

Eden District Council

Council Minutes

**Date: 28 April 2022 Venue: Cumberland Hall, Ullswater
Community College, Wetheriggs Lane, Penrith CA11 8NG Time:
6.45 pm**

Present:

Chairman: Councillor A Connell

Vice Chairman: Councillor

Councillors:

A Armstrong	N McCall
C Atkinson	A Meadowcroft
P G Baker	G Nicolson OBE
I Chambers	W Patterson
R Briggs	J Raine
M Clark	M Robinson
J Derbyshire	A Ross
P Dew	M Rudhall
M Eyles	D Ryland
H Fearon	H Sawrey-Cookson
K Greenwood	G Simpkins
M Hanley	D Smith
L Harker	V Taylor
D Holden	A Todd
S Lancaster	M Tonkin
D Lawson	

Officers Present: Marianne Bastille, Assistant Director Finance & HR
Les Clark, Deputy Chief Executive
Ian Frost, Interim Chief Executive
Lisa Tremble, Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services

Democratic Services Officer: Lewis Powell and Karen Edmondson

CI/84/05/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sharp, Martin, Lynch, Banks, Burgin and Wicks.

CI/85/05/22 Declarations of Interest

The Deputy Chief Executive declared an interest in regards to agenda item number 8. He would leave the room for the duration of this item.

CI/86/05/22 Minutes

RESOLVED that the public minutes CI/70/02/22 to CI83/02/22 of the meeting of Council held on 24 February 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record of those proceedings.

CI/87/05/22 Chairman's Announcements

Households urged to get ready for £150 council tax rebate

The government urged households in England to set up direct debits with their local council to receive a £150 council tax rebate. This was a measure designed to ease the cost of fuel and energy price increases in recent weeks. People who pay council tax by direct debit will have seen £150 go directly into their bank accounts from April. Those who do not pay by direct debit will be contacted and invited to make a claim.

Reporting rough sleeping in Eden

The Council has received a number of reports of individuals rough sleeping in Penrith. Please be assured that the Housing Options Team at Eden Housing Association is offering assistance in these cases. If you see someone sleeping rough please send an alert through StreetLink to notify local services. To send an alert, visit www.streetlink.org.uk or call 0300 500 0914.

Eden District Council stands with Ukraine

Eden District Council has lit up Town Hall in Penrith yellow and blue - the colours of the Ukrainian flag - to show its support for the people of Ukraine during the Russian invasion. In this time of crisis, the people of Ukraine need as much help as they can get. An important way people in Eden can contribute is by donating to charities providing humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and by registering with the Government scheme for those who are able to provide accommodation to Ukrainian refugees.

Eden District Council invites applications for Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund 2022

Eden District Council made £20,000 available through its Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund 2022 to assist Parish and Town Councils, community groups and individuals to organise events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Construction work begins at Council's new net zero carbon single site headquarters

Representatives of Eden District Council and Collinson Construction have marked the beginning of refurbishment work at the Council's new single site net zero carbon headquarters in Penrith with a traditional ground breaking ceremony, held on Thursday 24 March.

Major milestone for LGR reached

The Structural Changes Order, or SCO, for the reorganisation of Local Government in Cumbria has completed its passage through Parliament and has come into force. The SCO sets out the process of creating the two new councils of Westmorland and Furness and Cumberland, and provides the legal basis on which to implement the change to local government structures.

Eden Apprenticeship Scheme extends criteria to help more businesses

Eden District Council is supporting local businesses to recruit apprentices and upskill

existing staff through its popular apprentice grant, and through a recent change, more employees are set to benefit.

The Eden Apprenticeship Scheme offers a grant of up to £2,000 for local firms who take on an apprentice. A change to the criteria also means that apprentices of all ages can now benefit from the scheme.

New or existing employees – of all ages - can undertake an apprenticeship qualification. A range of apprenticeship routes are available, such as business administration, engineering, care services, hospitality and much more.

New recycling service available for Eden Residents

Eden District Council, in partnership with ACE UK, has introduced a new recycling service in Penrith.

You can now recycle food and drink cartons, as well as paper containers with metal ends, at the Council's Morrisons supermarket bring site in Penrith.

MP meets with Eden District Council leaders to discuss bold plans for the area

Dr Neil Hudson, MP for Penrith and The Border, met with the leadership of Eden District Council to hear how the Council can support Government ambitions to spread opportunities to rural areas like Eden.

Council Leader, Virginia Taylor, and Deputy Leader Mary Robinson discussed the opportunities to be gained from partnership working and gave an overview of the Council's Inspiring Eden plans to achieve rural excellence.

