

## **EXECUTIVE**

**WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY 2021 AT 4.00 PM**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor J Mallinson (Leader / Chair)  
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)  
Councillor Nedved (Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder)

### **OFFICERS:**

Town Clerk and Chief Executive  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Corporate Director of Economic Development  
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services  
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Councillor Bainbridge (Chair of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel)  
Councillor Meller (Chair of the Audit Committee)

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct Councillor J Mallinson and Councillor Mrs Mallinson declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item A.11 Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 1b. The interest related to the fact that they were private landlords.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Brown (Chair of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel).

### **PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 12 October and 9 November 2020 were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meetings

### **CALL-IN \*\***

The Leader reported that The Mayor had, on 4 January 2021, agreed that the following items should be exempt from call-in as call-in procedures would overlap the City Council meeting on 2 February 2021 when the 2021/22 Budget proposals were scheduled for consideration:

- A.2(a) Budget Update - Revenue Estimates 2021/22 to 2025/26
- A.2(b) Revised Capital Programme 2020/21 and Provisional Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26

- A.2(c) Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy 2021/22
- A.2(d) Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2021/22
- A.3 Executive Response to the Budget Consultation and Recommendations for the 2021/22 Budget

The Mayor also agreed on 4 January 2021 that A.11 – Green Homes Local Authority Delivery Phase 1b should be exempt from call in as it was likely that any grants would have to be accepted quickly and a call in would prejudice the Council's interests as any delay in accepting the grant may result in the loss of the monies.

## **EX.01/21 BUDGET 2021/22 – CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION FEEDBACK** (Key Decision – KD.25/20)

**Portfolio** Finance, Governance and Resources

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel** Business and Transformation

### **Subject Matter**

The Executive Budget Proposals 2021/22 had been issued for consultation on 14 December 2020, the deadline for responses being 9 am on 11 January 2021. Specific meetings had taken place as part of the budget consultation process.

Copies of the following minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- (a) Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel in relation to the Budget – 7 January 2021
- (b) Budget consultation meeting with Trade Union Representatives – 4 January 2021
- (c) Budget consultation meeting with Non-Domestic Ratepayers / Business Representatives – 4 January 2021
- (d) Feedback received in response to the budget consultation process

In moving the documentation the Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder thanked all those who participated in the budget consultation process. The Leader seconded the recommendation.

**Summary of options rejected** None

### **DECISION**

1. That the Minutes of the consultation meetings with Trade Union representatives; representatives of Non-Domestic Ratepayers / Business Representatives, attached as Appendices B and C; and the Extract from the Minutes of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel be received.
2. That the consultation feedback be received, it being noted that the Executive had taken those comments into account when formulating their final recommendations for the City Council's 2021/22 Budget to be submitted later in the meeting.

## Reasons for Decision

To take account of consultation feedback when formulating recommendations on the 2021/22 Budget

**EX.02/21      \*\*BUDGET UPDATE - REVENUE ESTIMATES 2021/22 to 2025/26**  
(Key Decision – KD.25/20)

(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**      Finance, Governance and Resources

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel**      Business and Transformation

## Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.122/20 and EX.141/20, the Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.52/20 providing an update to reports RD.32/20 and RD.42/20, with a summary of the Council's revised revenue base estimates for 2020/21, together with base estimates for 2021/22 and forecasts up to 2024/25 for illustrative purposes. Potential new spending pressures, bids and savings were also considered within the report.

It was noted that the figures within the report were indicative and now incorporated the provisional finance settlement received on 17 December 2020.

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations which were seconded by the Leader.

**Summary of options rejected**      None

## DECISION

That the Executive:

- (i) noted the revised base estimates for 2020/21 and base estimates for 2021/22;
- (ii) noted that the estimates in the report were provisional and would be subject to the confirmation of final Local Government Finance Settlement in January/February 2021;
- (iii) noted the current MTFP projections and the outstanding issues, which would continue to be updated throughout the budget process and be incorporated into the Executive's budget proposals tabled at the meeting, if available;
- (iv) noted the budget pressures, bids and savings which needed to be taken into account as part of the 2021/22 budget process.

