

EXECUTIVE

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2020 AT 4.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor J Mallinson (Leader / Chair)
Councillor Ellis (Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Christian (Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Higgs (Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Mrs Mallinson (Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Nedved (Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder)

OFFICERS:

Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Economic Development
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
Health and Wellbeing Manager

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Paton (Chair – Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel)

WELCOME

The Leader welcomed all those present to the meeting.

REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A roll call of persons in attendance was taken; there were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Brown, Chair of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel.

PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

PROCEDURES PRIOR TO PRIVATE MEETINGS

Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 prescribed that, at least 28 clear days before a private meeting, the decision-making body must make available / publish a notice of its intention to hold the meeting in private.

The Deputy Chief Executive required to submit an urgent private report to this meeting (Agenda item B.1 – Tullie House Business Plan 2020/21). The decision required to be taken today in order that the Council may commence the process of agreeing core funding for the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust.

The Leader announced that, since compliance with the above regulation was impracticable, The Mayor had agreed that the decision was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred, and that the matter could be dealt with today. A Notice setting out the reasons for urgency had also been published in compliance with the Regulation.

EX.114/20 LOCAL ENVIRONMENT (CLIMATE CHANGE) STRATEGY
(Key Decision – KD.01/20)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth

Subject Matter

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder submitted report PC.25/20, the purpose of which was to progress the adoption of the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy.

The draft Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy (Appendix C) drew together the work undertaken by Members, Officers and Partners since the Council's resolution in March 2019; and had been developed from the Council's own data and information, with additional evidence from Cumbrian authorities who were also progressing strategies and action plans. Public consultation had been completed and a summary of the feedback was presented at Appendix A, with details of the proposed amendments to the draft Strategy attached at Appendix B.

The Portfolio Holder explained that the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership was a county-wide partnership comprising some seventy members, of which the City Council was one. A Carbon Baseline for Cumbria report (also appended) presented a number of options for reaching a net zero carbon Cumbria; the report recommending 2037 as both ambitious (and in keeping with the Paris Agreement) but also realistic taking into account Cumbria's unique culture and geography.

Members' attention was particularly drawn to the 2037 target, which included the best opportunity to develop sequestration of carbon through land use, land use change and forestry that would absorb and store carbon. The Portfolio Holder was to attend training later in the month on the development of forestry.

The matter had been scrutinised by the Health and Wellbeing; and the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panels on 20 February 2020 and 27 February 2020 respectively; and excerpts from the Minutes of those meetings were submitted. The Panels having resolved:

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel (Minute HWSP.15/20)

"1) That the draft Local Environment (Climate Change Strategy) be included in a future Informal Briefing for all Members of the Council.

2) That a further report on the draft Local Environment (Climate Change Strategy) be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

3) That Officers be thanked for their work in developing the draft Local Environment (Climate Change Strategy) thus far”.

Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel (Minute EGSP.16/20)

“1) That report PC.09/20 be received and welcomed.

2) That a report on the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy be submitted annually to the Panel for scrutiny.”

Speaking at the invitation of the Leader, the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel advised that he had no comments to make at this time.

The Chair of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel was unable to attend the meeting today.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations set out in the report.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder seconded the recommendations. In so doing, the Portfolio Holder commented upon the alignment of the Climate Change Strategy with the work of the City Council and the Joint Public Health Strategy adopted in June 2019. She stressed that the City Council took the issue of climate change very seriously for its residents.

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services advised that the first recommendation quite rightly stated that the strategy was an evolution of what was termed ‘Agenda 21’ in Article 4 of the Council’s Constitution. He suggested, however, that the recommendation be amended to include a recommendation to Council that it updates the now outdated terminology which was Agenda 21 to ‘Climate Change Strategy’.

The Leader considered the Corporate Director’s suggestion to be perfectly sensible; Members of the Executive also indicated their agreement.

Summary of options rejected that the Strategy should not be recommended to Council for adoption

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Recommend that Council adopt the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy as the evolution of Agenda 21; and that the outdated terminology at Article 4 of the Council’s Constitution be updated.
2. Recommend that Council amends the net zero target date from 2030 to 2037, in line with the Carbon Baseline for Cumbria recommendation adopted by the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.

Reasons for Decision

Through a combination of elected, representative leadership and officer work it was possible to coordinate a comprehensive programme of decision-making and activity at all tiers of government to tackle the challenge of climate change

The Executive was asked to note that the target of 2030 was extremely challenging, given the evidence presented in the Cumbria Baseline Report. The report recommended a target of 2037 which was both ambitious and stretching. That change in target would align the Council with the new Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership and its five year funding

EX.115/20 NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth;
Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Notice of Executive Key Decisions dated 11 September 2020 was submitted for information.

Subsequent to publication of the Notice, it was determined that the Tullie House Business Plan (Key Decision – KD.24/20) required to be considered in private session.

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the paper.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That, subject to the change alluded to, the Notice of Executive Key Decisions dated 11 September 2020 be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.116/20 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY OFFICERS
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth;
Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

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

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the paper.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

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

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.117/20 JOINT MANAGEMENT TEAM
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth;
Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded that the Minutes of the Joint Management Team meeting held on 14 September 2020 be received.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Minutes of the Joint Management Team meeting held on 14 September 2020, attached as Appendix B, be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.118/20 RELEASE OF REVENUE BUDGET FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP AND ENFORCEMENT
(Non-Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing

Subject Matter

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder submitted report CS.29/20 seeking approval to release £60,000 revenue budget to enhance environmental clean up and enforcement activity. The funding had been agreed by Council on 4 February 2020 as part of the budget setting process.

