

CUMBERLAND SHADOW EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the Shadow Executive held in ENERGUS, Lillyhall, Workington, CA14 4JW on Tuesday, 20 December 2022 at 10.30 am

Members

Councillor Mark Fryer (Chair)

Councillor Barbara Cannon

Councillor Elaine Lynch

Councillor Denise Rollo

Councillor Lisa Brown (Vice-Chair) and
Councillor Emma Williamson (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Martin Harris

Councillor Anne Quilter

Councillor Christopher Southward

Also in attendance

Ms C Nicholson, Ms C Parkinson, Mr A Seekings and H Younger

64. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Dr Bob Kelly.

65. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

66. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED – That the press and public be not excluded during discussion of any items on the agenda.

67. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

68. Public Participation

There were no public questions, petitions or representations submitted.

69. LGR Programme Update

Subject of the Decision

Members considered a report which provided members with an update on the Programme in place to support Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Cumbria.

The report consisted of the latest Programme Dashboard presented to the Programme board (15 November 2022), and a summary of the Day One Board report presented to the Day One Programme Board (15 November 2022).

Alternative Options Considered

The contents of the report detailed reporting mechanisms relating to progress of the LGR Programme, whilst there is a choice about how this might take place, the approach described was considered the most effective, efficient and fitting to local circumstances.

The Decision

RESOLVED – That the Shadow Executive noted the report details and key points included in section 3 of the report.

Reason for the Decision

To keep the Shadow Executive informed of the progress of the Local Government Reorganisation Programme Board.

70. Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Subject of the Decision

Members considered a report which sought approval of the adoption of a single, unified Council Tax Reduction with effect from 1st April 2023.

As a new unitary authority Cumberland Council had a requirement to agree a scheme which covered the whole of the new Councils area and replaced schemes previously operated by the former city and boroughs.

It was requested that Care Leavers be included in Appendix B the Equality Impact Assessment listed Protected Characteristics.

Members thanked the Finance Team for their work on the report.

The Portfolio Holder for Financial Planning and Assets moved the report, which was seconded by the Leader, as a recommendation from the Shadow Executive to be approved by the Shadow Authority.

Alternative Options Considered

With the creation of the new Council, unlike the previous city and boroughs, there was no alternative other than to implement a single unified scheme. This was required by law and there was no legal mechanism that would allow the existing 'legacy' schemes to continue.

There were a number of scheme designs that could be adopted including more radical approaches which were being implemented by other authorities, however due to the high level of support being provided currently to working age applicants and also that the three legacy authorities operate similar schemes currently, it was recommended that a similar scheme design be recommended and that any further review should be undertaken at some time in the future.

The Decision

RESOLVED - That the Shadow Executive:

- 1) Agreed to recommend that Shadow Council approve a new single Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24 for Cumberland Council, as outlined in the report, in accordance with Schedule 1A(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
- 2) Agreed to recommend that Shadow Council approve the 100% voluntary disregard as applicable under the scheme of War Disablement Pensions, War Widows Pensions and War Widowers' Pensions, under Section 134(8) and 139(6) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

Reason for the Decision

To approve a new single Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24 for Cumberland Council in accordance with Schedule 1A (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

71. UK Resettlement Scheme Pledge

Subject of the Decision

Members considered a report which sought to update the Shadow Executive on the proposals in relation to the resettlement of refugees in Cumberland for 2023/24.

The Cumbria County Council Cabinet, as the decision maker, would be recommended to agree to a pledge to resettle 48 refugees during 2023/24 in the Cumberland local authority area. That pledge would support individuals arriving in the country under the United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) which provided a safe and legal route to the UK for vulnerable refugees in need of protection.

The pledge to support 48 individuals was felt to be achievable alongside the delivery of the other migration schemes the Council would be involved in supporting over the same period of time.

Members thanked the Cumbria County Council Resettlement Team for all their hard work.

The Leader moved the recommendations in the report, this was seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Governance and Enabling.