## Reasons for Decision

To prepare a draft budget proposal for 2020/21 for recommendation to the City Council

**EX.03/21      \*\*REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21 AND PROVISIONAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 – 2025/26**  
(Key Decision – KD.25/20)

(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**      Finance, Governance and Resources

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel**      Business and Transformation

**Subject Matter**

Pursuant to Minute EX.127/20 and EX.142/20, the Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.53/20 providing an update to RD.33/20 and RD.43/20; setting out the proposed capital programme for 2021/22 to 2025/26 in the light of new capital proposals identified and summarising the estimated capital resources available to fund the programme.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder highlighted the assumption for the 2021/22 Disabled Facilities Grant figures and thanked officers and staff for the continuous delivery of the Grants to those in need during the pandemic.

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendation, which was seconded by the Leader.

**Summary of options rejected**      None

**DECISION**

That the Executive:

- (i)      Noted the revised capital programme and relevant financing for 2020/21 as set out in Appendices A and B for recommendation to Council;
- (ii)      Had given consideration and views on the proposed capital spending for 2021/22 to 2025/26 given in the report in the light of the estimated available resources, for recommendation to Council;
- (iii)      Noted that any capital scheme for which funding has been approved by Council may only proceed after a full report, including business case and financial appraisal, has been approved.

**Reasons for Decision**

To prepare a draft budget proposal for 2021/22 for recommendation to the City Council

**EX.04/21      \*\*TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STRATEGY 2021/22**  
(Key Decision – KD.22/19)

(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** Finance, Governance and Resources

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel** Business and Transformation

### **Subject Matter**

Pursuant to Minute EX.143/20, the Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.54/20 setting out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22 which had been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. He added that the Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy for 2021/22 were incorporated as part of the Statement, as were the Prudential Indicators as required within the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The draft Statement had been considered by the Executive on 14 December 2020 prior to the consultation period on the Executive Budget Proposals for 2021/22. It had also been considered by the Audit Committee and the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel on 18 December 2020 and 7 January 2021 respectively (Minute Excerpts AUC.39/20 and BTSP.08/21) referred).

The Chair of Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel reiterated the Panel's support for the introduction of ultra short investments and thanked officers for their innovation on the matter.

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendation, which was seconded by the Leader.

**Summary of options rejected** None

### **DECISION**

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22, which incorporated the Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy, together with the Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A and the Treasury Management Policy Statement as set out in Appendix D, be approved for submission to the City Council on 2 February 2021.

### **Reasons for Decision**

To recommend the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy for 2021/22 to the City Council.

**EX.05/21      \*\*PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2021/22**  
(Key Decision – KD.25/20)

(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** Finance, Governance and Resources

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel** Business and Transformation

## Subject Matter

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.55/20 providing an analysis of the 2021/22 Provisional Finance Settlement received from Central Government and the impact it had on the Council's Revenue budget.

Details of the amendments to the revenue budget as a result of the provisional finance settlement were provided at Section 2.

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations as recorded within the report and the Leader seconded them.

**Summary of options rejected**    None

## DECISION

That the Executive:

- (i) noted and had considered the updated budget projections, in respect of the Provisional Finance Settlement which was received on 17 December 2020, noting that the overall financial impact formed part of the Revenue report considered elsewhere on the agenda; and
- (ii) delegated responsibility to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources to respond, if required, to the Local Government Finance Settlement consultation document, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Resources.

## Reasons for Decision

To seek Executive consideration of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2021/22

**EX.06/21      \*\*EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE BUDGET CONSULTATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021/22 BUDGET**  
(Key Decision – KD.25/20)

(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**      Finance, Governance and Resources

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel**      Business and Transformation

## Subject Matter

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder referred to the Executive's Budget Proposals for 2021/22 (13 January 2021), copies of which were circulated at the meeting.

