

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2012 AT 10:00AM

Present: Councillors John Kane (Chairman); Eileen Eastwood (Deputy Chair); David Banks; Jackie Bowman; Lena Hogg; Robert Salkeld; William Southward and Henry Wormstrup.

Officers: Jessica Hall, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer; Joanne Wagstaffe, Director for Resources and Transformation; Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer, Keith Parker, Head of Neighbourhoods (for item 7 only) and Janice Carroll, Waste Services Manager (for item 7 only).

Also present: Councillors Gillian Troughton.

OSC Ext 22/11 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2011 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC Ext 23/11 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Wormstrup declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 due to being the holder of a Resident's Parking Permit.

OSC Ext 24/11 Arrangement of Agenda

With the permission of the Chair, it was agreed that Item 7 (Cumbria County Council Public Consultation on proposals for changes to Cumbria's household waste recycling centre) be taken before Item 6 (Cumbria County Council Public Consultation on draft council budget).

OSC Ext 25/11 Cumbria County Council Public Consultation on proposals for changes to Cumbria's household waste recycling centres

Committee considered Cumbria County Council's Public Consultation document on proposals for changes to Cumbria's household waste recycling centres. The proposals were to:-

- Close 6 of the county's least used Household Waste Recycling Centres in 2012
- Move to seasonal opening times
- Close sites on the least used days (Thursday and Friday)
- Introduce a mobile household waste recycling service to offset the closures
- Introduce charges for disposal of soil, rubble, asbestos, plasterboard and car tyres

A briefing document was circulated and during the discussion that followed, Members expressed their concern that both of the current Household Waste Recycling Centres in the Borough were earmarked for closure, leaving Copeland with no facility.

The closure of the Frizington facility and a replacement at Lillyhall could be understood, but the closure of the site at Millom would leave the south of Copeland with no facility and a journey on unsuitable roads for residents of Millom and surrounding areas to Barrow or Ulverston.

Members were concerned that the proposed changes would lead to an increase in fly-tipping, with the resultant eyesores and associated health issues.

It was noted that over the last few years, residents had been educated to increase the amount of waste they recycle and demand for recycling facilities had grown. It was suggested that there should be more sites, not less.

With regard a mobile household waste recycling service to offset the closures, a recent one-off event at Cleator Moor demonstrated that this idea was misguided.

Keith Parker, Head of Neighbourhoods and Janice Carroll, Waste Services Manager were thanked for attending the meeting and providing additional background knowledge.

The Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer was requested to co-ordinate the comments made by Members, draft a response to Cumbria County Council and circulate it to the Committee for approval before submitting.

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer be requested to co-ordinate the comments made by Members, draft a response to Cumbria County Council and circulate it to the Committee for approval before submitting.

OSC Ext 26/11 **Cumbria County Council Public Consultation on draft council budget**

Committee considered Cumbria County Council's Public Consultation document on draft Council budget.

A briefing document was circulated and during the discussion that followed, Members expressed concern that the savings put forward had not been fully thought out.

Particular concern was expressed regarding the savings highlighted in Social Care where charges are increasing, yet homes are closing.

It was requested that a breakdown be obtained to show :-

- the cost of each Care Home.
- The care providers and what they deliver
- The geographical area between the patients carers visit

Members also require confirmation that the proposal had been Rural Proofed.

With regard the proposed charging for Resident's Parking Permits, Members considered this was not a 'saving' but additional revenue.

The Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer was requested to co-ordinate the comments made by Members, draft a response to Cumbria County Council and circulate it to the Committee for approval before submitting.

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer be requested to co-ordinate the comments made by Members, draft a response to Cumbria County Council and circulate it to the Committee for approval before submitting.

OSC Ext 27/10 Work Programme

Members were updated following a very worthwhile meeting that took place yesterday with the County Council in Carlisle regarding the proposed closure of the Woodland Care Home.

A response is now awaited to the questions that had been raised .

The final Task and Finish Group report would then be prepared and sent to Cumbria County Council.

The Fire Brigade Task and Finish Group was set up in September 2011 and is in the middle of looking at the impacts.

The Fire Brigade Union had been interviewed and a meeting with the Cumbria County Council Portfolio Holder had been requested, after which this Committee would be updated.

The A595 Task and Finish Group and Alcohol Task and Finish Group have yet to be established.

Members were advised that an updated Work Plan would be prepared and circulated to the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the Work Plan be updated and circulated.

The meeting closed at 11:35 am

Chairman.....

Date.....