

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
- ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2005

Present: Councillors P Connolly (Chair); Mrs M Docherty; A Johnston;
J Prince; A Wonnacott

Apologies were received from Cllrs K Hitchen; D Banks; D Moore
and from M Tichford, Head of Regeneration

Also present:

Mrs Rosie Mathisen, Nuclear Opportunities Group Manager

Officers: F McMorrow, Corporate Director; T Pomfret, Head of
Development Control; Ms J Murray, Scrutiny Support Officer

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2005 were agreed and
signed by the Chair as a correct record.

OSC-EW89 Arrangement of the Agenda

It was agreed that Item 9 would be taken first and the rest of the agenda
would follow in order.

OSC-EW90 Section 106 Agreements

The Committee discussed the reports from the Development Control
Department, from the Lake District National Park Authority and from
Cumbria County Council with respect to Section 106 agreements, and the
recently published guidance.

The Committee highlighted parking as an area of concern, particularly with
respect to new developments and sought assurance that such issues are
and will continue to be considered.

RESOLVED: that the reports be noted.

that provision is made, if necessary, in the
local plan to accommodate any change in
regulations to facilitate sections 46 and 47 of
the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act
2004.

OSC-EW91 Nuclear Opportunities Group

Rosie Mathisen brought the Committee's attention to two strategies for which a cohesive response would be required:

- The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's draft strategy
- The North West Development Agency's Regional Economic Strategy

On the first, while it was understood that the strategy had been speedily introduced, it was felt that there was a lack of detail to Section 8 (socio-economic development and stakeholder relations).

In particular, it was not clear where responsibilities for some aspects of socio-economic development would lie and there was no clear or hard link to the procurement strategy (and the local supply chain).

Local stakeholders had worked closely together to respond to the Regional Economic Strategy, voicing concerns that there was little mention of Cumbria and even less of West Cumbria in the strategy.

RESOLVED: That the briefing be noted.

OSC-EW92 Government Strategic Forum

Fergus McMorrow reported that the Rt Hon Alan Johnson, Secretary of State at the DTI, had Chaired the meeting of the Forum and that Yvette Cooper, ODPM Minister for Housing and Planning and Dr Stephen Ladyman, Minister of State for Transport had also participated in the meeting.

There had been positive feedback from the hosts on the apparent partnership-approach. A presentation had been given (attached as an appendix to these minutes) and it had been agreed that the partnership return to the table in six months time with an action plan based on the presentation. The process, it appeared, is that an action plan would contribute to a bid for funding through the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

Members questioned whether the aspirations in the presentation were realistic. The Action plan would be a costed programme over 5 years, the process itself introducing a note of realism. The Department of Transport agreed to provide assistance in looking at infrastructure issues.

Members also suggested that given 2/3rds of Copeland sits in the Lake District National Park, that there should be some representation from that authority on the partnership.

Members' attention was also drawn to the a recently published proposal for the University of Cumbria (also attached)

RESOLVED: That the briefing noted.

OSC-EW93 Forward Plan

The Forward Plan of key decisions to be taken by the Executive was received and noted.

OSC-EW94 Work Plan

The work plan of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees was noted and the suggestion made that briefings envisaged with Chris Collier, Chief Executive, Cumbria Vision, and Jean Llewellyn, Head of Skills Policy Development at the NWDA be held on the same day.

OSC-EW95 Minutes from the West Cumbria Partnership

The minutes were received and noted.

Chair:.....

Date:.....