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder acknowledged the exceptionally difficult time for the City, as a result the Executive had kept the Council Tax changes as low as possible whilst maintaining the services the people of Carlisle relied on.

The Executive budget proposals recommended a 50p per month increase for band D properties and, taking into account consultation responses, recommended that £60,000 be spent on environmental clean-up and enforcement to make Carlisle a better place to live.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder endorsed the Deputy Leader's, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder comments and drew attention to the major investment and large projects which were being planned which would help the City recover after the pandemic.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder made assurances that the climate change strategy and action plan, when agreed, would be fully integrated into the work of the Council and grant funding would be sought to move the agenda forward.

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendation that the Executive Budget Proposals for 2021/22 be forwarded to the City Council for approval on 2 February 2021.

In seconding the recommendation the Leader thanked the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources and her team for their diligent work in such difficult circumstances.

**Summary of options rejected** A number of options which had been considered as part of the Council's 2021/22 budget deliberations as identified in various reports

## **DECISION**

That the Executive Budget Proposals for 2021/22, attached as Appendix D, be forwarded to the City Council for approval on 2 February 2021.

## **Reasons for Decision**

To produce the Executive's budget proposals for 2021/22 for recommendation to the City Council.

**EX.07/21 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2021-26**  
(Key Decision – KD.07/20)

**Portfolio** Economy, Enterprise and Housing

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel** Health and Wellbeing

## **Subject Matter**

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder presented the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2026 which had undergone a comprehensive review (GD.02/21). The Homelessness Strategy 2015-20 had shifted the Council's approach from dealing with the effects of homelessness to a preventative approach and the review determined identified strategic aims, priority objectives and actions targeting Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping in Carlisle from 2021 to 2026. The report also contained a refreshed Action Plan.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder thanked the Homelessness Prevention and Accommodation Manager for her work in preparing the Strategy and he moved the recommendation.

In seconding the recommendation the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder highlighted the support the Strategy provided for victims of domestic abuse and their children who were at risk of homelessness. She thanked the Homelessness Prevention and Accommodation Manager and her team for their exceptional work during the pandemic.

**Summary of options rejected**    None

## **DECISION**

That the draft Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021 – 2026 be approved for consultation.

### **Reasons for Decision**

To agree the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2026.

**EX.08/21      ST CUTHBERT'S GARDEN VILLAGE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**  
(Key Decision – KD.28/20)

**Portfolio**      Economy, Enterprise and Housing

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel**      Economic Growth

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder submitted report ED.01/21 which detailed feedback from the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel meeting, held on 26 November 2020, on the St Cuthbert's Garden Village Local Plan preferred option policies which were being publicly consulted on between 10 November 2020 and 22 December 2020.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder reported that, since the publication of the report, a further 60 consultation responses had been submitted and 60 online questionnaires had been completed. He thanked the team for their hard work and for the innovative measures they had introduced to carry out the consultation process.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder concluded by moving the recommendation, which was seconded by the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

**Summary of options rejected**    None

## **DECISION**

That the Executive considered feedback on the preferred options for the St Cuthbert's Local Plan from the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel (26/11/20) and agreed that the feedback would be considered alongside other responses received during consultation when producing the next stage of the St Cuthbert's Local Plan.

### **Reasons for Decision**

Executive's approval to consult on the draft policies and objectives which would form the St Cuthbert's Local Plan was needed as the version of the plan that would go out to consultation would represent the Council's 'preferred option', before the Regulation 19 Publication version of the plan is produced in Spring 2021. It is an obligation of the HIF funding agreement that the St Cuthbert's Local Plan is adopted by July 2022, and it is therefore important that the programme of work leading to adoption remains on track



**EX.09/21      RELEASE OF CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE WORKS  
AT SKEW BRIDGE (DENTON HOLME) CARLISLE**  
(Key Decision – KD.34/20)

**Portfolio**      Environment and Transport

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel**      Economic Growth

**Subject Matter**

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder presented a report seeking approval for the release of the capital allocation for the restoration of the Skew Bridge (Denton Holme). The figure of £70,000 for the project had been included in the 2020/21 capital budget. (CS.03/21)

The proposal was to replace the existing bridge deck with a new, non-slip version that would improve the safety of bridge users, the work would be undertaken in autumn and winter of 2021.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved the recommendation and it was seconded by the Culture, Leisure and Heritage Portfolio Holder.