The additional budget had been approved initially in 2019/20 with £60,000 allocated to support the recruitment of an additional Civil Enforcement Officer and Street Cleaning Operative to enhance our response to maintaining clean streets and neighbourhoods and to tackle environmental crimes such as littering and dog-fouling. Council agreed to extend that funding for a further year in 2020/21. Attention was drawn to the positive impact on performance recorded at paragraph 2.2.

The Portfolio Holder emphasised the importance of ensuring that litter, including plastics, did not enter water courses and the sea, adversely impacting both animal and plant life on a world-wide basis. Obviously, the Council did not wish to take enforcement action, but would do so if required. He also expressed huge thanks to the Enforcement Officers for their work.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder concluded by moving the recommendation, which was duly seconded by the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder.

Referencing the table on page 145 of the document pack, the Deputy Leader commented upon the substantial improvement in performance by the civil enforcement team following changes made in 2018, further supported by the additional resources now available.

The Deputy Leader paid tribute to those officers, and also to the Independent Group who had been very keen on the inclusion of that additional resource within the Council's budget. He expressed the hope that agreement may again be reached through consultation as part of the forthcoming budget process.

Summary of options rejected that the release of the revenue funding should not be approved

DECISION

That the Executive approve the release of the revenue budget of £60,000 to enhance environmental clean-up and enforcement activity.

Reasons for Decision

The release of the £60,000 revenue funding would endorse a more flexible and responsive approach as outlined in the report

EX.119/20 CITY CENTRE BUSINESS GROWTH GRANTS (Non-Key Decision)

Portfolio Economy, Enterprise and Housing

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Economic Growth

Subject Matter

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder presented report ED.37/20 providing an overview of the proposed business grants scheme, which formed part of the City Centre Business Support Fund which was reported to and agreed by the Executive in January 2020. (ED.05/20).

The Portfolio Holder was delighted to report that the objective of the Fund was to provide support to businesses in the city centre to help with the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and maintain the vitality and viability of the City Centre.

The report sought approval for the release of the agreed allocation of £25,000 and requested that the previously agreed allocation of £10,000 for business rate relief be reallocated to the small business grant scheme to increase the total budget to £35,000.

Background information and details of the proposals were set out at Sections 1 and 2; the City Centre Business Growth Grant Policy and Application Form were also attached at Appendices A and B.

The Portfolio Holder expressed thanks to the Regeneration Team for their work and efforts, adding that through this fund and other measures the City Council was demonstrating its support for small businesses; the start-up of new businesses in Carlisle; the creation of new jobs in the district; and the reduction in vacant units within the City Centre.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder moved, and Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder seconded the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected that the funding should not be released / reallocated

DECISION

That the Executive

1. Approve the establishment of the scheme and allocation of £25,000 from the City Centre Business Support Fund for small business grants, as set out in the report to Executive (ED.05/20).
2. Approve the application and eligibility criteria for the City Centre Business Growth Grants (Appendix A and B ED.37/20).
3. Approve the reallocation of the £10,000 from the business rates Retail Discount top-up scheme (approval by the Executive in the report CE.02/20 of March 2020) to the city centre business grants scheme bringing the total budget available for business grants to £35,000.
4. Delegated the authorisation of payment of the grants to the Corporate Director of Economic Development and Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder of Economy, Enterprise and Housing.

Reasons for Decision

To support small businesses and the start-up of new businesses in Carlisle and the creation of new jobs in the district. The scheme also encouraged businesses to operate in the city centre, thereby encouraging greater vitality and viability and the reduction of vacant commercial units in the city centre

EX.120/20 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Public and Press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph number (as indicated in brackets against the minute) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

EX.121/20 TULLIE HOUSE BUSINESS PLAN 2020/21
(Key Decision – KD.24/20)
(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

(In accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, The Mayor had agreed that the decision in relation to this item of business was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred)

Portfolio Culture, Heritage and Leisure

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing

Subject Matter

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder submitted private report CS.31/20, the purpose of which was to introduce and allow consideration of the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust 2020/21 Business Plan in order that the Council may, in due course, agree core funding for the Trust. That was in line with Section 5 of the Partnership Agreement between the Council and Tullie House Trust, which stated that the Business Plan submitted by the Trust should be used as the basis for agreeing future years funding.

Details of the background position; core grant; lease arrangements; building and collection financial implications; impact of COVID-19 and impact of the proposals put forward by Tullie House Trust were provided within the report.

The Executive was asked to give initial consideration to the Business Plan and refer that to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel for their review and recommendations.

The Portfolio Holder emphasised the importance of considering the development of future options for the Council and the Tullie House Trust, as identified at Section 8 of the report, as part of the process. He added that the Trust had today received a Government grant which may impact upon their Business Plan.

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder concluded his presentation by moving the recommendation which was seconded by the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected that the Business Plan should not be referred for scrutiny

DECISION

That the Executive had given initial consideration to the Tullie House Trust Business Plan (Report CS.31/20) and referred it to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel on 19 November 2020 for their review and recommendations.

Reasons for Decision

The recommendations allowed the report, the associated Business Plan and core funding to be approved in line with the Partnership Agreement

[The meeting ended at 4.25 pm]