

At a meeting of the Council held in Wigton Market Hall on Wednesday 27 July 2022 at 7.00 pm

## **Members**

Councillor Allan Daniels (Chair)	Councillor Carmel Bell
Councillor Tony Annison	Councillor Barbara Cannon
Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours	Councillor John Crouch
Councillor John Cook	Councillor Marion Fitzgerald
Councillor Janet Farebrother	Councillor Iain Greaney
Councillor Malcolm Grainger	Councillor Hilary Harrington
Councillor Jimmy Grisdale	Councillor Alan Hedworth
Councillor Michael Heaslip	Councillor Mike Johnson
Councillor Vaughan Hodgson	Councillor Peter Kendall
Councillor George Kemp	Councillor Sally Lansbury
Councillor Alan Kennon	Councillor Elaine Lynch
Councillor Jim Lister	Councillor Carni McCarron-Holmes
Councillor Anthony Markley	Councillor Joe Sandwith
Councillor Alan Pitcher	Councillor Paul Scott
Councillor Blain Sansom	Councillor Colin Sharpe
Councillor Andrew Semple	Councillor Kevin Thurlow
Councillor Alan Smith	Councillor Will Wilkinson
Councillor Alan Tyson	

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor William Pegram Councillor Carole Armstrong, Councillor Herbert Briggs, Councillor Nicky Cockburn, Councillor Peter Gaston, Councillor Patrick Gorrill, Councillor Daniel Horsley, Councillor Adrian Kirkbride, Councillor Louise Maguire, Councillor Owen Martin, Councillor Antony McGuckin, Councillor Ron Munby MBE, Councillor Stephen Stoddart and Councillor Lynda Williams

## **Staff Present**

B Carlin, A Gilbert, N Hardy, L Jardine, K Magnay and A Seekings

### **103. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2022 were signed as a correct record.

### **104. Declaration of Interests**

None declared.

### **105. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There were no items on the agenda for which the press or public should be excluded.

### **106. Questions and Petitions**

None received.

**107. Notices of Motion**

None received.

**108. Councillor Speeches**

None received.

**109. Announcements from the Mayor, Leader or Head of Paid Service**

The Mayor made reference to the engagements attended since the last Council meeting.

The Leader of the Council provided an update on Local Government Reorganisation, advising members that the programme had recently had a reset but that blueprints for service design had now been agreed. Members were also advised that the Council was beginning to form its own identity and that the new Council Plan was progressing well.

**110. Portfolio Holder updates (non-key)**

Councillor M Johnson moved the Portfolio Holder update report.

Questions were raised on

- Members personal liability
- Maryport Regeneration, including the Town Hall
- Safety concerns relating to the Allonby to Silloth Cycle Path
- Customer Services
- The Wave Centre
- The closure of the Councils Housing Company
- Future funding for Towns not part of the High Street/Town Deal funding
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Allerdale Investment Partnership
- Workington Town Deal
- Flytipping and Street Cleaning

**111. Executive Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of Executive held on 9 February, 1 March, 23 March and 11 May were noted.

**112. Reference from Executive 11/05/22 - Capital Investment Strategy 2022-23**

The Chief Officer Assets had submitted a report which sought members approval of the Capital Investment Strategy for 2022-23.

The report had been considered by Executive on 11 May 2022. Executive had recommended that Council be requested to approve the recommendation within the report.

Councillor C Sharpe introduced the report and moved the recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor M Johnson.

A vote was taken, 34 voted in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention. The motion was carried.

### **Resolved**

That the Capital Investment Strategy for 2022-23 as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.

## **113. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Summary Report 2021/22**

Councillor M Heaslip, Co-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee moved the annual report for 2022-23, and provided an overview of the work of the Task and Finish Groups, both those that have concluded and those that will continue into 2023-24.

This was seconded by Councillor C McCarron-Holmes.

### **Resolved**

That the report be Agreed.

## **114. Governance Updates**

The Chief Officer Place and Governance submitted a report which sought to inform members of a change to the Licensing Committee membership and to seek approval of updated Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review Working Group for Maryport.

Councillor M Fitzgerald moved the recommendations within the report; this was seconded by Councillor M Johnson.

A vote was taken, 35 voted in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions. The motion was carried.

### **Resolved**

That –

- a) Councillor Allan Daniels be replaced by Councillor Colin Sharpe on Licensing Committee,
- b) The changes to the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review Working Group for Maryport as set out in the report be approved.

**The meeting closed at 7.40 pm**

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## **The Wave opening hours, cashless facility and the wind turbine**

The Wave is open 7 days a week, Clip n Climb is available 7 days a week during the holidays and 5 days a week through term time. Opening times vary across each activity and day of the week, opening at 8am each day closing at either 8pm, 6pm or 4pm. All of this can be found on the timetable on their website.

GLL is predominantly a cashless organisation since COVID, however, all Allerdale sites do still take cash, especially for things like the 10p swim, tuck shops etc.

I think you are aware of the situation regarding the wind turbine from the discussions in the Core Group and the reasons it's not in operation is that it was costing more to operate and maintain than the energy it generated, and it was noisy and could be heard by local residents.

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## **Maryport Town Hall**

On request from the Leader, the Project Manager, Joe Broomfield has engaged with both a Structural Engineer and our Building Control Team on this issue and it has been agreed to widen the door at the Maryport Town Hall by 90mm to 750mm, which will comply with Part M of the Building Regulations in respect of disabled access for an existing building.

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## **Allerdale Housing Company**

Council Owned Housing Company

In January 2020, the Executive approved the establishment of a Council owned Housing Company.

The Allerdale Housing Company was incorporated shortly afterwards and work commenced on the development of the company.

However, within a few months, the resources needed to run the programme became stretched as work increased on the Maryport and Workington Regeneration programmes. In addition to this, the lead officer for the Housing Company project was required to focus on the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was therefore considered prudent to limit unnecessary administrative work and the expenditure associated with formally reporting on an inactive enterprise by dissolving the company's registration. This was agreed in consultation with the portfolio holder and executive members.

The wording on page 10 of the Quarter 4 (21/22) Performance Report is slightly misleading as it states that *'the housing company has been dissolved.'* More accurately, it is simply the company's registration that was cancelled in order to avoid unnecessary administrative work and costs in relation to a dormant company.

Despite the shortage of resources, some of the work associated with the project has continued. Members will be aware that the redundant toilets on High Street, Maryport, have been developed into flats and are being let. More recently, an empty commercial building in Otley Road, Keswick, has been converted into four flats for affordable rent and will soon be available to let. These two schemes are not of a sufficient scale, however, to warrant using a separate housing company.

In relation to Otley Road, the Executive agreed in July to lease the property to an affordable housing provider for a period of five years. Paragraph 3.2 of the report makes detailed reference to the Housing Company, the delays that have been experienced and the potential to further develop this option for the new Cumberland Authority. The report can be viewed via the following link:

<https://democracy.allerdale.gov.uk/documents/s129571/Exec%2020%20July%202022%20Otley%20Road%20Keswick%20Housing%20Options.pdf>

The concept of delivering projects through a Housing Company remains a viable proposition and it is an option that the Unitary Authority will be able to take into consideration. Officers from Allerdale, Copeland and Carlisle are currently researching the benefits of establishing a Housing Company for Cumberland.

Although the 'registration' of the Allerdale Housing Company has been dissolved, a similar company could be acquired and re-named within days if and when it is appropriate to do so. Much of the groundwork has been prepared by Allerdale Borough Council should the new Unitary Authority wish to proceed with this option.