**Summary of options rejected**      Not to spend the money and close the bridge.

**DECISION**

That the Executive:

- 1) approved the release of £70,000 as allocated in the 2020/21 capital programme for the restoration of the Skew Bridge (Denton Holme);
- 2) awarded the tender to Thomas Armstrong Construction Ltd.

**Reasons for Decision**

The Skew Bridge formed an important link for users of the Caldew riverside cycle and pedestrian route between Carlisle and Dalston. The decking had caused problems in the recent past due to its slippery surface and the failure of anti-slip materials previously tried. The investment would protect users of the riverside path and also protect the City Council from unnecessary insurance payments.

**EX.10/21      LOCAL ENVIRONMENT (CLIMATE CHANGE) STRATEGY**  
(Key Decision – KD.35/20)

**Portfolio**      Environment and Transport

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel**      Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth

**Subject Matter**

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder presented a progress report on the adoption of the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy (PC.01/21). Further consultation on the Strategy had taken place, details of which had been set out in the report, and the Strategy and the draft action plan had been updated. The amended Strategy and draft action plan would be made available to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel and the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel for their consideration.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved the recommendation and the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder seconded it.

**Summary of options rejected** that the draft Strategy should not be referred to Scrutiny

## **DECISION**

That the amended Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy and supporting draft action plan be made available for scrutiny.

## **Reasons for Decision**

That the Council's reputation would be damaged if it does not translate the resolution made in March 2019 into a working strategy and action plan.

### **EX.11/21 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 14 December 2020 was submitted for information. The Leader moved the paper.

**Summary of options rejected** none

## **DECISION**

That, subject to the above, the Notice of Executive Key Decisions dated 14 December 2020 be received.

**Reasons for Decision** Not applicable

### **EX.12/21 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 the paper.

**Summary of options rejected** none

## DECISION

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

**Reasons for Decision** Not applicable

**EX.13/21**      **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 14 December 2020 were submitted for information.

The Leader moved the paper.

**Summary of options rejected**      none

## DECISION

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 14 December 2020, attached as Appendix E, be received.

**Reasons for Decision** Not applicable

**EX.14/21**      **\*\*GREEN HOMES GRANT LOCAL AUTHORITY DELIVERY PHASE 1b**  
(Key Decision – KD.37/20)

(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)

*Having declared pecuniary interests Councillor Mallinson J and Councillor Mrs Mallinson left the meeting and took no part in the item.*

*Councillor Ellis thereupon took the Chair.*

**Portfolio**      Economy, Enterprise and Housing

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel**      Economic Growth

### Subject Matter

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder submitted details of the City Council's application to the Green Homes Grant local authority delivery (LAD phase 1 b) (GD.01/21). The City Council has applied for £1,150,000 Green Homes Grant funding to address fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency and carbon savings in at least 100 private sector properties.

If accepted Carlisle City Council will use the GHG in 100 private sector properties to improve fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency and carbon savings. The project would be delivered by the Homelife HIA, with assistance from the Housing and Pollution team, under a Memorandum of Understanding with Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder thanked the regulatory Manager for the work undertaken to prepare the submission and moved the recommendation, the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder seconded the recommendation.

**Summary of options rejected** Not to accept the award if the bid was successful.

## **DECISION**

That the Executive:

1) Accept the award from Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for the Green Homes Grant local authority delivery (LAD phase 1b) if the bid is successful;

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 Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

## **Reasons for Decision**

Carlisle had over 2,250 owner-occupied and over 700 privately rented properties which had 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 100 of those properties saving the occupiers money and reducing the properties carbon footprints.

[The meeting ended at 4.48pm]