

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting: Wednesday, 14th September, 2022
at 2.00 pm. (Committee Room No. 4)

Present: Councillors Brook (Chairman), Barlow, Biggins, McEwan, Maddox, Morgan, Pemberton, Shirley and Wall.

Officers Present: Steph Cordon (Director of People and Place), Sue Roberts (Director of Resources), Debbie Storr (Head of Legal and Governance), Alison Coward (Senior Environmental Protection Officer) (Minutes Nos. 42 - 47 only) and Jon Huck (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager).

42 Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Hamilton, McClure and Roberts.

Councillors McEwan substituted for Councillor Hamilton for this meeting only.

43 The Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Access to Information (Variation) Order 2006

Discussion arising hereon it was:-

RESOLVED:- That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for parts of the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 (Minute Nos. 50 and 51) of Part One of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

44 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record subjected to it being noted that Councillor Pemberton was present at that meeting.

45 Public Participation

RESOLVED:- To note that no questions, representations, deputations or petitions had been received in respect of the meeting.

46 Presentation by Cumbria Wildlife Trust

A presentation was given by Yolanda Aze from Cumbria Wildlife Trust regarding the Bay "A blueprint for recovery".

47 2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report and Air Quality Grant

The Senior Environmental Protection Officer reported that the statutory Air Quality Annual Status Report (Appendix 1) had been submitted to and appraised by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

That had contained the monitoring data from 2021 and a summary of the actions taken in that year to improve local air quality.

The Status Report had showed that Covid-19 was still the significant factor affecting the results from 2021, with lockdowns and a move towards home working saw less cars on the road for both business and leisure purposes. That meant nitrogen dioxide levels had appeared to be much lower in 2021 than 2019, although levels had increased from 2020.

An application had been submitted to DEFRA for an Air Quality grant, for the purpose of applying for monies towards particulate matter (PM2.5) monitoring and a communications campaign aimed at raising awareness about air pollution.

It was moved by Councillor McEwan and seconded by Councillor Barlow, and

RESOLVED:-

1. To note the statutory annual status report;
2. To agree to support the submission of an application to DEFRA for an Air Quality grant as detailed within the report; and
3. To agree that delegated authority be given to the Director of People and Place in consultation with the Chair of Executive Committee and the Director of Resources to enter into a funding agreement, if successful.

48 ECO4 LA Flex Statement of Intent

The Director of People and Place reported that the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme had been in operation since 2013. ECO had placed an obligation on energy suppliers over a certain size to install insulation and heating measures to alleviate fuel poverty.

ECO was overseen by the energy regulator, Ofgem, on behalf of the relevant government department, currently BEIS. The scheme rules had changed from time to time, and with effect from 1 July 2022, the fourth phase of ECO (ECO4) had commenced.

ECO was split into two parts. Customers could qualify for the main ECO scheme if they lived in energy inefficient housing and were in receipt of certain means tested benefits. Since 2017, suppliers could meet a proportion of their obligations (50% for ECO4), by installing measures for households that meet broader fuel poverty and vulnerability criteria set out in a Local Authority Statement of Intent (Sol). That was known as Local Authority Flexible Eligibility (LA Flex).

The Council had adopted a Sol for the previous iteration of ECO (ECO3). In 2021/22 the Council had issued almost 140 declarations to allow households to have measures installed. These were mainly new heating systems and the installation of insulation.

New guidance on the requirements of the Sol for ECO4 had been issued, and it was proposed that it be adopted.

It was moved by Councillor McEwan and seconded by Councillor Barlow, and

RESOLVED:- To approve the ECO4 LA Flex Statement of Intent attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

49 2021-2022 Outturn

The Director of Resources reported on the Corporate Aims, Impacts of COVID-19, Service Performance, Financial Headlines, Net Assets of the Authority, General Fund Outturn, Housing Revenue Account Outturn, Revenue Reserves and Balances, Medium Term Financial Plan, Capital Expenditure and Financing, Treasury Management, Collection Fund, Financial Resilience, Material Events after the Accounting Date, Level of Reserves and Balances and Write Offs.

It was moved by Councillor McEwan and seconded by Councillor Barlow, and

RESOLVED:-

1. To note the financial outturn for 2021-2022;
2. To approve the movements in reserves;
3. To receive the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement; and
4. To note the amounts written off after recovery action had taken place.

50 Brownfield Land Release Fund - Design Works

The Director of People and Place reported that the Council had secured £1.5m from Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF) to deliver a junction improvement at Salthouse Road/Cavendish Dock Road.

Following a competitive procurement and appraisal process, it was recommended that the successful tenderer identified in the Part Two appendix be awarded the design contract. Details of the tender opportunity and the appraisal process were set out in the paper.

It was moved by Councillor Barlow and seconded by Councillor Maddox, and

RESOLVED:- To award the design tender for Salthouse Road/Cavendish Dock Road junction to Capita Property and Infrastructure.

51 Piel Island New Facilities Block

The Director of People and Place reported that the Council had secured £2m from ERDF and Cumbria LEP to deliver a programme of carbon reduction projects. One of these was "Zero Carbon Piel", which included within it the re-provision of toilet and shower facilities on the island.

Following a competitive procurement and appraisal process, it was recommended that the successful tenderer identified in the Part Two appendix be awarded the design and build contract. Details of the tender opportunity and the appraisal process were set out in the paper.

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It was moved by Councillor McEwan and seconded by Councillor Barlow, and

RESOLVED:- To award the design and build tender for the Piel Island facilities block to Architecture Unknown Ltd.

The meeting closed at 3.11 pm.