

Executive

Date: Monday, 21 February 2022

Time: 16:02

Venue: Cathedral Room

Present: Councillor Mrs Marilyn Bowman, Councillor Nigel Christian, Councillor Gareth Ellis, Councillor Stephen Higgs, Councillor John Mallinson

Officers: Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
Corporate Director of Economic Development

EX.16/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder and the Deputy Chief Executive.

EX.17/22 WELCOME

The Leader welcomed Councillor Mrs Bowman to her first meeting as the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder.

EX.18/22 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED - That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

EX.19/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

EX.20/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2022 be agreed.

EX.21/22 CALL IN

The Leader reported that the Mayor had, on 16 February 2022, agreed that the following items be exempt from call in as call-procedures would overlap the City Council meeting on 1 March 2022 when the Council will be asked to approve the following matters:

EX.22/22 HEAT DECARBONISATION PLAN

(Key Decision KD.02/22)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder submitted a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for the Council's operational buildings portfolio. (GD.12/22)

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder reported that Carlisle City Council developed its Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy in August 2020 and had subsequently committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions for sites within its operational control. The Council had taken significant steps to reduce its emissions and wanted to target further reductions through its building stock and heat usage to ensure the UK Government 2050 ambition was met.

The Council had been successful in securing funding through Phase 2 of the Public Sector Fund to produce a Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP). A HDP was the starting point in looking at how the Council improved energy efficiency in its portfolio.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved, and the Leader seconded, the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected not to approve the Heat Decarbonisation Plan

DECISION

That the Executive:

- 1) Approved a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for its operational buildings portfolio
- 2) Delegated responsibility to accept the grant funding to the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Resources.

Reasons for Decision

The HDP was a small step in the journey to net zero. It set out opportunities for the Council to reduce its energy consumption and associated emissions. Approving the HDP offered the opportunity to apply for funding to undertake the recommended improvements and improve the environmental performance of its operation portfolio.

EX.23/22 CAR PARKING OPTIONS TO SUPPORT THE HIGH STREET RECOVERY

(Key Decision KD.03/22)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Subject Matter

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder reported that as part of the budget discussions at the meeting of City Council on Tuesday 01 February 2022, it was announced that options were to be developed to further support the retail and leisure sector through a review of car parking offers designed to increase footfall and dwell-time in the city centre. The proposals would introduce, for up to one year:

- Free parking at weekends and on bank / public holidays
- Reduced rate parking Monday to Friday for the first hour

Report CS.09/22 highlighted the potential impact of the proposed offers on income levels for 2022-23 and confirmed the next steps and timescales to take this forward.

Referring to the consultation responses, the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder set out the Council's involvement in a variety of walking, cycling and public transport schemes aimed at encouraging people to use alternatives to cars. In addition the Council supported the Government's policy to decarbonise car transport.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder commented that the proposals supported the recovery of the economy and would encourage visitors back to the city centre. She seconded the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected not to carry out a review of car parking

DECISION

The Executive reviewed the feedback from the consultation and agreed to:

- provide free parking at weekends, bank and public holidays as per the table in section 5.1 of report CS.09/22;
- introduce a reduced fee of £1 for the first hour of parking in city centre Council pay and display car parks
- implement the changes from 1 April 2022 or at a date as soon as possible;
- terminate the offer on 31 March 2023, subject to review.

Reasons for Decision

To consider options to further support the retail and leisure sector through a review of car parking offers designed to increase footfall and dwell-time in the city centre.

EX.24/22 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 21 January 2022 was submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Notice of Executive Key Decisions dated 21 January 2022 be received.

Reasons for Decision Not applicable

EX.25/22 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY LEADER / PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel

Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth; Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

Details of decisions taken by the Leader and Portfolio Holders under delegated powers were submitted.

Summary of options rejected none

DECISION

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

Reasons for Decision Not applicable

EX.26/22 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.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

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

Reasons for Decision Not applicable

EX.27/22 JOINT MANAGEMENT TEAM

(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel

Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth; Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 19 January 2022 were submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 19 January 2022, attached as Appendix C, be received.

Reasons for Decision Not applicable

EX.28/22 REVENUE BUDGET OVERVIEW AND MONITORING REPORT - APRIL TO DECEMBER 2021

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted the Revenue Budget Overview and Monitoring Report for the period April to December 2021 (RD.70/21), which set out an overview of the overall budgetary position for revenue schemes only and provided details of the impact of Covid 19 on the revenue budget. The report also included details of balance sheet management issues, bad debts written off in the period and progress against the budget sayings.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder concluded by moving the recommendations. The Leader seconded the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected none

DECISION

That Executive:

1. Noted the budgetary performance position of the Council to December 2021;
2. Noted the action taken by the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources to write-off bad debts as detailed in paragraph 7;
3. Noted the release of reserves as set out in the table at paragraph 2.2, and noted the virements approved as detailed in Appendix A of report RD.70/21.

