

## **CITY COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2012 AT 6.45 PM**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor (Councillor Earp), Councillors Allison, Atkinson, Bainbridge, Bell, Betton, Bloxham, Boaden, Bowditch, Mrs Bowman, Bowman (S), Mrs Bradley, Cape, Clarke (M), Mrs Clarke, Collier, Craig, Ellis, Mrs Farmer, Ms Franklin, Mrs Geddes, Glover, Graham, Harid, Hendry, Layden, Lishman, Mrs Luckley, Mrs Mallinson, Mallinson (J), McDevitt, Mitchelson, Morton, Nedved, Mrs Parsons, Ms Patrick, Mrs Prest, Ms Quilter, Mrs Riddle, Mrs Robson, Mrs Rutherford, Scarborough, Mrs Southward, Stothard, Mrs Vasey, Mrs Warwick, Watson, Weber, Weedall, Whalen and Wilson

### **C.48/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **C.49/12 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings of the City Council held on 10 January and 7 February 2012 were received and signed as a true record of the meetings.

### **C.50/12 PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

### **C.51/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The undernoted Members declared a personal and prejudicial interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of item 17 – Notice of Motion – Olympic Games Torch:

- Councillor Mallinson (J) was Chairman of the Henry Lonsdale Trust to which the Motion on the Agenda alluded, and stated that he would leave the meeting during consideration of that item of business
- Councillor Bell was a Member of the Henry Lonsdale Trust and would leave the meeting during consideration of that item of business

The undernoted Members declared a personal interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of item 17 – Notice of Motion – Olympic Games Torch:

- Councillor Mrs Mallinson indicated that she would not speak on the matter
- Councillor Bloxham's wife served on the Committee

Councillors Bainbridge, Hendry and Layden declared a personal interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of item 18 – Housing Strategy 2012-16 because they served on the Board of Riverside Carlisle.

Councillor Mrs Luckley declared a personal interest in respect of any reference to Riverside Carlisle or the Carlisle Partnership since she served on the Executive Board.

Councillor Ellis declared a personal interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Item 11(b)(vi) (Performance and Development Portfolio Holder Report). He stated that he was a Member of the Tullie House Trust.

## **C.52/12 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### (a) The Mayor

The Mayor advised that a Youth Mayor had now been chosen, further details in relation to which would follow.

The Mayor further announced details of forthcoming events in aid of his Charity Fund:

- An evening of musical entertainment with 'Zing' would take place at Harraby Community Centre on 9 March 2012 – tickets were available from Councillor Mrs Rutherford;
- A presentation on a Nepal Expedition would take place at 7.30 pm on 29 March 2012 at Downagate – tickets were available at a charge of £5; and
- A flower demonstration and luncheon would take place at the Golden Fleece, Ruleholme on 30 March 2012 – tickets available from Councillor Mrs Parsons.

### (b) The Leader of the Council

There were no announcements from the Leader.

### (c) Members of the Executive

Councillor Mallinson (J) was pleased to announce progress on the Irish Gate Bridge. He informed Members that Cumbria County Council had commissioned works to repair the bridge; a contribution had been received from the original constructor; and it was hoped that the bridge would be open during April 2012.

(d) Town Clerk and Chief Executive

There were no announcements from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

**C.53/12 COUNCIL TAX 2012/13**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Resources (RD.91/11) setting out the relevant calculations which the City Council, as Billing Authority, was required to undertake in order to set the overall amount of Council Tax for 2012/13.

The Director of Resources reported that the Localism Act 2011 had made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and now required the billing authority (Carlisle City Council) to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not its budget requirement as previously. He added that, in accordance with the necessary provisions, the City Council had calculated its tax base.

The City Council, Cumbria County Council and the Cumbria Police Authority had calculated their Council Tax requirements for 2012/13 and the County Council had issued a precept upon the City Council in the sum of £40,449,110, which resulted in a Band D Council Tax of £1,161.50 (no increase from 2011/12).

Cumbria Police Authority had issued a precept on the City Council in the sum of £6,992,490, which resulted in a Band D Council Tax of £200.79 (an increase of 3.6%).

The Director of Resources commented that the City Council was required to set the level of basic Council Tax in 2012/13 in respect of City Council Services and the amount to be levied in non parished areas; the level of Council Tax to be charged in different parts of the City Council's area to reflect the special items (Parish Precepts); the basic amount of Council Tax applicable to each category of dwelling in each part of the City Council's area; and a total amount of Council Tax to be levied in 2012/13, inclusive of Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Police Authority Precepts applicable to each category of dwelling in each part of the City Council's area.

