

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016 AT 10.10AM

PRESENT: Councillor Nedved (Chairman), Councillors Bowditch, Christian, Mrs Coleman, McDonald, McNulty (as substitute for Councillor Dodd), Mitchelson and Paton (as substitute for Councillor Betton)

ALSO PRESENT Councillor Mrs Bradley – Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder
Councillor Glover – Leader (from 11.50am)
Councillor Burns – Observer (for agenda item A.2)

OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive
Contracts and Community Services Manager
Development Manager
Neighbourhood Services Manager
Neighbourhood Team Leader
Policy and Communications Manager

EEOSP.59/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Betton and Councillor Dodd.

EEOSP.60/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

EEOSP.61/16 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

EEOSP.62/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2016 were circulated and Members raised the following matters:

EEOSP.55/16 – Resolution 2 – When would the information regarding the work being undertaken on riverbanks and bridges be available for Members?

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that a meeting had been scheduled with consultants WYG to discuss the work; the information would then be brought back to the Panel.

EEOSP.55/16 – Sheepmount Car Parking – The car parking difficulties at the Sheepmount during football match days had continued. A Member asked what could be done to address the problems given that people were paying fees to use limited facilities as well as having no car park facilities.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager reported that the car park at the Sheepmount would not be reinstated ahead of the completion of work on the site. The car park would be used by contractors and could not be opened to the public at weekends due

to the unstable nature of the structure following the floods. The safety of the car park could not be guaranteed so the decision had been taken to close access to the public until it could be fully repaired. He added that he would be meeting with representatives of the football leagues to make arrangements for permits to be issued for use by football teams to coincide with the hiring of the football pitches. The permits would allow users to park on Devonshire Street Car Park for free during certain periods of time on match days. The discussions with the football leagues would determine how the permits would be issued and monitored.

EEOSP.55/16 - Resolution 3 – When would the proposals for the ground floor of the Civic Centre come forward and which Panel would be involved in the process?

The Deputy Chief Executive responded that the Joint Management Team had held informal discussions with regard to the use of the Civic Centre tower and ground floor. The work had not begun due to other priorities following the flood. The process for the project would follow the same guidelines as other projects and the decision making process would go through Executive, Overview and Scrutiny and Council. WYG Consultants was due to submit a brief for the work including timescales and costings. The timescale included in the brief would determine the process timescale.

In response to a further question the Deputy Chief Executive clarified that the brief from the consultant would provide information on what was affordable and what would be covered under the insurance terms.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 15 September 2016 be noted.

EEOSP.63/16 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS

There were no items which had been the subject of call-in.

EEOSP.64/16 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Policy and Communications Manager presented report OS.22/16 providing an overview of matters relating to the work of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Policy and Communications Manager reported that the most recent Notice of Executive Key Decisions, copies of which had been circulated to all Members, had been published on 23 September 2016. There was only one item which fell within the remit of the Panel and would be submitted to the Panel at their meeting on 1 December 2016:

KD.21/16 Budget Process 2017/18 - The Executive would be asked to consider strategic financial issues arising from the budget setting process.

Members raised no questions or comments on the Notice of Executive Key Decisions.

The Panel's current work programme was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Members were asked to note and/or amend the programme.

The Policy and Communications Manager informed Members that inaccurate data had been provided for recycling performance in the last Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring

Report. As a result of the information a data quality check was being carried out, the result of which would be shared with the Panel in the next Performance Monitoring Report. It was reported that the Scrutiny Chairs had recently discussed the possibility of changing the current panel remit structure, to better align with the Council priorities, current challenges faced by the Council and to address current Scrutiny best practice. They resolved that the proposals for three new Overview and Scrutiny Panels be considered by each of the Political Groups with feedback being submitted to the Scrutiny Chairs Group at their next meeting on 11 November. The Chair of Environment and Economy Overview & Scrutiny Panel had requested that the views of this Panel were sought. Member's attention was drawn to Appendix 2 of the report which contained details of the proposals and rationale for the changes.

The Panel discussed the options for the future of Overview and Scrutiny and agreed that three Panels should be retained and their remits amended as set out in the report.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Overview Report (OS.22/16) incorporating the Work Programme and Notice of Executive Key Decision items relevant to this Panel be noted.

2) That the following items be included on the agenda for the Panel's meeting scheduled for 1 December 2016:

Budget Proposals 2017/18
Environment Agency / County Council Flood Update
NW Coast Connections Project – consultation
Performance Monitoring

3) That the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel supported the decision of the Scrutiny Chairs Group and agree that three new Overview and Scrutiny Panels be established, as set out in appendix 2 of report OS.22/16.

