Eden District Council

Minutes
Community and Economy Committee
6.45 pm, Thursday 5 December 2002
Town Hall, Penrith

Present Councillor J M Smith (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs N Walker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: J M Holliday, A K Morgan, T C Ladhams, C F Nineham, J J Moffat, R V Turner

Lead Officer in Attendance: Mr S Huddart (Director of Technical Services)

Cec/66 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. An additional late item on "A Local Cultural Strategy for Eden" would be tabled for discussion in Part II of the meeting; and
2. Item 20, Externalisation of Parking Enforcement - Outcome of Tendering process had been withdrawn and would be the subject of a special meeting to be held at 6.45pm on 19 December 2002.

Cec/67 Minutes

The minutes including CEC/41 to CEC/60.of the meeting of this Committee held on Thursday 3 October 2002 were signed as a correct record of those proceedings.

Cec/68 Issues Arising from Scrutiny - Scrutiny Review into the Highways Agency

The Committee considered report CE134/02 of the Chief Executive which asked Members to consider the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee following the review of the highways agency work undertaken by Eden District Council under Section 42 of the Highways Act 1980. Councillor Sewell, the Review Group Chairman, presented the review findings including the updated financial information which became available after the completion of the review period.

RESOLVED that the Director of Technical Services be given delegated powers to terminate the agency as soon as practicable and hand control back to Cumbria County Council.

Reasons for decision

a. To rationalise the work for highways matters.
b. Small numbers of staff make operational cover difficult.
c. To make budgetary savings by terminating the agency.

Other options considered

Retain the work of the highways agency within Eden District Council.
Councillor Sewell left the meeting on the conclusion of this item.

Cec/69 Review of Parking Charges

The Committee considered report PO112/02 of the Director of Planning Services which asked Members to review the present level of charges for use of the Council's off street car parks and consider increasing the charges in both medium and long stay car parks.

Moved by Councillor J J Moffat
Seconded by Councillor R V Turner

That the charges for season tickets and pay and display tickets be revised as follows:

Season Tickets	Appleby - £50 (£25 per half year)	
	Penrith Commuter - £80 (£45 per half year)	
	Penrith Shopper - £100 (£55 per half year)	
Pay and Display	Medium Stay	2 hr - 60p
		4hr - £1.20p
		10hr - £2.50p
	Long Stay	10hr - £2

Amendment by Councillor A K Morgan

That the recommendations for Penrith be adopted but that charges for season tickets in Appleby remain at current levels until the parking situation improves.

On there being no seconder the amendment fell and on the first motion being put as the substantive motion it was carried and ***RESOLVED*** accordingly.

Reasons for decision

a. Charges are reviewed on a three year cycle.
b. To bring charges more in line with those levied by other authorities.
c. To contribute to the financing of outsourced parking enforcement services.
d. To contribute to the Council's overall budget.

Other options considered

None

Councillor R V Turner declared a personal interest in the following application in that he was Chairman of both the Alston Moor Partnership and Cybermoor Project but considered not to be a prejudicial interest, he remained in the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon.

Cec/70 Revenue Estimates 2003-4

The Committee considered report F98/02 of the Director of Finance requesting Members consideration and approval of its revenue estimates for inclusion in the 2003-4 revenue estimates which will be submitted to Resources Committee in January 2003

RESOLVED that:

a. The revenue estimates for 2003-4, as shown in Appendix A of the report, be approved for inclusion in the Authority's overall General Fund estimates which will be considered by Resources Committee in January 2003.
b. The list of uncommitted growth items, as shown in Appendix B of the report, be approved for further consideration by Resources Committee in January 2003.

Reasons for decision

a. Preparation of annual revenue estimates.
b. To ensure the Council can meet its budgetary requirements.
c. Approach to estimates approved by Resources Committee on 26 September 2002 (F80/02).

Other options considered

None

Cec/71 Annual Review of Fees and Charges

The Committee considered report F99/02 of the Director of Finance seeking Members approval to increase fees and charges as detailed in Appendix A attached to the paper.

RESOLVED that the fees and charges proposed in Appendix A of the report be approved.

Reasons for decision

a. As part of the Council's annual budget exercise.
b. Recommendation from Resources Committee 26 September 2002 (F80/02) to consider raising fees

Other options considered

None

Cec/72 Capital Programme 2003-4

The Committee considered report F100/02 of the Director of Finance requesting Members consideration and approval of it's draft capital programme for 2003-4 which will be submitted to Resources Committee in January 2003 in a prioritised format.

RESOLVED that:

a. The 2003-4 Capital Programme, as shown in Appendix A of the report, be approved for inclusion in the Authority's overall Capital Programme which will be considered by Resources Committee in January 2003;
b. The "Essential" schemes, shown in Appendix A of the report, be approved in principle and that Resources Committee be recommended to include the schemes in the Capital Programme subject to funding being available; and
c. The "desirable "schemes, shown in Appendix A of the report be noted.