Reasons for Decision

To show that the Executive had been informed of the Council's actual financial position compared with the budgeted position, and to bring to their attention any areas of concern

EX.29/22 CAPITAL BUDGET OVERVIEW AND MONITORING REPORT - APRIL TO DECEMBER 2021

(Non 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 Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.71/21 providing an overview of the budgetary position of the City Council's capital programme for the period April to December 2021.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved, and the Leader seconded, the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected none

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Noted and had commented on the budgetary position and performance aspects of the capital programme for the period April to December 2021;
2. Noted adjustments to the 2021/22 capital programme as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of report RD.71/21;
3. Made recommendations to Council to approve reprofiling of £4,295,300 as detailed in paragraph 3.9 and Appendix A from 2021/22 into 2022/23.

Reasons for Decision

To inform the Executive of the Council's actual financial position opposite its Capital Programme

EX.30/22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021

(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.72/21 providing the regular quarterly report on Treasury Transactions, including the requirements of the Prudential Code.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved, and the Leader seconded, the recommendation.

Summary of options rejected none

DECISION

That Report RD.72/21 be received, and the Prudential Indicators noted as at the end of December 2021.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure that the Council's investments are in line with the appropriate policies, including the Treasury Management Strategy Statement

EX.31/22 CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET VIREMENTS 2022/23

(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.75/21 which detailed funding available in 2022/23 to respond to proposals considered at the Council Budget meeting on 1 February 2022 where it was agreed that the proposals be funded from existing resources.

Council had debated nine amendments to the budget proposals which were either defeated or withdrawn; however, as part of the debate, the Executive confirmed their commitment to allocate funds for mental health support/Happy Mums Foundation and environmental clean-up and enforcement. These were to be funded from existing resources and as they were individually over £35,000, they must be approved by the Executive in line with the Council's Scheme of Virement.

Funding had been identified in the 2022/23 base budget which could be vired, when required, from the Old Fire Station budget provision, which was no longer required now that the property and functions were being operated by a third party and subject to a lease agreement. £100,000 could be vired from this budget provision.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations which were seconded by the Leader.

Summary of options rejected none

DECISION

That the Executive approved two separate virements totalling £100,000 as detailed in report RD.75/21 to fund the following, when required:

1. Additional non-recurring funding of £40,000 to be used to support mental health provision in Carlisle, which would include a £10,000 contribution to the Happy Mums Foundation;
2. Additional non-recurring funding of £60,000 to support the continuation of the existing environmental clean-up and enforcement scheme.

Reasons for Decision

To fund the commitments provided by the Executive at Council on 1 February 2022.

EX.32/22 TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (TRO) FOR RICKERBY PARK

(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Economic Growth

Subject Matter

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder submitted a report which set out the justification for the intention to introduce an experimental traffic regulation order for Rickerby Park car Parks (CS.11/21).

Rickerby Park had open access to the park off the highway that runs from Brampton Road to Linstock. This open access from the highway had, unfortunately, meant that in recent years the park had been used for numerous unauthorised encampments on the grassed areas, and repeated overnight parking in the 3 car parks of Rickerby Park by holiday makers and members of the campervan community.

Whilst unauthorised encampments can be moved on by serving a legal notice and the courts, there currently was no way to legally enforce no overnight parking by other groups. Therefore, there was a requirement to create an experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to allow 'No overnight Parking' to be enforced. This would allow the Council to have a consistent approach to all groups wanting to use the park for overnight stays.

the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations which were

seconded by the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected not to create an experimental traffic regulation order

DECISION

That the Executive approved the introduction of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for Rickerby Park car parks.

Reason for Decision

To approve an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to cover three car parks in Rickerby Park so that 'no overnight parking' can be enforced and support the health and wellbeing of residents who overlook the park.

EX.33/22 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph numbers (as indicated in brackets against the minutes) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act

EX.34/22 CITADELS PROJECT

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

(Key Decision KD.04/22)

******(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

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Leader submitted a report detailing a suggested disposal of the City Council's property assets to allow the creation of a city centre campus for the University of Cumbria.

The Leader moved the recommendations which were seconded by the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder.

DECISION

That the Executive:

- (a) approved the disposal of the Old Gaol site (English Street and Victoria Viaduct properties), as identified in red on plan 1 in report GD.11/22 in the attached appendices at nil consideration.
- (b) approved to enter a Co-operation Agreement with the University of Cumbria with final terms

to be agreed by the Corporate Director of Economic Development following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services.
(c) recommend the report to Council for approval to dispose of a property at less than best consideration.

Reason for Decision

The Citadels project will support the delivery of the vision set out in the Carlisle Plan, which is to enable Carlisle to grow and prosper as the capital of the Borderlands region. It also contributes directly to the priority of delivering inclusive and sustainable economic growth, by making Carlisle a more attractive place for investment, improving skills and drive key sector development.

The Meeting ended at: 16:20