

Eden District Council

Council Minutes

Date: 30 July 2020 Venue: This was a virtual meeting therefore there was no venue Time: 6.45 pm

Present:

Chairman: Councillor A Connell

Vice Chairman: Councillor D Banks

Councillors:	A Armstrong	G Nicolson OBE
	P G Baker	R Orchard
	I Chambers	W Patterson
	M Clark	J Raine
	J Derbyshire	M Robinson
	P Dew	A Ross
	M Eyles	M Rudhall
	K Greenwood	D Ryland
	M Hanley	H Sawrey-Cookson
	L Harker	G Simpkins
	D Holden	L Sharp
	S Lancaster	V Taylor
	D Lawson	J G Thompson
	J C Lynch	M Tonkin
	E Martin	D Wicks
	N McCall	

Officers Present: Julia Cater, Human Resources Consultant
Les Clark, Director of People and Place
Rose Rouse, Chief Executive
Paul Sutton, Interim Director of Corporate Services
Lisa Tremble, Assistant Director Governance
Ben Wright, IT Shared Services Manager

Democratic Services Officer: Vivien Little, Claire Watters and Karen Wyeth

CI/19/07/20 Apologies for Absence

At the start of the meeting, the Monitoring Officer advised that this meeting was being hosted remotely using conferencing software which allowed Members, Officers and public attendance whilst being able to protect themselves and others, whilst observing the Government's lockdown measures.

The Monitoring Officer stated that unless the votes appeared to be controversial during this meeting, they would be taken by general assent. Some votes would be taken by an unofficial named vote, and would not be recorded in the minutes.

A Roll Call of all those Members in attendance remotely was then taken.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beaty, Meadowcroft, Smith and Todd.

Councillor Fearon was unable to attend the meeting due to technical issues outside of her control.

CI/20/07/20 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Eyles gave a personal explanation in that he was recording the meeting for personal purposes.

CI/21/07/20 Minutes

RESOLVED that, on the understanding that for the meeting of Annual Council on 28 May 2020, Councillor Orchard's apologies are withdrawn, and a note made that he was not able to attend for technical reasons are added to the minutes that:

1. The public minutes CI/01/05/20 to CI/12/05/20 of the meeting of the Council held on 28 May 2020; and
2. The public minutes CI/13/06/20 to CI/18/06/20 of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 25 June 2020

be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of those proceedings.

CI/22/07/20 Chairman's Announcements

Local track and trace

There has been some outstanding work by Eden District Council's Environment Health team in the last week, supporting the local COVID-19 track and trace programme.

The team is truly going above and beyond in their track and trace efforts, and have managed to meticulously track down contacts so that we have a handle on the positive cases in Eden.

Create to Connect launched

The council-funded Create to Connect project has successfully brought together creatives from across Eden.

Over £2,000 in funding has supported six creative projects. There is also regular Skype meetings which bring together a dozen creative organisations from across Eden to collaborate and raise Eden's profile.

Eden Residents COVID-19 Support Fund

EDC has set up a £150,000 fund, to support people experiencing hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The support fund is to boost local organisations and charities that are helping families through the crisis.

So far almost £130,000 has been paid out to 34 organisations in Eden.

Supporting the High Street's return

EDC has supported Eden's high streets' return with free parking in council-owned car parks until end of August; provided advice and guidance from Environmental Health team; and provided £000s in business grants to businesses.

New COVID19 recovery plan for EDC

The EDC Recovery Plan has now been agreed by the Executive and officers are now in a position to start work on the new strategic objectives.

We're terming the recovery plan "Build Back Better"; using the challenges around COVID to come back bigger better and stronger as a district.

The three key tenets of the recovery plan are: Businesses, Community and the Environment. The 'golden thread' throughout both the Recovery and the Corporate plan is sustainability, which will run through everything we do.

Council's website ranked most accessible in the UK

Eden District Council's website was ranked number one in the UK for accessibility for the first time this month.

A huge achievement for our web team. Eden is a relatively small district authority, so it's a proud moment for us to find that we're outperforming all the major county and metropolitan councils across the country.

Business grants

Discretionary Grants

Approx. £1m has now been paid out to 175 businesses in Eden from the EDC Discretionary Grant fund, which was administered in June.