Reasons for decision

a. As part of the Council's annual budget exercise.
b. Council has a legal duty to ensure capital expenditure can be met from capital resources

Other options considered

None

Cec/73 West Coast Main Line Modernisation Strategy: Strategic Rail Authority Consultation

The Committee considered report PO114/02 of the Director of Planning Services which sought Members response to consultation from the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) about its modernisation strategy for the West Coast Main Line that includes improvements to the section of line between Preston and Carlisle which runs through and serves the district of Eden.

RESOLVED that

a. Support be expressed for the improvement work proposed to the West Coast Main Line;
b. To stress that the importance of "Penrith - The North Lakes" station be recognised as an interchange station to serve all passenger trains including international trains, and be suitably improved, as required, to serve that purpose.

Reasons for decision

a. To accord with a consultation document from the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA).
b. ensure the views of the Council are put forward.
c. To emphasise the importance of "Penrith - The North Lakes" station.

Other options considered

None

Cec/74 Formation of a Cumbria Local Access Forum

The Committee considered report PO111/02 of the Director of Planning Services which sought Members views about contributing to the work of a proposed Local Access Forum which is being set up by Cumbria Council under the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002 which came into force on 7 August 2002

RESOLVED that support be given to the setting up of the Local Access Forum and the willingness of this Council be conveyed to contribute to its work.

Reasons for decision

a. To accord with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
b. To accord with the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002.
c. Recommended by Environment Committee 7 November 2002 (ENV/51)
d. To ensure the views of this Council are put forward.

Other options considered

None

Cec/75 Bus Passenger Facilities – Penrith

The Committee considered report PO113/02 of the Director of Planning Services asking Members to consider financing the maintenance and cleaning of two additional bus shelters within Penrith.

RESOLVED that:

a. a budget be agreed to undertake the maintenance of the shelters and that, subject to overall budgetary consideration, suitable provision is made in the relevant 2003/4 revenue budget as a growth item; and
b. Resources Committee be recommended to add the maintenance of bus shelters to the special expenses list.

Reasons for decision

a. Request by Cumbria County Council to undertake maintenance.
b. Council already maintains three shelters in the Town.

Other options considered

None

Cec/76 Federation of Economic Development Authorities

The Committee considered report TS199-02 of the Director of Technical Services updating Members on the activities of the Federation of Economic Development Authorities (FEDA) and seeking support for nominations to the Executive Committee for 2003-04.

RESOLVED that:

a. Continuation of FEDA membership be approved for 2003- - 2004 subject to budgetary approval;
b. Councillor J M Smith be nominated to the Executive Committee for 2003-04;
c. Resources Committee be recommended to approve attendance at the FEDA Executive Committee as an approved duty; and
d. The Economic Development and Property Manager be nominated as Officer representative to the Executive Committee for 2003-04.

Reasons for decision

a. Recommendation by Economic Development and Tourism Sub Committee on 6 September 2001 (ET/444) that membership be retained;
b. FEDA is a contact point for Members, interested organisations and partners.

Other options considered

None

Cec/77 Southend Road Sports Project

The Committee considered report TS189-02 of the Director of Technical Services which detailed the findings of the recent consultation exercise to select the most appropriate scheme for the Southend Road Sports Project. Members were advised that Option 3 was the design layout chosen by the public.

RESOLVED that:

a. Option 3 be endorsed as the preferred design scheme for the project;
b. The scheme should go forward on the basis of the standard synthetic turf pitch;
c. The scheme should continue to include a mini-soccer pitch;
d. The skateboard park should be retained within the scheme; and
e. The scheme should now move forward to detail design and tender.

Reasons for decision

a. Evolution from a major leisure study in the late 1990's.
b. Scheme accords with the Council's corporate objectives on social and community well-being and provision of leisure, sport and cultural activities.
c. Result of public consultation.

Other options considered

None

Cec/78 Adoption of Proposed Play Area, Eamont Bridge

The Committee considered report TS201-02 of the Director of Technical Services requesting consideration of the adoption of a proposed play area situated on land at Eamont Bridge Village Hall.

RESOLVED that the play area be adopted subject to the installation being undertaken to the satisfaction of the Director of Technical Services and it passing a risk assessment undertaken by an independent assessor.

Reasons for decision

a. Eden District Council Specification for Play Areas (March 2001).

Other options considered

None.

Cec/79 Grants to Organisations

The Committee considered report TS194-02 of the Director of Technical Services requesting Members to consider awarding grants to leisure, sport and arts based organisations that have applied to the Council for financial assistance. Members were advised that only £1,681 was available for distribution.