It should be noted that the City Council had held its share of Council Tax at the same level as 2010/11 and 2011/12 (i.e. no increase for 2012/13). The County Council and Policy Authority had raised their Council Tax rates for 2012/13 by 0% and 3.6% respectively.

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Mitchelson seconded, and it was AGREED:

1. That it be noted that at its meeting on 6 March 2012 the City Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2012/13:-
  - a) For the whole Council area as 34,824.89 (Item T) in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (The "Act"), and;
  - b) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish Precept relates as below:

Parish of:	£
ARTHURET	772.99
ASKERTON	55.3
BEAUMONT	185.13
BEWCASTLE	141.91
BRAMPTON	1,637.04
BURGH BY SANDS	469.45
BURTHOLME	86.45
CARLATTON & CUMREW	54.1
CASTLE CARROCK	132.82
CUMMERSDALE	159.32
CUMWHITTON	133.99
DALSTON	1,047.54
DENTON NETHER	109.23
DENTON UPPER	34.29
FARLAM	223.86
HAYTON	850.66
HETHERSGILL	137.44
IRTHINGTON	323.02
KINGMOOR	239.85
KINGWATER	62.11
KIRKANDREWS	163.09
KIRKLINTON	134.45
MIDGEHOLME	23.77
NICHOLFOREST	143.07
ORTON	170.13
ROCKCLIFFE	299.59
SCALEBY	135.53
SOLPORT & STAPLETON	141.62
STANWIX RURAL	1,239.91
ST CUTHBERT WITHOUT	1,354.14
WALTON	107.34
WATERHEAD	51.38
WESTLINTON	141.44
WETHERAL	2,258.28
& for the urbanarea of CARLISLE	21,604.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,824.89</b>

2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2012/13 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £6,736,178
3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the City Council for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended):-
  - (a) 13,535,030 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
  - (b) £6,354,027 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £7,181,003 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax Requirement for the year. (Item R) in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act.
  - (d) £206.20 Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1 above) calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts).
  - (e) £444,825 Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
  - (f) £193.43 Being the amount at 3(d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish Precept relates.
4. To note that the County Council and the Police Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2012/13 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

## VALUATION BANDS

PARISH/AREA	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
ARTHURET	170.12	198.48	226.83	255.18	311.88	368.59	425.30	510.36
BEAUMONT	145.68	169.97	194.25	218.53	267.09	315.66	364.21	437.06
BEWCASTLE	145.39	169.63	193.86	218.09	266.55	315.02	363.48	436.18
BRAMPTON	165.14	192.68	220.20	247.72	302.76	357.82	412.86	495.44
BURGH BY SANDS	147.41	171.99	196.55	221.12	270.25	319.40	368.53	442.24
BURTHOLME	142.83	166.64	190.45	214.25	261.86	309.47	357.08	428.50
CARLATTON & CUMREW	148.66	173.45	198.22	223.00	272.55	322.11	371.66	446.00
CASTLE CARROCK	150.74	175.87	200.99	226.11	276.35	326.60	376.85	452.22
CUMMERSDALE	155.31	181.20	207.09	232.97	284.74	336.51	388.28	465.94
CUMWHITTON	145.87	170.19	194.50	218.81	267.43	316.06	364.68	437.62
DALSTON	155.51	181.44	207.35	233.27	285.10	336.95	388.78	466.54
DENTON NETHER	148.44	173.19	197.93	222.67	272.15	321.64	371.11	445.34
DENTON UPPER	148.84	173.65	198.46	223.26	272.87	322.49	372.10	446.52
FARLAM	138.72	161.85	184.97	208.09	254.33	300.58	346.81	416.18
HAYTON	139.70	163.00	186.28	209.56	256.12	302.70	349.26	419.12
HETHERSGILL	160.48	187.23	213.98	240.72	294.21	347.71	401.20	481.44
IRTHINGTON	140.00	163.35	186.68	210.01	256.67	303.35	350.01	420.02
KINGMOOR	149.18	174.05	198.91	223.77	273.49	323.22	372.95	447.54
KINGWATER	139.68	162.97	186.25	209.53	256.09	302.66	349.21	419.06
KIRKANDREWS	157.82	184.13	210.43	236.73	289.33	341.94	394.55	473.46
KIRKLINTON	138.12	161.15	184.17	207.19	253.23	299.28	345.31	414.38
MIDGEHOLME	128.95	150.45	171.94	193.43	236.41	279.40	322.38	386.86
NICHOLFOREST	147.59	172.20	196.79	221.39	270.58	319.79	368.98	442.78
ORTON	143.64	167.59	191.53	215.47	263.35	311.24	359.11	430.94
ROCKCLIFFE	135.18	157.72	180.25	202.78	247.84	292.91	337.96	405.56
SCALEBY	153.54	179.14	204.73	230.32	281.50	332.69	383.86	460.64
SOLPORT & STAPLETON	142.13	165.83	189.51	213.20	260.57	307.96	355.33	426.40
STANWIX RURAL	150.70	175.82	200.94	226.05	276.28	326.52	376.75	452.10
ST CUTHBERT WITHOUT	139.63	162.91	186.18	209.45	255.99	302.54	349.08	418.90
WALTON	159.25	185.80	212.34	238.88	291.96	345.05	398.13	477.76
WATERHEAD	141.92	165.59	189.24	212.89	260.19	307.51	354.81	425.78
WESTLINTON	138.38	161.45	184.51	207.57	253.69	299.82	345.95	415.14
WETHERAL	155.30	181.19	207.07	232.95	284.71	336.48	388.25	465.90
All other parts of the City Council's area	128.95	150.45	171.94	193.43	236.41	279.40	322.38	386.86

