

EXECUTIVE

TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021 AT 4.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor J Mallinson (Leader / Chair) (until 4.13 pm)
Councillor Ellis (Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Christian (Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Higgs (Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Mrs Mallinson (Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder) (until 4.13 pm)
Councillor Nedved (Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder)

OFFICERS:

Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
Head of Planning Policy

WELCOME

The Leader welcomed all those present to the meeting.

REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A roll call of persons in attendance was taken.

Councillor Mrs Mallinson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Agenda item A.6 – Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 2. The interest related to the fact that Councillor Mrs Mallinson is a private landlord and she would leave the meeting prior to consideration of that item of business.

Councillor Mallinson (J) declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Agenda item A.6 – Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 2. The interest related to the fact that Councillor Mallinson is a private landlord. He would leave the meeting prior to consideration of that item of business, and the Deputy Leader would assume the chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

CALL-IN AND URGENCY PROCEDURES

The Leader reported that the Mayor had, on 31 March 2021, agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied in relation to Agenda item A.6 – Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 2. If the bid for funding was successful, and with the possibility that the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) would require a short acceptance period, it was considered that any delay caused by the call-in process would prejudice the Council's interests in accepting the award of funds.

EX.38/21 ADOPTION OF THE ST CUTHBERT'S GARDEN VILLAGE STRATEGIC DESIGN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (Key Decision – KD.04/21)

Portfolio Economy, Enterprise and Housing

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Economic Growth

Subject Matter

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder submitted report ED.10/21, the purpose of which was to seek adoption of the final draft of the Strategic Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for St Cuthbert's Garden Village. Background information was recorded at Section 1 of the report.

The Portfolio Holder began by extending thanks to the St Cuthbert's Garden Village team for their preparation of the final detailed draft SPD in advance of a St Cuthbert's Local Plan being adopted later in the year.

The SPD promoted a positive planning process and established the Council's expectations around the requirements for detailed masterplanning and design quality for development proposals coming forward early in SCGV. It amplified the key adopted Local Plan policies relevant to St Cuthbert's and, together with the National Design Code, defined the key structuring and place-making elements necessary to underpin good design and delivery. In that way it would provide a clear basis on which to develop detailed proposals in a coordinated way and provide a basis for consistent decision making

Referencing Section 4, the Portfolio Holder outlined the nature of the consultation undertaken; those comments received and changes proposed in response thereto.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder concluded his presentation by moving the recommendations as written.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder commented upon the excellent nature of the report and thanked all those involved in its preparation. Importantly, she was pleased to see at paragraph 7.7, and indeed throughout the SPD, references to the Healthy City, climate change, the planning of trees, cycleways / pathways and healthy living; and looked forward to delivery of that Healthy City agenda.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder was also very pleased with the emphasis on low carbon, environmentally friendly living, adding that it had been a privilege to take part in the process. Whilst clearly a huge amount of work had gone into reaching this stage, there was much more to do.

The Portfolio Holder commended the officers involved for the compilation of what was a very readable and easily understood document, and encouraged everyone to read it

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder then seconded the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected that the St Cuthbert's Garden Village Strategic Design Supplementary Planning Document should not be adopted

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Agreed the Consultation Statement, including the list of comments and responses made (attached at Appendix 2 to Report ED.10/21).
2. Noted that the Council had undertaken a screening exercise which confirmed that a Strategic Environmental Assessment was not required to support this Supplementary Planning Document.
3. Adopted the St Cuthbert's Garden Village Strategic Design Supplementary Planning Document (attached at Appendix 1) in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 allowing it to be used as a material planning consideration in determining planning applications in the Garden Village.
4. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and Housing to agree any minor amendments necessary to help ensure the accuracy and clarity of the SPD.

Reasons for Decision

Timely progress continued to be made with the planning and delivery of St Cuthbert's Garden Village. It is an obligation of the HIF funding agreement that the St Cuthbert's Strategic Design SPD is adopted by early Spring 2021, and it is therefore important that the Executive adopt the SPD to guide the preparation and determination of future planning applications, ensuring that they are of the highest quality and in keeping with the vision and principles of St Cuthbert's

EX.39/21 RELEASE OF REVENUE BUDGET FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP AND ENFORCEMENT
(Key Decision – KD.06/21)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing

Subject Matter

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder submitted report CS.17/21 seeking approval from the Executive to release £60,000 revenue budget to enhance environmental clean-up and enforcement activity; which funding had already been agreed by Council as part of the budget setting process.

It was proposed that the additional £60,000 funding be allocated as outlined at paragraph 2.2.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations as set.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder endorsed the report stating that certain aspects, in particular, Public Space Protection Orders, overlapped her portfolio.