Council sets out cultural investment to benefit community wellbeing and local economy

To support community wellbeing and stimulate the local economy, Eden District Council is proposing an additional investment package in local arts and culture.

Already approved is an investment into cultural activity through the Inspiring Eden programme, with a focus on town centres, youth employment and entrepreneurship, tourism, and decarbonisation. Inspiring Eden is the Council's economic plan to achieve rural excellence. Backed by an investment of £780,000, the programme looks to drive economic recovery and prosperity across the district in the coming months and years.

The first round of informal consultation is now open, and residents and businesses are being asked to have their say on the Business Support prospectus and a sector-focussed Visitor Economy prospectus.

Chairman's Service

The Chairman also announced that he was hoping to hold an outgoing church service, he expressed that he would like to see as many Members there as possible. It was pencilled in as being held at St Andrews Church, on the evening of the 23 of May.

CI/88/05/22 Questions by the Public

Mr Jonathan Davies asked the following question under Rule 10 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules:

Under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, it is mandatory to publish details of expenditure over £500 something Eden council has done monthly since 2013 up until September 2021 after I had challenged the leader on spending on Water bills for voreda house identified in the monthly reports.

It appears the reports stopped in September 2021 and have not been published since on the spending of the council over £500.

Could the leader please explain why since September 2021 Eden council have failed to publish its monthly financial report of spending over £500 and the Council spending on procurement cards reports since September 2013.

The Leader gave the following response:

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. This was an error, which occurred when a member of staff left. Records have been corrected and are now up to date.

Mr Davies asked the following supplementary question:

Could the Leader explain then, there appears to be a number of omissions from the Council's Website because it appears that External Audit of Accounts from 2021 are still not public and have not been published on the Council website.

The Leader indicated that a written response would be given.

CI/89/05/22 Questions by Members

Councillor Sawrey-Cookson asked the following question under Rule 12 of the Council and Committee Rules of the Constitution:

What action will the Council be taking with regard to the appalling and worsening situation in Ukraine:

Is the Council intending to sponsor Ukrainian refugee families?

Could there be a point of contact for people who are willing to host refugees and for Ukrainians looking for a place to live?

The Leader gave the following response:

Thank you Councillor for your question, it gives us the opportunity to talk about what is going on with EDC and in Cumbria for Ukrainian Refugees

In answer to your first question, the Council is not currently able to sponsor Ukrainian refugee families. In answer to your second question, a point of contact already exists. So I think it will be helpful to outline how the national scheme works and how it is being delivered in our area to explain those answers.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme opened at the 18 March for Ukrainian nationals who were residents in Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022 and their immediate family members. The scheme works by 'sponsors', either individuals or organisations who have spare properties

or rooms, registering with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (which is called DLUHC for short) via their website.

Guests are the Ukrainian people who have also registered with DLUHC as refugees needing to be accommodated. Sponsors and guests then make contact with each other, usually through social media, mutually to agree arrangements. Guests from the Ukraine are required to make visa applications to the Government for approval prior to their arrival. Eden District Council does not own residential properties so we cannot fulfil the role of sponsor, but we are supporting how the scheme is being delivered locally.

The Refugee Resettlement Team in Cumbria County Council act as a lead for the County and coordinate the required response to the matches between sponsor and guests. The Resettlement Team are working with all the District Councils at Strategic, Tactical, and Locality levels apply an approach that has been well tested during the previous refugee crisis.

The roles of the Resettlement Team are:

- To act as the first point of contact with government
- carry out the required DBS and other document checks of sponsors
- carry out pre-arrival checks of the accommodation that sponsors have offered to confirm suitability
- engage with the sponsors so they understand their role and responsibilities
- check in with sponsors and guests shortly after they arrive and regularly thereafter
- carry out further checks on welfare needs, and determine the wider support networks available in the local community, coordinate any necessary referrals to services such as GPs, dentists, adult social care, safeguarding and mental health
- provide interim cash payment for guests, and signpost to DWP regarding working, benefits and pensions
- and to coordinate any education requirements.

The roles of the Distract Councils including Eden are:

- To monitor any Homelessness Service Requests arising from the programme
- administer “thank you” payments to sponsors, and checks to avoid fraud, through our Revenue and Benefits Team.

As of the 26 April, there were 186 sponsors registered in Cumbria, of which 38 where in Eden. 379 family groups with a total of 597 have been matched with sponsors in Eden.

I hope this explains how the system works and the role that we are playing in the process locally.

CI/90/05/22 Motions on Notice

No motions on notice were received.

CI/91/05/22 Review of the Deputy Chief Executive Salary

At the beginning of this item the Deputy Chief Executive left the room. He returned on the item's conclusion.

