

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2007**

Present: Councillors Anne Bradshaw, Chair; N Clarkson; Mrs M Docherty; D Moore; C Whiteside; H Wormstrup.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Banks and E Brenan.

Also in attendance: Councillor Mrs Y R T Clarkson.

Officers: N White, Scrutiny Support Officer.

Minute 01/07 only: L Murphy, Chief Executive; F Mc Morrow, Corporate Director, Economic Prosperity and Sustainability; M Tichford, Head of Regeneration.

**EDE 01/07 West Cumbria Strategic Master Plan**

(Note: Councillor H Wormstrup declared his personal interest in this matter as the Council's representative on the Coalfields outside body and remained in the meeting, and

Councillor N Clarkson declared his personal interest in this matter as a member of his family worked for British Nuclear Group and remained in the meeting.)

The Committee received a presentation from the Chief Executive on the West Cumbria Strategic Master Plan.

The Chief Executive advised that a presentation on the Master Plan had been recently given to the Prime Minister and final approval for the plan would be considered at the West Cumbria Strategic Forum at the end of June. It was anticipated that once final approval had been given there would be an allocation of government resources for the proposals in the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn.

The Committee requested the Chief Executive to report to its next meeting on the outcome of these government decisions.

The Committee noted that the planning policies followed by the Council would need to be altered to enable the proposals in the Master Plan to be fully and successfully carried out. The Committee agreed that a report should be submitted to a future meeting of the Planning Panel detailing

the possible changes and how they would be developed through the lifetime of the master plan.

The Committee further noted that there would need to be a period of public consultation on the proposals once Government approval had been given for the plan and funding allocated. This consultation would be best undertaken by the Council and the Committee requested that they be kept informed on the key meetings and decisions taken on the master plan.

The Committee considered that the success of the master plan would require the close cooperation of key partners some of which were not subject to public scrutiny. The Committee agreed that it would be appropriate to question these partners as the master plan was being progressed.

**RESOLVED** – that (A) the Chief Executive be requested to report to the next meeting of the Committee on the outcome of the government decisions on the funding of the master plan,

(B) a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Planning Panel on how the proposals within the master plan would be achieved through the planning process,

(C) the Committee be kept informed on the key meetings and decisions taken on the master plan, and

(D) the key partners detailed within the master plan be called by the committee, as appropriate, on their work on the master plan proposals.

## **EDE 02/07**    **Work Plan**

The Committee considered its current work plan.

The Committee noted that the item on community engagement – medium/long term nuclear storage was due to be reported to the committee later on in the year and agreed that an interim report be submitted to its next meeting including a timetable for the proposals.

The Committee considered that as the report to the Executive was due on the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Schemes a progress report on this matter should be submitted to its next meeting.

The Committee further considered that following the submission of a response on the plan for the Whitehaven Regeneration Programme an update report on the current position should be submitted to its next meeting.

The Committee noted that in respect of the Joint Review being proposed by Cumbria County Council on car parking throughout Cumbria a representative from the Council needed to be appointed. The Committee agreed that this should be Councillor H Wormstrup.

The Chair advised that following the report to the Executive meeting on 24 April 2007 on the part restructuring in the Regeneration department there may scope for a task and finish group on how the Council could achieve its objectives for regeneration within the corporate plan. A report, if appropriate, would be submitted to the next meeting.

The Committee considered the question of appeals taken against the Council's planning decisions. It agreed to set up a task and finish group to look at how this issue was being dealt with by the council. The group should consist of 5 members with the membership being made up of Councillors D Moore, Anne Bradshaw and N Clarkson with an invitation to join the group being made to Cllr D Banks and another councillor from the other overview and scrutiny committees.

The Committee further considered that following this review it would be useful to undertake a review of the enforcement of conditions attached to planning decisions.

The Committee also considered the question of the links provided to small business and agreed that Rosie Mathisen from the Business Cluster Group be invited to update the committee on the latest information given to small business in the borough.

**RESOLVED** – that the Committee's work plan be amended so that:

(A) a report is submitted to its next meeting on community engagement – medium/long term nuclear storage including a timetable for the proposals,

(B) a report is submitted to its next meeting on the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Schemes,

(C) a report is submitted to its next meeting on the current position of the Whitehaven Regeneration Programme,

(D) Councillor H Wormstrup be the Council's representative on the Joint Task and Finish Group to consider a review of parking policies for Cumbria,

(E) a task and finish group be established to look at how appeals against planning decisions are dealt with by the council, with the membership

being made up of Councillors D Moore, Anne Bradshaw and N Clarkson with an invitation to join the group being made to Cllr D Banks and another councillor from the other overview and scrutiny committees,

(F) a task and finish group be established at a later date to look at the enforcement of planning conditions, and

(G) Rosie Mathisen from the Business Cluster Group is invited to update the committee on the advice that is given to small businesses in the borough.

**EDE 03/07    Training**

The Committee considered that due to the length of the meeting that the training on the role and function of the Committee be deferred to its next meeting.

**RESOLVED** – that the training on the role and function of the Committee be deferred to its next meeting.

The Meeting Closed at 12:25pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....