
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 30 JULY 2007

EX.195/07 PROTOCOL ON RELATIONS BETWEEN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND THE EXECUTIVE (Non-Key Decision)

Portfolio - All Portfolio areas

Subject Matter - The Head of Scrutiny and Emergency Planning Services submitted Report OS.08/07 enclosing a Protocol on relations between Overview and Scrutiny and the Executive. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 5 July 2007 had considered the report and welcomed an agreed protocol. The Chairman attended the meeting and commented that the Committee had also agreed that Chairs and Members of Overview and Scrutiny be encouraged to be vigilant in holding Executive Members to account.

The Head of Scrutiny advised that the key action of the Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan had been the development of a protocol on relations between Overview and Scrutiny and the Executive. A Task and Finish Group had been established consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council. The Task and Finish Group had been chaired by the Chief Executive and supported and advised by the Overview and Scrutiny Support staff.

The Group had developed the protocol which was being recommended for agreement by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Executive.

Executive Members stressed that it had previously been agreed that when Special meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees are arranged, the relevant portfolio holder should be consulted on the date of the meeting. The Head of Scrutiny responded that this arrangement is in place for Special meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, but that when workshop sessions are arranged, portfolio holders are not always expected to attend, so they are not consulted.

Summary of options rejected – None

DECISION

That the Executive agrees the protocol on relations between Overview and Scrutiny and Executive.

Reasons for Decision - To deliver the agreed Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan action.

EX.196/07 DRAFT CUMBRIA ECONOMIC PLAN (Non-Key Decision)

Portfolio - Economic Development and Enterprise

Subject Matter - The Director of Development Services submitted Report DS.70/07 advising that Cumbria Vision had produced a consultation draft of its Cumbria Economic Plan. This was the Action Plan for economic regeneration in Cumbria and would eventually include funding allocations that would inform the draw down of North West Development Agency funding to Cumbria, including to Carlisle Renaissance.

The current draft of the Cumbria Economic Plan was attached to the report and comments were being invited up to 21 August 2007.

The Director of Development Services tabled a report setting out officers comments on the first draft of the Plan and providing information on funding allocations. She advised that some of the comments had been taken on board by Cumbria Vision and incorporated into the next draft of the Plan. Officers would continue to argue for the other comments to be incorporated, particularly the following comments:

- * there is no linkage to the spatial policy;
- * the need for specific actions rather than generalisations;
- * specific comments on Sections 3 and 4 and the Action Plan.

The Economic Development and Enterprise Portfolio Holder made the following comments of the draft Plan:

(a) Members could not accept the statement in the Executive Summary that people are moving out of the County in search of a better lifestyle;

(b) There was a statement in the Executive Summary that the Cumbria Economic Plan aims to encourage small businesses to expand and provide employment opportunities, but the statement in paragraph 2.2 that a key challenge was to reduce the reliance on small businesses in rural areas, appeared to be contrary to the first statement.

(c) Paragraph 2.5 stated that a key challenge was to ensure that access to services are maintained, yet there was a school closure proposed in Longtown.

(d) The comments of the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the draft Cumbria Economic Plan would be welcomed.

Summary of options rejected – None

DECISION

That the draft Cumbria Economic Plan be welcomed subject to the comments outlined above and referred, along with officer's comments on the draft Plan, to the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 August 2007 for comment prior to a draft response to Cumbria Vision for 21 August 2007 and the final response being agreed at the Executive on 28 August 2007, subject to discussions with Cumbria Vision on the timetable.

Reasons for decision - To enable a response to be made to Cumbria Vision on the draft Cumbria Economic Plan.

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 involve 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.

EX.197/07 VAT PARTIAL EXEMPTION - FEEDBACK FROM TENANTS

(Key Decision)

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

With the consent of the Chairman, and in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, this item had been included on the Agenda as a key decision, although not in the form of a plan).

Portfolio - Finance and Performance Management

Subject Matter – Councillor J Mallinson declared a personal interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct as he was a trustee of one of the organisations which had responded on the option to charge VAT on the Council's commercial rent.

The Director of Corporate Services submitted private report CORP.37/07 appending all the responses received from tenants on the option to charge VAT on the Council's commercial rent. A report summarising the comments from tenants had been considered earlier in the Agenda (EX.179/07). The Director advised that she had also circulated responses which had been received after the deadline of 20 July 2007.

Summary of options rejected - None

DECISION

That the responses received from tenants be noted and had been taken into consideration and the decision at EX.179/07.

Reasons for Decision - To take action to ensure that the limit of Value Added Tax the Council could recover on services classed as exempt activities would not be breached.

The meeting ended at 2:20pm.