EEOSP.65/16 UPDATE ON PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

The Development Manager delivered a presentation which updated the Panel on Public Realm Projects around the City.

He provided an update and Members asked questions on each of the projects;

Paddy's Market

The phase I public realm improvements to Paddy's Market Car Park had been completed using Section 106 funding from Sainsbury's and the second phase was to install some public art. Additional funding for the art had come from McVities and Hunter Davies.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager explained that a brief had been put together for the art which would be used as part of the tender process for artists. The brief was dictated by a general desire to celebrate the social and industrial heritage of Caldewgate, significantly Carr's / McVities factory.

Milbourne Street

Improvements to the seating area at the junction of Castle Way and Milbourne Street had been completed using Section 106 funding from Sainsbury's.

Castle Way Crossing

Planning permission for a new Toucan crossing on Castle Way had been approved on 16 September. As part of the S.278 agreement the City Council had responded to the issues raised by the County Council's Highway and Transport Working Group. The new crossing would be funded from S.106 money from Sainsbury's and if it was not spent by February 2017 the money that had not been used would have to be returned to Sainsbury's.

In response to a question the Development Manager explained that the County Council now had the final decision on the crossing under S.278, however, the City Council had complied with all of their conditions. The crossing also complied with the requirements of the S.106 which stated that the monies could only be used to make the development acceptable in planning terms.

A Member highlighted the recent petition which had been submitted by members of the public regarding the crossing and questioned how the petition would impact the work officers were undertaking.

The Development Manager explained that if the County Council gave the go ahead all of the correct permissions to begin work would be in place, the decision full Council took with regard to the petition may impact that.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio reminded the Panel that the petition was a matter for the constitution and governance of Council and the impact of any decisions made were not in the remit of the Development Manager.

The Deputy Chief Executive added that the Monitoring Officer would be asked to produce some written advice for Members with regard to what decisions Members could take and the impact of the decisions. He reminded the Panel that the plans for the crossing had been the subject of a wide consultation process and the responses to the consultation had been minimal.

A Member asked for clarity with regard to the funding of the crossing and the Development Manager explained that S.106 agreements had an end date for the expenditure of money; if the monies was not allocated or spent they would have to be returned the provider. In terms of the crossing the monies would go back to Sainsbury's. He added that the money could not be spent anywhere else; it had to be used to make the Sainsbury's development acceptable. The crossing allowed access by all acceptable means for residents of the City.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio urged Members to explain the financial situation of the crossing fairly to avoid any unnecessary confusion about where the money came from or how it could be used.

City Centre Orientation

A network of signage would be installed around the City Centre to aid pedestrian navigation and improve the visitor experience. The signage would encompass information hubs and a new system of finger posts. The scheme locations had been refined in conjunction with Cumbria County Council and the information hub copy and design had yet to be finalised. In addition to the work the City Council had undertaken at the request of the County Council they had suggested that the City Council should consult with all affected neighbours at each location. Work was being carried out on how this could be undertaken. Once the consent process was completed the installation could begin.

A Member asked if the scheme had to go back to the Local Area Committee for final consent. The Development Manager agreed to check this and inform Members.

Members were frustrated that the scheme had been delayed again due to a further change in expectations from Cumbria County Council and questioned whether the scheme would actually go ahead.

The Development Manager assured Members that the City Council had met with all of the requirements and would push to ensure the scheme was delivered.

Bandstand Replacement

The existing temporary bandstand had reached the end of its life expectancy. The design of the replacement had not been determined yet but it would be a permanent facility located in the same position.

A Member asked if any analysis had been carried out with regard to the usage of the bandstand and if any research had been carried out on where was the best location, including placing it back in the park.

The Development Manager reported that it was felt that the bandstand should remain in the City Centre and a number of locations within the pedestrianised area had been investigated. However, it had been difficult to achieve the same space and viewing space as the existing bandstand. In terms of use the bandstand was well used and was often used in conjunction with main events been held in the City Centre.

In response to a further question the Development Manager explained that the existing bandstand was mobile but in practice it was difficult to move so remained in situ. He agreed to take the suggestion to make it mobile back for consideration.

A Member asked if any consideration had been given to moving away from a traditional Victorian style bandstand to encourage mixed usage.

The Development Manager explained that a variety of designs were being considered including more modern designs, which were not as decorative as the Victorian designs.

Members agreed that the bandstand was an asset to the City Centre and supported its replacement.