Precepting Authority	VALUATION BANDS							
	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cumbria County Council	774.33	903.39	1,032.44	1,161.50	1,419.61	1,677.72	1,935.83	2,323.00
Cumbria Police Authority	133.86	156.17	178.48	200.79	245.41	290.03	334.65	401.58

## Aggregate of Council Tax requirements

PARISH/AREA	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
ARTHURET	1,078.31	1,258.04	1,437.75	1,617.47	1,976.90	2,336.34	2,695.78	3,234.94
BEAUMONT	1,053.87	1,229.53	1,405.17	1,580.82	1,932.11	2,283.41	2,634.69	3,161.64
BEWCASTLE	1,053.58	1,229.19	1,404.78	1,580.38	1,931.57	2,282.77	2,633.96	3,160.76
BRAMPTON	1,073.33	1,252.24	1,431.12	1,610.01	1,967.78	2,325.57	2,683.34	3,220.02
BURGH BY SANDS	1,055.60	1,231.55	1,407.47	1,583.41	1,935.27	2,287.15	2,639.01	3,166.82
BURTHOLME	1,051.02	1,226.20	1,401.37	1,576.54	1,926.88	2,277.22	2,627.56	3,153.08
CARLATTON & CUMREW	1,056.85	1,233.01	1,409.14	1,585.29	1,937.57	2,289.86	2,642.14	3,170.58
CASTLE CARROCK	1,058.93	1,235.43	1,411.91	1,588.40	1,941.37	2,294.35	2,647.33	3,176.80
CUMMERSDALE	1,063.50	1,240.76	1,418.01	1,595.26	1,949.76	2,304.26	2,658.76	3,190.52
CUMWHITTON	1,054.06	1,229.75	1,405.42	1,581.10	1,932.45	2,283.81	2,635.16	3,162.20
DALSTON	1,063.70	1,241.00	1,418.27	1,595.56	1,950.12	2,304.70	2,659.26	3,191.12
DENTON NETHER	1,056.63	1,232.75	1,408.85	1,584.96	1,937.17	2,289.39	2,641.59	3,169.92
DENTON UPPER	1,057.03	1,233.21	1,409.38	1,585.55	1,937.89	2,290.24	2,642.58	3,171.10
FARLAM	1,046.91	1,221.41	1,395.89	1,570.38	1,919.35	2,268.33	2,617.29	3,140.76
HAYTON	1,047.89	1,222.56	1,397.20	1,571.85	1,921.14	2,270.45	2,619.74	3,143.70
HETHERSGILL	1,068.67	1,246.79	1,424.90	1,603.01	1,959.23	2,315.46	2,671.68	3,206.02
IRTHINGTON	1,048.19	1,222.91	1,397.60	1,572.30	1,921.69	2,271.10	2,620.49	3,144.60
KINGMOOR	1,057.37	1,233.61	1,409.83	1,586.06	1,938.51	2,290.97	2,643.43	3,172.12
KINGWATER	1,047.87	1,222.53	1,397.17	1,571.82	1,921.11	2,270.41	2,619.69	3,143.64
KIRKANDREWS	1,066.01	1,243.69	1,421.35	1,599.02	1,954.35	2,309.69	2,665.03	3,198.04
KIRKLINTON	1,046.31	1,220.71	1,395.09	1,569.48	1,918.25	2,267.03	2,615.79	3,138.96
MIDGEHOLME	1,037.14	1,210.01	1,382.86	1,555.72	1,901.43	2,247.15	2,592.86	3,111.44
NICHOLFOREST	1,055.78	1,231.76	1,407.71	1,583.68	1,935.60	2,287.54	2,639.46	3,167.36
ORTON	1,051.83	1,227.15	1,402.45	1,577.76	1,928.37	2,278.99	2,629.59	3,155.52
ROCKCLIFFE	1,043.37	1,217.28	1,391.17	1,565.07	1,912.86	2,260.66	2,608.44	3,130.14
SCALEBY	1,061.73	1,238.70	1,415.65	1,592.61	1,946.52	2,300.44	2,654.34	3,185.22
SOLPORT & STAPLETON	1,050.32	1,225.39	1,400.43	1,575.49	1,925.59	2,275.71	2,625.81	3,150.98
STANWIX RURAL	1,058.89	1,235.38	1,411.86	1,588.34	1,941.30	2,294.27	2,647.23	3,176.68
ST CUTHBERT WITHOUT	1,047.82	1,222.47	1,397.10	1,571.74	1,921.01	2,270.29	2,619.56	3,143.48
WALTON	1,067.44	1,245.36	1,423.26	1,601.17	1,956.98	2,312.80	2,668.61	3,202.34
WATERHEAD	1,050.11	1,225.15	1,400.16	1,575.18	1,925.21	2,275.26	2,625.29	3,150.36
WESTLINTON	1,046.57	1,221.01	1,395.43	1,569.86	1,918.71	2,267.57	2,616.43	3,139.72
WETHERAL	1,063.49	1,240.75	1,417.99	1,595.24	1,949.73	2,304.23	2,658.73	3,190.48
All other parts of the City Council's area	1,037.14	1,210.01	1,382.86	1,555.72	1,901.43	2,247.15	2,592.86	3,111.44