The Portfolio Holder commented upon the tremendous amount of anti-social behaviour which had taken place over the weekend, adding that she was pleased to note at 2.1 the action taken by the Enforcement Team against those responsible for enviro-crimes such as littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping. Education was also of importance in addressing that unacceptable behaviour.

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder recognised that graffiti was also an issue and hoped that release of the funding would enhance enforcement activity and response. He was therefore content to second the recommendations.

The Deputy Leader also welcomed the report, highlighting the enhanced clearance of the grass verges on the A595. He wished to thank the officers involved in compilation of the report and also the Independent Group who were keen on ensuring availability of the resource.

Summary of options rejected that release of the revenue budget of £60,000 should not be approved

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Approved the release of the revenue budget of £60,000.
2. Delegated authority to the Neighbourhood Services Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport to reallocate the budget within the service area where appropriate to respond to changing demands / emerging priorities.

Reasons for Decision

The Council's enforcement and clean neighbourhood teams already operated to a high standard. The package of measures described would help build on that strong base and would lead to instant, and hopefully, lasting improvements across a number of areas as highlighted in the Local Environmental Crime, Action and Enforcement Strategy. The emphasis was on coordinated action involving marketing and awareness raising, increased targeted and responsive clean-up, and backed up by robust enforcement and deployment of high-profile resources such as the camera enforcement van

Improved systems would be deployed to support residents to report incidents of dog-fouling and fly-tipping etc and that would in turn support intelligence-led enforcement activity and more responsive clean-up action. It would be important, however, not to raise public expectations to levels that could not be realistically or practically met

EX.40/21 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 5 March 2021 was submitted for information.

- Key Decision (KD.07/21) – the Deputy Chief Executive was scheduled to submit a report concerning the Local Environmental Crime, Action and Enforcement Strategy. The matter was deferred in order that the views of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel may be sought prior to consideration by the Executive.
- Key Decision (KD.12/21) - the Corporate Director of Economic Development was scheduled to submit a report seeking Executive approval to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the MHCLG in relation to the Future High Street Fund programme. The matter had been deferred because the City Council had not yet received the Funding Agreement from the MHCLG.
- Key Decision (KD.05/21) – the Corporate Director of Economic Development was scheduled to submit a private report concerning the Carlisle Station Gateway – Phase 1. The matter had been deferred as the discussions between Carlisle City Council and Cumbria County Council regarding the options to make the land owned by the City Council available to the Carlisle Station project were still ongoing.

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the paper.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That, subject to the above, the Notice of Executive Key Decisions dated 5 March 2021 be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.41/21 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.

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the paper.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

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

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.42/21 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 8 March 2021 were submitted for information.

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the Minutes.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 8 March 2021, attached as Appendix B, be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.43/21 **GREEN HOMES GRANT LOCAL AUTHORITY DELIVERY (LAD) PHASE 2
(Key Decision – KD.11/21)

(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 Economy, Enterprise and Housing

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Economic Growth

Subject Matter

Councillors Mallinson (J) (Chair) and Mrs Mallinson, having declared disclosable pecuniary interests, retired from the meeting prior to commencement of this item of business.

The Deputy Leader assumed the Chair.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder submitted report GD.26/21 informing the Executive of the City Council's participation in a joint bid for funds under Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 2.

The City Council was part of a consortium of Cumbrian councils seeking funds from the North West Regional Hub. Each of the six authorities may receive approximately £716,000 to £1 million to address fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency and carbon savings in approximately seventy-five to one hundred private sector properties. Eden District Council would act as the consortium's accountable body.

Members' attention was drawn to the primary purpose of the LAD, detailed at paragraph 1.2, and the expectation that letters would be sent out to homes in the target Wards the following month inviting expressions of interest.

The Portfolio Holder commented upon the critical nature of the report and expressed thanks to the Regulatory Services Manager and the Home Improvements Agency Team Leader for their work.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder then moved the recommendations as detailed in the report.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder also welcomed and endorsed submission of the report, expressing thanks to all involved in preparation of the bid for funding. A reduction in reliance upon fossil fuels was beneficial for the environment and indeed for those who would benefit from lower fuel bills and more comfortable lives. He then seconded the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected if successful, the offer of funds should not be accepted

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. If successful accept the offer of funds through a Memorandum of Understanding with Eden District Council under the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2.
2. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to deliver activities and services funded by the grant in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the City Council and Eden District Council.

Reasons for Decision

Carlisle has over 2,250 owner-occupied and over 700 privately rented properties which have an EPC rating of E, F or G but which were capable of achieving a minimum C rating. The Green Homes Grants would allow the Council to improve about 75 – 100 of those properties saving the occupiers money and reducing the properties' carbon footprints

[The meeting ended at 4.17 pm]