Members considered Report No: DoR29/22 of the Chief Executive which sought to consider the recommendation of the sub-committee of the HR and Appeals Committee regarding the review of the salary of the Deputy Chief Executive.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

Members expressed concern about the possibility of revising a salary during a cost of living crisis, and what extra duties the Deputy Chief Executive had taken on to make this revision necessary.

The Deputy Leader highlighted that this paper puts a previous honorarium on a formal footing. The Interim Chief Executive also highlighted that the pay attributed to the role of the Deputy Chief Executive is remaining the same, it is just becoming formalised. He believed the Council still needs the Deputy Chief Executive role, due to LGR and the increased burden this caused.

Members also queried the fact that additional funding is coming from earmarked reserves. They questioned the total of those reserves, who earmarked them and at what point they were earmarked.

The Deputy Leader stated that a written response will be given to this.

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Deputy Chief Executive's salary be permanently revised to £89,463 with effect from 1 January 2022 and the associated back pay be made.
2. That the additional funding be met from earmarked reserves.

CI/92/05/22 Allocation of Seats to Committees

At the beginning of this item the Deputy Chief Executive re-joined the meeting.

Members considered Report No: DoR31/22 of the Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services in respect of the distribution of seats in accordance with the rules of political proportionality, and to make appointments to the Committees for the remainder of the 2021/2022 municipal year.

The Chairman announced that there was an amendment to Appendix 2 of the report in that Councillor Atkinson be added as a standing deputy on Human Resources and Appeals Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Baker also identified an error in the allocation in that Councillor Burgin should be a member on Human Resources and Appeals Committee and not himself.

Proposed by Councillor Connell
Seconded by Councillor Eyles

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. the proposed allocation of seats as set out in this report be approved;
2. the appointment of Members to Committees as set out in Appendix 2 be approved; and
3. the Green Group and Labour Group adopt a reciprocal arrangement where the nominated Members can act as Standing Deputies.

The below table reflects the amended position of the Appointment of Members to Committees. Including the amendments mentioned above.

Appointment of Members to Committees

Accounts and Governance Committee – 9 Members

Conservative Group	R Briggs, J Lynch, D Wicks
Green Group	0
Independent Alliance	K Greenwood, W Patterson
Independent Group	S Lancaster
Labour Group	0
Liberal Democrat Group	A Connell, M Eyles, N McCall
Standing Deputies	A Meadowcroft, A Todd, C Atkinson, D Banks, D Ryland,

	P Baker, L Harker, D Smith
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Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12 Members

Conservative Group	G Nicolson, J Raine, D Wicks, R Briggs
Green Group	D Lawson
Independent Alliance	D Banks
Independent Group	D Ryland
Labour Group	M Hanley
Liberal Democrat Group	D Holden, G Simpkins, D Smith, R Burgin
Standing Deputies	P Dew, H Fearon, A Todd, C Atkinson A Ross, W Patterson, S Lancaster, P Baker, M Eyles, N McCall, A Connell

Finance Scrutiny Committee – 9 Members

Conservative Group	P Dew, G Nicolson, D Wicks
Green Group	0
Independent Alliance	W Patterson
Independent Group	D Ryland, S Lancaster
Labour Group	0
Liberal Democrat Group	P Baker, N McCall, D Smith
Standing Deputies	C Atkinson, R Briggs, A Meadowcroft, D Banks, E Martin, M Clark D Holden, L Harker, G Simpkins

Human Resources and Appeals Committee - 9 Members

Conservative Group	R Briggs, J Raine, A Meadowcroft
Green Group	0
Independent Alliance	D Banks, M Robinson
Independent Group	M Clark
Labour Group	0
Liberal Democrat Group	R Burgin, G Simpkins, V Taylor
Standing Deputies	I Chambers, D Wicks, C Atkinson K Greenwood, W Patterson, D Ryland A Connell, J Derbyshire, M Eyles

Licensing Committee - 10 Members

Conservative Group	C Atkinson, A Meadowcroft, J Raine
Green Group	D Lawson
Independent Alliance	M Tonkin
Independent Group	H Sawrey-Cookson
Labour Group	M Hanley
Liberal Democrat Group	P Baker, L Harker, D Holden
Standing Deputies	I Chambers, J Lynch, D Wicks A Ross, D Banks, L Sharp, S Lancaster, M Eyles, G Simpkins, N McCall

Planning Committee - 11 Members

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

CI/93/05/22 Date of Next Scheduled Meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting of Council was confirmed as Thursday 26 May 6:45pm.

The meeting closed at 7.21 pm

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