Alternative Options Considered

Two options had been considered in developing the proposed pledge;

- a) To agree to resettle a minimum of 48 individuals,
- b) Not to agree to make a pledge to supporting refugees under the UKRS Scheme. Under that option existing refugees that had arrived under the scheme

and living in the local authority area would continue to be supported; however no new refugees would be accepted for arrival.

The Decision

RESOLVED

That the Shadow Executive note the recommendation that would be made to Cumbria County Council Cabinet to agree to the resettlement of a minimum of 48 individuals during 2023/24 in the Cumberland local authority area under the United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme.

Reason for the Decision

To update the Shadow Executive on the proposals in relation to the resettlement of refugees in Cumberland in 2023/24.

72. Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership

Subject of the Decision

Members considered a report which sought to provide the Shadow Executive an update on the transfer of Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) Accountable Body responsibilities from Cumbria County Council to Westmorland and Furness Council from 1 April 2023.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) were bodies across England tasked with leading economic growth activities in their local areas. The Cumbrian LEP operated across the whole of the current County footprint and had been in existence since 2014.

At the Member Implementation Board meeting on 14 October 2022, it was agreed that Westmorland and Furness would take on the role of CLEP Accountable Body, subject to ratification by their Shadow Executive.

The Leader moved the recommendations in the report, this was seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Governance and Enabling.

Alternative Options Considered

An alternative option would be to choose not to play a role in the operation of CLEP. However, that would limit the Council's ability to influence its operations and to deliver economic growth activities throughout the Cumberland area.

The Decision

RESOLVED – That the Shadow Executive:

- 1) Notes the content of the report and the transfer of accountable body responsibilities from Cumbria County Council to Westmorland and Furness Council from 1 April 2023;

- 2) Agrees to nominate the Leader as the Council's representative on the CLEP Board and note that the Deputy Leader (Statutory) be deputy to the Board and its subgroups;
- 3) Agrees that the Council becomes a Member of CLEP;
- 4) Agrees to delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer to work with CLEP to agree changes to the following to reflect the new membership of the Council and Westmorland and Furness Authority and the transfer of the accountable body functions to Westmorland and Furness and the changes agreed at the AGM:
 - The ToR for the Investment Panel.
 - The ToR for the Transport and Infrastructure Group.
 - The ToR for the CLEP Scrutiny Board.
 - The Kingmoor Park Enterprise Zone MoU.
 - The Local Assurance Framework.
 - The Company Articles of Association.
- 5) Agrees that delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer to agree the conversion of project MoU's to grant funding agreements as appropriate;
- 6) Agrees that delegated authority be given to the Section 151 Officer (in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Financial Planning and Assets) to agree any financial and in-kind contribution to CLEP.

Reason for the Decision

To provide an update to members on the transfer of Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) Accountable Body responsibilities from Cumbria County Council to Westmorland and Furness Council from 1 April 2023 and to seek approval for the Councils involvement in CLEP from 1 April 2023.

73. Community Governance Review Stanwix: Response to Consultation

Subject of the Decision

Members considered a report which sought views of the Shadow Executive on a consultation for a Community Governance Review for the Stanwix area of Carlisle.

In September Carlisle City Council received a petition requesting a Community Governance Review for the Stanwix area of Carlisle. As part of that review the Council must consult with any person or body (including a local authority) which appeared to have an interest in the review.

Members queried whether or not the Trustees of Carlisle should be included as part of the consultation. It was agreed that the Interim Monitoring Officer would include the comment as part of the response.

The Leader moved the recommendations in the report, this was seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Governance and Enabling.

Alternative Options Considered

The Shadow Executive could choose not to provide a response to the consultation.

The Decision

RESOLVED – That the Shadow Executive:

- 1) Notes the proposals set out in the Community Governance Review and agreed to respond to the request from Carlisle City Council for Cumberland Shadow Authority's views on the review;
- 2) Delegates to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair, the responsibility for drafting a response to Carlisle City Council setting out the authority's response.

Reason for the Decision

Carlisle City Council had recently written to Cumberland Council asking for their views on the Community Governance Review.

The meeting closed at 11.13 am