

## **COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE**

Minutes of a virtual Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Carlisle held on Monday, 14 September 2020 at 10.00 am.

### **PRESENT:**

Mr C Weber (Chair)

Mr T Allison	Dr K Lockney
Mr J Bell	Mrs EA Mallinson
Mr RW Betton	Mr J Mallinson (Vice-Chair)
Mrs C Bowditch	Mr A McGuckin
Ms D Earl	Mr NH Marriner
Mr GM Ellis	Mrs V Tarbitt
Mr W Graham	Mr SF Young
Dr S Haraldsen	

### **Also in Attendance:-**

Mr S Green	-	Parking Team Leader
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mr B Lawson	-	Senior Manager - (Development) Active Cumbria
Mr P Musgrave	-	Area Manager - Carlisle
Mr G Scott	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager

### **PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

#### **20 ROLL CALL FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

The members and officers listed above were presented at the meeting.

#### **21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received on this occasion.

#### **22 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest on this occasion.

## **23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting for any items of business on this occasion.

## **24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no public questions, statements or petitions to be considered at this meeting.

## **25 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the meeting of the Local Committee held on 16 July 2020 be confirmed as circulated.

## **26 TACKLING PHYSICAL INACTIVITY**

The Committee received a detailed presentation from Active Cumbria regarding Tackling Physical Inactivity in both adults and children and young people.

Members discussed the importance of physical education in children and young people and felt there was a need for motivation and promotion of the benefits. Officers acknowledged this was key and felt there was a need to introduce behaviour change supported by campaigns. It was explained that Government had recently launched the Obesity Strategy which was supported by a Public Health campaign 'Better Health'. It was noted that some resources were being seen locally and Active Cumbria together with the Authority's Communications Team would promote this.

The Committee raised their concerns regarding a number of the statistics in the presentation. Officers explained that behaviour change was important to improve health and wellbeing and that children and families were being encouraged at an early age. Members felt there was a need to have a wide range of activities available to encourage and stimulate children and young people.

The Committee drew attention to activities within their divisions and asked whether there was sufficient funding and if there were funding streams which could be accessed by members. It was confirmed there was not sufficient funding and highlighted that schools were moving to the last year of their Primary School PE and Sport Premium which would result in further challenges in the future. Officers offered advice and support to members regarding future developments if they required it.

Members felt there was a need to focus on activities other than those sport-related and attention was drawn to the 'Wildings Programme' which encouraged the use of wild woodland facilities. The Senior Manager – Active Cumbria agreed to investigate this project further.

The Committee raised their concerns regarding obesity in children and young people and members asked for further information regarding outcomes and how health issues could be reduced in future. Members were informed a Carlisle Healthy Weight Partnership was to be created and Active Cumbria were actively supporting this with the key theme being tackling obesity.

The Local Committee was informed of the post COVID 19 5 Year Plan which was to build on strong foundations the existing 3 Year plan with more targeted approach to working with older adults whilst continuing to tackle stubborn inequalities and work in the poorest community and support the climate emergency agenda via active travel.

**RESOLVED**, that the update be noted.

## **27 PARKING SERVICES UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the activity of the Parking Team for the first five months of the financial year 2020/21. It was explained that much of that period was during the lockdown of the COVID 19 pandemic when proactive enforcement had been reduced. It was noted that the parking officers were redeployed to assist in local communities but enforcement had returned on a phased approach from June.

Members also received the Parking Annual Report for the financial year 2019/20 which gave a summary of parking activities during that year.

The Committee was pleased with the school parking initiatives but continued to raise their concerns regarding the safety of children outside schools due to inconsiderate parking; welcoming the presence of Civil Enforcement Officers to try and alleviate the problems. Members also highlighted issues regarding vehicles parked on dropped-kerbs outside residential properties close to schools, therefore, blocking entrances. Officers confirmed engagement did take place with the local Police regarding enforcement but highlighted resourcing issues.

