will support residents in investigating and getting those which are of real community value designated as a Local Green Space, as allowed under the National Planning Policy Framework.
3. Will add to the local plan process our planners doing a properly publicised whole district call for sites to be considered as Local Green Spaces, alongside work to identify and directly contact green space / friends groups.
4. Commits to prioritise supporting residents in the Deer Park area to have this field protected in this way, should the current planning application be refused, and in the longer term to investigate, and as funds or grants allow acquire the land, to link it to, enhance and develop the offering of Kingmoor Sidings nature reserve to safeguard that historically interesting and biodiverse green space for residents.”

In accordance with Procedure Rule 14.7(a) (Alteration of Motion), Councillor Dr Davison reported that she wished to move a minor amendment to her Motion:

Deletion of the word ‘prioritise’ in the last paragraph numbered 4.

The amended paragraph to read:

“4. Commits to supporting residents in the Deer Park area to have this field protected in this way, should the current planning application be refused, and in the longer term to investigate, and as funds or grants allow acquire the land, to link it to, enhance and develop the offering of Kingmoor Sidings nature reserve to safeguard that historically interesting and biodiverse green space for residents.”

The Mayor stated that the consent of the meeting was required and asked the Town Clerk and Chief Executive to take a roll call vote.

Following voting, consent to alteration was DENIED.

Councillor Dr Davison then moved her original Motion; elaborated upon the purpose of and reasons for submission; and sought the support of the Council.

The Mayor invited a Member of the City Council to second the Motion. No response was forthcoming, and it was:

RESOLVED – That the Motion of Councillor Dr Davison FELL.

[The meeting ended at 9.28 pm]