

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting: Wednesday 15th September, 2021
at 2.00 pm. (Banqueting Hall)

PRESENT:- Councillors Brook (Chairman), Roberts (Vice-Chairman), Biggins, H. Edwards, Hamilton, McClure, McEwan, Maddox, Morgan, Pemberton, Roberts and Ronson.

Officers Present:- Sam Plum (Chief Executive), Susan Roberts (Director of Resources), Steph Cordon (Director of People and Place), Debbie Storr (Head of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer), Jan Sharp (Assistant Director People and Communities), Caroline Wagstaff (Operations Manager - Housing), Alec Proffitt (Policy and Development Officer) (Minute Nos. 46-52 only) and Jon Huck (Democratic Services Manager).

Also Present: - Hani Cox (Partnership Development Officer - Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership) (Minute Nos. 46-50 only).

46 – Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Barlow and Blezard.

Councillor McEwan had substituted for Councillor Blezard for this meeting only.

47 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July, 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

48 – Public Participation

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

49 – Presentation by Barra Culture

RESOLVED:- To note that the presentation by Barra Culture had been deferred to the next meeting.

50 – Interim Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2022-26

The Committee considered a detailed report of The Director of People and Place regarding the Interim Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2022-26.

The report provided an update to Members on the draft Interim Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) 2022-26.

Hani Cox (Partnership Development Officer) Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) reported that the partnership was between seven local authorities (six district councils as Waste Collection Authorities and Cumbria County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority). It also consisted of an Officers Group and a Members Board, which included the waste Portfolio Holders from across the seven local authorities.

A core responsibility and purpose of CSWP was to design, develop and implement a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. Under the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003, there was a duty for authorities in two-tier areas to have a shared waste strategy. That allowed the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) and the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) to work together in deciding in how they would manage municipal waste in the county.

The duty would be in place until the point at which the two unitary authorities were established in Cumbria, thereby replacing the two-tier structure. However, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) expected all local authorities – including unitaries – to work together collaboratively and reflect in waste management plans how it would improve efficiency of waste services and meet performance benchmarks.

That would be particularly important alongside the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Deposit Return Scheme and Consistent Collections. The national policy changes had been a key driver for the interim JMWMS, as they would collectively form the most significant changes to the resources and waste sector in over thirty years, including funding streams, quantum and type of waste and recycling streams and therefore demand considerable adaptations in service provision and resourcing from a local authority collection and disposal perspective. That required detailed coordinated planning to ensure a smooth transition and legislative compliance when statutory duties had been confirmed.

The CSWP Partnership Development Officer was currently consulting on the draft Interim JMWMS with the decision-making bodies in each of the CSWP constituent authorities. Given the shifting landscape, based on comments received and the decision on Local Government Reorganisation, CSWP would decide on next steps including the sign-off process and appropriately incorporate Local Government Reorganisation governance structures and timescales.

Due to the period of change caused by the Resources and Waste Strategy and Local Government Reorganisation, it had been agreed that an interim strategy be developed which would be effective between 2022-26. Four years was considered to be provide the necessary length of time to support transition and implementation, whilst also ensuring that towards the end of the lifetime of the strategy a more detailed and thorough strategy be developed.

The strategy would also support the longer-term shift towards prioritising resource efficiency and the circular economy, implement the waste hierarchy and reduce carbon emissions.

The strategy included the following documents:-

Core strategy document; Baseline Data; Sustainability Appraisal and Equality Impact Assessment.

The Interim JMWMS also included an overarching vision which was a strategic statement on CSWP's ambitions and priorities.

The Interim JMWMS strategic objectives set out how CSWP intended to implement its overarching vision during the duration of the strategy. These were evidence-based, supported by the Baseline Data. In total, there were 21 objectives (separated into five themes) which were summarised below:-

- **Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency** – To contribute towards 55% recycling rate by 2025; reduce overall amount of local authority collected waste sent to landfill; and implement a reduction in carbon emissions through the Waste Carbon Reduction Group.
- **Implement Regulatory Changes and Service Development** – To plan for and support the transition of waste collection and disposal services to meet the duties under the Resources and Waste Strategy, including rolling out separate food waste collections; and exploring joint working opportunities.
- **Local Government Reorganisation** – Engage fully in discussions to support or support specific workstreams where relevant; support discussions on the future role and membership of CSWP to reflect the two unitary authorities.
- **Engagement and Collaboration** – To implement joint communications campaign; assess funding opportunities; and engage closely with national government.
- **Future Ambitions** – Sets out longer-term objectives beyond the course of the strategy to aim towards when refreshing, including achieving the 2037 Net Zero target date as a sector; and planning for adequate future waste management infrastructure.

RESOLVED: - To approve the draft Interim Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2022-26.

51 – Low Carbon Barrow Procurement

The Property Services Group Manager's report provided an update on the procurement of electric vehicle (EV) charge points and solar photovoltaic (PV) panels for the Council's housing stock.

The Low Carbon Barrow programme had been previously approved by Members (Executive Committee Minute No. 54 23/10/19 and Council Minute No. 56 12/11/19 refers).

