

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2009 AT 2:00PM

Present: Councillors J Kane (Chairman); D Banks; E Brennan; N Clarkson;
A Jacob; D Moore; W Southward and C Whiteside (for Item 8 only).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Mossop and
H Wormstrup.

Officers: A Johnson, Interim Scrutiny Consultant; J Betteridge, Head of
Development Strategy; C Pickles, Community Renewal Team Leader;
R Gurney, Economic Development Manager and C Willoughby, Member
Services Technical Support Officer.

Also present: Mr B Watkinson, Energy Coast Master Plan; Mr J Pearson,
Ms L Hillier and Mr J Smith, Cumbria County Council.

EDE 22/09 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 August 2009

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2009 be
signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

EDE 23/09 Declarations of Interest

Councillor N Clarkson declared a personal interest in agenda item 7
(Highway Infrastructure – Whitehaven Town Centre Scheme) due to his
Wife's business interests.

Councillor W Southward declared a personal interest in agenda item 6
(Work Plan) due to being Chair of Planning Panel

EDE 24/09 Work Plan

Consideration was given to the Work Plan for 2009/10.

During discussion of this item Members were advised that a visit to the
Energus site at Lillyhall would be arranged before the next meeting.

With regard to Business Community Engagement, two Members from
Millom were added to the Task & Finish Group, these were Councillors
D Wilson and J Park.

It was noted that the report on the maintenance and condition of public
realm in Copeland be moved from 18 February 2010 meeting to
15 April 2010.

Councillor N Clarkson requested a review of the procedure for Members speaking at Planning Panel. It was suggested that the Head of Development Operations be contacted regarding this.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the Work Plan be noted and updated, and
- b) the Head of Development Operations be contacted regarding the procedure for Members speaking at Planning Panel.

EDE 25/09 **Whitehaven Town Centre Update**

Members were updated on Whitehaven town centre by the Head of Development Strategy. Members were advised that council officers were trying to engage with the administrators regarding the empty Woolworth site.

Work was ongoing with owners of derelict properties with a view to taking legal action and some of the windows in other empty properties were being used for display purposes.

RESOLVED – that the update be received

EDE 26/09 **Highway Infrastructure – Whitehaven Town Centre Scheme**

Mr J Pearson, Ms L Hillier and Mr J Smith from Cumbria County Council, presented to the Committee on the consultations for the Highway infrastructure in Whitehaven town centre. This included the local transport objectives and improvements to the public realm.

It was requested that copies of a leaflet produced for the consultation by Cumbria County Council be obtained and circulated to Members.

Key outcomes from the consultation were – the retention of the existing one-way system; junction improvements around the edge of the town centre; no additional regulation of traffic on Tangier Street and Strand Street; a lower speed limit, removal of on-street parking and more pedestrian areas on Lowther Street.

A focus group including the town's retailers was to be established.

During the discussion which followed, Members highlighted the need for adequate car parking in the town centre.

Concerns over access for the disabled, drop off/pick up points for shoppers and the removal of on-street bus parking were also raised.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the presentation be received, and
- b) copies of a leaflet produced for the consultation by Cumbria County Council be obtained from Mr J Marriott at Cumbria County Council and circulated to Members.

EDE 27/09 The Energy Coast Master Plan

Mr B Watkinson, Energy Coast Master Plan, presented to Members on the UK's Energy Challenge and particularly the opportunities for West Cumbria.

With regard to Nuclear New Build, consultation was taking place now, then from mid 2010 to 2013 would be the Planning and Licensing phase (Infrastructure Planning Commission). The construction phase would be from early 2013 to the end of 2017, with any new site being operational in early 2018.

Members were advised that two types of reactors were available from Areva or Westinghouse.

The Committee was also advised that the National Grid was already contracted to provide new Nuclear connections.

Members requested copies of the slides and thanked Mr Watkinson for his presentation.

It was also suggested that the presentation be given to Full Council.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the presentation on the Energy Coast Master Plan be received,
- b) copies of the slides be obtained and circulated to Members,
- c) consideration be given to the presentation being made available to all Members.

The Meeting closed at 4:20pm

Chairman:.....

Date:.....