Small Business and Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grants

In addition to the discretionary grant, the council has also distributed almost £23m in Government funding to over 2000 businesses in the district since the pandemic hit.

CI/23/07/20 Questions by the Public

No questions were received from the public under Rule 10 of the Constitution.

CI/24/07/20 Questions by Members

The following question was received from Councillor Dew under rule 12 of the Constitution:

"Members of the Council met last week - on Tuesday, 21 July, 2020 - for a briefing on Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria and an update on the progress of discussions between EDC and other local authorities in the County. We were told that these discussions were at an early stage but you expressed your preference for a two unitary model with a Northern grouping consisting of Carlisle, Allerdale and Eden.

On Saturday the CWH published a letter that you had submitted which referred to these discussions, in passing, but in the main attempted to justify the Council continuing with

‘business as usual’ - including the purchase of Voreda House and the reorganisation of services - as if nothing had changed. To what extent does this indicate a denial of reality on your part and that of the current administration?

The aims of reorganising local government and the creation of unitary authorities are to streamline the delivery of services, provide greater value for money, attract investment and stimulate economic growth - in a way that simply cannot be done by a small district council acting on its own. Do you accept this reality – however galling it might be – and will you commit yourself and your administration to work resolutely towards that bigger goal even if it means sacrificing some of your own more cherished, but inevitably limited, aims and objectives?”

The Leader responded as follows:

“Thank you, Councillor Dew, for your question.

In reference to your first paragraph: there have been no further formal discussions amongst Cumbrian Local Authorities. To the best of my knowledge no one has heard back from the Minister in response to the letters sent to him setting out that authority’s preliminary position. Again, to the best of my knowledge, the Minister has yet to respond to the request by some of the authorities that he invite us to submit unitary proposals by the date of September 2020. This date was suggested on July 9 2020, our only direct contact with central government in this ‘round’.

The aims of unitary authorities which you set out are to streamline the delivery of services, provide greater value for money, attract investment and stimulate economic growth. The aims of EDC are equally to streamline the delivery of services, provide greater value for money, attract investment and stimulate economic growth. The Council has a duty to proceed with business as usual in those matters. Anything done now will not prejudice what will be done in the future: it is not a ‘denial of reality’ as you put it but the responsible carrying out of our present duties.

The purchase of Voreda House will streamline the delivery of public services in a very short time, ahead of any local government reorganization. It will provide greater value for money because the current buildings are extremely expensive to run.

The move to Voreda House presents an exciting opportunity to co-locate with partners – and this is not a pipe dream but under discussion - to create a new model of integrated public services for the area.

I am convinced that the future provision of services to residents of Eden will be better protected by moving to this integrated model in a fit for purpose building than to stay where we currently are, which would run a greater risk of services being moved elsewhere, with the loss of jobs and local focus.

The £2.3 million earmarked by the previous Conservative administration for the Single Site project was towards a possible new build, and I would assure Councillor Dew that my position on a new build would be very different. Designing for a future unknown need, with a matter of years before the building was ready for occupation, would indeed be unwise. Voreda House could be ready for occupation in very short order.

Finally Councillor Dew says I should be working towards 'a greater goal' rather than 'your own more cherished, but inevitably limited, aims and objectives'. We have yet to be informed of the detailed benefits or details of the 'greater goal' but I take Councillor Dew's word that this will improve the lives of everyone in Eden. Until then, and whatever the future holds, we have to carry on delivering and improving services now. The aims of the corporate plan are outward facing and the declaration of a climate change and ecological emergency is hardly a limited, or indeed a 'cherished', vanity, project. And very simply, there is currently nothing to be done towards the 'greater goal' and grinding to a halt while there may be jam tomorrow and services delivered from somewhere else is hardly supportable.

We are indeed reexamining all plans, as I not in the grip of 'a denial of reality' as you put it but, absolutely, making political and other judgments how to navigate responsibly through the various possible realities the future may hold.

Indeed I will be sorry if our officers have to spend their time on paperwork rather continuing to concentrate on 'Building back Better' in recovery from Covid. Having said that, I am no King Canute. If Central Government in Westminster insists on reorganizing Local Government in Cumbria I can only try to ensure that Eden the place does as well as possible out of that arrangement. There will be no authority which places the interests of Eden above the interests of other areas – which Eden District Council currently does. I am sure Councillor Dew and all councillors want the best for Eden the place, and we will work together to attain that."