Court Square

There would be some minor improvements to Court Square which would involve covering over the former toilets and removing the railings which would result in a more open space and improved pedestrian access from the station. The improvements were short term prior to a comprehensive redevelopment of Court Square.

In response to a question the Development Manager explained that the redevelopment of Court Square would be a separate project to the development of the Citadel buildings but there would be linkage through the infrastructure. He added that the toilets had been closed for a number of years and there were no plans to replace the toilets at Court Square and there were facilities available in the Station. Should the station want to put tickets barriers in to limit access they would require Listed Building Consent from the Council and we were currently unaware of any proposals to restrict access.

Members commented on the high number of rail replacement buses in use and issues they were causing outside the station, they asked if this would be addressed in the future plans for Court Square.

A Member pointed out that the iron railings may of some value and asked for their disposal to be monitored carefully.

The Development Manager confirmed that the project would look at putting some traffic measures behind the station to improve the entrance to the station.

RESOLVED –1) That the Development Manager’s presentation be welcomed and noted;

2) That a further update on the Public Realm Project be submitted to the Panel in twelve months’ time with any significant issues arising being reported to the Panel as required;

3) That the Monitoring Officer be asked to prepare and circulate advice to all Members of the Council on the decision making process for considering the Castle Way Crossing Petition at Council.

EEOSP.66/16 UPDATE ON CLEAN CARLISLE

The Neighbourhood Services Manager presented report SD.25/16 which provided an update on the activity undertaken as part of the Clean Carlisle initiative.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager introduced the Neighbourhood Officer to the Panel and explained that as part of an internal review the Street Scene and Enforcement Team had been merged to bring together the previously separate functions. The Neighbourhood Officer came under the new Street Cleaning and Enforcement Manager and managed the day to day operations of the new team along with engaging with Ward Members and local communities to encourage them to take responsibility for their areas and make them proud of them. The Council hoped that local residents would take the lead on the condition of their local area with the continued help and enforcement from the Council.

The combined team had responsibility for: street cleansing; fly-tipping; dog-fouling; littering; Education / Awareness Raising; stray dogs and; car park enforcement. The street cleansing operatives had begun trialling an additional later shift pattern which increased the team’s flexibility to respond to incidents which emerged later in the afternoon.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager showed the Panel slides of a successful project under the Neat Streets Initiative which focused on behaviour change in residents with the support of the Council. The Team were looking at how the Initiative could be expanded and enhanced further.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported a reduction in fly tipping and steps being taken to further reduce it and set out the Council’s approach to enforcement and prosecutions. He reported that new signs had been installed in three key locations to highlight that fly tipping was a crime and to confirm that CCTV was in operation with evidence used to support prosecutions. The new signs had been very successful and only one complaint had been received since their installation in August. CCTV cameras were in use and more would be purchased.

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Had any consideration been given to working with people on Community Service to take on some of the work?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager responded that previous work had been done with the Probation Team but it had not been successful, however the new Street Cleaning and Enforcement Manager would look at this again.

- Were the press informed when fly tipping prosecutions go ahead?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager confirmed that a press release was sent out if there was a conviction. He added that there would be a feature on fly tipping in the November edition of Carlisle Focus. This was to make householders aware of their duty of care when disposing of waste especially if they were employing someone else to dispose of it.

- What was the protocol for the disposal of images from the CCTV cameras?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager assured the Panel that the CCTV footage was only viewed when fly tipping occurred. The images would be destroyed in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act and the CCTV Policies.

- The hoarding at the Central Plaza had become unsightly and was covered in graffiti and fly posters, could this be addressed through the street cleaning team?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager confirmed that the team would investigate who was responsible for the hoarding and discuss the best way to address the issues raised with them.

- The Panel asked for a progress update on the Litter Bin Review.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that the recommendations from the Review had been implemented. Requests for additional bins had been made and each request was assessed and issued if there was a demand for it.

RESOLVED –1) That the Update on Clean Carlisle (SD.25/16) be welcomed;

2) That the Neighbourhood Services Manager and his team be thanked for their excellent and dedicated work within Carlisle;

EEOSP.67/16 RETHINKING WASTE PROJECT

The Neighbourhood Services Manager presented report SD.24/16 which provided an update on the Rethinking Waste Project.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported on the improvements made to the Bousteads Grassing depot; details of the vehicle replacement programme and details of the new safety measures including cyclist protection on vehicles, features and technology which would improve operational safety and staff comfort.

