

## **COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE**

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Carlisle held on Tuesday, 8 February 2022 at 9.30 am at Conference Room A/B, Cumbria House, Botchergate, Carlisle, CA1 1RD

### **PRESENT:**

Mr C Weber (Chair)

Mr J Bell  
Mr RW Betton  
Mrs C Bowditch  
Mr R Dobson

Ms D Earl  
Mr GM Ellis  
Mr NH Marriner  
Mr R Watson

### **Also in Attendance:-**

Mr M Barry	-	Senior Manager Economy and Place
Ms J Coleman	-	Public Health Locality Manager (Carlisle)
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mrs V Kelsall	-	Capital Portfolio Manager - Capital Programme
Mr P Musgrave	-	Area Manager - Carlisle

### **PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Members observed a minute's silence in respect of the late Val Tarbitt.

#### **59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Dr S Haraldsen, Mrs EA Mallinson, Mr J Mallinson, Mr A McGuckin, Mr M Mitchelson and Mr SF Young.

#### **60 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest on this occasion.

#### **61 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting for any items of business on this occasion.

## **62 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no public questions, statements or petitions to be considered at this meeting.

## **63 CARLISLE TOWN DEAL BUSINESS CASES**

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the Carlisle Town Deal Business Cases.

The Committee was informed that as part of the Carlisle Town Deal Cumbria County Council had been developing business cases for two projects:

- Southern Gateway enhancements around English Street and Botchergate
- Digital Learning and Community Hub in Carlisle Library.

Members noted there was a requirement for those schemes to be submitted to Carlisle City Council, as accountable body, for appraisal and assurance assessment in advance of submission to Government in March 2022. Officers explained that business cases for those two schemes had now been prepared and Local Committee endorsement was sought for their submission to Carlisle City Council.

The Committee discussed the Southern Gateway business case. The local Member for Corby and Hayton, whilst welcoming the initiative and acknowledging the investment in the project, felt there was also a need to look at the current disrepair of the pavements in the areas of concern.

The local Member for Corby and Hayton made reference to the improving interconnections and asked whether public transport had been taken into consideration. Officers explained there was close liaison taking place with Stagecoach who supported the proposed changes.

A discussion took place regarding Value for Money and the preferred option for the project to deliver a Benefits to Cost Ratio of 2.2 which according to HM Treasury Guidance was considered to be 'high' value for money. The local Member for Corby and Hayton whilst welcoming this asked how reliable this was. Officers confirmed this was proven and the recognised method used by the Department for Transport (DfT).

The local Member for Wetheral drew attention to the high contingency fund rate of 35% and asked if this could be used for other schemes. It was explained that DfT methodology had been followed; this figure reflected the current stage of design work acknowledging this would gradually reduce as the project designs developed whilst confirming that any underspends could be used to finance other improvements.

The local Member for Botcherby raised his concerns regarding the existing issues caused by takeaway delivery drivers in the area and asked if this had been taken into consideration. Concerns were also raised regarding the proposed reduction in the width of footways and loading bays which it was felt could have a negative impact on local businesses. Officers confirmed those concerns had been acknowledged and would be accommodated in the design; whilst highlighting this was also an enforcement issue to be addressed by colleagues.

During the course of discussion the local Member for Botcherby raised his concerns regarding current congestion and asked if consideration had been taken to accommodate for the full flow of traffic through the City. Officers confirmed that all junctions had been modelled to allow for improvements.

The local Member for Belah sought confirmation that Botchergate would maintain two-way traffic throughout. Officers confirmed this whilst explain that the current width of the carriageway would be maintained.

The local Member for Belle Vue felt that the provision of cycling should also be discussed with other agencies. During the course of discussion a preference for Scott's Monument to remain in its current position was also highlighted.

A discussion took place regarding the Digital and Community Learning Hub which would be located in The Lanes Shopping Centre, in the heart of Carlisle's retail and leisure economy. Members were informed that the project site, currently occupied by Carlisle Library, would be redesigned and offer a new multifunctional space including a blend of opportunities for learning, skills, digital connectivity, library and would be community focused with access to people with disabilities.

**RESOLVED**, that the submission of business cases for Carlisle Southern Gateway and Digital and Community Learning Hub to Carlisle City Council, to be considered by Carlisle Town Deal Board for submission by Carlisle City Council to Government be supported.

## **64 AREA PLANNING REPORT**

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which provided members with recommendations and matters to note relating to budget commitments and works from the devolved Environment Fund for Carlisle Local Committee.

Members noted that Carlisle Local Committee had received £200k of Environment Funding from the Council budget 2021/22 which required approval of Local Committee. It was explained that this approval was granted in March 2021 through a Leader's Decision Record as local committee meetings were not permitted during that time due to national Covid restrictions.

The Local Committee was informed that subsequently as programmes had developed and costings had fluctuated considerably, there was now some surplus funding to reallocate and small changes to the Programme were needed to ensure funds were committed and work was undertaken in a timely manner.

During the course of discussion it was confirmed that the 'Improved RoW Signage' would cover the whole district and the 'Lighting Enhancements' scheme referred to Eden Bridges.

**RESOLVED**, that the amended Carlisle Environment Fund Programme (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report) be agreed.

## **65 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED**, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 10.00 am in Cumbria House, Botchergate, Carlisle.

The meeting ended at 10.10 am