#### **C.54/12 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.1, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by members of the public.

#### **C.55/12 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.11 the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no petitions or deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

#### **C.56/12 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by Members of the Council.

#### **C.57/12 EXECUTIVE**

Councillor Mitchelson moved and Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 19 December 2011; 16 January, 13 and 17 February 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 19 December 2011; 16 January, 13 and 17 February 2012 be received and adopted.

#### **C.58/12 PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS**

Copies of reports from the following Portfolio Holders had been circulated prior to the meeting:

Leader's Portfolio  
Governance and Resources  
Community Engagement  
Economic Development  
Environment and Housing  
Performance and Development

In moving her report, Councillor Mrs Geddes drew attention to the last page pointing out that the words "Art students and hostel clients" were in fact the title to the following paragraph.



As part of her report Councillor Mrs Bowman referred to the City Centre Business Improvement District, commenting that a dedicated telephone line was now in place. No calls had been received to date but, if anyone had concerns, their input would be welcomed.

In moving his report Councillor Bloxham stated that, as part of sustainable energy projects, solar photovoltaic modules had now been installed on the Civic Centre and the Sands Centre roofs and were working well.

Councillor Bowditch stated that he was a very strong supporter of the Carlisle Partnership. He recalled that, some six years before, funding had been released to progress the Carlisle Foyer for Young People (16 – 19 year olds). He sought clarification of the current position, emphasising that someone needed to take responsibility for the project and drive it forward.

In response, Councillor Bloxham outlined the background and current position in relation to the Shaddon Gateway Centre and Dispersed Foyer Services. Councillor Bloxham suggested that Councillor Bowditch e-mail his concerns, following which he would respond in more detail.

Referring to the installation of solar photovoltaic modules on the Civic Centre / Sands Centre, Councillor Cape asked whether consideration could be given to the public display of readouts and details of the carbon footprints of the buildings.

Councillor Bloxham replied that the public had a right to know that money was being well spent, and he would ask the Director of Resources to progress that with the Building and Facilities Manager.

Councillor Ellis, having declared a personal interest, presented his Portfolio Holder report and responded to questions, and drew attention to the excellent training session on the Customer Relations Centre held the week before. He wished to encourage all Members to attend. A further workshop could be arranged should demand dictate. Other Members concurred with those sentiments.