A discussion took place regarding income and expenditure and members were informed that expenditure had increased due to the procurement of new equipment and the recruitment of three additional civil enforcement officers.

The Local Area Highways Network Manager confirmed that a number of elected members had raised issues in their divisions regarding on-street parking, therefore, a parking review report would be considered at the Carlisle Highways and Transport Working Group meeting scheduled for December 2020.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be noted.

## 28 AREA PLANNING REPORT

Members received a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which provided members with recommendations and matters to note relating to budget commitments, grant allocations from the recommendations of its Strategic Grants Panel and other relevant matters relating to area planning.

The Committee noted that the emergency helpline established at the outset of the pandemic, primarily to help with urgent food and medicine needs for those required to shield had been stood down as of 31 August 2020 which meant that the Carlisle Hub had also stood down. It was explained that in the event of a future wave of infections or changes to national or local arrangements, those arrangements could be reconvened.

Members were informed that Cumbria County Council had been awarded a DEFRA Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for food and essential supplies, which translated to an amount of £77k for the Carlisle area. During the course of discussion it was confirmed that the funding was not available to fund salaries of staff.

The Committee was informed that during an informal meeting of the Local Committee on 7 August 2020, members had raised the issue of charities struggling through the pandemic especially through the lack of mass participation events, charity fundraisers and local collections. It was explained that a particular concern raised was the Hospice at Home Carlisle and North Lakeland which was struggling to provide its vital services.

Following discussion members had agreed to recommend that Carlisle Local Committee allocate a strategic grant of £10,000. It was noted that this would be matched from Carlisle City Council and could be used as the springboard for a local awareness raising campaign on the plight of charities at this time.

**RESOLVED**, that

- (1) the following be noted:-
  - (a) the commitments made and the remaining balances within delegated budgets and the grants (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report);
  - (b) the following grants made from Area Plan Budget (referred to in Appendix 2 of the report):-
    - (i) £2,600 to Journey to Justice Community Interest Organisation towards the Voices 4 Change project;
    - (ii) £2,000 to Carlisle Sub Aqua Club towards the cost of equipment;

- (c) a grant of £1,000 made from the 0-19 Grant Funding to Gillford Park Football Club towards purchasing a storage container;
- (2) a strategic grant of £10,000 to Carlisle and North Lakeland Hospice at Home be agreed.

## **29 2020/21 HIGHWAYS BUDGET/PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT**

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which presented the Highways Revenue, Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital budget finance reports, combined with the highways programme progress information.

The Leader asked a question regarding the scheme on Upperby Road (Ridley Road to Embleton Road) and whether this had been carried forward as this was in place before the additional £2m pothole funding from Government. He also raised a question regarding the length of carriageway involved and the Local Area Highways Network Manager agreed to investigate the matter and respond direct.

During the course of discussion, whilst acknowledging the effects of COVID 19, concerns were raised regarding the works scheduled for November/December and asked whether officers were confident the works could be delivered during the winter months. The Local Area Highways Network Manager agreed that the Programme may need to be re-evaluated due to inclement weather but confirmed as much work as possible would be carried out to prevent funding being carried forward.

The local Member for Belah asked if the scheme for the Etterby Road slope stabilisation project had been removed from the programme due to land disagreement with Network Rail and whether it would be possible to investigate if it would be possible to reach an agreement to have the enforcement on the bank completed.

During the course of discussion further concerns were raised regarding the Etterby Road scheme and in particular costs which would be incurred by the County Council. The Local Area Highways Network Manager explained that there was agreement with Network Rail that this would be a shared approach and that a significant amount of the Infrastructure Recovery Programme funding had been allocated for the scheme, highlighting this would not be taken out of the Local Committee's budget.

The Local Area Highways Network Manager had no further update but agreed to keep members updated in the future.