Work continued on the development of new rounds and developing options to shape the new service. Information on the new rounds would be deployed when they were finalised. The next edition of Carlisle Focus would include information about the service and information encouraging more recycling over the Christmas period.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager drew attention to section 7 which set out recycling statistics and the improvements being made to increase household waste being recycled. There was a downward trend in recycling due to the reduction in packaging by manufacturers and the change in people's behaviour. He added that five new apprenticeship opportunities had been advertised but the response had been initially disappointing and the posts had been re-advertised.

In considering the update Members raised the following comments and questions:

- A Member asked what the Council's philosophy was with regards to recycling; did it want to meet the Government targets and not worry about increasing recycling or was it revenue led?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that the Council's aim was to increase the number of households that recycled and to reduce the residual waste.

The Deputy Chief Executive added that the Rethinking Waste Project goals had been to find efficiencies in service; to make it as affordable as possible and to expand the rate of the service in keeping with the development of new houses.

- Would the Council consider taking waste to facilities that burned it for fuel?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that the Council was tied into a contract. A Member added that Hespian Wood produced fuel from waste and the County Council was involved in a profit share scheme which the City should monitor.

- Members felt that the apprenticeship opportunities on offer were excellent and were disappointed that there had not been a stronger response to advertisements.
- Did officers envisage a continuing role for the Cross Party Working Group?

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that the Rethinking Waste Project would come to an end after May 2017 when the project was fully implemented and all the work would become the day to day operational work of the team.

The Deputy Chief Executive suggested a final meeting of the Group closer to the end of the project to take stock of the project and to give consideration to the best way to engage and encourage people.

- Would there be a mechanism to keep the Panel updated with the progress of the team?

The Neighbourhood Services manager confirmed that the Panel would continue to monitor the delivery of the project and any changes in service.

RESOLVED – 1) That the update on the Rethinking Waste Project (SD.24/16) be noted;

2) That the Cross Party Working Group meet in February 2017 to discuss the best way to communicate the Project and services to the wider community;

3) That the Panel receives an annual update on the work being undertaken by Waste Services.

EEOSP.68/16 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 number (as indicated in brackets against each minute) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

EEOSP.69/16 UPDATE ON CAR PARKING

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

The Deputy Chief Executive presented reported SD.22/16 which gave an update on flood recovery measures and the implementation of the Car Park Development Plan.

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that there had been some internal changes to the structure of the car parking team and they had been moved under the remit of the Contracts and Community Services Manager which also covered the City Centre, sports and events.

The Deputy Chief Executive set out the background to the Car Park Development Plan and the impact the December 2015 flooding had on the Council's Car Parks. A number of car parks had been significantly affected by the flooding, the car park drains, gullies, lighting and surfaces had been inspected and a programme of works had been drawn up and costed. An analysis of the car parking income had been included as appendix A of the report.

The Car Park Development Plan had been updated since the panel had considered it in October 2015 and changes had been highlighted within the report.

The Panel discussed the report in some detail and sought clarification on the following:

- Would there be any free Christmas Car Parking?

The Contracts and Community Services Manager confirmed that there would be free car parking in City Council car parks in the City Centre on each Thursday after 3pm when late night shopping was available.

- Was the Council still considering the disposal of some car park assets?

The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the City Council was not considering the disposal of car park assets at the present time.

- In response to a question the Deputy Chief Executive clarified what the car park reserve fund was and where the resources came from.
- The Panel asked to see the criteria / discount scheme for businesses and large employers when it was available.

- Was it possible to build in flood resilience in the car parks?

The Deputy Chief Executive reiterated the work that had been undertaken in the car parks following the flooding, adding that it was difficult to make the lighting resilient due to the availability of lighting columns and the ticket machines could not be made resilient due to the height of the flood water. The surfaces and the drainage had coped very well with the flood and only required minor repairs

- Had any consideration been given to establishing a park and ride scheme during large events in the City such as the fire show?

The Contracts and Community Services Manager responded that previous events had not required a park and ride scheme and he was not aware of any issues with parking or the dispersal of traffic after events that would require a scheme. He added that the position would, however, be closely monitored.

RESOLVED –1) That the Update on Car Parking (SD.22/16) be welcomed;

2) That a further update report be submitted to the Panel in April 2017 which included performance data for the full year to enable the Panel to reach a decision on the frequency of monitoring reports in the future;

3) That the criteria / discount scheme for businesses and large employers for the use of City Council car parks be submitted to the Panel when it was available.

(The meeting ended at 12.35pm)