Members questioned individual Portfolio Holders on details of their reports.

RESOLVED – (1) That the reports of the Portfolio Holders be received.

(2) That the Director of Resources progress the public display of readings / rates of return from the installation of solar photovoltaic modules in conjunction with the Building and Facilities Manager.

**C.59/12      OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES AND CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS**

(a)    Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Luckley moved and Councillor Glover seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 12 January and 9 February 2012 be received and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Luckley also presented her Chairman's Report. She added that a special meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had been scheduled to take place on Friday 16 March 2012 at Longtown Community Centre. Unfortunately, however, some of the key representatives were unable to attend and the meeting had been cancelled.

With reference to the concerns raised earlier by Councillor Bowditch, Councillor Mrs Luckley advised that the Shaddon Gateway Centre had been a regular item on the Panel's agenda. Councillor Glover would be able to assist with any questions in relation to the Centre.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 12 January and 9 February 2012 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(b)    Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Layden moved and Councillor Allison seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 5 January and 16 February 2012 be received and adopted.

Councillor Layden also presented his Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 5 January and 16 February 2012 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(c)    Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Rutherford moved and Councillor Craig seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 19 January 2012 be received and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Rutherford also presented her Chairman's Report. She added that Panel Members were looking forward to their visit to the Richard Rose Academy at Morton on the afternoon of 13 March 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 19 January 2012 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

## **C.60/12 REGULATORY PANEL**

Councillor Morton made reference to an article which had appeared in the News and Star on 5 March 2012 concerning The Club in Victoria Place, which matter was scheduled to come before the Licensing Sub-Committee. He felt that it was grossly unfair for details / evidence to be published in such a way since that may prove to be prejudicial. Accordingly, Councillor Morton requested that the Town Clerk and Chief Executive write to the Editor of the News and Star and draw his attention to his concerns.

Councillor Morton moved and Councillor Mrs Parsons seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 8 February 2012.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 8 February 2012 be received and adopted.

(2) That the Town Clerk and Chief Executive be requested to write to the Editor of the News and Star expressing concerns regarding the publication of articles relating to matters scheduled for future consideration by the Council's Licensing Sub-Committee.

## **C.61/12 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs Parsons moved and Councillor Scarborough seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 14 and 16 December 2011; and 25 and 27 January 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 14 and 16 December 2011; and 25 and 27 January 2012 be received and adopted.

## **C.62/12 AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs Mallinson moved and Councillor Ms Patrick seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 13 January 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 13 January 2012 be received and adopted.

## **C.63/12 EMPLOYMENT PANEL**

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Glover seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Employment Panel held on 4 January and 16 February 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Employment Panel held on 4 January and 16 February 2012 be received and adopted.

## **C.64/12 NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **Olympic Games Torch**

Councillors Bell and Mallinson (J), having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, retired from the meeting room during consideration of this item of business.

Councillors Bloxham and Mrs Mallinson, having declared a personal interest, made no comment on the matter.

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported the receipt of the following Motion submitted on notice by Councillor Betton:

“We, the Independent Group, would like to call upon all parties to support the following motion:

Given that the Olympic Games Torch is coming to Carlisle and travelling along Warwick Road twice, could consideration be given to improving the state of the dilapidated fence on the right hand side of Warwick Road from the Eastern Way Junction to Riverside Recruitment.

This fence is in a dangerous, shabby state of repair, with protruding spikes and metal wire patches that have come down. In addition, the area suffers from weeds, litter etc.

The first thing visitors travelling along this gateway entry to the City see is this eyesore of a fence, which creates a bad impression of the area. Could the City Council take action to ensure that, the two private owners, own up to their responsibility and improve the fencing issue?

I have previously contacted the City and County Councils, the reply being that it is the owners' responsibility, but surely we can do something?

Also, on this very once in a lifetime occasion, we would additionally ask as part of this motion, that the City Council work in partnership with the local businesses located in Durrhill and Botcherby, and make a combined effort to deck out the important Olympic Torch route with hanging bunting and regalia fit for the occasion and let us show that we are working with businesses and the public.”

Councillor Betton moved, and Councillor Graham seconded the motion.

Councillor Betton then elaborated in some detail upon the reasons for submission of the motion, expressing the hope that the City Council would lend their support.

