

EXECUTIVE – SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 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 Mrs Mallinson (Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Nedved (Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder)

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Bainbridge (Chair of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel)

OFFICERS:

Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Economic Development
Legal Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Financial Services Manager (Deputy S.151)

WELCOME

The Leader welcomed all those present to the special 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 Higgs (Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder).

PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

CALL-IN PROCEDURES

The Leader reported that the Mayor had, on 18 September 2020, agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied in respect of the decision to be taken regarding the Sands Centre Redevelopment Project, as call-in procedures would overlap the special City Council meeting on 13 October 2020 when the matter was scheduled for consideration.

EX.111/20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – DEVELOPING OPTIONS
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Leader's Portfolio

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Leader submitted report CE.05/20, the purpose of which was to seek support for working with Eden District Council, Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council on developing options for two unitary councils and a combined authority with an elected mayor to serve the residents and businesses of Cumbria.

The report sought authority from the Executive to work with colleagues at Allerdale, Copeland and Eden and commit resources to developing an outline proposal.

The Leader concluded his presentation by moving the recommendations set out within the report, which were duly seconded by the Deputy Leader.

Summary of options rejected that authority should not be granted

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Authorise the Carlisle City Council officers to work with Allerdale, Copeland and Eden on the development of an outline bid for two unitary councils, a combined authority and elected mayor for Cumbria.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader and the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources to identify funds of up to £25,000 to support that work.
3. Note that the final submission of an outline proposal will be subject to council endorsement.

Reasons for Decision

To seek authority from the Executive to work with colleagues at Allerdale, Copeland and Eden and commit resources to developing an outline proposal for two unitary councils, a combined authority and elected mayor for Cumbria

EX.112/20 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.113/20 **THE SANDS CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT – FINAL CONTRACT SUM AND COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

(Key Decision – KD.23/20)

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

(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 Leader; cross-cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation; Health and Wellbeing

Subject Matter

The Leader submitted private report CS.28/20, providing an update on the progress made in the development of the Sands Centre Redevelopment Project. The update included a revised estimated final contract budget, which included COVID-19 implications for the project, together with an appraisal of project costs to date and other factors affecting the final budget.

The Leader wished to acknowledge and thank the Deputy Chief Executive and his Team for the enormous effort put in to progress the project to this point, and for the compilation of what was an excellent report.

The matter had been scrutinised by the Health and Wellbeing; and the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panels at special meetings held on 17 September 2020; and excerpts from the Minutes of those meetings were submitted. The Panels having resolved:

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel (Minute HWSP.50/20)

“1) That the Panel supports the progress on the Sands Centre Redevelopment Project as outlined in report CS.22/20 and ask that the Panel is kept informed of the ongoing risk monitoring and impact on services;

2) That during construction, Wates Contractors continue to put all available mechanisms in place to be Covid-19 secure and follow all construction services best practice and guidelines as appropriate.”

Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel (Minute BTSP.57/20)

“That the Panel had reviewed the project update contained within report CS.22/20 together with the updated capital costs, expenditure profile and funding proposals for delivering the Sands Centre redevelopment main contract and supported the Executive in moving forward with the redevelopment project.”

The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel had been invited to speak on the matter but was not in attendance.

The Leader invited the Chair of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel to address the Executive.

In response, the Chair commented that the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel was very grateful for the extensive question and answer session which had taken place on 17 September 2020. The Panel was happy to support the Executive in moving forward with the redevelopment project. He added that doing nothing was not an option.

The Leader concluded by recommending that:

In light of the recommendations received from the Health and Wellbeing; and Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panels; and the content of Report CS.28/20, the Executive:

- Approve, for recommendation to Council on 13 October 2020, the increase in the capital programme in years 2020/21 to 2022/23 for the Sands Redevelopment Work as set out in paragraph 3.3.2;
- Approve, for recommendation to Council on 13 October 2020, revisions to the funding of the Sands Redevelopment work as set out in the main body of the report which will initially be funded through a borrowing requirement pending confirmation that the Council has been successful in achieving external funding from Sports England and the MHCLG COVID-19 Emergency Fund;
- Approve, for recommendation to Council on 13 October 2020, the increase in the revenue budget and additional use of reserves as set out in the body of the report at paragraph 3.5.7 to fund the additional cost of the scheme, pending receipt of funds from external sources.

In moving the above-mentioned recommendations, the Leader wished to point out that it represented the worst-case scenario.

The Deputy Leader seconded the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected other options detailed within the report

DECISION

That, in light of the recommendations received from the Health and Wellbeing; and Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panels; and the content of Report CS.28/20, the Executive:

- Approve, for recommendation to Council on 13 October 2020, the increase in the capital programme in years 2020/21 to 2022/23 for the Sands Redevelopment Work as set out in paragraph 3.3.2;
- Approve, for recommendation to Council on 13 October 2020, revisions to the funding of the Sands Redevelopment work as set out in the main body of the report which will initially be funded through a borrowing requirement pending confirmation that the Council has been successful in achieving external funding from Sports England and the MHCLG COVID-19 Emergency Fund;
- Approve, for recommendation to Council on 13 October 2020, the increase in the revenue budget and additional use of reserves as set out in the body of the report at paragraph 3.5.7 to fund the additional cost of the scheme, pending receipt of funds from external sources.

Reasons for Decision

To progress development of the Sands Centre Redevelopment Project

[The meeting ended at 4.17 pm]