

CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes

In line with government guidance regarding the Covid-19 pandemic announced on 23rd March, the additional meeting of the CALC Executive Meeting on 12th August was held remotely via the internet.

Minutes of a meeting of CALC's Executive Committee held **Wednesday 12th August 2020 at 7pm.**

Present:

Sue Castle-Clarke
Bryan Craig
Jonathan Davies
Mike Higginbotham
David Peters
Andy Pratt
Peter Smillie

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Roger Hart, Jane Tea and Oliver Dorgan

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The committee was given an update on the developments in Cumbria regarding Local Government Reorganisation. The Chair explained that at the meeting of the Executive Committee in June, there was no urgency regarding this matter. However, matters had changed significantly since then. Cumbria's principal authorities had received information from the government that they are committed to pursuing local government reorganisation (LGR) in Cumbria. It was explained that the Government's view is that LGR needs to happen before any further powers/additional funds can be devolved to the county.

Members held a general discussion on the matter as it relates to each of their areas. They also discussed the merits of inviting a speaker to discuss the issue at the AGM in September.

The Chair had prepared and circulated an Interim Position Paper as supplementary information for members (attached). There was lengthy discussion of the content of the paper.

An amendment was proposed:

That the Interim Position Paper be discarded and a new form of words be drafted.

There were:

3 votes in favour of the amendment

4 votes against

The amendment fell.

Concern was expressed that members need to be consulted by CALC regarding the significant changes that Local Government Reorganisation will bring in Cumbria. Also that CALC made it clear that members' views mattered in the forthcoming negotiations. This view was generally supported by the committee.

It was agreed that:

- a) That a speaker on 'local government reorganisation and its impact on the parish sector' be invited to attend the AGM on 26th September 2020.
- b) That the speaker be someone from outside the county who can talk from experience, and without conflict of interest, regarding the impact of local government reorganisation on local councils.
- c) That the form of words set out in the Interim Position Paper is adopted without amendment. It will be used to express CALC's current position with regards to local government reorganisation (based on previous surveys of members) until such time as CALC has consulted our membership on any new proposals and can use their responses to produce an updated response.

Signed by the Chairman