Councillor Dew then asked a supplementary question asking if the Leader would confirm that she would be prepared to make compromises to ensure that future negotiations are successful?

The Leader responded that she would give a written answer to the question.

CI/25/07/20 Motions on Notice

No motions on notice were received.

Councillor Nicolson proposed the following motion without notice under Rule 14;

Council acknowledges the discussions and impending legislation regarding changes to local government organisation in Cumbria and commits to securing arrangements that are in the best interests of Eden residents.

Council authorises the establishment of a politically proportionate Working Group to work with the Leader, Chief Executive, officers and other relevant parties on this matter before the Council meeting of 24 September 2020. Group leaders will negotiate the composition and the terms of reference of the Working Group.

Proposed by Councillor Nicolson
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

and **RESOLVED** that Council acknowledges the discussions and impending legislation regarding changes to local government organisation in Cumbria and commits to securing arrangements that are in the best interests of Eden residents.

Council authorises the establishment of a politically proportionate Working Group to work with the Leader, Chief Executive, officers and other relevant parties on this matter before the Council meeting of 24 September 2020. Group leaders will negotiate the composition and the terms of reference of the Working Group.

CI/26/07/20 Roles and Responsibilities of Portfolio Holders

Members considered report G30/20 from the Assistant Director Governance in which the Leader advised Council of the changes to the areas of responsibility of herself and the Members of her Executive.

Councillor Dew asked a question of Councillor Rudhall regarding land use and how Councillor Rudhall saw that moving forward. Also, with regard to the commitment to Zero Carbon housing, did Councillor Rudhall see any conflict between aspirations of Zero Carbon housing and a need to provide affordable housing within the District.

Councillor Rudhall stated that he would give a written answer.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Eyles

and **RESOLVED** that the report was noted, and appropriate amendments were to be made to the Council's Constitution.

CI/27/07/20 Human Resources and Appeals Committee Terms of Reference

Members considered report G28/20 from the Assistant Director Governance which asked Members to consider revising the Terms of Reference of the Human Resources and Appeals Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Eyles

and **RESOLVED** that

1. Council approved the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Human Resources and Appeals Committee, subject to the addition of the word 'matters' in the third paragraph of the Terms of Reference; and
2. Council approve the inclusion of an additional paragraph in the Terms of Reference for the Human Resources and Appeals Committee to reflect that the Committee will nominate a Member to participate in the Management of Change Panel, as set out in the draft Management of Change Policy, in relation to officers at Assistant Director level and above.

CI/28/07/20 Allocation of Seats

Members considered report G29/20 from the Assistant Director Governance which made appointments to the Committees for the remainder of the 2020/2021 municipal year.

Proposed by Councillor Connell
 Seconded by Councillor Thompson

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. The appointment of Members to Committees as set out below was approved; and
2. The Green Group and the Labour Group continue a reciprocal arrangement where the nominated Members can act as Standing Deputies.

***Accounts and Governance Committee – 9 Members**

Independent Group	S Lancaster, D Ryland
Conservative Group	P Dew, J Lynch, R Orchard
Liberal Democrat Group	A Connell, M Eyles, N McCall
Labour Group	0
Green Group	D Lawson
Standing Deputies	M Clark, W Patterson H Fearon, G Nicolson, A Todd P Baker, L Harker A Ross

* One seat to be allocated to either Labour or Green on Accounts and Governance Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12 Members

Independent Group	D Banks, M Clark, D Ryland
Conservative Group	G Nicolson, R Orchard, J Raine, D Wicks
Liberal Democrat Group	D Holden, G Simpkins, D Smith
Labour Group	M Hanley
Green Group	D Lawson
Standing Deputies	S Lancaster, W Patterson, H Sawrey-Cookson K Beaty, H Fearon, E Martin, A Todd P Baker, M Eyles A Ross

***Budget Planning Committee – 9 Members**

Independent Group	S Lancaster, D Ryland
Conservative Group	K Beaty, G Nicolson, D Wicks
Liberal Democrat Group	P Baker, M Eyles, N McCall
Labour Group	M Hanley
Green Group	0
Standing Deputies	W Patterson, H Sawrey-Cookson I Chambers, R Orchard, A Todd D Holden, L Harker A Ross