Two of the projects within the programme were the installation of EV charge points in car parks and other council-owned locations throughout the Borough, and the installation of solar PV onto Council housing stock on the Roosegate and Yew Tree estates. Both of these projects utilised capital funding provided by Cumbria Local

Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) that had to be spent by the end of the current financial year.

The procurement of EV charge points had been advertised on the Council's procurement portal (The Chest) on 12/08/21, with tenders to be returned on 15/09/21.

The procurement of solar PV had been done via Procure Plus, the Council's partners for major housing related procurements. That opportunity had been advertised on 09/08/21, with tenders to be returned on 06/09/21. Procure Plus would carry out an assessment process and produce a tender report by 20/09/21.

Because of the time critical nature of both projects to ensure defrayal of CLEP funding by the due date, it was requested that the appointment of contractors be delegated to the Director of People and Place in consultation with the Chair of Executive Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Morgan and seconded by Councillor Roberts, and

RESOLVED:- To delegate the appointment of contractors for the installation of EV charge points and of solar PV to the Director of People and Place in consultation with the Chair of the Executive Committee.

52 – Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership

The Policy and Development Officer's report detailed how proposed changes to the health system, through the dissolution of the Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and creation of an Integrated Care Partnership, with a new Population Health Operating Model which would be key in helping the Council deliver the Council Plan 2020-24 and challenge health inequalities in the Borough, that had been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To note the proposed dissolution of the Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the development of an integrated Care System (ICS) using an Integrated Health Partnership (ICP) whose work would be underpinned by the values and ethos of the Population Health Operating Model;
2. To agree that the Council participate, and help enable the community and voluntary sector (which were vital to health and care services across the Borough) participate, in the development of the ICP, ensuring local integration and resident need were at the heart of the new system; and
3. To receive a further on progress in six months time once the legislative and practical timescales became clear.

53 – Afghan Relocation Scheme

The Committee considered a report of The Operations Manager - Housing on the Afghan Relocation Scheme. The report updated Members on discussions with Cumbria County Council colleagues concerning the relocation of Afghan MOD (Ministry of Defence) Translators, Locally Employed Staff (LES) – who had worked for the UK and risked their lives alongside British forces in Afghanistan over the past 20 years and were now urgently needing to relocate to the UK with their families.

The MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government), MOD and the Home Office had collectively written to all local authorities seeking assistance with this programme; in particular, to agree the Council's housing stock be made available for rehousing.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To note the information contained in the report;
2. To agree that the Assistant Director of People and Communities contribute to County-wide discussions to assist in the re-settlement process and consider options for the provision of accommodation in the Borough; and
3. To agree that the Assistant Director of People and Communities be authorised to make accommodation available from the Council's housing stock to assist in the resettlement and suspend the normal requirements of the Cumbria Choice Based Lettings Scheme in such circumstances.

54 – Customer Services Strategy – Action Plan

The Committee considered a report of The Operations Manager - Housing regarding the Customer Services Strategy – Action Plan.

The Customer Services Strategy for the Council had been agreed by Executive Committee in July 2021 where it had been agreed that a high-level Action Plan which set out how the outcomes of the strategy would be delivered and brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

Consultation with customers and staff had informed the approach within the Action Plan along with the outcomes of Local Government Reorganisation.

The three key themes of the Action Plan were:-

- Digital - Operations and Performance: Providing the most appropriate systems improvements and measurable service standards that were cost effective and fit for purpose.
- People: Develop further new ways of working to improve customer contact and experience.

- Place: Develop new mobile ways of working and explore existing assets to support improvements.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To agree the high-level Action Plan as set out in the appendix attached to the report and that each area of the Action Plan would have its own Project Delivery Group and Plan with timelines for implementation; and
2. To note that actions requiring additional budgetary provision would be brought back to a future Executive Committee for approval.

55 – 2020-2021 Outturn

The Director of Resources presented a detailed summary of the 2020-2021 outturn.

The draft unaudited Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement had been published on the Council's website on 30 July 2021 in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

It was expected that the annual audit would commence in September 2021 and that Grant Thornton would report their findings to the Audit and Governance Committee scheduled for November 2021.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To note the financial outturn for 2020-2021 including the movements in reserves;
2. To receive the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement; and
3. To note the amounts written off after recovery action had taken place.

56 – Council Finances Quarter 1 2021-2022

The Committee considered a detailed report of the Director of Resources that set out a summary of the General Fund financial monitoring as at 30th June, 2021.

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

A named vote was taken and recorded as follows:-

Those in favour; 7 namely: Councillors Biggins, Brook, Hamilton, McEwan, Maddox, Morgan and Roberts.

Those against; 4 namely: Councillors H Edwards, McClure, Pemberton and Ronson.

RESOLVED:-

1. To note the General Fund financial monitoring as at 30th June, 2021;
2. To approve the re-profiling of the Housing Market Renewal element of the Capital Programme;
3. To agree the direct use and procurement proposed for specialist interim staff as appropriate;
4. As part of the internal restructure, approve the delegation of appointments above the NJC scheme but below Assistant Director level to the Senior Management Team; and
5. To note the procurements approved under officer delegations.

57 – Outside Body Appointment: Armed Forces Champion

It was moved by Councillor Brook and seconded by Councillor McEwan; and

RESOLVED:- To appoint Councillor Biggins as the Council's Armed Forces Champion.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.