The local Member for Yewdale asked for further information regarding the location of the proposed scheme on Wigton Road. The Local Area Highways Network Manager agreed to investigate this matter further and report back direct.

The local Member for Botcherby asked for updates on Eastern Way Bridge, Botcherby Bridge and further information on timescales for proposed schemes. The Local Area Highways Network Manager agreed to investigate the matters and provide a response direct to the Member.

**RESOLVED**, that the following be noted:-

- (1) the revenue and budget allocations for 2020/21 and the commitments and expenditure (as detailed in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report);
- (2) the programme progress information (referred to in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report);
- (3) the Highways Revenue budget has been split for use against various budget headings (referred to in Appendix 1 of the report);
- (4) the Devolved Capital and Additional Devolved Capital budgets have been split for use against various budget headings (detailed in Appendices 2 and 4 of the report);
- (5) Additional Capital allocations, devolved and non-devolved are no longer indicative values; the schemes listed are those being delivered.

### **30 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP**

Members received a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the Special meeting of the Highways and Transport Working Group held on 27 August 2020 and presented its recommendations to the Local Committee for approval.

The Local Area Highways Network Manager informed the Committee that to date four responses had been received to the statutory consultation, however, the deadline was Friday 18 September 2020. Members, therefore, agreed that following conclusion of the consultation the decision to bring the proposals into operation be delegated to the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Local Committee.

**RESOLVED**, that the Local Committee agree, that if there are no unresolved representations to the restrictions (specified in paragraph 3.1 of the report), at the end of the statutory consultation and objection period, the decision to vary The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Carlisle Urban and Rural Area) (Consolidation and Minor Amendment of Traffic Regulations) Order 2001 which would make the following changes:-

- (i) removing the entry in Schedule XXX relating to Sewell Lane (formerly known as Sewells Lanning) in order to remove the existing section of One-Way traffic restriction (105m in length) thereby restoring two-way flow along its entire length; and
- (ii) introducing a 7.5 Tonnes maximum gross vehicle weight restriction on the entire length of Sewell Lane;

be delegated to the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Local Committee.

## **31 MEMBER CHAMPION UPDATES**

### **(1) Autism Champion**

Members received a verbal update from the Autism Champion which highlighted the significant impact of COVID 19 on vulnerable people with autism and severe learning difficulties, together with their carers and families, explaining this had been isolating, disorientating and frightening. The Committee noted that due to their understood routines disappearing during the pandemic this had caused distress, and in some cases, challenging behaviours had developed which had ultimately affected their families. It was also explained that returning to 'normality' was also as equally traumatic for some individuals.

The Committee was informed that due to the significant challenges a number of requests for advice and support had been received and it was highlighted that a huge amount of this had been provided by the Third Sector, often through funding from the Authority .

Members noted that a number of organisations such as 'Triple A, People First and Carlisle Mencap Family Support Service' had offered support and advice. The provision of continued day services from third sector organisations such as The Heathlands Project during the pandemic was welcomed and the re-opening of County Council day services would be welcomed in the future.

The Autism Champion continued to support people with autism and their families and would provide a further update at a future meeting of the Committee.

### **(b) Children in Care Council Champion**

Members received a verbal update report from the Children in Care Council Champion who had attended a number of virtual meetings during the pandemic highlighting the inclusion of Looked After Children in as many events as possible.

(c) **Armed Forces Champion**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Armed Forces Champion who explained that due to the current pandemic there had been very little activity. Members were informed that discussions were taking place regarding the Remembrance Day Service.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked members for their updates.

**32 LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE - FORWARD PLAN**

The current Forward Plan of business for future meetings of the Local Committee was noted.

**33 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The Committee noted that the proposed Special Meeting of Carlisle Local Committee on Wednesday 7 October 2020 had been postponed and would be rescheduled.

**RESOLVED,** that the next scheduled meeting will take place virtually on Monday 9 November 2020 at 10.00 am.

The meeting ended at 11.40 am