* One seat to be allocated to either Labour or Green on Budget Planning Committee

***Human Resources and Appeals Committee - 9 Members**

Independent Group	D Banks, M Robinson
Conservative Group	A Armstrong, K Beaty, G Nicolson
Liberal Democrat Group	P Baker, G Simpkins, V Taylor
Labour Group	0
Green Group	A Ross
Standing Deputies	W Patterson, D Ryland P Dew, J Raine, J Thompson A Connell, J Derbyshire D Lawson

* One seat to be allocated to either Labour or Green on Human Resources and Appeals Committee

***Licensing Committee - 10 Members**

Independent Group	W Patterson, H Sawrey-Cookson
Conservative Group	H Fearon, E Martin, A Meadowcroft, J Raine
Liberal Democrat Group	P Baker, L Harker, D Holden
Labour Group	M Hanley

Green Group	0
Standing Deputies	M Clark, D Ryland I Chambers, J Lynch, R Orchard, J Thompson M Eyles, G Simpkins, D Smith A Ross

* One seat to be allocated to either Labour or Green on Licensing Committee

***Planning Committee - 11 Members**

Independent Group	M Clark, W Patterson, H Sawrey-Cookson
Conservative Group	I Chambers, J Lynch, J Thompson, D Wicks
Liberal Democrat Group	D Holden, M Eyles, G Simpkins
Labour Group	0
Green Group	A Ross
Standing Deputies	D Banks, S Lancaster, D Ryland A Armstrong, E Martin, A Meadowcroft, G Nicolson P Baker, L Harker, D Smith D Lawson

* One seat to be allocated to either Labour or Green on Planning Committee

CI/29/07/20 Scrutiny Annual Report

Members considered report G32/20 from the Chairman of the former Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board which is attached and which presents the achievements of the Council's Scrutiny Board and Committees during the 2019-2020 municipal year.

Proposed by Councillor Banks

Seconded by Councillor Eyles

and **RESOLVED** that the report was noted.

CI/30/07/20 Report of the Outside Bodies Task and Finish Group

To consider report G29/20 from the Chairman of the Outside Bodies Task and Finish Group which presented the findings from the Scrutiny Review of the Council's Outside Bodies and recommends changes which would improve ways of reporting back from Outside Bodies.

Proposed by Councillor Raine

Seconded by Councillor Thompson

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. with effect from the commencement of the municipal year 2020/2021, Eden District Council no longer send any representatives to Omega Proteins Liaison Board; and that the number of representatives on Greenwich Leisure Limited Eden Board be reduced to one;
2. Members who are elected to a position representing Eden District Council on an Outside Body should fill in a summary note after each meeting they attend, to be published on the Eden District Council website;
3. a working group be set up to monitor Eden District Council representation on outside bodies, both to look at current representation on Outside Bodies, and if there is any other groups which may require Eden District Council representation, to begin meeting during the 2021/22 municipal year, and thereafter on a bi-annual basis;
4. any representatives on the Lake District National Park Authority, Lake District National Park Partnership, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and MASCG should be through preference a member from an appropriate ward; and
5. a statement is produced showing the synergies and the purpose of representation between the EDC corporate plan and outside body activities is developed for each approved outside body.

CI/31/07/20 Appointment to Outside Bodies

Members considered report G33/20 from the Assistant Director Governance which confirmed the outside bodies upon which Members will sit in the forthcoming municipal year and to considered who should be appointed to represent the Council on each of those bodies.

RESOLVED that:

1. The list of outside bodies set out in paragraphs 3.2, 3.4 and in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
2. Members of the Executive be appointed to the outside bodies identified below;

Outside Body	Portfolio Holder
Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership	Communities
Cumbria County Superannuation Fund Forum	Resources
Cumbria Housing Group	Housing and Health
Cumbria Leadership Board	Leader
Cumbria Public Health Alliance	Housing and Health
Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership	Services

Outside Body	Portfolio Holder
Cumbria Tourism Executive Board	Economies and Enterprise
District Councils Network Executive	Leader
Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum	Housing and Health
Eden Tourism Network	Economies and Enterprise
Integrated Care Community Leadership Team	Housing and Health
Joint Cumbrian Districts	Leader
Local Government Association	Leader
North West Regional Housing Forum Executive	Housing and Health
Sparsity Partnership for Authorities delivering rural services (SPARSE)	Economies and Enterprise