RESOLVED that:

a. The application from Penrith Players be not supported;
b. The application from the Kirkby Thore Safe Play Project be not supported;

c. Alston Moor Sports Club be awarded £100 towards the coaching programme;
d. Tebay Sports and Social Club be awarded £100 towards the coaching programme; and
e. The application from Shap Sports Hall be not supported.

Reasons for decision

a. To provide financial support to community based organisations in line with Council policy.

Other options considered

None.

Cec/80 Housing Appeals Board

The Committee considered report TS155-02 requesting Members to review the arrangements for Housing Appeals Boards and consider adopting a formal procedure for appeals arising from housing decisions made by Eden Housing Association on behalf of the Council relating to either the Housing Register, Housing Allocations or homelessness.

RESOLVED that:

a. The formal procedure for Housing Appeals Board set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved; and
b. a report be prepared for Council to amend the constitution to draw the five members of the Board from the Community and Economy Committee.

Reasons for decision

a. Statutory obligation under the Housing Act 1996.
b. Place the Council in a more legally robust position should appeals be challenged.
c. Limited membership allows Members to gain more experience and training.

Other options considered

None.

Cec/81 Penrith Leisure Centre Car Park

The Committee considered report TS200-02 of the Director of Technical Services seeking Members response to the proposal to introduce parking controls at Penrith Leisure Centre through a pay and display system. Under the proposed arrangements users of the leisure centre paying for entry at reception would receive a full refund for the parking charge.

RESOLVED that a pay and display system at Penrith Leisure Centre car park be introduced from 1 April 2003 on the basis outlined in the report.

Reasons for decision

a. In accordance with the Council's aims and objectives.
b. Car parking is an integral part of the sports facilities and should be managed as such.

c. Increasing use of the Leisure Centre car park by non-users of the centre has increased difficulties for users.

Other options considered

None

Cec/82 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 5,7,8,9,10 and 12 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Cec/83 Minutes

The minutes including CEC/61 to CEC/65.of the meeting of this Committee held on Thursday 3 October 2002 were signed as a correct record of those proceedings.

The following minutes Cec/84 to Cec/90 contain exempt information as described in the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and are excluded from this document by virtue of Section 100A of the Act. Below is a summary of these proceedings.

Award of Building Contract for Frenchfield Project (Cec/84) (Paragraphs 8,9 and 10)

The Committee considered report TS188-02 of the Director of Technical Services which detailed the tenders that had been submitted for the construction of the Frenchfield project and requested Members to approve the award of the Building contract.

It was decided that:

a. Thomas Armstrong Ltd be awarded the building contract subject to agreement by Resources Committee and Council;
b. Headland Archaeology be requested to provide a watching brief;
c. The Director of Technical Services, in consultation with the Chairman of Community and Economy Committee, be delegated the authority to appoint a Clerk of Works on the basis set out in the report; and
d. the fee for the additional work undertaken by the Project Architect and his design team be approved.

Grants to Individuals (Cec/85)(Paragraph 5)

The Committee considered report TS195-02 of the Director of Technical Services requesting Members consideration of a grant application to allow an individual to continue with their progression in their chosen sport.

The Committee approved the grant.

Applications for Home Repair Assistance Grants (Cec/86) (Paragraphs 5 and 7)

The Committee considered report TS203-02 of the Director of Technical Services requesting consideration of three applications for home repairs assistance grants.

The Committee approved the grants.

Applications for Renovation Grants (Cec/87)(Paragraphs 5 and 7)

The Committee considered report TS202-02 of the Director of Technical Services requesting consideration of an application for a renovation grant.

The Committee approved the grants.

Non-Compliance with a Statutory Notice, Calthwaite (Cec/88) (Paragraph 12)

The Committee considered report TS198-02 of the Director of Technical Services seeking Members views on the most appropriate course of action following non-compliance with a repairs notice served under Section 190 of the Housing Act 1985.

The Committee approved the recommendation to commence legal proceedings to prosecute the landlord.

Non-Compliance with a Statutory Notice, Ainstable (Cec/89) (Paragraph 12)

The Committee considered report TS197-02 of the Director of Technical Services seeking Members views on the most appropriate course of action following non-compliance with a repairs notice served under Section 190 of the Housing Act 1985.

The Committee approved the recommendation to commence legal proceedings to prosecute the landlord.

A Local Cultural Strategy for Eden (Cec/90)(Paragraphs 8 and 9)

The Committee considered report TS206-02 of the Director of Technical Services which asked Members to consider the tenders received from consultants offering to develop a Local Cultural Strategy for Eden in line with requirements.

The Committee approved the recommendation that the development of the Cultural Strategy for Eden be awarded to the Cumbria Cultural Concourse.