Councillor Mrs Geddes thanked Councillor Betton for his Motion commenting that, whilst she agreed that the fence was indeed unsightly, she could not support the Motion for the following reasons:

The County Council Highways, whose responsibility Warwick Road was, had inspected the area and they agreed the fence was “tatty” but not dangerous. Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act – Disamenity Powers had been considered by City Council Officers as being not appropriate as it was a civil matter for the landowners. Therefore there was no planning regulation to enforce the owners to repair or replace the boundary fence.

The Executive would, however, instruct Officers to write immediately to the landowners to encourage them to do something about the condition of the railings and litter. A replacement fence would need planning permission. She had an assurance that a full risk assessment and health and safety plan would be in place for the event.

The City Council was working in partnership with 60 community groups, Carlisle United Football Club, and the statutory and voluntary agencies were to animate the route on the theme of “Global Welcome To Carlisle”. Groups would bring the route alive through appropriate banners, bunting, flags and semaphore and the performing arts to create a unique carnival atmosphere. An added bonus to that was that the Council was creating a database of volunteers that it could utilise for a variety of projects in the future.

Councillor Mrs Geddes pledged that the Council would do all it could by contacting the landowners to encourage them to tidy up the area and all householders on the route should be encouraged to enter into the spirit of the event as the area would be in the spotlight covered by national media.

On that basis, Councillor Mrs Geddes requested that Councillor Betton withdraw the Motion.

Councillor Glover further suggested that the Community Payback Team may be able to undertake some of the work required.

In response, Councillor Betton intimated that he was pleased to accept the Executive’s pledge as outlined above, which would also benefit local constituents. On that basis, and in accordance with Procedure Rule 14.8, he withdrew the Motion.

**RESOLVED** – That the Motion of Councillor Betton as set out above be withdrawn.

**C.65/12 PROPOSAL FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN RELATION TO THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

EX.129/11 and EX.016/12 – Housing Strategy 2012 - 16

Councillors Bainbridge and Layden, having declared a personal interest, made no comment on the matter.

Councillor Hendry, having declared a personal interest, took part in discussion on this item of business.

Pursuant to Minute EX.129/11 and EX.016/12, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive that the City Council approve the revised Housing Strategy 2012 – 16 following consultation. A copy of Report CD.26/12 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Bloxham moved and Councillor Mitchelson seconded the recommendation.

Councillor Hendry stated that, although the Labour Group supported the Housing Strategy in principle, he wished to make a number of constructive observations including:

- the need for more homes to be built as a matter of urgency on a national context
- concern that many people were currently on housing waiting lists and children were growing up in crowded accommodation, which was totally unsatisfactory
- page 10 – balancing the housing market – consideration should be given to housing numbers and the clear need to retain and attract residents to Carlisle
- the fundamental link between housing provision and students coming to Carlisle each year
- greater housing provision would stimulate the economy and increase the sustainability of Carlisle
- the Housing Strategy should have a sharper focus and include greater ambition

Councillor Weber quoted examples of properties which had been empty for some considerable time, and questioned whether the strategy to tackle empty properties was actually working.

Councillor Bloxham then responded in some detail to the issues raised, stressing that the Housing Strategy had been the subject of wide consultation.

Councillor Bloxham added that a great deal of work was being done (in partnership) to reinstate empty properties and he would write to Councillor Weber providing further details.

Councillor Ellis paid tribute to the excellent work undertaken by Councillor Mrs Luckley in spearheading the Empty Homes Strategy.

RESOLVED – (1) That the revised Housing Strategy 2012-16, as appended to Report CD.26/12, be approved following consultation.

(2) That the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder provide a written response to Councillor Weber's question regarding the Empty Homes Strategy.

#### **C.66/12 POLICY STATEMENT ON PAY FOR SENIOR OFFICERS**

Pursuant to Minute EMP.09/12, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Employment Panel that the City Council approve the amended Policy Statement on Pay for Senior Officers. A copy of Report RD.93/11 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Glover seconded the recommendation.

RESOLVED – That the Policy Statement on Pay for Senior Officers, as appended to Report RD.93/11, be approved by the City Council.

#### **C.67/12 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES CALL-IN AND URGENCY**

Pursuant to Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15(i), consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance (GD.16/12) on procedures in respect of occasions where decisions taken by the Executive were urgent.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

#### **C.68/12 COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications or items of business brought forward by the Mayor as a matter of urgency to be dealt with at the meeting.

(The meeting ended at 7.52 pm)