3. The following Members be nominated to the bodies list at paragraph 3.3 and appendix 1 to this report;

Alston Moor Partnership (including the Townscape Heritage Initiative Steering Group and Alston Moor Partnership Board) – 1 representative	L Sharp
Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – 1 representative and 1 standing deputy	M Hanley L Sharp (Standing Deputy)
Cumbria Local Nature Partnership – 1 representative	A Ross
Cumbria Police and Crime Panel – 1 representative	D Holden
Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum – 1 representation and 1 standing deputy (should be the same representatives as Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee)	M Hanley L Sharp (Standing Deputy)
Greenwich Leisure Limited Eden Board – 1 representative	D Ryland
Lake District National Park Authority (4 year appointment) – 1 representative	J Derbyshire (appointed 16 May 2019)
Lake District National Park Partnership	D Smith

North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership – 1 representative	M Robinson
Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Adjudication Committee – 1 representative	M Eyles
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (4 year appointment) – 1 representative	S Lancaster (appointed 16 May 2019)

4. Councillor Greenwood be appointed to the Multi Agency Appleby Fair Strategic Co-ordinating Group, with Councillor Connell appointed as standing deputy;
5. Councillor Baker be appointed to the Cumbria County Council LEP Scrutiny Board;
6. That Eden District Council will represent Carlisle City Council on the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership for 2020/2021.
7. That Eden District Council will act as representative for all District Councils on the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Board for 2020/2021; and
8. The Members below be appointed as Member Champions:

Member Champion Role	Nomination
Armed Forces	Councillor Thompson
Children and Young People	Councillor Sharp
Older People	Councillor Clark

CI/32/07/20 Annual Licensing Report

Members considered report PP27/20 from the Chairman of the Licensing Committee which seeks to provide general information on the activities of the Licensing Committee during the municipal year 2019/2020.

Proposed by Councillor Holden
Seconded by Councillor Sharp

and **RESOLVED** that the contents of the report were noted.

CI/33/07/20 Annual Planning Performance Report

Members considered report PP28/20 from the Assistant Director Planning and Economic Development which sought to provide Members with an overview of the performance of the Planning Service between April 2019 and March 2020 in relation to Key Performance Indicators and Planning Enforcement.

Proposed by Councillor Patterson
Seconded by Councillor Lynch

and **RESOLVED** that the report were noted.

CI/34/07/20 Information Governance Policies

Members considered report G22/20 from the Assistant Director Governance which sought to enable consideration to be given to the approval and adoption of four public information governance policies.

Proposed by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Lawson

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. the revised Access to Information Policy was approved and adopted, to replace the previous version adopted in April 2019;
2. the Corporate Privacy Policy was approved and adopted, to replace the Privacy Policy adopted in June 2018;
3. the Recording and Reporting Policy was approved and adopted, to replace the Filming, photography, recording and use of social networking at council meetings policy, adopted in February 2015; and
4. the new Virtual Public Meetings Privacy Policy at Appendix D was approved and adopted.

CI/35/07/20 ICT, Digital, Development Management and Finance Systems

Members considered report F19/20 from the Interim Director of Corporate Services which asked Members to consider incorporating appropriate budgets for the development of the Digital Platform, purchase and implement the new Development Management System and new Financial Management System, and to award a contract for the provision of a replacement IT system covering the following Council functions – Planning, Building Control, Land Changes, CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy), Planning Policy and Section 106 Agreements.

Proposed by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Rudhall

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. Council approved the additional budget requirements set out in the report and detailed in the Part II appendix, Development of the Digital Platform and supported purchase and implement a new Development Management System and Finance System be approved, and
2. the contract for Development Management and associated software was awarded to DEF Software Limited.

CI/36/07/20 Date of Next Scheduled Meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting was confirmed as 24 September 2020.

CI/37/07/20 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) should be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 to Schedule 12A of the Act.

CI/38/07/20 ICT, Digital Development Management and Finance System

Members considered report F19/20 from the Interim Director of Corporate Services.

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained within the report be approved.

The meeting closed at 9.38 pm

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