

CITY COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2020 AT 6.45 PM

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Bowman), Councillors Alcroft, Allison, Mrs Atkinson, Bainbridge, Birks, Bomford, Christian, Dr Davison, Denholm, Ellis, Ms Ellis-Williams, Mrs Finlayson, Mrs Glendinning, Glover, Higgs, Mrs McKerrell, McNulty, Mrs Mallinson, Mallinson (J), Meller, Mitchelson, Morton, Nedved, Patrick, Robson, Shepherd, Miss Sherriff, Tarbitt, Dr Tickner and Miss Whalen.

ALSO

PRESENT: Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services

C.134/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Brown, Councillor Paton, Councillor Southward and Councillor Tinnion.

Councillor Collier attempted to join the meeting but was unable to do so due to technical reasons.

C.135/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A roll call of persons in attendance was taken.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct Councillor Patrick declared a personal interest in respect of item 5 – Interim Chief Executive arrangements with Eden District Council. Her interest was in relation to her employment which delivered the homeless function on behalf of Eden District Council.

C.136/20 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed.

C.137/20 ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) The Mayor

The Mayor thanked Members for their hard work in the local communities and wished them a safe Christmas and healthy new year following such a difficult year.

(ii) The Leader of the Council

The Leader announced that he had met with the Leader of Eden District Council, the Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government and a Senior Civil Servant to discuss the submissions regarding the Local Government Review. The submissions would be carefully considered, and an 8 week consultation was expected to begin in February. The responses to the consultation would be considered followed by a decision in June.

The Elections in 2021 had also been discussed. It was unknown if the County and City elections would progress, however outstanding by-elections would be held once the Covid restrictions expired in May 2021.

(iii) Members of the Executive

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder announced that she had circulated information to all Councillors regarding the vaccination roll out, Winter Welfare and free School meals during holiday periods.

(iv) Town Clerk and Chief Executive

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

C.13820 INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

There was submitted a report of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive (CE.08/20), the purpose of which was to enable Carlisle City Council to consider the request from Eden District Council (EDC) that the City Council's Town Clerk and Chief Executive provides temporary part-time support as Interim Chief Executive at EDC.

The proposed Agreement between the two authorities, which would run until 30 May 2021 and could be terminated by either side for any reason with one month's notice, was appended to the report.

Assuming that the Agreement ran until 30 May 2021, Carlisle City Council would receive approximately £21,000 from EDC in payment for services. The Town Clerk and Chief Executive would receive no additional remuneration and was content with that arrangement.

Councillor Mallinson (J) (Leader) presented the report clarifying the dates of the agreement as 1 January to 30 May 2021. He was confident that the City Council had the talent and capacity within the organisation for the agreement to be successful.

Councillor Mallinson (J) moved and Councillor Ellis seconded the report and recommendations set out therein.

A number of observations and concerns were raised by Members during the debate, including:

- the Senior Management Team were already under substantial pressure due to the pandemic and the City Council's involvement in a number of significant projects. Reducing the Town Clerk and Chief Executive's role to two and a half days a week would further increase the pressure on the remaining members of the Team.
- the report had not provided information on the possible risks to the City Council or how the existing workload of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive would be addressed.
- there were benefits to the agreement including additional income, personal growth and improved relationships between the two authorities.
- a neighbouring authority had asked for the support of the City Council in difficult times and the agreement was a short term arrangement that could be ended quickly if required.

Councillor Mallinson (J) responded to certain comments raised in discussion.

Following voting it was:

RESOLVED – That the City Council:

- i. agree the request from Eden District Council for Carlisle City Council to provide Interim Chief Executive services as described in the Agreement appended to Report CE.08/20.
- ii. delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to agree any minor changes to the Agreement in the unlikely event that that became necessary. (For the avoidance of doubt, such delegation would not include any changes to the substantive terms as set out in this Report and approved by Council.)

C.139/20 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 7.36pm]